

# Scotland Learns

Practitioner Newsletter

24 June 2020



## Issue 7

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A summary of this week's learning activities

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Information about Scotland Learns themes to support a model of blended learning

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Resources and support for Gaelic Medium Education and outdoor learning

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Hints and tips for educators to support parents with a deaf child

**We hope,** that you have found both the newsletters and learning activities on #ScotlandLearns useful in helping you to support Scotland's learners during term 4.

Sign up 



## Thank you from Education Scotland's Chief Executive

Gayle Gorman, HM Chief Inspector of Education and Chief Executive of Education Scotland has published a vlog [thanking Scotland's educators](#) for their hard work over the past few months.

In the vlog, Gayle commends education practitioners for their hard work, their commitment and for the support they have demonstrated to Scotland's learners and their families over a particularly challenging period. She wishes everyone a restful break over the summer.

Thank you



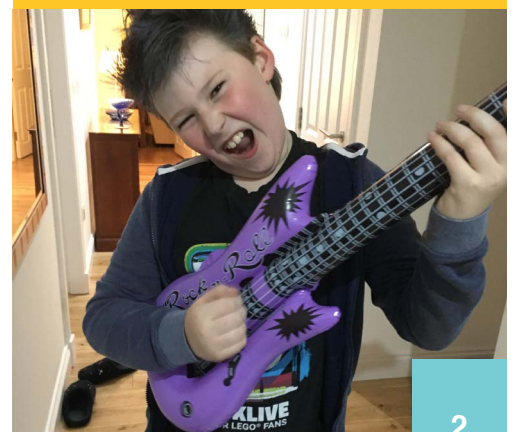
## Scotland Learns Activities

Education Scotland will continue to develop a resource bank of learning at home activities. This is intended to support practitioners deliver a model of blended learning should it be required. Activities related to literacy and English, numeracy and mathematics, health and wellbeing for broad general education along with activities to support cross-curricular learning will be published fortnightly through Scotland Learns. [This week we have published an overview of activities we will publish.](#) You may find this helpful when planning children's and young people's learning for next academic year.

Education Scotland is also partnering with ESgoil and the Association of Directors of Education Scotland to launch national e-learning provision to support in-school and remote learning. This is initially focused on senior phase, with live, interactive lessons across a broad range of subjects and qualification levels to support and augment the work of practitioners and schools across the country in their local arrangements for learners returning, and for reinforcing learning.



Scotland Learns



## Literacy and English

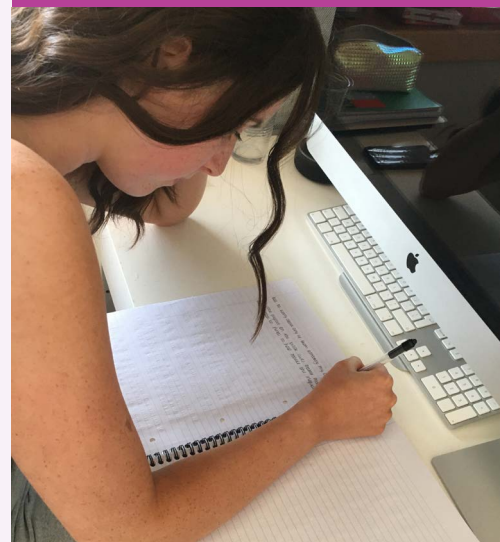


This week's literacy and English ideas will support you to design activities that support children and young people to engage with a range of texts.

- At early level, children are encouraged to engage with a range of texts and explore their feelings and thoughts as they listen, read or watch.
- Children at first level consider well-known stories from the viewpoint of different characters. They are encouraged to ask and answer a range of questions to help develop their understanding of the text.
- At second level, children develop their experience of creating their own texts and stories. They learn how to build and use 'story sticks' to help generate ideas for their own short stories.
- Young people at third and fourth level can describe their personal response to a spoken text, which aims to create tension or to thrill the audience. They can create a suspenseful opening to another text and share with others orally.

