



Crookfur Primary School & Nursery Class



Dear Parents and Carers

Friday 12th June 2020

Weekly Round Up

I can't believe how quickly another Friday has come around! Crookfur has been a hive of activity this week with staff returning to school and nursery to begin making arrangements for August. I apologise in advance that this round up is very lengthy, but I am keen to share as much information as possible with parents/carers. Included within this week's round up is a summary of the recent Parent Council Chair's meeting (below) and a further Frequently Asked Questions document provided by East Renfrewshire Council (separate attachment).

Crookfur's Got Talent

This week our Crookfur's Got Talent winners were announced! A huge congratulations to Molly and Finn Montgomery who are this year's winners. Molly and Finn created a wonderful stop motion Lego movie with fantastic voice overs. I know the voting was very close so I'd like to congratulate all our finalists for their efforts and achievements. Many thanks to Mr McMillan and our house captains for organising this year's virtual talent show.

Crookfur Sports Week

Our children have been very active this week taking part in our Sports Week challenges. We hope you have all been inspired by our personalised motivational messages from professional athletes. We have had lovely messages from Scott McTominay, Kaz Cuthbert, Kieran Malone and Dan Purvis and Nicola McCleery encouraging our children to do their best. Our Sports Week will end on Sunday 14th June. On Monday 15th June a survey will be posted on every Google Classroom and children can upload results from their activities. There are a lots of House Points for prizes so please encourage your children to share their achievements. We are very excited to find out our House Sports Champions for 2019/20.

Transitions - Visits and Virtual

Preparations are well underway for transitions for our current P7 pupils and new P1 pupils. Parents of P7 pupils and new P1 children have been contacted regarding dates and times for them to visit school. The visits will commence week beginning 15th June.

Additional links and information have been added to the school website for parents/carers of P1 children who will be joining us in August. We will be adding virtual induction presentations for parents next week. Please keep checking the school website for updates.

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/er/Crookfur/parents/p1-new-entrants-aug-18/>

For our returning nursery children who will temporarily be attending other establishments, transition planning is well underway. Mrs Jamieson will be contacting all of our returning families and providing more information about staff allocations and organisation of groups.

For all stages across the school, our senior pupils have been creating informative transition videos. We hope this will help all of the children to become familiar with some of the routines, classrooms and layout to help them understand what school will be like when they return in August.

Mrs Slorach is liaising with families to arrange some additional transition activities for children who will benefit from these.

Google Classrooms

As we are coming to the end of the term, there will be some changes to the nature of the tasks on Google Classroom. Class teachers have come up with some creative ideas for end of term activities such as virtual trips to help encompass the types of activities that would normally take place at this time of year. Please encourage children to continue to check in online every day.

Staff will create Google Classrooms for their new classes and these will be live from Thursday 25th June. Pupils will be invited to join these classrooms and their new class teacher will set up a video message for a virtual 'Meet the Teacher'.

Recovery Planning – Phase 2 (August 2020)

East Renfrewshire Council has developed a four phase recovery plan which sets out a planned approach to re-opening schools and early learning and childcare settings, in line with a relaxation of the measures imposed to control coronavirus. You will find further details about the authority's recovery plan in the Parent Council summary which is attached below. Denny Henderson (Chair) and Kari Gillies (Vice Chair) attended an online meeting on Monday 8th June where the recovery plan was discussed in detail and parents' questions were addressed.

We are currently in Phase 1 of the plan, which details the return of staff to individual schools and centres and for some children who will be transitioning to P1 and from P7 to S1. As indicated in last week's roundup, in June we are continuing to work towards planning a blended model of learning for August 2020 for Phase 2.

As per ERC guidance to schools, details of classes, teachers, attendance patterns and timings will be issued to parents/carers on **week beginning Monday 22nd June**. Below you will find some general information about our Phase 2 plans so far.

Phase 2 will commence in August with schools and centres re-opening to some children from 12th or 13th August (to be confirmed). Within Phase 2 there will continue to be essential childcare for children of Key Workers. This will be via an application process and I will provide this information as soon as it becomes available.

Blended Learning Model

All ERC primary schools will base their models around two days for children learning in school and three days distance learning at home.

In Crookfur Primary we will adopt the following pattern:

Cohort A – Monday and Tuesday in school (distance learning Wednesday, Thursday and Friday)

Cohort B – Thursday and Friday in school (distance learning Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday)

Wednesday will be a transition day with time for teachers' planning, preparation & assessment as well as additional cleaning within the school building.

