

Scotland Learns

Practitioner Newsletter

27 May 2020



Issue 3

A summary of this week's learning activities

Professional learning, resources and links for Developing the Young Workforce (DYW)

Hints and tips to support parents in navigating social media with young people

Supporting children's and young people's transitions in the current context

Each week, we will publish suggestions for learning at home activities which should be linked to class learning where appropriate. See below for more details of this week's learning activities and more hints, tips, links and ideas.

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Learning activities



Literacy and English



This week's literacy and English ideas will support you to design activities that support children and young people to identify and develop their skills.

- Younger children at early level can identify different texts and share their ideas with an adult. They can draw to help them develop their writing skills and expressive language. Teachers can help children to develop an interest in rhyme to support their reading.
- Children can identify the difference between fact and opinion and be able to describe the key features of persuasive texts. At first level, they are encouraged to share information and experiences through pictures or print to persuade the reader.
- Children at second level can create a persuasive letter or advertising leaflet to help deepen their understanding of different texts. They can make appropriate word choices, layout, vocabulary and supporting details to persuade the reader.
- At third and fourth level, young people can develop their listening and talking skills. They can critically analyse language used in persuasive text to help understand how we are influenced. They can research mental health, develop note-taking skills and present their own persuasive argument.

[Literacy and English activities](#)



Numeracy and mathematics



This week's numeracy and mathematics activities focus on ideas to support you to develop children and young people's understanding and use of mathematical concepts which you can use or adapt for learners. It is important to think about the range of learners in your class and their individual circumstances when planning play-based activities.

- Playing on a number line, where children can physically jump, helps children at early level to understand the concepts of start, finish and place value. Sorting socks on a washing line can help with the use of mathematical language.
- Working with two and three digit numbers and using mathematical symbols helps children at first level to develop the use of mathematical vocabulary. Using everyday objects they can extend their knowledge of fractions.
- Using the context of shopping, children at second level can begin to extend their knowledge of fractions. They can find the unit fractions of whole numbers and carry out the necessary calculations to solve problems.
- Through exploring the links between regular polygons and their angle properties, young people in S1 to S3 can begin to apply links between mathematical concepts. They can explore the links between speed, distance, time and data analysis.

[Numeracy and Mathematics activities](#)





Learning activities

Health and wellbeing



Looking after our health and wellbeing as best we can is really important for us all in these uncertain times. We have ideas and activities appropriate for children and young people at different ages that you might like to highlight to families. We have activities for older children and young people focused on staying safe online.

- Children can talk about and discuss the different feelings they experience in certain situations. At early level this can develop an understanding of the meaning of kindness and its importance.
- Activities for children at first level encourage them to think about their mental and emotional wellbeing. [Hands On Scotland](#) offer five simple routines to support our overall wellbeing.
- Children draw on their existing skills, attributes and knowledge of health and wellbeing. Children at second level can use these to describe ways of maintaining a positive outlook that can impact on mental health.
- Young people can develop their understanding of how decisions about their behaviour and relationships may affect their mental and emotional wellbeing. They can explore who supports them, the place of kindness and how to develop positive thinking.

[Health and wellbeing activities](#)



Interdisciplinary learning activities



Each week, we suggest activities that cover different curriculum areas for children and young people learning at home. These learning activities encourage children and young people to apply their learning and skills in real-life situations. This week we have a focus on the weather, climate and energy.

- Using poetry can help younger children to think about rain and the movement of water. Children at early level can explore the power of wind, snow and ice. They are prompted to investigate the different states of water through play.
- Exploring the different symbols used by weather forecasters to represent different weather types can help children at first level to design their own symbols. They can present a weather forecast and research the impact on living things such as bird migration and their behaviours.
- Children at second level can learn about the impact of weather and climate on renewable energy development and jobs in Scotland. They can use their research and digital skills to explore the impact of extreme weather, such as flooding, on communities.
- Young people can explore solutions to improve the energy efficiency of homes and other buildings. Young people at third and fourth level can research how scientists and inventors from Scotland have contributed to innovation and design.

[Interdisciplinary learning activities](#)



Gaelic Medium Education

This week's learning activities include a focus on reading Gaelic texts, numeracy and mathematics and interdisciplinary learning.

Practitioners in the Gaelic sector may also wish to highlight to parents and children this week's live sessions on [#cleachdiaigantaigh](#) / [#useitathome](#). Here you will find a range of activities through the medium of Gaelic such as baking, internet cafe, singing, storytelling and quizzes. These sessions are led by Gaelic organisations who already engage with schools.