[View activities →](#)

## Learning activities



## Learning activities

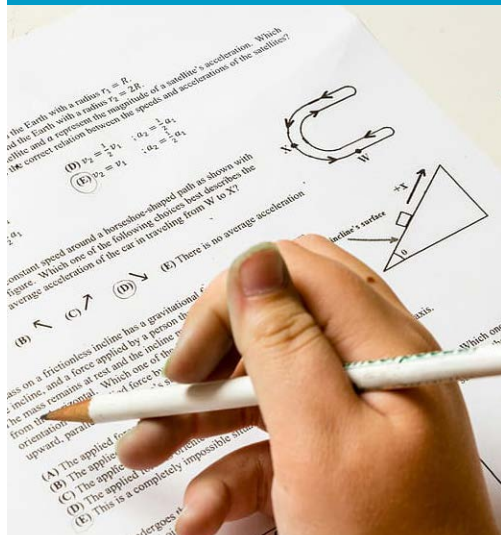
## Numeracy and mathematics



This week's numeracy and mathematics activities focus on using the home situation to practice mathematical concepts and ideas.

- There are some ideas to help children at early level understand subtraction. You can encourage parents to collect objects from home to support the activities. There are also suggestions about helping children sort and compare objects.
- Investigating historical numbers such as hieroglyphs will help children at first level think about how it links to their own experience of numbers. They can then move on to counting in tens.
- At second level you can ask children to interpret information so that they can learn how to identify misleading data. There are also some ideas for solving algebraic equations.
- Young people at third and fourth level can design activities at home to practice using angles. You can also help them think about the relationship between the area of a circle and the radius.

[View activities →](#)



## Health and wellbeing

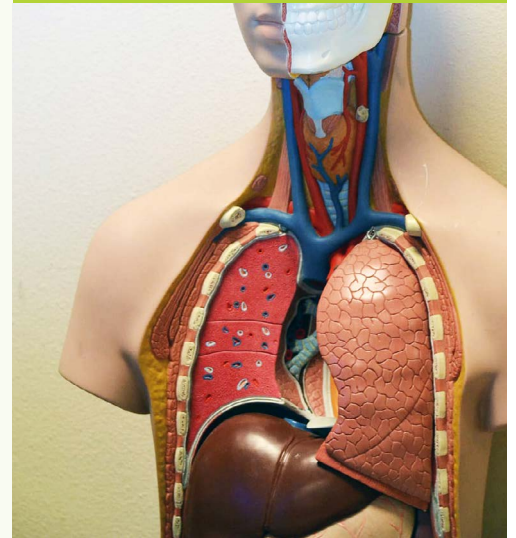


Looking after our health and wellbeing as best we can is really important for us all in these uncertain times. We have ideas and activities appropriate for different ages that you might like to highlight to families.

- At early level, there are activities to support children to learn about the human body and things we put on and into our body.
- Children at first level can learn more about the human body. They will be asked to think about different substances and those that are safe or dangerous to us.
- At second level, children learn how to perform basic first aid procedures, for example, minor bleeding and burns. They will learn how to contact the appropriate emergency services and provide full details of an incident.
- Activities for young people at third and fourth level help them to make informed decisions when faced with situations regarding taking drugs. They will learn about how to identify if someone is using drugs and how to help them.

[View activities →](#)

## Learning activities



## Learning activities

### Interdisciplinary learning

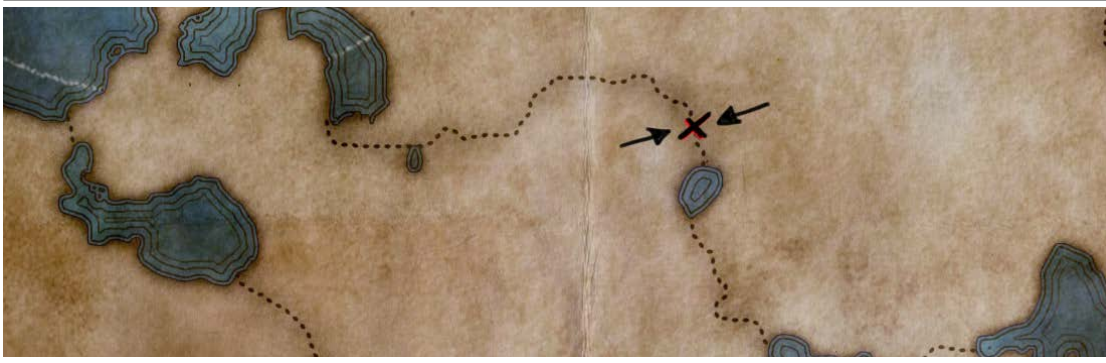


These learning activities encourage children and young people to apply their learning and skills in real-life situations.

