



Crookfur Primary School & Nursery Class



1st May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Weekly Round Up

I hope you and your families are safe and well.

Last week, I asked parents and carers to share their views on learning at home by completing a questionnaire. Thank you so much for taking the time to complete this and for being so open and honest in your responses.

Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive and I have included a summary of responses at the end of this letter for your information. School staff will take time to look over comments to identify common strengths and areas for development. We will work together to help address the challenges that families face. For example, some families have suggested additional paper based activities would be beneficial, especially if children are sharing devices.

Although the questionnaire has now closed if there is anything that you would like to raise then please don't hesitate to get in touch. The best way for parents and carers to contact the school is by e-mail on SchoolMail@crookfur.e-renfrew.sch.uk

Sharing Information

I know that a wealth of information has been sent out of the last few weeks. I have collated what has been shared so far and uploaded it to the school website under a tab called *Coronavirus*. I will continue to add to this, but you should be able to access our digital guides etc using the link below.

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/er/Crookfur/>

Holiday Weekend

Next week our school calendar includes an in service day on Thursday 7th May as well as the May Bank Holiday on Friday 8th May. On Thursday and Friday next week school will be closed to all children which means that no new activities will be posted on the Google Classrooms.

School staff will be working on Thursday to action the points raised through our learning at home survey and will continue to complete training in using digital approaches for learning and teaching.

Crookfur staff will also be working in the Mearns North Hub which will be open for the children who attend.

School Admissions 2020/21

Letters regarding school allocations for catchment children have been issued by the Education Department however new regulations were placed before the Scottish Parliament on 22 April 2020 to amend the procedure for processing placing requests.

I have included the relevant information below for any parents who may be awaiting the outcome of a placing request.

Most notably, the Regulations make amendments to the time limits relating to:

- the date for parents/carers to receive a response to a placing request has been extended from 30 April to 31 May;
- the time for an appeal hearing against those decisions to be heard has been extended from 28 days to 3 months;
- the notification of the decision of the appeal committee has been extended from 14 days to 28 days.

In addition, given the requirement for social distancing, the Regulations make amendments to allow for placing request appeals to be heard by electronic means of video conferencing/voice conferencing.

East Renfrewshire Council admissions team are continuing to work hard to process school placing requests and will endeavour to provide a response to placing request applications in advance of the extended deadline of 31 May.

Arrangements for placing request appeal hearings (where requested) to be held by video/telephone conferencing are also being progressed and these will be held as soon as is practically possible. Further details, if appropriate, will be provided in the placing request outcome letter which you will receive.

We will be in touch with parents and carers as soon as we can to begin to support transitions, whether this is in to P1, across primary stages or for P7s who are moving on to high school.

School Events

We are trying to continue to celebrate as many planned school events as possible. In addition to our weekly assemblies etc., staff are working with the children to try to plan alternative approaches to some of our most popular events including Crookfur's Got Talent and Sports Day.

Mr McMillan and the House Captains have come up with a few ideas for Crookfur's Got Talent and we will be looking to share these with all of the children very soon.

Learning at home

The feedback we have received about learning at home is very positive, however this is an evolving situation and we will continue to modify and enhance our approaches. I know that there are a number of demands on our families and during this challenging time we must find a home learning balance that works for our families.

I would like to stress that the work set on Google Classrooms should provide the opportunity for consolidation and for the children to apply knowledge and skills that they have learned in new contexts. If your child is finding the work difficult or needs further explanation then please let the teacher know. The teachers are online at different times during the school day and will be happy to help.

Please do not worry that your child is not doing enough or that they will fall behind if they don't complete all of the activities set. The children are experiencing change that we as adults find difficult to comprehend so we must allow for that. Start small and don't worry that they are not completing what they might in school. When we return to school, we will start from where the children are and we will be delighted I'm sure by the life skills they have learned, whether this is making a sandwich, setting the table or making their own bed.

We understand that most of our parents are currently working from home and the expectations from your own work will not be reduced or take account of the fact that your children are not in

school. You should not feel that you have to take on the role of class teacher, our teachers are here to direct and support the children so please get in touch.

Keep in touch

As I mentioned above, the best way for parents and carers to contact the school is through e-mail. The school e-mail address is SchoolMail@crookfur.e-renfrew.sch.uk

These e-mails are picked up by our office team who can forward them on to the appropriate member of teaching staff or the leadership team. Please don't feel that you need to include a lot of detail in the e-mail itself, we will be able to call you back.

Parent Council

Our Parent Council is planning a virtual meeting on Wednesday next week (6th May). If you have anything that you would like your year group representatives to raise, then please do get in touch with them. You can find out who represents your child's year group on our school website. There are also links to contact the Parent Council through e-mail or Facebook.