In preparing for Phase 2, I have completed detailed risk assessments with colleagues in our Health and Safety department. Following full consideration of space and staffing available in Crookfur, we are planning on the basis of being able to accommodate half of our school population from August, whilst being able to adhere to the 2m physical distancing guidance provided by Scottish Government.

This is primarily because of our large classrooms and the additional accommodation provided by access to the Crookfur Nursery space from August.

Patterns of Attendance

I know that families will be keen to know their child(ren)'s pattern of attendance for August. This is a very complicated arrangement and unfortunately, parents/carers will be unable to select their preferred days.

I understand that there may be exceptional circumstances where families may require a particular pattern and, whilst I will try my very best to take individual circumstances into account, I cannot guarantee that parents/carers will be allocated a preferred option.

A number of criteria will be prioritised. I have listed a few below, although this is not exhaustive.

- Ability to accommodate siblings in school on the same days
- Attendance patterns at nursery/ early years provision for younger siblings
- Allocated attendance at a specialist provision e.g. placements at Isobel Mair School/ Carlibar Communications Centre

If you have particular circumstances that you feel the school should know then please send an e-mail with the information to our school office (SchoolMail@crookfur.e-renfrew.sch.uk).

As stated above, I cannot guarantee that families will be allocated preferred days.

Timing of the School Day

In order to safely accommodate half of our children at one time, a number of changes to our school day are required.

We will operate staggered start, break, lunch and closing times. Within each cohort (A or B), children in different classes will follow slightly different timings.

Timings are as follows:

	Cohort A/B Staggered Start 1	Cohort A/B Staggered Start 2
Arrive	8.50am	9.10am
Interval	10.30-10.45am	11.00am-11.15am
Lunch	12.00-12.45pm	1.00-1.45pm
Close	2.50pm	3.10pm

Uniform

We will continue to follow our uniform policy, however children will be spending time learning outdoors and therefore I suggest that parents ensure their child has a pair of black leggings or joggers to wear on days when learning outdoors.

Children can also wear PE kit e.g. joggers, red t-shirt and red sweatshirt on PE days to avoid having to change. PE days etc. will be communicated at the beginning of next session.

Lunches

When we return in August it is expected that the school will be able to provide hot/cold lunches however menu choices are not yet confirmed. During Phase 2, I intend that our dining room and multipurpose will be used for lunch service because of the reduced numbers and staggered lunch times.

Learning in Class

Children will have allocated seats/desks in class and their own personal tray with school equipment e.g. pencils, glue stick, scissors etc. Children will not need to provide their own stationery or share materials.

This will vary slightly for our younger children but careful management of space and resources will ensure children's safety.

Phase 3 would see a gradual increase in the time children spend in school. Plans for this progression are at a very early stage.

Over the next two weeks we will finalise our plans for August and send out more detailed information when we have it. Of course, if there is anything that we can with over the rest of this summer term please don't hesitate to get in touch (SchoolMail@crookfur.e-renfrew.sch.uk).

I wish you a lovely weekend and thank you all for your continued support.

Kindest regards

Sheena McGuigan

Head teacher

Summary of East Renfrewshire Parent Council Chairs meeting

Monday 8th June 2020
held via Microsoft Teams

1. Welcome and introductions

Cllr. Paul O’Kane welcomed around 50 Parent Council members and Education Department staff including;

- Mhairi Shaw, Director of Education
- Janice Collins and Mark Ratter – Heads of Service
- Graeme Hay – Senior Education manager – Change project lead

Cllr. O’Kane said that over 600 questions had been submitted in advance of the meeting by PC Chairs. The Education Department will group these together with answers and issue a Frequently Asked Questions document for parents by the end of w/c 15 June.

Denny Henderson and Kari Gillies attended the meeting on behalf of the Crookfur Parent Council.

2. Graeme Hay introduced the East Renfrewshire Recovery Framework.

a) Principles of recovery

- Safety first and foremost
- Fairness
- Transparency
- Collegiate
- Learning

ERC health & safety risk assessments are complete on all school buildings and HTs are completing risk assessments regarding use of the internal areas for learning.

ERC are conscious of family pressures and are working hard to complete and share plans. There is a hope that employers will be flexible around childcare needs. The Scottish Government have also committed to reviewing Key Worker categories. ERC expect to have an application process expected in place next week for any key worker parents who expect to need provision in August.