- At early level, children can investigate the wheels on a range of vehicles and identify those that have a special purpose. For example, fire engine, ambulance or bus.
- Children at first level learn about Alexander Graham Bell and use their imagination to design a new piece of communication technology.
- Through the context of a game, children at second level can develop creative thinking and spontaneous responses to invent and tell stories.
- At third and fourth level, young people think creatively about enhancing their community through a 'pop-up' shop. They will consider the practicalities of setting up and marketing of the shop.

[View activities →](#)





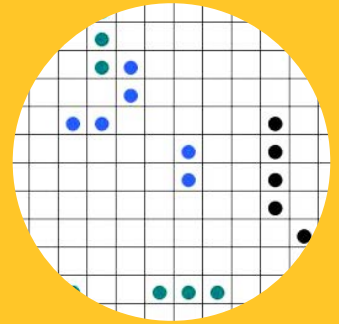
## Foghlam Meadhan Gàidhlig

### Support for learning through the medium of Gaelic

This week's #ScotlandLearns activities to support parents and carers in Gaelic Medium Education focus on developing fluency, whilst having fun and being outside. Children and young people use Gaelic to hunt for treasure and be nature detectives. For numeracy, they look at using numbers in real-life situations and with sport. Older children investigate mathematicians in history and have fun with coordinates through playing 'battleships'.

**Are you looking for opportunities for your pupils to be using Gaelic over the summer months?** Gaelic groups are providing live and recorded internet broadcasts. Spòrs Gàidhlig provide opportunities for young people to use Gaelic through safe, fun and adventurous activities. Have a look at their website to find out more.

**Thinking of supporting children's and young people's wellbeing in these uncertain times?** The resource, 'Compassionate and Connected Classroom' is available in Gaelic.



## Foghlam Meadhan Gàidhlig

### Invitation to collaborate on Gaelic

The National Gaelic Professional Learning Community Yammer Group provides a platform for you to network and share practice. It is a closed group and new members are most welcome.

#### **New resources from Stòrlann, the national resource centre for Gaelic**

- Faclan Feumail – A downloadable literacy resource that covers a range of topics.
- Games to develop literacy and more!
- Check out Stòrlann's resources.

**Looking for professional learning to support Gaelic Medium Education in the recovery phase?** Bòrd na Gàidhlig has a fund that can be accessed by teachers. Find more information.

## Hints and Tips



### Hints and tips for educators to support parents with a deaf child

- Encourage parents to enable learners to play freely and explore different objects and different environments.
- Provide pictures of everyday objects to support learners to name objects and describe to parents what they are doing.
- Provide parents with instructions to make puppets made from old socks or gloves at home to help learners understand different emotions and practise role-play. Puppets can have different facial expressions to help learners associate these with language such as happy and sad. Encourage parents to create stories and scenes for puppets.
- Stories and songs are helpful to learners in developing spoken and written language. Books and songs with rhyming words and lots of repetition are fun and allow learners to develop confidence when speaking and reading.
- Encourage parents to label items around the home and say the names of items. Learners can hear how they sound and see the word.

NHS Inform have videos with general health information around Covid-19 [BSL video with Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) guidance](#)



The [Parentzone Scotland support for BSL webpage](#) has lots of helpful links.

### Increasing Accessibility

Children and young people may have difficulty reading for a number of reasons. When setting work at home, try to make the instructions as accessible as possible. Adding diagrams and pictures is helpful if it adds to your explanation. It is helpful not to have too much information on the page. [CALL Scotland](#) has advice on using an accessible typeface.

[Find more on presenting information in accessible formats.](#)



## What's New This Week?

### Covid-19 update on education recovery to the Scottish Parliament

On Tuesday Mr Swinney, Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills gave a Covid-19 update on education recovery to the Scottish Parliament. [Read full statement.](#)



### Support for practitioners in outdoor learning

Outdoor learning has taken a prominent role in thinking about how schools will operate after the summer. Outdoor learning has many proven benefits for learning and teaching, and for all of our physical and mental health.

Education Scotland are working with partners to support outdoor learning in the coming year and beyond. The [outdoor learning/learning for sustainability wakelet](#) is a useful resource for practitioners. This is updated regularly with new links to organisations, resources and activities.

### Bereavement Support for Parents and Carers

Parentzone Scotland have published [new advice on bereavement](#) to support those whose friends or family have died during the Covid-19 pandemic.



### Domestic Abuse Information

Emerging evidence suggests that the Covid-19 pandemic has resulted in those experiencing domestic abuse being at increased risk. Domestic abuse can affect the development and wellbeing of children and young people but supportive adults can make a difference. This [new resource](#) will help staff understand the important role that they can play.

