

# Scotland Learns

## Practitioner Newsletter

10 June 2020



### Issue 5

A summary of this week's learning activities

Additional webinars for the senior phase and #ESWeeBlethers information

Links to updates from the Scottish Government about reopening schools and the SQA about National Qualifications 2020

Shared practice from Falkirk Council and Dundee City Council

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

Sign up



## 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.

- At early level, younger children have the opportunity to develop their talking and listening skills by playing a game which involves describing things for others to guess the answer.
- Children at first level explore key features of effective story openers. They are encouraged to create their own stories and characters to share with others.
- Activities at second level provide an opportunity to explore how similes are used by authors to convey vivid imagery. Children begin to learn to identify imagery in texts and write their own similes.
- At third and fourth level, young people develop further their understanding of how to engage the listener through word choice, purpose and tone. They can write an imaginative review to help explore the impact of descriptive language.

## Learning activities



[View activities](#)

## Learning 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 of mathematical concepts. These can be adapted for the home environment. It is important to think about the range of learners in your class and their individual circumstances when planning play-based activities.

- Activities for children at early level to find and explore patterns to support the development of their mathematical thinking.
- At first level children build on their use of the mathematical symbols and begin to use the symbols  $=$ ,  $\neq$ ,  $<$  and  $>$  when comparing quantities.
- Children at second level can extend the range of whole numbers they work with to 1 000 000, and working with decimal fractions to two decimal places.
- Learning activities for young people at third and fourth level develop their understanding and how they can apply links between mathematical concepts. They are encouraged to think about the relationship between the circumference of a circle and its diameter.



[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 children and young people at different ages that you might like to highlight to families.

- At early level, children can engage in an activity to help develop their awareness of others. They can begin to understand some common rules and routines associated with sharing, taking turns and using space and equipment safely.
- Children at first level can develop their understanding of spatial awareness and the rhythm and timing of movement. They are encouraged to create new movement patterns and sequences.
- At second level, children can explore which sports they like and dislike to help them plan and create a new game which will support both their physical and mental wellbeing.
- Activities for young people at third and fourth level help them to explore their strengths. They can develop their understanding of the importance of cooperation and its role in ensuring the best outcome for any team.

## Learning activities



[View activities](#)

## Learning activities



[View activities](#)

## Interdisciplinary learning activities



Each week, we suggest activities that cover different curriculum areas for children and young people learning at home and encourage them to apply their learning and skills in real-life situations. This week we have a focus on fitness, the history of transport and motor vehicles.

- Using a story as stimulus, children create a real or imaginary adventure through which they explore different environments and develop their understanding of positional and directional language.
- Children at first level can create a fitness training circuit, where the activities include landing on different squares in a board game. They can design a buggy or pram which meet a baby's needs.
- At second level, children can explore the history of trade and transporting goods across the world and compare to container shipping in the 21st century. They can learn about the development of motor vehicles over time.
- Young people at third and fourth level can use a brief to contribute to the design of a new mode of transport.



## 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 literacy, numeracy and learning in a theme. Children and young people may choose activities based on the weather, feelings and friends.

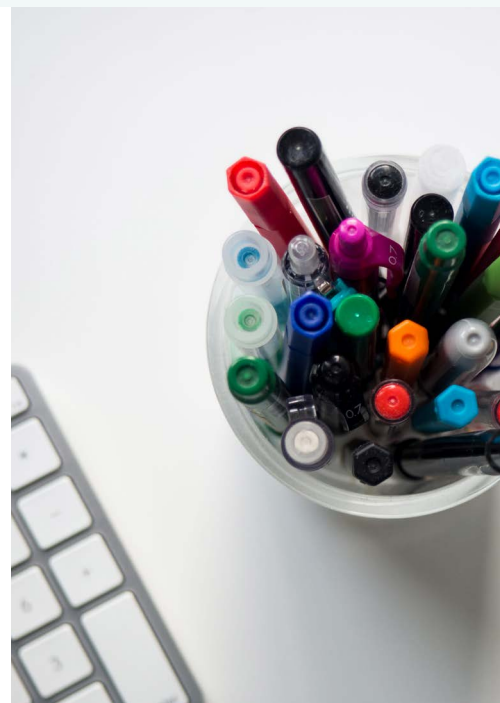
Why not also encourage parents to choose to sign up for live internet broadcasts provided by Gaelic groups to support Gaelic Medium and Learner Education? (#cleacdiaigantaigh/use it (Gaelic) at home).

