



Crookfur Primary School & Family Centre



Friday 23rd October 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Weekly Round Up

I hope that you enjoyed last week's holiday. We are all looking forward to the term ahead and warmly welcome Miss McKee to the Crookfur team as well as Miss Bishop who has returned from her maternity leave. Please read on for some school news and information about upcoming events as well as some more general reminders.

House Captains

I am delighted that our new House Captains have been elected. They were introduced to the school through an assembly and I know that they will do an amazing job in leading their Houses throughout the year.

Our House Captains are

Slessor – Oscar Whyte & Rokaia Mohamed

Stevenson – Ayla Munir & Eleya Mold

Fleming – Molly McCrea & Aizah Tahir

Livingstone – Lois Purdie & Calum Fewkes

I would like to thank all of the candidates who worked so hard on their applications and election videos. These senior pupils are all outstanding role models for our school and will all make excellent contributions to their Houses.

The winner of last year's House Championship was Slessor House. In their first official duty, Oscar and Rokaia will present a House Champion's badge to all of the children in Slessor. I hope that they will wear these with pride.

Spooky Mini Mudder

Our original fundraising mini mudder in 2019 has achieved legendary status amongst the children. I know that they are all very excited that it has returned with a spooky theme this session.

Mrs Norman and the P7 classes are planning the course and we may be in touch to request donations of ropes, nets, pop up tunnels etc.

The fundraising committee are trying to be creative in their approaches to raising funds during the period of Covid-19 restrictions and this sponsored event will be their main event of the year.

Although we are opting for a spooky theme and decorations, there is no need for children to dress up. They may come home disguised as mud monsters, but that's all part of the fun 😊

Please return sponsor forms and money to school in a sealed envelope from Monday 2nd November. The event will take place on Friday 6th November.

Beat the Street

Our Crookfur community has excelled in the Beat the Street competition so far! We are currently building an impressive lead in the average points, overtaking our friends at Busby Primary during the October holiday. Thank you all so much for remembering to tap the boxes when you have been out and about.

On the total point leader board, we are still in second place but have really closed the gap on Kirkhill Primary! We are around half way through the competition so there really is everything to play for.

The next weekly theme is "Go Wild" so there may be special boxes and lucky taps in some of the boxes in local parks, woodlands and waterways.

Well done and keep going everyone!

Junior Road Safety Officers and 5 Day Walking Challenge

We are delighted that the following children will be our Junior Road Safety Officers this year, working with Miss Wallace.

JRSOs – Emma Wilson, Harry Reid, Ewan Brooks and Millie Ferrier

The children were introduced at today's assembly and launched an exciting celebration called the 5 day Walking Challenge.

The five-day walking challenge is a Living Streets initiative and is designed to raise awareness and celebrate the physical and mental health benefits walking brings to all.

Find out more here <https://www.livingstreets.org.uk/>

Parents Portal

I have attached the Parents Portal activation letter with this round up. Parents Portal is part of the authority's approach to using digital solutions to support communication between school and home.

If you haven't already, please take a couple of minutes to sign up for a Parents Portal account. Many thanks.

Uniform and PE/Outdoors Kit

A reminder that children should wear their school uniform as much as possible. A summary of uniform items as well as the ERC Dressing for Excellence policy is available on the school website.

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/er/Crookfur/information/school-uniform/>

On PE days children are permitted to wear their PE kit to school. This should be black shorts/joggers/leggings, a red t-shirt/polo shirt and black trainers. Hooded tops may be worn for outdoor PE but these are not part of school uniform on non PE days.

Whilst we do not expect you to go out and buy additional items e.g. black trainers if your child has a perfectly good white pair, if your child has the correct kit then this is what they should wear.

I have had a few conversations with parents/carers that children are keen to wear their expensive branded sports clothing because their friends are. I know that this can cause disagreements at home however please be assured that the school kit detailed above is our preferred option. We will reinforce this message with the children.

Photographer

The Tempest photographer will be in school on **Tuesday 27th and Wednesday 28th October**. We will try to arrange photographs so that they do not clash with PE and woodland sessions, however this may be challenging to coordinate for sibling pictures.

Please send your child to school wearing the clothing you would like them to have on in their photograph. These are portrait pictures so children can bring a top for PE/woodland and change afterwards if they are wearing their shirt and tie.

Flu Immunisations

The children will receive their flu vaccinations on **Tuesday 3rd November**. If, for any reason, your child is absent on this day then please contact your local GP to arrange their immunisation.

