

More Information

We understand that there are many parents and children who like to follow up on learning which has taken place in class. We already send home class newsletters at the beginning of each term which provides an overview of what the children will be learning about in the coming term. This newsletter enables you to continue to support your child's learning at home. They are also published on our school website.

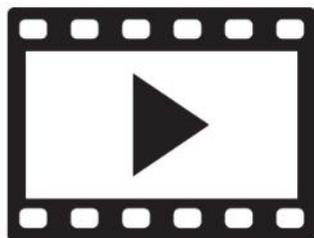
Our school website also contains links to online activities which support learning at home. These are grouped into curriculum levels so that you can find links for your child's age and stage.

There are lots of activities, games and ideas to support learning online, a quick internet search will bring up hundreds of results!

If you have any questions about how to support your child's learning, please do contact school.

Here is a link to a short video showing James Nottingham talk about the effect size of homework and the impact of preview:

<https://vimeo.com/117364694>



Bervie School



Information for Families

Approaches to Homework



This leaflet explains the thinking and research behind our approach to homework, what homework looks like for our pupils and where to find more information.

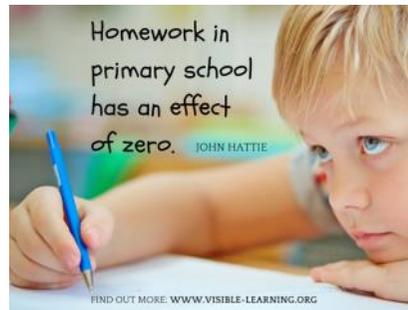
www.bervie.aberdeenshire.sch.uk

The Research

Homework is a contentious issue! We know that many families dread the homework battle and struggle to fit it around clubs, activities and busy family life.



As part of our ongoing work on Visible Learning, we have been looking at the impact of homework on learners' progress. We have looked at research into what makes effective homework which has a real impact on learning and progress. We have considered the work of James Nottingham and John Hattie, world renowned experts on Visible Learning. They have done significant research on effect sizes and impact on learning. An effect size of 0.4 or greater has a positive impact on learning. In primary school, the effect size of homework is 0.01 (the effect size in secondary school is higher). This means that traditional homework has little to no impact on learners' progress. However, the same research shows that by changing the type of task we ask children to prepare at home, the effect size increases to 0.9, a significant impact on learning.



This research underpins our approach to homework, meaning that we have moved away from more 'traditional' exercises to a preview approach.

Preview



What is preview? Preview is when children are given the opportunity to prepare at home for a coming lesson or topic.

What will my child have to do? You will be notified when your child has preview homework. This may not be every week and will vary from class to class. The children will be given a subject or topic to find out some information about. They should be prepared to talk about and share their learning with their peers. There is no expectation that your child should prepare any written information, the onus is on their ability to talk about the subject.

What are the benefits? This is a more flexible approach to homework which will fit around busy family life, children's clubs and extra curricular activities. There is reduced pressure to complete written tasks at home. If children already have some knowledge of a topic, teachers are able to provide greater challenge. Children will develop research skills and be able to talk about learning at home and at school. For some children, preview will reduce anxiety about homework.

Reading homework will continue to be given home to practise for Primary 1-3 children, and Primary 4-7 children will continue to be encouraged to read for enjoyment at home.