

# Holy Rood RC High School



## S2

### PARENT/CARER LEARNING INFORMATION

**To support you in discussing aspects of your child's learning please find a summary of areas being covered and skills being developed, for each subject, during term 1.**

**We hope you find this helpful. Do not hesitate to contact the school if you have further questions.**

## S2 UPDATE – January 2022

### Head Teacher



Dear Parents and Carers

I am pleased to share with you, important information regarding your child's learning in S2

We value being able to work in partnership with you and in this booklet you will find detailed information to assist your understanding of your child's learning in school. We also hope that this enables you to further support your child at home with his/her learning/homework and allow you to enter into a deeper dialogue about his/her subjects. We very much appreciate all you are doing to encourage good routines.

The Tracking and Monitoring timeline has been emailed to all parents/carers and is available on our website. This gives an overview of important dates regarding the reporting of your child's progress in learning.

Early in the new year we will share information regarding the review of learning and choosing subjects for S3.

Please contact your child's Year Head, Mrs McIntosh, if you have any questions regarding your child's learning or health and wellbeing - [year2head@holyrood.edin.sch.uk](mailto:year2head@holyrood.edin.sch.uk)

Best wishes

Mrs Daly  
Head Teacher

Subject	Learning focus by subject	How can you help at home?
<p><b>ART &amp; DESIGN</b></p>  <p>Art and Design</p>	<p>The S2 Art &amp; Design Course consists of 5 units:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drawing</li> <li>• Painting</li> <li>• Printmaking</li> <li>• 3-Dimensional work</li> <li>• Design</li> </ul> <p>These units are structured to support pupils in developing core skills such as media handling, observational drawing skills, problem solving in design and evaluation skills to review their own and others work.</p>	<p>Encourage pupils to keep up to date with homework tasks.</p> <p>Encourage pupils to attend extra-curricular clubs (Junk Kouture and Creative Chill clubs are offered during lunchtimes).</p>
<p><b>BUSINESS MANAGEMENT</b></p>  <p>Business Studies</p>	<p>Pupils have been working on a Business IT Skills unit of work. They have been learning how to create and present a range of business documents – business letters, displays, business cards, logos – using Word software. They have created and sent emails with attachments and have been learning about the use of different features in the Outlook software package.</p> <p>Pupils are now working on the Introduction to Spreadsheet unit. They are creating Excel spreadsheets, with basic formulae, and creating graphs and charts.</p>	<p>Remind pupils to complete homework tasks – these can be completed on paper/jotter or in their Office 365 class team.</p> <p>Ask the pupils to demonstrate how to use some of the features of Word or Excel that they have used in class.</p>
<p><b>COMPUTING SCIENCE</b></p> 	<p>Pupils have been learning about computer hardware and software, and different Input and Output devices. They have also improved their IT skills by learning to use different PowerPoint features including action buttons, hyperlinks, slide numbers, headers/footers, transitions and animations.</p> <p>Pupils have now started on the next unit of work where they are completing programming tasks/activities using Scratch.</p>	<p>Remind pupils to complete homework tasks – these can be completed on paper/jotter or in their Office 365 class Team.</p> <p>Encourage pupils to explore the different features of software packages to help them improve their skills and confidence.</p>

<p><b>DESIGN, ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY</b></p> 	<p>The S2 course for DET allows pupils to experience several projects to cover aspects from Woodwork, Design and Manufacture and Graphic Communication.</p> <p>All classes will be working on rotation to cover the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wooden Airplane– Practical Woodwork project learning the use of tools and joints</li> <li>• Cookie Cutter – Design and introduction to CAD software. Learning about 3D printing.</li> </ul> <p>Throughout all projects pupils are developing skills required across the department including sketching, communication, hand dexterity and independence.</p> <p>Pupils have been working on a variety of projects depending on what their class has been allocated on the rota. Most of the classes this term have been making the wooden toy plane project or the cookie cutter project. The toy plane project will focus on developing the use of wood working tools and working to the correct size from a drawing. The cookie cutter project will focus on developing CAD skills and DTP skills with pupils.</p>	<p>Encourage pupils to discuss what they have been doing in class so they can explain tasks and develop further understanding.</p> <p>Look on TEAMS for theory tasks and revision PowerPoints.</p>
<p><b>DRAMA</b></p> 	<p>S2 Drama explore creating, presenting and evaluating drama.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teamwork - pupils work in groups to develop their confidence when working with others. All Drama classes develop teamwork skills such as communication and co-operation.</li> <li>• Confidence - through practical activities such as taking on a character or leading discussion, pupils develop their confidence when working in pairs, groups or as a whole class.</li> <li>• Creativity - Pupils explore various areas of Drama such as mime, movement, voice, improvisation and characterisation to develop their ideas. In S2 we explore themes and issues such as status, the older generation, and homelessness.</li> <li>• Evaluation - pupils develop lifelong skills such as learning how to give and receive constructive criticism, peer and self-evaluation.</li> </ul>	<p>You can help by ensuring that pupils have kept up to date with homework tasks given at the end of each unit.</p> <p>You can also quiz pupils on Drama Terminology by using the 'Drama Terminology Booklet' which is on the pupils' TEAMS channel.</p> <p>This booklet can also be made available via email if you want to request one from the Drama Department.</p>