## Online Professional Learning – Gaelic

**Giglets** are offering free, online training to support practitioners with using their resources to support learning and teaching. More information is available here:

**Sabhal Mòr Ostaig**, The National Centre of Excellence in Gaelic have summer short courses in Gaelic language, culture and traditional music available online. They are also delivering a series of research seminars.

**Thinking of resources to support children in these uncertain times?** Safe, strong and free, have resources through the medium of Gaelic. Also check out Stòrlann's resources.



## Hints and Tips



## Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP)

Due to the Covid-19 situation children and young people are spending more time online. This can increase the likelihood of bullying and sexual exploitation. The Child Exploitation and Online Protection command has child protection advisors who can advise and support on appropriate action if there is a danger of sexual exploitation online.

## Supporting learners with dyslexia.

For learners with dyslexia, education at home may be challenging.

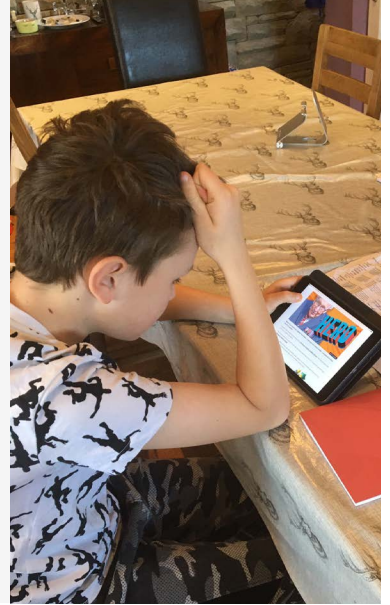
The [Dyslexia Toolkit](#) suggests that teachers:

- Make instructions short and clear.
- Explain and present information in various ways.
- Encourage alternatives to writing.
- Limit writing demands and give plenty of time.
- Provide planning formats e.g. writing frames and story skeletons.
- Praise effort as well as attainment.

The right resources can make a huge difference. If there are assistive tools at school, try to make sure these can be accessible at home. Glow has a useful immersive reader function – [instructions](#) can be found in this [wakelet](#) video.

Discuss learning with parents and carers to keep everyone involved. Encourage text based game playing and explain the benefits of reading together. Most importantly, learners with dyslexia have unique skills as well as support needs. Use a strength based approach and consider whether any work you set is accessible.

## Hints and Tips



## What's new



[Sign up/  
more information](#)

## #ESWeeBlethers

Are you ready to Blether some more? Unfortunately due to demand the #ESBigBlethers are all sold out. The Wee Blethers are another opportunity for colleagues from across the education system to get together and have smaller, more in-depth conversations about particular themes or questions.

Upcoming events:

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12 June, 3.00-4.00 pm, [Wee Rural Blether: On your own but not alone!](#)

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15 June, 10.00-11.00 am, [How do we effectively support transitions within the BGE at secondary level?](#)

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18 June, 3.00-4.00 pm, [Think Piece: A Recovery Curriculum: Loss and Life for our children and schools post pandemic](#)

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19 June, 3.00-4.00 pm, [What does Family Learning look like during and post Covid-19? What lessons can we learn?](#)

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22 June, 3.30-4.30 pm, [Gaelic Medium Education – what are our next steps as we move towards a blended-learning approach?](#)

We are sorry to inform you that the following #ESWeeBlethers are now sold out: Complex ASN Transitions (11 June), Nurture (17 June), ASN and Blended Learning (18 June) and New Times: New Teaching (23 June)



## Senior Phase Webinars

Our Education Scotland Senior Phase Webinars are a series of virtual events focused on different curricular areas. Join these webinars to share and discuss approaches in your curriculum area.

To sign up, use the links provided. All events are now published and tickets are live, capped at 100 for each event. Ticket "sales" will end 24 hours before the start date of each webinar. Please make sure you join the webinar 15 minutes prior to the event start time.

Follow us on social media for the latest updates to webinars. Links to the 'coming soon' sessions will be posted as soon as they are open for bookings.

Please note the webinars for modern languages and home economics are now sold out.