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/er/Crookfur/parents/parent-council/>

Free School Meals

You can apply for Free School Meals and Clothing Grants online through East Renfrewshire Council's website. The closing date for applications for this session is 31st May. During this period of school closure, school meals are being supplied to families who are registered and receive qualifying benefits.

If your circumstances have changed during the closure period or if you are eligible but did not register your child because they are in P1-P3, then you can still apply using the link below.

<https://www.eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals>

Protecting Children

With the closure of schools and nurseries children and young people are being seen less and this means that we are not able to identify those who are, or are at risk of, being harmed/neglected as we normally would.

To do this we need your help. Have your eyes and ears open.

If you are worried about a child that you know, please call East Renfrewshire Council confidentially on 0141 577 8300.

I hope you all stay safe and well and wish you a relaxing weekend.

Kindest regards

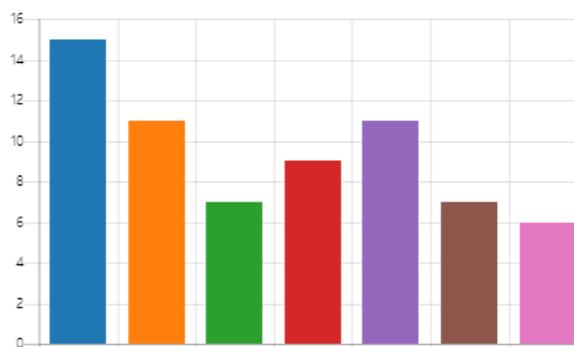
Sheena McGuigan
Head Teacher

Learning at Home Survey Results

1. My child is in

[More Details](#)

Primary 1	15
Primary 2	11
Primary 3	7
Primary 4	9
Primary 5	11
Primary 6	7
Primary 7	6



2. Does your child have any additional learning or support needs?

[More Details](#)

Yes	9
No	57



3. My child is learning at home in the following ways (please tick all that apply)

[More Details](#)

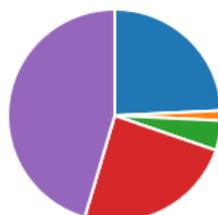
Online using Google Classroom	65
Online using other web resour...	40
Using paper based activities fr...	47
Activities that I have provided ...	60



4. Which of these ways of learning does your child enjoy and engage with most readily?

[More Details](#)

Online using Google Classroom	16
Online using other web sources	1
Using paper based activities fr...	3
Activities that I have provided ...	16
All of the above	30



5. My child can work independently

[More Details](#)

Most of the time	20
Some of the time	29
Needs adult support and supe...	17



6. How often is your child accessing Google Classroom?

[More Details](#)

Every day	53
Most days	7
Some days	6
Not at all	0



7. How confident are you / your child in accessing and uploading items to their Google Classroom?

[More Details](#)

Very confident	29
Confident	34
Not confident at all	3



9. To manage learning at home, how often should activities be added to the Google Classroom?

[More Details](#)

Throughout the day	3
Once per day	42
Once per week e.g. upload on ...	21



10. Do you feel that the range and type of activities are appropriate

[More Details](#)

Most of the time	57
Some of the time	6
More could be done to impro...	3



11. How do you feel about the volume of work on the Google Classroom?

[More Details](#)

Too much	7
Just about right	54
Not enough	5



12. The activities on Google Classroom are clear, organised and easy to access and navigate

[More Details](#)

Most of the time	51
Some of the time	10
This could be improved	5



13. Which learning activities from the Google Classrooms do you prioritise at home?

[More Details](#)

Literacy and English	57
Numeracy and Mathematics	60
Health and wellbeing	13
Other curricular areas e.g. topi...	6



14. If we were able to provide them, would you find additional paper based activities helpful?

[More Details](#)

Yes	35
No	12
Maybe	19



18. If we were able to set it up, would you/ your child find a telephone or video call from your child's teacher helpful?

[More Details](#)

Yes	25
No	15
Maybe	26



Strengths

The contact from teachers via the google classroom has been fantastic

Anything technology related is going well

The range of work provided and positive feedback from the teacher.

There is a great variety of work and content. A lot work had been put in by the teacher to provide engaging and challenging work.

Challenges

Not enough of me to go around.

We seem to be coping well with the work and he's keen to do it and loves getting comments to back from teachers, but really missing all his friends

Trying to keep concentration

Writing tasks as difficult to keep motivated

Just missing social interaction

My child finds working on her own challenging.

Motivating my child to complete tasks that at first they can find tricky.