**ENGLISH**



The focus for the last couple of months has been continuing our Close Reading Skills course and starting on our first S2 literature text – this might be poetry or prose. We’ve also started regular book borrowing from the library. Classes have completed an extended Personal/Reflective piece of writing and are now underway with the S2 Writing Programme.

Encourage personal reading – all pupils should have a library book. You can also encourage reading nonfiction either online or in print.

Read over written homework activities and discuss the work they have completed. Encourage your son/daughter to correct any errors and consider using alternate vocabulary.

**FOOD & TEXTILE TECHNOLOGY**



In S2 the course has 5 topics. The pupils started with a short Food Choice unit looking at seasonality and food miles. The pupils are now finishing the Food Product Development unit where they have researched and developed a healthier version of Chilli con carne, including designing a food label and evaluating their work. The S2 are now making, marzipaning, icing and decorating a miniature Christmas cake.

The next topics include Keeping Food Safe, and Nutrition.

Pupils should be encouraged to make simple dishes at home including the cleaning up. This helps to make them more confident and efficient.

Homework is given out monthly. Homework is straightforward and all pupils should be able to complete it and return it on time.

**ITALIAN**

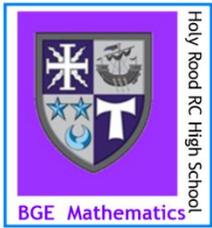


Pupils have been learning about the theme of Sports, Hobbies and Free Time using the skills of reading, listening, writing and talking. We have also had a grammar focus on past tense to allow pupils to talk about past events and activities. They are now working on the topic of Clothes and Fashion and have been learning about how to express opinions and reasons for these. Pupils recently sat assessments in reading and listening covering all language covered in unit one. Pupils will soon complete writing and talking assessments linked to topics being covered in class.

After Christmas, we will be focusing on the new topic of Daily Routine.

- Encourage your child to practise and learn vocabulary at home using vocabulary booklets and the website [www.linguascope.com](http://www.linguascope.com)  
Username: holyrood55  
Password: twenty21  
**3 x 15 minutes a week**
- Encourage your child to complete all homework tasks set in class and on **TEAMS**
  - To practise thoroughly for the speaking assessment at the end of the unit of work.

## MATHEMATICS



We started the term developing our knowledge of Shape and Space through the study of Angle properties. We then moved on to calculating Speed, Distance and Time and enhancing our problem-solving skills in this area.

Algebra was our next topic where pupils learned to simplify and factorise expressions as well as thinking critically to 'Complete the Square.' We have now started investigating and learning the Properties of Quadrilaterals and will study the Volume of shapes.

We have taken part in a Sumdog competition and awarded certificates to pupils who achieved high scores. Our Numeracy Ninjas program has just started – let's see who can make it to the coveted Numeracy Black Belt!

- Ask to look at Maths jotters to see how they are doing and what they have been studying.
- Talk positively about Maths to help them develop high expectations and a positive mindset.
- Sign their yellow formal homework jotter and read teacher comments.
- Encourage them to use Sumdog at home for at least half an hour per week.
- Help them to celebrate their achievements in Maths.

## MUSIC



S2 Music is made up of three units:

**Understanding music** – Pupils learn concepts and their meanings to be able to identify them when listening to or playing various genres of music. Pupils have recently completed a unit of work based around Black History month.

**Performance skills** – Pupils pick their two favourite classroom instruments and focus their practice on them. Pupils will play various genres throughout the year individually and as part of a group.

