

Balgreen Primary School  
Home Learning Policy  
Second Draft June 2021



## School Vision

Balgreen values the contribution that every family makes to their child's learning and progress. This policy aims to set out Balgreen's vision for our continuing mutual and positive school/family relationships.

## Current Research

Providing opportunities, supporting and building capacity amongst Scotland's parents to capitalise on children's learning experiences is key in raising attainment and closing the poverty related attainment gap. Parents have an important role to play in helping their child's learning and development at home but also in Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) settings, schools and the wider community. Research evidence shows that when 'parents, carers and other family members are effectively involved in their children's education, the outcome for their children is better' (Scottish Schools (Parental Involvement) Act Guidance, 2006, pi).

(Engaging parents and families: A toolkit for practitioners - Section 2: Benefits of involving and engaging parents in their children's learning)

## What do we mean by Home Learning?

From the moment they are born, children begin to absorb information and make sense of their world. As well as providing the basics for growth and development: food, comfort and security, parents/carers also provide stimulation through everyday activities such as games, rhymes and language that help a child to learn.

Many of these activities are part of everyday life - preparing and eating meals together, doing the washing, shopping, watching TV, visiting friends and families - but for young children they are opportunities for discovery and learning.

However, once children start more formal education it's not always easy for parents to know how best to help their child. As children grow older it is easy to forget the strong influence that the home and the community still have on their learning, especially as children only spend 15% of their time in school.

(Engaging Parents and Families: A toolkit for practitioners - Section 4: Learning at Home, Education Scotland)

During your children's school journey, they will build up a variety of skills, tools and strategies for learning across the curriculum. Home learning experiences give these skills, tools and strategies a real-life context which will benefit your child and aid them in their life-long learning.

## School Community Feedback

After consultation with parents, pupils and staff we have redeveloped our home learning policy to align with the views of our school community and up-to-date research.

### Parent views

- "I enjoy seeing what they are learning in class."
- "It gives us time to talk about what they have been doing in class."
- "I feel after a long day at school kids should be left to play".
- "It's sometimes challenging to get the work completed on time, week in, week out, as a working parent, alongside extra-curricular activities and plenty of time to just play and have fun".

### Pupil views

- "It is not always something I am interested in."
- "I like the ones [homework grids] where we get to make something"
- "I like it when my mum and dad help me."
- "I was ok with it because I had time to do it before my family got home to do stuff with."

## Our Approach

Below is a variety of suggestions, resources and activities that you can carry out at home, at your own pace. Parents are encouraged to be involved in their children's learning and we support this by sending home a Term Ahead letter, which explains what the children are learning in class that term, and a Home Learning Grid with optional activities to complete at home which complement the classroom learning. Activities are designed to be fun and engaging and build on classroom learning (see Appendix 1).

Stage	Home Learning
P1	<p>Regular, weekly, practice of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• common words</li> <li>• new sounds</li> <li>• reading books &amp; key words</li> </ul>
P2	<p>Regular, weekly, practice of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• common words</li> <li>• new sounds</li> <li>• reading books &amp; key words</li> </ul>
P3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Take part in school/home collaborative activities e.g. open mornings, parents evenings, class events, ...</li> </ul>
P4	
P5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Focus on reading regularly with children to broaden vocabulary - any kind of text, which is appropriate, will support this.</li> </ul>
P6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support children's curiosity by talking to, discussing and challenging their thinking and encourage sharing opinions and viewpoints.</li> </ul>
P7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Help children apply their learning in different contexts, e.g. counting money at a shop, looking for angles in the park, reading the bus timetable.</li> <li>• On occasion, at teacher discretion, unfinished classwork may be sent home.</li> <li>• a home learning wall will be sent home on a termly basis with activities for children to complete at home which complement the learning that goes on in the classroom</li> </ul> <p>We also hope this will enable families to; spend more quality time together</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• have more opportunities to be outdoors</li> <li>• participate in extra-curricular activities</li> <li>• pursue personal interests.</li> </ul>

## Sharing

We encourage children to share all achievements outside of school with their classmates and school staff. Whether it's a picture, model, written work, or a photograph of an experience, we would love to see it!

