



Crookfur Primary School & Family Centre



Dear Parents/ Carers

11th September 2020

Weekly Round Up

Staffing Update

I am very sad to say that, after more than 16 years in Crookfur, Mrs Nisbet has decided to move on to pastures new. Mrs Nisbet has been an outstanding principal teacher in our school since 2004, working on a job share basis with Ms Biggart.

For a number of years Mrs Nisbet has also worked with University of West of Scotland as a tutor and lecturer on their initial teacher education courses and she had now secured a permanent full time role at UWS.

An excellent teacher, Mrs Nisbet will use her knowledge and skills to continue to educate students in the profession that we all love. We look forward to working with Mrs Nisbet in Crookfur in her role as a student tutor, but will miss her very much and thank her for all that she has done in her time at Crookfur.

When Mrs Nisbet leaves us in October, Ms Biggart will undertake a full time contract as principal teacher.

House Captains

Each year, Primary Seven children are elected to be House Captains to represent their peers across the school and act as ambassadors for their House. All children who would like to be considered for the role have been asked to submit an application, detailing their skills and strengths relevant to these much coveted positions.

Our P7 staff team and Mr McMillan will shortlist these applications and successful candidates will have the opportunity to create a video, sharing their campaign for election. Their peers will then be able to vote for their chosen House Captains.

We encourage all children to participate in leadership roles in the school and to take on additional responsibilities. It is highly commendable for children to nominate themselves, knowing that only 8 children will ultimately be selected to be House Captains. We celebrate all of the children who are willing to put themselves forward for consideration and we do hope that although it may be disappointing if they are not chosen, they will recognise that there are many opportunities for them to contribute to the life of the school.

Our House Captains will be announced by the end of September.

Parent Council

We had a very productive and well attended Zoom AGM meeting on Tuesday evening. It was lovely to have a number of new parent representatives as well as some parents who were happy to join the meeting to observe.

A detailed update and copies of the minute will be available on the school website soon.

Family Centre Update

Construction is progressing well at our Family Centre and we are moving on with our transition action plan. Part of our planning around communication will be regular detailed updates for our Family Centre children and families.

Please use the link below to open our first Family Centre Sway. We hope to issue updates every couple of weeks.



Crookfur Family Centre News

We are very excited to share our first Crookfur Family Centre Sway with you all! In the lead up to our new Family Centre opening we will be sharing a Sway fortnightly, in the hope it provid...

[Go to this Sway](#)

Fundraising Committee

Our fundraising committee works tirelessly for the school – both to organise fun events which build community and to raise valuable additional funds to enhance our children's experiences. They provide subsidies for trips and fund skills academy resources as well as parties, prizes and end of term events. Last year we were delighted to have our activity play trail installed which was a huge achievement following many hours of dedicated fundraising.

This all means that we have been able to offer varied learning experiences such as cooking, sewing, gardening and some clubs with no additional charge to parents/carers. In the current climate, we know that the financial position of many of our families will change and the support of our fundraising committee will be more valuable than ever.

Our chair of the fundraising committee, Gillian Leitch, has been committed to the role for a number of years (certainly since I have been at Crookfur) but is looking to hand over the reins to a new chair this session. Gillian will be able to work alongside a new chair to help with the transition.

Even if you do not wish to volunteer to become the chair, our committee is always keen to have new members and with the current restrictions we really need some creative approaches to planning events!

The fundraising committee is planning a virtual meeting on Thursday 17th September at 8pm. Please contact the school if you would like to be sent joining details for the meeting (SchoolMail@crookfur.renfrew.sch.uk).

Music

We have a huge number of incredibly talented musicians in Crookfur, which was demonstrated clearly by Crookfur's Got Talent in June.

Instrumental tuition for strings is ongoing in school using live lessons through Google Meet. We hope that woodwind and brass will be permitted to begin again soon.

We are delighted that our Fundraising Committee has agreed a donation towards an order of new musical instruments, including class sets of glockenspiels and ukuleles. This will further opportunities for all children to explore and develop musicianship. Mrs Hutcheson, who has a real passion for creative arts, will be working with groups of children on Fridays to develop art, drama and music.

Responding to Covid-19

Our Crookfur community was understandably concerned on Monday with the news of a confirmed positive case of Covid-19.

Please be assured that our school has swift and effective protocols in place to respond to these events and we are very well supported by the local authority, Health Protection Scotland and Environmental Health services.

We did discuss this at our Parent Council meeting on Tuesday and agreed that it would be helpful and reassuring to all parents/carers if we were able to give some more information about the procedures we have in school to minimise risk and protect school users.

Identifying close contacts

Where there is a confirmed case within schools, Health Protection Scotland will work with the school leadership team to identify any children or staff deemed to be close contacts. This is done very quickly based on the rooms that may have been used by the confirmed case, room layout, activities undertaken and the mitigations in place e.g. face coverings, physical distancing.

The school then advises these contacts, issuing them with a letter instructing them to self-isolate and with clear guidance to follow. Where the contact is a child, we have an identified room for the child to safely wait and parents/carers would be contacted in the first instance.

Some parents were concerned about delays to contacts being identified by NHS Test and Protect. In schools this is done by Health Protection Scotland in collaboration with school staff and is very much quicker than contacts identified by NHS Test and Protect.

Please note, if your child has been in contact with a confirmed case out of school e.g. at football or on a play date this would not necessarily be identified by the school but rather by NHS Test and Protect.

Enhanced cleaning

East Renfrewshire has invested in a first class electrostatic spray cleaning system which is in use in all establishments. This is used in addition to our normal cleaning routine and is proven to be highly effective in protecting against all germs and bacteria which can live on a range of surfaces. I have attached an information leaflet with this round up that provides more information.

We also have additional cleaning staff in place to continually maintain and sanitise high frequency “touch areas” such as door handles, switches, toilets and stair bannisters throughout the school day.

Facilities Management staff have detailed guidance on cleaning requirements in the event that someone displays symptoms within the school and will take immediate action to clean these areas.

Hand sanitiser and antibacterial surface wipes are in plentiful supply can be used by children and staff to wipe down any equipment e.g. chromebooks, before and after use.

This is in addition to our strong messages around physical distancing, regular handwashing with soap and water, tissue hygiene and avoiding touching your face. All of which remain our best defence against this virus.

Face Coverings

Despite all of our best efforts, it is impossible to completely prevent cases of Covid-19. In contrast to the narrative portrayed by some media outlets, there should not be a suggestion of blame associated with any positive cases in the future. We will reinforce this with the children, highlighting

that this is a very contagious virus and although we will all play our part in minimising the spread, people can still become infected.

Within weekly communications, I have promoted the Government's FACTS guidance and it seems even more important now that I recommend that any parent/carer who is dropping off or collecting their child should wear a face covering in and around the school grounds. I know that there are exemptions and fully respect this, however it can be busy at the cycle track and around the gates and I urge you to wear a face covering, if you can, to protect yourself and others.

In addition, as far as possible, please avoid coming in to the school to hand in forgotten items etc. If you do need to come into the school building please telephone in advance to advise the office staff (0141 570 7120) and wear a face covering inside the foyer.

I hope that you all have a lovely weekend and thank you all for your continued support.

Please take care and stay safe.

Best wishes,

Sheena McGuigan
Head Teacher