**Composing Skills** – Creating basic music using technology

- Talk about what pupils have learnt in class
- Encourage pupils to attend extra-curricular classes to continue learning instruments
- Ask them to check TEAMS for homework once a term

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION



The focus for learning within Physical Education have been structured for better understanding for pupils into four areas: My Thinking, My Qualities, My Moving and My Fitness. (Physical Education Benchmarks)

Pupils work through the Benchmarks within a range of activities, in blocks of six weeks. These activities include: athletics, badminton, basketball, fitness, football, hockey, rugby, table tennis. Pupils classes rotate around activities to give a broad and balanced curriculum.

For more information on the Physical Education Benchmarks, either scan the QR code to the left or visit this website:

<https://education.gov.scot/media/dcqamoc0/peleaflet.pdf>



Encourage pupils to be as active as possible engaging in physical activity throughout each day.

Discuss with pupils what the benchmarks are and how they can overtake them in their daily life. Discuss with them what level they feel they are achieving. This may range from level two to four.

Engage with TEAMS to overtake work or to ask questions when unsure.

## RELIGIOUS STUDIES



**Pupils in S2** are following the National 'This is our Faith' Curriculum for Excellence syllabus for Roman Catholic Schools where they are invited to develop an appreciation of faith as well as developing a deeper awareness of other religions. In addition, The 'Called to Love' programme "Growing in Love" which is designed for S2, explores the theme of "what it means to love someone and to be loved" through positive discussion and developing a greater understanding of Christian values and the importance of respecting themselves and others.

The Scottish Catholic Education Service programme on Equality and Inclusion is also currently being delivered to pupils in S2. The focus of this year's programme is the Protected Characteristics from the Equality Act 2010. Pupils are encouraged to examine these Characteristics from the perspective of the Christian vision of the dignity of the human person.

Within the RE Faculty we provide opportunities for pupils to explore justice issues and to make a personal response during the seasons of Advent and Lent. We also provide opportunities for religious observance throughout the year.

Finding opportunities to discuss relationships such as with family and friends. Discussing the importance of respecting themselves and others in all aspects of life.

## SCIENCE



Throughout S2 Science pupils work through individual units in the discreet Sciences. They have a subject specialist teacher for each Science.

**Biology** – Biodiversity and Interdependence, where pupils have been studying habitats, sampling, abiotic and biotic factors and photosynthesis.

**Chemistry** – In block 1 of the Chemistry unit pupils have been investigating Acids, Alkalis and Neutralisation, Rates and signs of reactions and reactions of metals.

**Physics** – Forces topic, where pupils have been investigating gravity, balanced and unbalanced forces, hot air balloons and parachutes.

Pupils have also been covering related numeracy and literacy skills required in Science and these are assessed within our problem-solving tests.

Ensure pupils are completing any homework issued. Encourage and help pupils access the resources on the 365site. On the site they have access to all the homework and revision notes for each of the topics of work.

Pupils will have 4 assessments over the course of S2. Two problem-solving assessments, which we have just completed, and two unit assessments (covering Biology, Chemistry and Physics) at the end of Block 1 and Block 2.

Work may also be posted on the classes individual TEAMS page.

## SOCIAL SUBJECTS



Social subjects includes the following subjects:

### **Geography**

Pupils are learning about Sustainable development. They have also spent time in this unit learning about climate change and COP26.

### **History**

Pupils have been learning about the theme of Persecution by studying the Holocaust. Pupils have been actively engaged in the subject and have enjoyed hearing from eye-witnesses about their experiences of Nazi persecution 1933-1945. The important history skills of identifying sources as primary or secondary and explaining their usefulness has also been discussed. Pupils have been assessed by delivering a speech as a prosecutor at the Nuremberg Trials arguing that the Nazis are guilty of war crimes but selecting evidence and providing reliable sources.

### **Modern Studies**

This term we have been working on the Global Conflict unit, where we focus on the conflict in Syria, analysing the causes, impacts and potential solutions to the crisis. Pupils complete a detailed report on the crisis and engage in group discussion, individual extended writing and class debate around the issues.

Please encourage pupils to talk to you about their understanding of sustainable development and climate change and ask them about their learning in class.

All S2 pupils have a homework booklet with tasks to complete with an adult at home to help them share their knowledge and experiences learnt in class.

Support pupils with homework assignments and ask them about their opinions and thoughts on what they have been learning about Syria.