Children will be encouraged to share their home learning with the Head Teacher / Depute Head Teacher on a regular basis, to celebrate their success. Rewards such as stickers, certificates and phone calls home will be used to celebrate their home learning.

## Recommended Websites

Below you will find a variety of websites that can be used to support your child's learning throughout the school year, either with basic skills like reading, counting or multiplications or to focus on a specific aspect of class learning, found in the term ahead letter, to consolidate and reinforce. Some of these websites will require an account set up before accessing all the resources however, they are all free. You can ask your child which sites they have used in class as a starting point.

### Parent support and information:

[Parentzone Scotland | Parent Zone \(education.gov.scot\)](#)

### Maths and Numeracy:

[www.sumdog.com](#) - pupils will be given log in details in class

[www.brainormous.com](#)

[www.topmarks.co.uk](#)

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/topics>

[www.mathplayground.com](#)

[www.mathszone.co.uk](#)

[www.mathsisfun.com](#)

[www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize](#)

[www.mathsbot.com](#)

### Literacy:

[www.teachit.co.uk](#)

[Log in | ReadTheory](#) - pupils will be given log in details in class if their teacher uses this resource

[Literacy | Doorway Online](#)

[www.spellingcity.com](#)

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/topics>

[www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize](#)

\*all were checked and active June 2021

## Other ideas!

Learning does not need to be done exclusively at home. There are lots of ways to get out and about with 'home learning'.

Edinburgh is full of rich culture and history and, amazing spaces to get outdoor and into nature. Even better a lot of these activities are FREE!

Below are some brilliant ideas to broaden the mind, have quality family time and lots of fun.

## Free Activities

### Museums

Edinburgh has a fantastic variety of museums across the city covering a huge range of interests and topics. If you fancy a trip further afield, check out the cheap travel tips below.

### Edinburgh

The National Museum of Scotland  Chambers Street, Edinburgh, EH1 1JF  Open Daily 10:00 - 16:00  Free: advance booking required <a href="https://www.nms.ac.uk/national-museum-of-scotland/book-tickets/">https://www.nms.ac.uk/national-museum-of-scotland/book-tickets/</a>  <a href="#">National Museum of Scotland (nms.ac.uk)</a>	The People's Story Museum  The Royal Mile, 163 Canongate, Edinburgh EH8 8BN  Open (new hours tbc)  Free  <a href="#">The People's Story Museum   Museums and Galleries Edinburgh (edinburghmuseums.org.uk)</a>
Museum of Childhood  42 High St, Edinburgh EH1 1TG  Open (new hours tbc)  Free  <a href="#">Museum of Childhood   Museums and Galleries Edinburgh (edinburghmuseums.org.uk)</a>	Museum on the Mound  The Mound, Edinburgh EH1 1YZ  Open Tuesday - Saturday  Free  <a href="#">Museum on the Mound - Edinburgh Scotland   Welcome to the Museum on the Mound</a>
St Cecilia's Hall  50 Niddry Street, Edinburgh, EH1 1LG  Open Thursday - Saturday  Free: advance booking required  <a href="#">What's On – St Cecilia's Hall (ed.ac.uk)</a>  <a href="#">St Cecilia's Hall – Concert Room &amp; Music Museum (ed.ac.uk)</a>	Queensferry Museum and the Forth Bridges  53 High St, South Queensferry EH30 9HP  Open (new times tbc)  Free  <a href="#">Queensferry Museum   Museums and Galleries Edinburgh (edinburghmuseums.org.uk)</a>
Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, EH99 1SP  Open (new times tbc)	Free: advance booking required - <a href="#">Visit   Scottish Parliament Website</a>