We were reminded that all plans are based on Scottish Government guidance and moves through the lockdown exit phases – things could look and feel different by August. More childcare options may become available for example, such as grandparents.

ERC are working with Unions, staff, and the wider West Partnership to produce local guidance and must take into account all possible eventualities.

b) ERC phased plan

Phase	Comment
1	Already in progress. Individual schools have contact parents/carers of children due to start P1 and S1 to organise transitions sessions.

	From 29 June, there will be a Summer programme for keyworker children and vulnerable children delivered by Culture & Leisure
2	<p><i>Schools and centres reopen in August to all staff with pupils attending on a part-time basis with a blended model of in-school and out of school learning</i></p> <p>There has been a slight change in dates. Schools will open for 2 in-service days on Monday 10 August and will reopen to pupils from Wednesday 12 August.</p> <p>Safety continues to be the main driver for changes to attendance and planning. Hope is to be able to move as quickly as possible to phase 3 and increased time in school.</p> <p>On 21 August, an update on the Local Phasing Delivery Plan will be provided to the Education Committee.</p>
3	<p><i>Schools and centres incrementally increase the number of hours pupils spend in schools while reducing out of school learning</i></p> <p>The Education Department have also been working with schools and other council departments to consider other resources or spaces within East Ren that could be used to increase school capacity. However, there are other community demands on most facilities, and the major limiting factor is the availability of teaching staff.</p> <p>At this stage, it is not possible to anticipate when this might happen, although the Education Department would like this to happen as quickly as possible.</p> <p>Individual schools are beginning to make plans for this stage, but these are still at a very early stage.</p>
4	<p><i>Schools can centres reopen fully to all pupils</i></p> <p>Fulltime attendance (but with hygiene measure in force)</p>

c) Advice and guidelines

The Scottish Government published detailed guidance for local authorities and schools on 29 May. The themes of this guidance closely align with the ERC Local Recovery Plan.

Capacity is going to be a key factor in determining the models for local phases 2 & 3. (not to be confused with the Scottish Government lockdown phases).

Current social distancing guidelines require a 2m distance to be maintained. Roughly, this would mean that only 10 children plus a teacher could fit in each class, or a third of the class at a time. If the guidelines are relaxed and the distance reduced to 1m, then around 15 children, or half the class could fit in an average classroom. Clearly this makes a difference to how many children can attend at a time – either 1/3 or 1/2 of the total school population.

Schools have been working to plan based on both and there are still 9 weeks until term would start, and guidelines are likely to change during this time.

Staffing is also a key factor in determining capacity. Some staff members may be shielding or vulnerable and contractual duties, such as non-class contact time must be met.

Planning at this point is assuming that there will be some relaxation of the rules by August, so schools should be able to safely accommodate half the children at a time.

d) Early Learning centres and Primary Model

Assuming there is a relaxation of lockdown restrictions the proposed model for Phase 2 is:

Group	In school	At home
A	Monday, Tuesday	Wednesday – Friday
B	Thursday, Friday	Monday - Wednesday

The exact hours of attendance will vary between establishments.

Wednesday is a non-contact day for staff planning, ensuring there is a clear overview of every child and their engagement levels.

Schools have been asked to group children into A or B on basis of surname / family group to ease difficulties, particularly for working children. This will be done taking consideration of Primary, nursery and Isobel Mair pupils together. Groups to be confirmed by schools as soon as practical.

This is a blended model of in school and out of school learning in partnership with parents. The initial focus will be health and wellbeing and literacy/numeracy; however, teachers will also use a skills-based approach to link these areas to other areas of the wider curriculum. There will be a focus on outdoor learning.

In phase 3, attendance in school will increase to 2.5 then 3 days, subject to availability of accommodation and staffing. Each school is working on its own plan for this stage, and plans are still at an early stage.

The PC Chairs asked question in the following areas:

Hygiene – schools are cleaned every day and the likelihood is this will be significantly enhanced, with increased frequency of robust cleaning especially around door handles etc. PPE may be used in some situations. Anyone with symptoms not to attend. Risk assessments carried out.

Lunches – available (including free school meals) and likely to be served in classrooms, which will be wiped down before and after. It is expected that hot and cold lunches will be available but the choices available may be restricted. Home lunches permitted but parents cannot enter school for collection.

