

# English in S1

## Classwork

Pupils continue the Curriculum for Excellence course from Primary School with concentration on the skills of reading, writing, talking, and listening.

Classwork is organised in "units" so that pupils learn and practise these skills in an organised, coherent way. Units have a particular focus: a novel, short stories, poetry, a play, a media product, or a theme, will form the core around which the work is organised. Units usually last from 4 - 6 weeks.

Carers are often concerned about exactly what their child will be doing in the English class, what homework their child will have, and how they can help.

We, in the department, are very conscious that progress will only be made when pupils, carers, and staff are all working together for success. We are, therefore, very grateful for the efforts which carers will make over this year to support their child reach their maximum potential in English.

Carers can help by checking what work is being done; discussing progress with their child; by ensuring that deadlines are met; and, making certain that finished work is of top quality.

## Homework

There are two main types of English homework:

### 1. Personal Reading



It is the department's policy that each pupil should be reading for a minimum average of 15-20 minutes each evening. Fiction is preferred at this stage but children should be encouraged if their reading interests lie elsewhere - about sport, for example, or some other interest or hobby they may have.

Reading of quality newspapers (such as The Herald, The Scotsman, The Guardian, The Independent, The i) is also recommended as it will help to develop knowledge and understanding of topical issues.

Recommended authors/books are available from the BGE section of the website.

Personal reading of this sort is by far the most important English homework that a child undertakes. Research has clearly shown that reading for pleasure is very closely linked to educational progress across the curriculum.

Carers can help by checking that their child is reading as a regular habit; by signing the Personal Reading Record each month in the

relevant box; by asking about, and discussing, the books being read; and, by encouraging visits to the school and local library.

Children who say they do not enjoy reading must try to change, by making reading a regular habit. In future years the reading demands at school only increase and a problem with reading now could create major difficulties later.

### 2. Homework based on classwork

Your child will have homework arising from normal classwork.

Carers can help by asking their child about their progress and homework. All homework should be found noted in the homework planner/diary. If homework is written work, parents are asked to check that is neat, and of a good standard.

If it is reading, carers can listen to the child read or check that it has been completed. With Talk preparation, parents can aid them with planning their talk, listen to the child's performance, and help them deliver it effectively.

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### Keeping a Diary

Many pupils keep a *personal diary* and this should be encouraged. Apart from its souvenir value in later life, a diary makes the child

articulate, in written  
form, daily experiences  
and feelings, and this is  
a valuable aid to  
learning and personal  
growth.