Foghlam Meadhan Gàidhlig

Hints and tips



[Parentzone social media guides](#)



Supporting parents

We know that for some parents it can be a challenge to understand what their children are doing on social media. If you are supporting parents through the online maze there are some good sources of advice and information. The social media guide for parents and carers developed by Internet Matters, NSPCC, Parentzone and UK Safer Internet Centre is a helpful resource. Parentzone also have [handy guides](#) to the most popular apps and platforms.

For a more general guide around online safety that you could pass onto parents is one created by [South West Grid for Learning](#).

Image: "Social Media Mix 3D Icons - Mix #1" by howtostartablogonline.net is licensed under CC BY-SA 2.0.

What's new this week

Transitions

In the context of COVID-19, all children and young people have experienced unexpected transitions. These include extended time at home, changes in family circumstances or changes in care placement. They can also expect to return to a school which looks quite different from what they experienced previously. Education Scotland published resources about transitions in the context of COVID-19 on Tuesday 26 May. The one for [practitioners](#) provides advice, guidance, signposting and [practical resources](#) to help you support children and young people. There is also one for [parents and carers](#).

These resources have been organised into six categories which aim to support transitions for children and young people at all stages: early learning and childcare, primary, secondary and post-16. We have also included specific resources in the areas of health and wellbeing and additional support needs.



Developing the Young Workforce (DYW)

There are a number of online opportunities for practitioners to engage with in DYW. To refresh your DYW knowledge try the [DYW - quick start guide](#) learning blog. Or visit the [learning resources blog](#) containing professional learning modules and reflection tools to extend your professional learning.

In order to support your development work and thinking around DYW, Education Scotland is providing you with the opportunity for professional dialogue with colleagues. The next [virtual meeting](#) on 16 June provides an opportunity for teachers and practitioners to 'get together' in order to share their DYW experiences, exchange information and discuss challenges. You can register for the event here: [Eventbrite FS 2](#).

[Key online resources and links](#) have been collated into wakelets under key themes to plan and develop DYW across learning. Themes include, for example, key policy documents, implementing the Career Education Standard, work placements and work-related learning, equalities, partnerships and foundation apprenticeships.

A full summary of
DYW resources can
be found on the
[National Improvement
Hub](#)



What's new this week

Glow and upcoming webinars

There are a range of professional learning opportunities, blogs and posts from across Scotland on the sharing practice pages of glow. Each week we highlight a couple of upcoming webinars. There are more to choose from and these are added to regularly so keep checking on the [digilearn webinars](#) page.

You can also catch up on previous webinars here [DigiLearnScot Webinars on YouTube](#)



Evidencing Learning through Book Creator

on Wednesday 3rd June 2020, 2pm. Showcasing the range of tools within the free version of BookCreator and its potential use in all areas of the curriculum.

Staying Connected as an ELC Team – Microsoft Collaboration Tools within Glow

Wednesday 10th June 2020 at 11am. This session is aimed at ELC practitioners but could be adapted to the wider BGE. The session will explore how you can make the best use of digital tools that are available to us via Glow, to remain connected as a team.

A number of webinars focused on curriculum areas in the senior phase are being planned for June –

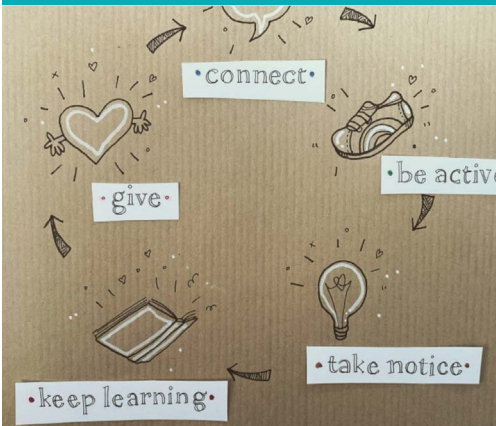
dates and information on how to book will be available soon.

What's new this week



Staff Health and Wellbeing Wakelet

Maintaining and protecting your own wellbeing and that of your staff is particularly important at this time. Information from the NHS suggests there are five steps you can take to improve your mental health and wellbeing, these steps are: **Give, Take Notice, Keep Learning, Be Active and Connect with other people.** Explore our [health and wellbeing wakelet for staff](#) for lots of useful links across each of these five steps to help improve staff wellbeing.