Playtimes – 2 metre guidance could change. Staff will take into account guidance at that time and monitor as best they can. Outdoor options are being carefully considered – MUGA etc and careful timetabling, staggered breaks, use of specialist staff etc

Contact – recognition that Jason Leitch (Scotland's Clinical Director) has advised schools not to 'tie themselves in knots' in regard to trying to socially distance with children. Where a child needs help (a fall for example) staff will be there to support as appropriate.

Key worker / vulnerable children - During Phase 2, keyworker children and vulnerable children will attend for 5 days and will be assigned to one of the 'groups' to have two days face to face learning with the teacher.

Curriculum - ERC are not underestimating the impact of the pandemic on children and encourage families to be more relaxed in the knowledge that there must not be further stress

placed on pupils. Staff will assess, revisit and revise – we cannot underestimate the Health & Wellbeing focus required. Request to have trust in school leaders and teachers – they are very good at assessing progress. We were reminded that learning has been interrupted and not everything will be caught up on within 2 months. Teaching has to happen with teacher first and the skills/knowledge learnt can then be applied at home. Re-engaging with learning will be a focus and will concentrate on nurture and resilience. They will link experience and outcomes in curricular areas wherever possible. Learning programmes will be designed for 5 days a week. ERC will accelerate plan to increase in-school time in line with Scottish Government guidance.

Out of school learning - Not all remote learning will be digital – there will be more worksheets, project work etc. A centralised bank of video lessons is being set up across the authority which can be utilised and virtual meetings with teachers are being looked in to. The idea of the video vault is that children can access lessons at a time that suits them, depending on their pattern of attendance in school. There will be a focus on independent learning skills and supporting pupils to work in that way. There will also be support for families who have difficulty funding or accessing technology. The pace will be dependent on individual pupils. Equipment including devices and Wi-Fi dongles are being supplied wherever possible if required by families.

e) Model for secondary schools

The week will initially be reduced to 30 periods of 50 minutes, rather than 33 with three period each morning, and three each afternoon.

Attendance will be for 10-15 periods a week either mornings or afternoons. Then through Phase 3-4 this will gradually increase.

S1 and S2 will remain in classes and are likely to attend either mornings or afternoons. They will stay within the class for teaching and breaks and teachers will move to cut down the movement of pupils through the school. Subjects will be taught in double and triple periods. There will also be staggered starts in the mornings across the school. At a 1m distancing this will mean that over two weeks of mornings or afternoons the pupils will cover all classes over 2 weeks. At a 2m distancing they will cover all classes over 3 weeks. They will receive all subjects except PE which is being looked at. It may be that they will attend in PE kit, do 2 periods in their class and then PE outside and head home to negate the need for the use of changing rooms.

Unfortunately, due to the complexity of the number of different models followed by children in secondary, it will not be possible to ensure that the attendance patterns of those in secondary are the same as those in ELC/primary settings.

f) Response to selected PC Chair questions (questions chosen by ERC)

Support for ASN - there will be individual risk assessments undertaken for children with additional needs to allow support for them whilst also looking at reducing external staff in establishments. Despite distancing rules comfort and first aid will be given as it is in the hub schools. Risk assessments will be undertaken and PPE available.

Split Placements: Children who have a split placement between two establishments will continue to have this, but they may have full days in each establishment, rather than moving between establishments on the same school day, to reduce the transmission risk.

In-Service Days: these are a contractual agreement and so will take place that first week back. The staff usually attend 195 days whilst pupils attend 190. This will change next year,

and pupils will attend 192 days. Therefore, the calendar will change to accommodate the earlier start of term extra days and the staff being owed annual leave. Perhaps this will be extra days at September break or earlier closure at Christmas, but this is still to be finalised and will be communicated by ERC when it is.

Planning for siblings across Primary and Secondary: this is not possible given timetabling in secondary although early years and Primary can be coordinated.

Uniforms: this will still be expected as the hope is to increase attendance as quickly as Scottish Government allows. Schools will advise if the pupils need anything for outdoor learning or PE days may be that that come changed and ready. Individual schools will advise.

Communication in the event of a child being unwell: schools will follow the “Test and Protect” guidance in order to communicate this and keep everyone safe

How much do HTs in schools decide? HTs are responsible for their individual delivery plan within the East Ren guidance

This summary has been prepared by Denny Henderson, based on a document shared by the PC Chairs of Carolside and Busby primaries.