## Further afield

<p>John Muir's Birthplace 126 High St, Dunbar EH42 1JJ Open Tuesday - Saturday Free: advance booking required - please call 01368 865899 or email <a href="mailto:museumseast@eastlothian.gov.uk">museumseast@eastlothian.gov.uk</a> to pre-book <u><a href="#">John Muir's Birthplace John Muir's Birthplace - Dunbar, East Lothian, Scotland. (jmbt.org.uk)</a></u></p>	<p>Coastal Communities Museum School Rd, North Berwick EH39 4JU Open Thursday - Sunday Free: advance booking required - by calling 07859 460943 or emailing : <u><a href="mailto:bookings@coastalmuseum.org">bookings@coastalmuseum.org</a></u> <u><a href="#">Coastal Communities Museum (coastalmuseum.org)</a></u></p>
<p>Prestongrange Morrison's Haven, Prestonpans, EH32 9RX Open Daily 11:30 - 16:00 Free: advance booking required <u><a href="#">Prestongrange   Museums in East Lothian   East Lothian Council</a></u></p>	<p>Riverside Museum 100 Pointhouse Rd, Partick, Glasgow G3 8RS Open Daily Free: advance booking required - <u><a href="#">Events   Glasgow Life (glasgowconcerthalls.com)</a></u> <u><a href="#">Riverside Museum — Glasgow Life</a></u></p>
<p>Kelvingrove Art Gallery &amp; Museum Argyle St, Glasgow G3 8AG Open Daily Free: advance booking required - <u><a href="#">Events   Glasgow Life (glasgowconcerthalls.com)</a></u> <u><a href="#">Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum — Glasgow Life</a></u></p>	<p>V &amp; A Dundee 1 Riverside Esplanade, Dundee DD1 4EZ Open Thursday - Monday Free: advance booking required - <u><a href="#">V&amp;A Dundee · Book Museum Entry (vam.ac.uk)</a></u> <u><a href="#">V&amp;A Dundee · Scotland's first design museum (vam.ac.uk)</a></u></p>

## Art and Craft

Edinburgh is also host to many world class art galleries and exhibition spaces.

<p>Scottish National Gallery The Mound, Edinburgh EH2 2EL Open Thursday - Sunday Free: advance booking required - <u><a href="https://www.nationalgalleries.org/ticket-purchase/48146">https://www.nationalgalleries.org/ticket-purchase/48146</a></u> <u><a href="https://www.nationalgalleries.org/">https://www.nationalgalleries.org/</a></u></p>	<p>Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art 75 Belford Rd, Edinburgh EH4 3DR Open Sunday - Tuesday Free: advance booking required - <u><a href="https://www.nationalgalleries.org/visit">https://www.nationalgalleries.org/visit</a></u> <u><a href="https://www.nationalgalleries.org/visit/scottish-national-gallery-modern-art">https://www.nationalgalleries.org/visit/scottish-national-gallery-modern-art</a></u></p>
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<p>Scottish National Portrait Gallery 1 Queen St, Edinburgh EH2 1JD Open Daily 10:00 - 17:00  Free: advance booking required - <a href="https://www.nationalgalleries.org/ticket-purchase/49926">https://www.nationalgalleries.org/ticket-purchase/49926</a> <a href="https://www.nationalgalleries.org/visit/scottish-national-portrait-gallery">https://www.nationalgalleries.org/visit/scottish-national-portrait-gallery</a></p>	<p>City Art Centre 2 Market St, Edinburgh EH1 1DE Open Daily 10:00 - 17:00  Free: advance booking required - <a href="https://tinyurl.com/a9ejjipys">https://tinyurl.com/a9ejjipys</a> <a href="https://www.edinburghmuseums.org.uk/venue/city-art-centre">https://www.edinburghmuseums.org.uk/venue/city-art-centre</a></p>
<p>Fruitmarket Gallery 45 Market St, Edinburgh EH1 1DF Open (new times tbc)  Free: <a href="https://www.fruitmarket.co.uk/">https://www.fruitmarket.co.uk/</a></p>	<p>Collective City Observatory, 38 Calton Hill, Edinburgh EH7 5AA Open Tuesday - Sunday  Free <a href="https://www.collective-edinburgh.art/">https://www.collective-edinburgh.art/</a></p>

