



# Crookfur Primary School

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## Nursery Class



24<sup>th</sup> April 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

### ***Weekly Round Up***

Welcome to the first round up of the summer term. I think we can safely say that this is not the way that any of us expected to begin the term and I do hope that you were able to take some time off over the holidays, perhaps enjoying the lovely weather and time with your family.

Within the Mearns North Hub at St Cadoc's, the children have been working hard and have settled quickly back into the daily routine. From our Google Classrooms we can see that children at home have been very active and creative this week and during the holidays. It is lovely for us to look at the photos and read the children's messages as we do miss them all very much.

### Learning at home

The beginning of the new term also highlights that the current situation is ongoing and our children will continue to learn in this different way for some weeks to come. As I have mentioned previously, I have no doubt that the novelty of learning from home will be wearing off and for many of our families the reality of juggling working from home with learning from home is a real challenge.

If I can offer any comfort, it is that every single parent that I have spoken to feels exactly the same. Even amongst the staff, our own children are having daily dramas and regular refusals to complete tasks. Some of them have even decided that they are quitting school (the children, not the staff ☺). We are all enduring battles, tears and tantrums whilst trying our best support our children's learning and to fulfil work commitments.

If there is anyone out there who feels they are getting this right, then please share your secret!

I am really keen to gather some feedback about what is working well and what presents the greatest challenges to you. I do feel that experiences will vary across the school, especially where children are older and can be more independent. Younger children, those who don't have any older siblings who could help and those have additional support needs will require a higher level of your support. We need to be sure that the learning provided can allow all children to engage in some level of independent learning and importantly achieve success.

Please complete our brief survey using the link below. We are all in this together and it is essential that no one feels isolated or that they have been left to their own devices.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=oyzTzM4Wj0KVQTctawUZKclYcsLU0jJlhDrccrg-LaVUNjMzMTJHNkI5RDIyWkVQT0MxMTk5NzhXNS4u>

The Scottish Government has published some guidance for children and families about learning at home and I have attached a summary for your further information. There are many elements of a child's day that provide valuable learning experiences and above all we must prioritise family wellbeing throughout. I hope that this guidance offers some ideas and reassurance of the amount of time children spend completing formal school work as well as other activities that they may wish to try.

## Crookfur in the community

Crookfur has always enjoyed strong community links and now, maybe more than ever, we are keen to ensure that we are staying connected with our community.

I must share with you the very sad news that one of our community volunteers, Dorothy Campbell, has sadly passed away following a short illness. Dorothy had been a weekly helper at our Scripture Union lunch club for over 7 years, only finishing up in March this year. She loved coming to SU at Crookfur and just enjoyed spending time with the children and sharing the Bible stories with them. Although she was 84 she had the most amazing memory for names, facts and information and she was full of energy and enthusiasm. She was a lovely lady who gave her time so generously to the children. Everyone at Crookfur was saddened by the news and we send our love and best wishes to Dorothy's family and friends. She will be truly missed.

I am sure many of you will have seen Ruiaridh from P7 on our Twitter feed who kindly took some time to visit Whitecraigs Care Home to play his bagpipes for the residents. Ruiaridh has also been playing on a Thursday evening during the Clap for Carers celebrations. Thank you Ruiaridh – we are very proud of you!

Other classes have sent Easter cards, pictures and letters to the care home residents. We know they are not able to have visits from their families and we hope that communication from the school will help to brighten their days.

We would like to thank our fundraising committee too. The committee had purchased bottles of water for some upcoming events but donated these to the Intensive Care Unit at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital who were very grateful to receive them.

Our fundraising committee also purchased two 3D printers earlier in the year. We are currently working with colleagues in the authority to try to use these as part of a wider effort by East Renfrewshire schools to help support production of PPE for frontline NHS and care staff.

Within the Mearns North Hub, the children there were delighted to receive Marks and Spencer's seedling planting kits. Thank you to Ava and Emma's mum for handing them in. The children in the hub do recognise that there are activities going on at home, such as baking and gardening that they have not been able to do whilst in school so this will be a lovely treat for them.

There have been some bonuses to being in the hub. In addition to the pizzas donated by Dominos before the holidays, children were lucky to enjoy some chocolate eggs given to us by Morrisons. Those definitely cheered us up as we returned to school!

## Successes and Achievements

As I mentioned, it has been wonderful for us to see all of the children's achievements at home and thank you for sharing these through the Google classrooms. We have seen children learn and master skills in cooking and baking, gardening and even learning to ride their bikes!

To close today's assembly we invited one of our senior pupils to play her violin. Rebecca very kindly agreed and treated up to some lovely pieces from Mary Poppins. Thank you Rebecca!

I find children's dedication to learning to play musical instruments inspirational. In the world today we often expect instant success however the commitment and practice required to learn to play an

instrument must be recognised and celebrated. We would love to have children play for assembly every week, so please encourage your children to volunteer!

The children will also remember our involvement in the Make it Happen competition earlier this year. We are so excited to let you know that the winning App - '**The Global Game**' which was created by Huang in P6B is now live and available to download in Appstore (for Apple) and Playstore (for Android)! Please find the download links below -

Appstore - <https://apps.apple.com/app/id1508898585>

Playstore - <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=club.makeithappen.alan.globalgame>

The App can also be found on the 'Make it Happen' website winners section  
- <https://makeithappen.club/#winners>

This is an amazing achievement for Huang but also for the huge number of children whose designs were recognised and commended by the judging team. Thanks also to Maya's mum, Suvitha and her colleague Apoorva for coming into school and running the competition to "Make it happen".

Next week, school staff will make nominations for our achievement assembly. Please let us know of any recent achievements your child has so that we can celebrate and share them with the other children.

#### Looking ahead

At this time of year we begin to look ahead to the next school session and in the coming weeks the number of children who will join our school next session will be confirmed. Children living within the catchment area should have already received information about their school place next session and those who have submitted a placing request should hear the outcome of this in the coming days.

As you know, we do not yet have an indication of when schools and nurseries can re-open but rest assured that we are determined that our children and families will enjoy a positive transition experience. We will work together to come up with some creative ways to support your child's transition over the coming weeks and months. Whether this is in to P1, across primary stages or indeed for our lovely P7s who are moving on to high school.

It cannot be overstated that we are living in difficult and challenging times. I spoke with the children in the hub this week about what they miss most about Crookfur. Their unanimous response was seeing their friends.

This situation is difficult for all of us but we know that it will not be forever and it is so important right now to follow all of the government guidance and protocols. We are incredibly grateful to be healthy and safe and give our thanks to all of the NHS and frontline care workers who are doing everything they can to help and protect us.

Please stay safe everyone – we'll all be back together again soon.

Kindest regards

Sheena McGuigan  
Head Teacher