## Useful links

### Guidance from the British Psychological Society on compassionate transitions

The British Psychological Society have produced guidance to support children and young people returning to schools. [Compassionate transitions: Reconnecting school communities post Covid-19.](#)

## Resources to support wellbeing

It's important we all continue to support our mental health. The NHS [Mental health and wellbeing](#) pages have lots of helpful advice including a good mood self-assessment quiz which can help you understand how you're feeling. MIND have published [How to improve your mental wellbeing](#).

If you are supporting parents one place you can suggest is BBC Bitesize who offer a [parent's wellbeing toolkit](#). This has practical advice on supporting their child's wellbeing and some top tips for protecting their own mental wellbeing as a parent.

**The Awards Network**, the network of youth awards in Scotland, have published information about how providers have responded rapidly and creatively to the challenges presented by Covid-19. They developed resources to support young people to enjoy fun and learning through #youthworkathome and continue their journey to youth award attainment and achievement. Find out more at [Youth Work At Home](#).

**Youth Scotland** have made 1000 free Hi5 and Dynamic Youth Awards (DYA) wider achievement awards available to parents and carers to help them to support their child to gain a qualification at home. Hi5 Awards are aimed at ages 5+ and DYA at ages 10+. Both are nationally recognised and credit rated and levelled by the SQA on the SCQF. To access this [free resource](#) email Youth Scotland and use **parents as partners** offer as the subject title.



## Useful Links

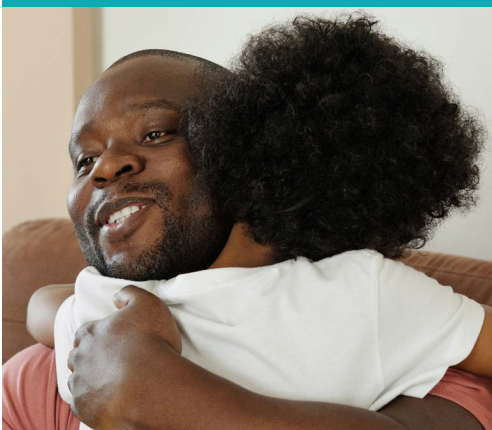


## Sharing Practice

### Making space for reflection – step away from the screen. Reviewing, reflecting and celebrating success in Shetland

Conversations with staff and families in Shetland Islands Council during the lockdown period highlighted that a lot of learners and their families were facing mounting pressures while managing learning at home. Lockdown restrictions had an impact on wellbeing. To support learners and their families, the council decided to plan a '[reflection week](#)' to allow children, young people and their families to:

- have some designated time and space to complete learning and reflect on their progress to date;
- take time to identify their successes so far and identify next steps in learning;
- utilise their local environment for learning;
- encourage learning offline, leading to less screen time; and
- focus on their health and wellbeing.





## Sharing practice

### Ancrum Road Primary School, Dundee City Council - Reflections on lockdown and looking ahead

As a very different school year comes to an end, schools and settings across Scotland are planning for a return to school in August. Sharon McQuillan, headteacher at Ancrum Road Primary School, Dundee City Council has found a space to reflect on the lockdown experience for her school community and used evaluation to inform and influence the way ahead. As in many schools, the team at Ancrum Road Primary School has worked relentlessly to support children and their families. This has required them to build on their existing strong relationships and team work to engage children, and offer them quality learning activities, albeit in a different way. This exemplar of practice highlights features which have helped the school to continue to support children and their families over term 4. As a result, staff feel well prepared for the new term.

The school's story has a strong focus on:

- Learning together for the whole staff team. This has resulted in increased digital confidence for all and more consistent use of a range of digital platforms. Staff feel more skilled to deliver a model of blended learning.
- Creating a one stop shop for information and access to learning for parents and children via the school website. This has supported an increasing number of parents contacting the school for support and advice around learning.
- Increased use of social media to communicate and engage with parents.
- Tracking children's engagement in learning in new ways and using information gathered to support individual children and families.
- Regular direct phone calls to children to discuss their wellbeing and learning.
- Celebrating and sharing children's achievements when learning at home.
- Distributing digital devices to those most in need to ensure equity of access.
- Core learning and children's progress.



Find more information on these examples and more spotlights on what's going well, sharing effective practice and approaches from schools, settings and services across Scotland on [Scotland Learns](#).



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