



**Kingswells
Primary
School
Helpful Hints
For
Homework**

Primary 6



This booklet contains hints and ideas for you to try out with your child, as an aid to homework tasks and to their learning potential in general. We hope that you will find this series of leaflets both helpful and informative. If there are any aspects of this leaflet you wish to discuss, please contact school. Thank you for your support.

By Primary 6, you should be encouraging your child to begin to be more independent with their homework tasks. However, please still support your child by always checking that homework is completed to *the best of their ability* and providing help where you, or your child feel it would be useful.

READING

Fluent readers read more quickly and smoothly, allowing them to focus on their understanding of the text. They gain meaning from the text they read. Fluent readers enjoy reading more than pupils who devote all their energy to sounding out words so good reading habits should be encouraged at every age and ability. Comprehension skills play an important role in reading for enjoyment and reading for information. If your child reads silently ask him/her about the book/magazine/comic etc. that they are reading.

- When discussing books with more able readers don't ask literal questions. Discuss the text and talk about their favourite parts of the book, giving reasons.
- Throughout the reading, encourage your child to predict what might happen next.
- Ask how characters might feel and how your child would feel in a similar situation.
- Try to encourage your child to read between the lines and to understand hidden meanings.
- Try to encourage your child to empathise with characters and understand the feelings of others in various situations.
- Make use of television programmes and films in order to develop understanding of plots, settings and characters.
- Try changing a part of the story to make it end in a sad or funny way.
- Try suggesting alternative titles for the book.
- Discuss the roles of the author and the illustrator.
- Play games like 'Twenty Questions' using characters from the book.
- Discuss the layout of the text on a page e.g. the use of bold lettering punctuation, italics etc.
- Help your child distinguish between fact and opinion.
- Make use of dictionaries and thesauruses.
- If your child is interested in the subject of the book, encourage them to find similar types of books in the school or public library.

Reading-continued:

- Encourage your child to experience a range of genre: autobiography, factual, poetry, humour etc.

Reading is one of the most important life skills. By implementing some of these suggestions you can help your child become an enthusiastic and fluent reader.

GLOW

Teachers may choose to display homework on GLOW, Scottish Schools Digital Network, for pupils to access at home and where possible they may also access activities on GLOW Learn. Clear instructions on how to access Glow will be given to pupils in class and each child will be provided with their own log in information. Parents are encouraged to use their log in to access further information about learning in class. If it is not possible to access Glow at home, a paper copy of homework activities will be provided.

PREPARING A TALK

You could help your child to find suitable information, prepare a PowerPoint presentation, organise their notes, e.g. on cue cards and practise speaking clearly and slowly using eye contact.

LANGUAGE WORK

Encourage legible handwriting, neat presentation, self-checking of the spelling of most words, good use of language i.e. the best possible vocabulary.

RESEARCH TASKS

If required, please help your child to:

- Provide accurate, factual responses in their own words.
- Organise their notes / presentation in a suitable way.
- Produce a neat, well presented piece of work to the best of their ability.
- Check any spellings using a dictionary.

The length of the piece is not the most important thing. Your child should produce a piece of work that reflects the task set and the time given. For example, if part of weekly homework, a short piece (20 - 30 minutes work) is sufficient, but if given a month to complete, a longer, more detailed piece of work is expected. We always look for the best each individual can do.



EXPRESSIVE ARTS: (ART, DRAMA, MUSIC AND P.E.)

These areas are very important. If your child has homework for one of these subjects, please encourage your child to apply the same importance and encouragement as their maths or spelling homework tasks.

SPELLING

Continue to encourage your child in the **LOOK, SAY, COVER, WRITE and CHECK** approach.

MATHS

Ask your child to explain their maths work to you. Please encourage the showing of working where appropriate.

PROBLEM SOLVING / DESIGN / INVESTIGATION

On occasion, your child may get a 'different' type of homework job. There is often no correct answer to such tasks. Encourage your child to think things through, show ALL working (with explanatory notes if necessary) and be able to explain what they did and why.

Useful Websites and Contacts

- Grid Club: www.gridclub.com
- Parentzone: www.ltscotland.org.uk/parentzone
- BBC Parents: www.bbc.co.uk/schools/parents
- BBC Dynamo: www.bbc.co.uk/education/dynamo/parents
- BBC Bitesize: www.bbc.co.uk/schools/bitesize
- Channel 4 Homework: www.channel4learning.com/apps/homeworkhigh
- Parent Network Scotland: www.parentnetworkscotland.org.uk Tel: 0131 555 6780
- One Parent Families Scotland: www.opfs.org.uk
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