### Further afield

<p>GOMA 111 Queen St, Royal Exchange Square, Glasgow G1 3AH Open Daily  Free: advance booking required - <a href="https://tinyurl.com/82hfups">https://tinyurl.com/82hfups</a> <a href="https://tinyurl.com/jeyxeak3">https://tinyurl.com/jeyxeak3</a></p>	<p>Kelpies Visitor Centre The Helix FK2 7ZT Open Dail  Adult £5.00   Concession £4.50   Child Free (2 children with 1 adult) <a href="https://www.thehelix.co.uk/">https://www.thehelix.co.uk/</a></p>
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### Parks and Gardens

Edinburgh is home to many outdoor spaces and parks that are ideal for having some fun and exploring.

<p>Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh Arboretum Pl, Edinburgh EH3 5NZ Open Daily 10:00 - 17:00  Free: advance booking required - <a href="https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/rbge-30392178384">https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/rbge-30392178384</a> <a href="https://www.rbge.org.uk/">https://www.rbge.org.uk/</a></p>	<p>The Meadows Melville Dr, Edinburgh EH9 1ND Open Daily  Free <a href="https://themeadowsofedinburgh.co.uk/">https://themeadowsofedinburgh.co.uk/</a></p>
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Holyrood Park and Arthur's Seat  Free  <a href="https://www.visitscotland.com/info/see-do/holyrood-park-and-arthurs-seat-p914341">https://www.visitscotland.com/info/see-do/holyrood-park-and-arthurs-seat-p914341</a>	Craiglockhart Dells  Free  <a href="https://tinyurl.com/5zuwrugg">https://tinyurl.com/5zuwrugg</a>
Water of Leith  Water of Leith Visitor Centre  24 Lanark Road  Edinburgh EH14 1TQ  Free  <a href="http://www.waterofleith.org.uk/">http://www.waterofleith.org.uk/</a>	Saughton Park  Balgreen Road  EH11 3BQ  Free  <a href="https://tinyurl.com/m64xknds">https://tinyurl.com/m64xknds</a>

### Further afield

Dalkeith Country Park  Via King's Gate, Dalkeith EH22 1 <sup>ST</sup>  Open Daily 07:00 - 19:00  Free: *  <a href="https://www.dalkeithcountypark.co.uk/plan-a-visit/">https://www.dalkeithcountypark.co.uk/plan-a-visit/</a>  *ticketed options also available to pre-book	Callendar Park  Falkirk FK1 1YR  Open Daily  Free  <a href="https://www.falkirkcommunitytrust.org/venues/callendar-park/">https://www.falkirkcommunitytrust.org/venues/callendar-park/</a>
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### Outdoor Activities

There are many amazing outdoor spaces in Edinburgh and, across Scotland! All you have to do is leave your house to start a wonderful adventure!

- Walk around town - with lots of culture, wildlife and architecture to see this is a great way to have fun and get to know where you live. You can learn to read a map or do a treasure trail with your children.
- The John Muir - on our doorstep, here in Balgreen, the John Muir way will keep you fit, active and exploring for many days. Read about the man before your adventure:  
<https://johnmuirway.org/>  
  
<https://johnmuirway.org/assets/Education-Resources/23ee86a017/John-Muir-Way-activity-guide.pdf>  
  
<https://discoverjohnmuir.com/>
- The Pentland Hill Regional Park - here you can hike, do some nature exploration or even wild camp!
- Crammond Brass rubbing trail - Along the shore at Crammond beach there are a trail of plaques, created by local school children, depicting the history of the area that you can follow.

