



Top Tips for a Smooth PIRLS Day



Support learner readiness

- Use the specially created Education Scotland classroom resource as a short, teacher-led activity in the run-up, so learners feel familiar with what PIRLS involves and approach the day with calm confidence.



Reduce technology load

Many P5 learners are used to touchscreens, so laptops, trackpads, and mouse control can add extra cognitive load.

- Give learners practice using a laptop, mouse/trackpad, typing, and navigating the screen.
- Make sure learners know what to do if something goes wrong (e.g., raise a hand, stay calm).



Create a calm, comfortable space

- Ensure there is enough room for laptops, movement, and a clear line of sight.
- Arrange seating so learners can work independently with a minimum of distractions.
- Check lighting, temperature, and noise levels.



Plan for early finishers

Quiet, purposeful options help maintain a calm atmosphere.

- Bring a book to read.
- Provide a quiet drawing or puzzle option.
- Agree expectations in advance so learners feel confident.



Clarify adult roles

- Decide who will welcome learners, assign their seats, check attendance, support technology, and who will monitor the room.
- Ensure all staff know the timing, flow, and key messages.



Sort the small logistics early

- Check device numbers, chargers, and logins ahead of time.
- Arrange comfort and water breaks before starting.
- Have a simple backup plan for device issues.
- Confirm start and finish times with everyone involved.