Nationwide Doorstep Samba band

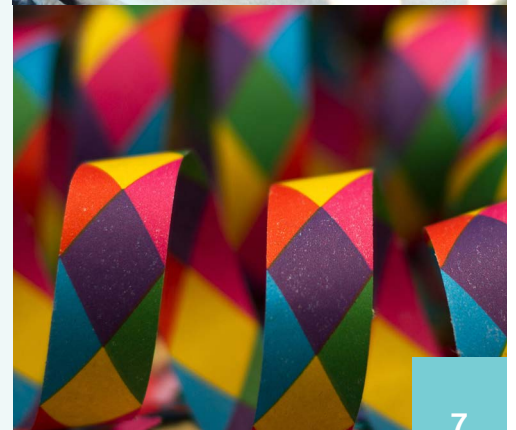
Each week we have clapped to offer our support and thank our very special NHS workers and all other key workers. This includes teachers who support our school hubs looking after everyone in our community daily, during this difficult time.

The Music Education Partnership Group who represent 54 music organisations in the delivery of music education in Scotland, have put together a door step **samba**. In addition to the four easy samba rhythms demonstrated on video on the link below, there are also helpful videos to show children and young people how to make their own instruments to make the samba as loud and as fun as possible.

Please share this information with all your parents and learners to enable them to take part. We hope you will all participate and make Scotland a very noisy place at 8pm on the 4 June 2020.

You may choose to share a video of your samba with your pupils on twitter with the following link @MusicEducatio10 with the **#wmmdoorstepsamba**

Links



Links



Thinking of the curriculum for Gaelic?

Bilingualism Matters are offering a free webinar on languages in lockdown and beyond on Friday 5 June at 3pm. [More detail is available](#). There is also useful information to support Gaelic on our [National Improvement Hub](#), including [The Advice on Gaelic Education](#).



Scotland's Route Map

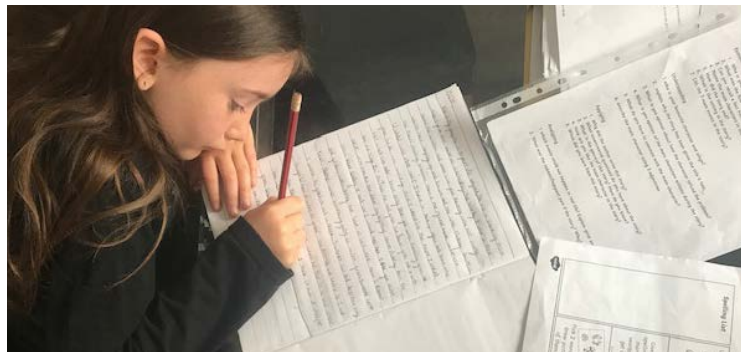
Last week Scottish Government published gov.scot/publications/scotlands-route-map. This includes information around educational provision.



Free Solihull Online modules for parents

The Scottish Government have announced that parents and carers will have free access to the Solihull online modules. [They can apply](#) using the access code 'tartan'.

If you would like to read more there is a practice exemplar. [Family Matters - the Solihull Approach Parenting Programme](#) on the National Improvement Hub.



Young Scots Writer of the Year Competition

Do you know someone who could be the Young Scots Writer of the Year 2020? Encourage them to enter a competition for young people aged 11-18 to write a poem, a story, a play or a song in the Scots language. The competition is run in partnership with Scottish Book Trust, Scottish Government, Scots Hoose and Hands up for Trad. The theme is **Till a' the seas gang dry**- a line from Robert Burns' famous Scots poem *A red, red rose*. The deadline for submissions is Wednesday 24 June, [more information here](#).

Sharing Practice



Learning at home in the four contexts

This week we are spotlighting learning at home in the four contexts at Dunblane Primary, Stirling Council. More information on this approach and a template to share your learning at home in the four contexts can be found on the [National Improvement Hub](#).

Dunblane Primary School have been setting weekly STEM challenges for Primary 4 and above. These are proving very popular with their children and families. Find more links to STEM materials on the [ES STEM Wakelet](#).

Why not get this newsletter emailed directly to you each week? Or pass it on to anyone you think might be interested?

Sign up →



Assessment - what is working well?

In the first edition of our newsletter we featured guidance on assessment drawn from the emerging practice over the first six weeks of remote learning. Find out more about how a selection of primary schools and secondary schools in [Fife Council](#) are continuing to support provision of quality feedback to learners.