## Cheap and Great Value Ideas

### Museums

Some museum experiences charge entry fees. These are usually more specialised museums that would work well with specific project work or to get a flavour of a period in history.

<p>Dynamic Earth</p> <p>Holyrood Rd, Edinburgh EH8 8AS</p> <p>Open Saturday - Thursday</p> <p>Cost: advance booking required -</p> <p>Tour + Planetarium A:£15.95 C:£9.95</p> <p><a href="https://www.dynamicearth.co.uk/">https://www.dynamicearth.co.uk/</a></p>	<p>National Mining Museum</p> <p>Lady Victoria Colliery, Newtongrange, Dalkeith EH22 4QN</p> <p>Open Wednesday - Saturday</p> <p>Cost: advance booking required -</p> <p>A:£9.50 C:£3.50 Under 7: Free</p> <p><a href="https://nationalminingmuseum.com/">https://nationalminingmuseum.com/</a></p>
<p>Bowness and Kinnel Railway Museum of Scottish Railways</p> <p>Open (new times tbc)</p> <p>Cost: From free</p> <p><a href="https://www.bkrailway.co.uk/your-visit/museum/">https://www.bkrailway.co.uk/your-visit/museum/</a></p>	<p>National Museum of Flight</p> <p>East Fortune Airfield, East Lothian, EH39 5LF</p> <p>Open Daily 10:00 - 17:00</p> <p>Cost: advance booking required -</p> <p>A:£12.50 C:£7.50 (under 5s free)</p> <p><a href="https://www.nms.ac.uk/flight">https://www.nms.ac.uk/flight</a></p>
<p>Almond Valley</p> <p>Millfield, Livingston EH54 7AR</p> <p>Open Daily 10:00 - 17:00</p> <p>Cost: advance booking required -</p> <p>A:£9.50 C:(aged 3-15) £7.50</p> <p><a href="http://www.almondvalley.co.uk/index.html">http://www.almondvalley.co.uk/index.html</a></p>	

## Castles

As well as traditional museums there are many attractions in Edinburgh and beyond where the venue itself is the reason to visit.

<p><i>Edinburgh Castle</i> Castlehill, Edinburgh EH1 2NG Open Daily 9:30 - 18:00 Cost: advance booking required - A:£15.50 C:£9.30 <a href="https://www.edinburghcastle.scot/">https://www.edinburghcastle.scot/</a></p>	<p><i>Lauriston Castle</i> 2 Cramond Rd S, Edinburgh EH4 6AD Open Daily 8:00 - 20:00 Cost: Free (grounds)</p>
<p><i>Blackness Castle</i> Blackness, Linlithgow EH49 7NH Open Sunday - Thursday 10:00 - 16:00 Cost: booking recommended A:£6.00 C:£3.60 <a href="https://www.historicenvironment.scot/visit-a-place/places/blackness-castle/prices-and-opening-times/">https://www.historicenvironment.scot/visit-a-place/places/blackness-castle/prices-and-opening-times/</a></p>	<p><i>Stirling Castle</i> Castle Wynd, Stirling FK8 1EJ Open Daily 9:30 - 18:00 Cost: booking required A:£14 C:£8.40 <a href="https://www.stirlingcastle.scot/">https://www.stirlingcastle.scot/</a></p>

\*all opening hours and prices correct June 2021

\*all weblinks active June 2021

## Appendix 1

### Example of Term Ahead letter and Home Learning Grid

#### Term Ahead: October - December

#### Primary 7

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope everyone had a great time at camp and all are rested and recovered well!

In the boxes below we have provided details of what the classes will be learning over this term and some useful information.