### English

Thursday 11 June  
2.00 – 3.00 pm



### Mathematics

Monday 15 June  
2.00 – 3.00 pm



### Technologies

Tuesday 16 June  
11.00 – 12.00 noon



### Learning pathways

Tuesday 16 June  
2.00 – 3.00 pm



### HWB: PE

Wednesday 17 June  
10.00 – 12.00 noon



### RMPS, RME, RERC

Monday 22 June  
2.00 – 3.00 pm



COMING SOON



### Physical Education

Monday 22 June  
2.00 – 3.30 pm



### Personal and Social Education (3 – 18)

Tuesday 23 June  
2.00 – 3.30 pm



## What's new

## Supporting young carers in education during COVID-19

Many children and young people are having to face new challenges because of Covid-19. Without school, young carers lose an important layer of support.

To support Carers Week we have launched a new [National Improvement Hub resource](#) to highlight some of the issues faced by young carers during Covid-19 and the creative ways schools, local authorities and third sector organisations have been supporting them.

The Scottish Government in partnership with Young Scot have developed a dedicated [platform for young carers](#). This contains opportunities, discounts and information exclusively for young carers as well as information on how to apply for the young carer grant.







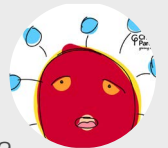
[Read the full statement](#)

## Early learning and childcare and school inspections

Education Scotland announced plans on Tuesday 2 June to temporarily suspend the early learning and childcare and school inspection programme to enable teachers and practitioners to concentrate on reopening schools. HM Inspectors will resume inspections during the school year 2020-21 when it is safe and appropriate to do so. It is vitally important staff working in education can focus on providing support to their pupils and colleagues when schools reopen. HM Inspectors will focus on supporting schools across Scotland from August to provide bespoke help and support as they take forward plans for recovery and continuity of education provision.

## Useful links

### Children's Parliament – new journal and survey



The Children's Parliament have published the Corona Times Journal 3 on the theme of learning in lockdown and the return to school.

[This and the latest Children's survey: How are you doing?](#)



### United Nations Leaders Invite Teens to Reimagine the World Post COVID-19

Save the Date for [World's Largest Lesson Live](#), a YouTube Premiere on the 16 June at 4.00pm.

The 30 minute show for teens features [Millie Bobby Brown](#), [Sofia Carson](#) and others in conversation with UN Leaders including Amina Mohammed, Deputy Secretary General. Everyone is invited to reimagine education, health and our world post Covid-19.

### Links to key guidance for schools re-opening



- [Strategic Framework for re-opening schools and ELC in Scotland](#)
- [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): re-opening schools guide](#)
- [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): supplementary national child protection guidance](#)
- [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): curriculum and assessment guidance](#)
- [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): support for continuity of learning guidance](#)
- [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): schools, early learning and childcare settings - scientific evidence](#)
- Access the [full suite of guidance](#) on Coronavirus (COVID-19) for education and children and all other sectors



## Useful links

### Youth Scotland post lockdown readiness guide

Youth Scotland have a new post lockdown readiness guide [First Step Planning for your youth work after the COVID-19 lockdown.](#)

### National Qualifications 2020 update

The Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) have posted an [update](#) about National Qualifications 2020 find the latest information.

### BT - Barefoot Computing Science

BT - have shared '[mini missions](#)' created by teachers with learning at home in mind. They are quick, easy to do activities to get children practising their computational thinking skills.

## Sharing Practice

### Supporting learning at home across schools in Falkirk Council

At St Mungo's RC High School staff have been using digital applications and videos to engage with young people. Find out more via [St Mungo's Sway](#).

You can find out more about the approaches taken by schools across Falkirk Council to supporting children's and young people's learning at home [Falkirk Distance Learning Examples of Practice](#).

You can find more examples of how teachers from across Scotland are using digital approaches to support children's and young people's learning in a series of [guest blogs in the digital learning community](#).

### Supporting music learning and wellbeing for children attending Dundee City Council Hubs

Many practitioners across Scotland are finding new ways of working as we continue to support learning at home and in Hubs. Music instructors in Dundee City Council have been pro-active in offering children attending hubs exciting experiences in expressive arts. The offer is wide ranging and includes: Kodaly, ukulele and tuned percussion, African drumming, traditional pipe band drumming, Charanga and body percussion.

[Find out more.](#)



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

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