Literacy and English	Numeracy and Mathematics
<p>In reading, following on from our focus on Literature Circle roles, we will be focusing on running a Literature Circle group independently. We will also focus on comprehension and Higher Order Thinking Skills.</p> <p>In writing, our focus will be on newspaper articles. We will be using our knowledge of persuasive language to design posters for our upcoming P7 cafés.</p> <p>Grammar will focus on tenses and 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> person.</p> <p>Spelling will concentrate on patterns -tion, -sion, ough and ought.</p>	<p>Throughout the year we will be using Heinemann Active and Teejay to support our numeracy and maths lessons.</p> <p>In numeracy, we will be focusing on decimals; reading, writing and addition and subtraction, using both mental and written methods. We will continue to work on our times tables knowledge for quick recall and to solve problems.</p> <p>In maths, we will be focusing on data handling. We will create a survey, carry out the survey and interpret the data we collect.</p>
Learning Across the Curriculum	Admin
<p>Our main topic this term is in social studies. Focusing on WWII we will be looking at the causes and effects of war on both sides. We are looking at it from the Axis and the Allies side. The 6 questions we are focusing on have been chosen by the pupils.</p> <p>Health and well-Being will focus on substance abuse including drugs, alcohol and tobacco. We will also be looking at food labelling and being able to make healthy choices.</p> <p>In RME we will be studying the key elements Judaism, prejudice and persecution linked to our WWII social studies.</p> <p>In ICT we will be learning about different features of program's such as Pages, iMovie and PowerPoint and using them to present some of our learning.</p>	<p><b>P.E:</b> <b>Monday</b> Pupils should come to school dressed appropriately for PE indoors and outdoors.</p> <p><b>Homework:</b> See the optional Home Learning grid on the back of the term ahead letter.</p> <p>Pupils should also <u>always</u> be reading something and practicing their times tables!</p> <p><b>Organisation:</b> Pupils are set for maths, which takes place four mornings a week. Classes rotate every afternoon with learning across the curriculum. This is to prepare the P7 pupils for transition into high school.</p>

If you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Class Teacher

## **Home Learning**

### **Primary 7**

#### **Term 2**

**Below is a selection of activities that can be worked on individually, by your child, or together as a family. They can share their work with their class if they wish.**

#### **Reading**

Please encourage your child to read for pleasure and/or purpose. It doesn't always have to be a book - it can be a magazine, instructions for a game or how to build something, a shopping list or ingredients for a recipe. The options are endless!

#### **Home Learning**

#### **Health and Wellbeing**

With your parents or carers, discuss and write a list of 50 things that you would like to know or experience before you leave Balgreen.

For Example know your times tables, visit the National Gallery, take part in a school production or learn to tie your shoe laces.

#### **Health and Wellbeing/Social Studies**

Look at the Global Goals: goal 2 and think about the work we are doing on food labelling and healthy choices - do we all have the same options and experiences? Can you make a small change to your choices to help towards achieving global goal 2? Seen something else that takes your interest - maybe research the other goals in more depth and see how you could help...

<https://www.globalgoals.org/>

#### **Social Studies**

Enjoying our WWII topic?

- Research an area we haven't looked at in class
- Build a model shelter or plane
- Look at how propaganda has been used in other conflicts
- Write an article on one of the key Axis/Ally leaders

#### **Maths**

#### **Mental Agility**

Use your Sumdog login and practise the skills we have been working on in class - focus on something you are finding tricky or would really like to get better at!

[https://www.sumdog.com/user/sign\\_in](https://www.sumdog.com/user/sign_in)

#### **Maths**

#### **Data Collection**

Using your knowledge of nature and the outdoors from our John Muir activities create tables and graphs of things you find on a walk or the bugs or birds that visit your garden.

Compare what you find in different areas e.g. forest/garden/tree and discuss why the differences might occur.

#### **Reading**

#### **Family book group**

Borrow multiple copies of the same book from the library and read together as a family - discuss the book and share your opinions. If there is a film version, you could then watch it and compare it to the book

#### **Listening & Talking/ICT**

Joined a club? Learning a new skill? Improving a talent? Tell us all about it and document your progress. You could use a computer program like Pages, iMovie or PowerPoint to share your experiences and tell us all about what you are doing!