Standardised Tests – Session 2019/20

A summary of children's standardised test results from last session will be sent home in bags today. These are P4 results from P3 and P6 results from P5.

Thank you to Miss David and Mrs Melville for their work in providing the summary information, I do hope parents/carers find this useful. If there is any aspect of the profile that you wish to discuss, please don't hesitate to contact the school SchoolMail@crookfur.e-renfrew.sch.uk.

Family Centre Update

All of our staff have now visited the new Family Centre and they have been meeting online to share their ideas about how we can maximise the space and create the perfect environment for our children when the Family Centre opens.

We will be able to share photographs from these visits in our next fortnightly Sway, which will be published in next week's round up.

The posts of Depute Head of Centre and Senior Business Support Assistant are being advertised just now and I hope to appoint staff to these roles at the beginning of November.

Parents Evening Update

Our Parents Evening consultations will take place via telephone on Wednesday 11th November (4.30-8.00pm) and Thursday 12th November (4.00pm-7.00pm).

I have explored a number of video call options however I am not satisfied that there is a solution which is accessible to all which would ensure high quality connectivity throughout. A neighbouring high school is undertaking a pilot of a potential system however this is unlikely to be available in time for our planned meetings and I am reluctant to delay the opportunity for you to talk with your child's teacher to find out more about their progress in learning.

Appointments will be booked online as usual through the School Cloud system. I will provide more detailed information about the format of the evening and the booking system next week.

Parent Council and Fundraising Update

Thank you to the parent council reps and staff who gave up their time to attend our Parent Council meeting on Wed 21st October. It was a good meeting covering a wide range of topics such as current school procedures in relation to COVID-19, our parent council social media policy, a diversity project which will be introduced shortly in P5, family centre update and lots more. The full minutes will be issued soon.

The fundraising committee met on Thursday 22nd October and we were pleased to have been joined by some new members, more are always welcome!

Our first main fundraising event of the year is the sponsored 'Spooky Mini Mudder' taking place on Friday 6th November. All the pupils and staff are excited to get muddy with planning already underway for the course.

On Friday 4th December we will hold our "dress as you please" in return for a gift for the Present Room to be held on Tuesday 8th December, more information will follow.

Despite the current restrictions we are hopeful we can continue to work together to raise funds to support rich learning experiences throughout the school and we are planning some exciting and different fundraisers to take place in the New Year.

Thank you in advance for your support with all our events this session.

Responding to Covid -19

I am sure you are all aware of the increasing number of positive cases of Covid-19 in the local area. This will no doubt lead to increasing numbers of our children and possibly staff having to self-isolate.

We have very clear procedures to guide us should a child or member of staff become symptomatic in school as well as established protocols in the event of a confirmed case within the school.

Where children are identified as close contacts of a positive case and have to isolate, the school will provide home learning.

When your child's absence is reported, we will confirm that you have access to a digital device and the class teacher will prepare learning activities for home based upon current planning. Some of this may be online and can be accessed quickly but other materials may need to be gathered and sent home in the first few days.

Just as during the school closure, home learning will not exactly replicate what is being taught in class but will ensure that your child is able to continue their learning. They will complete the same activities as classmates where possible as well as alternative tasks.

A member of the school leadership team will keep in touch with you and we can modify home learning activities as we go.

This is new for all of us and we are keen to explore some of the resources colleagues within Crookfur and across the authority have developed, including video lessons as well as more traditional home learning activities.

Following the recent guidance issued around wearing face coverings in communal areas in workplaces, staff will more regularly wear face masks when moving through the school. Children are becoming more used to seeing adults wearing face coverings in school and the community however we will continue to talk with them about these changes and help them to understand that, along with washing our hands, good cough/tissue hygiene and avoiding crowded places, this is just another measure that we take to keep them safe.

Dates for your Diary

I have included a summary of important dates below.

Dates for your Diary

Tuesday 27th October & Wednesday 28th October - Photographer in school

Tuesday 27th October – Diversity Focus Group, 7pm, Google Meet (*invitations will be sent electronically to the group*)

Tuesday 3rd November – Flu immunisations

Friday 6th November – Mini Mudder fundraising event; jotters home to parents

Monday 9th November – Please return jotters to school 😊

Wednesday 11th November – Parents Evening 4.30pm-8.00pm (*more information to follow*)

Thursday 12th November – Parents Evening 4.00pm – 7.00pm (*more information to follow*)

I apologise that this week's round up is rather lengthy! I hope that you have a lovely weekend.

Kindest regards

Sheena McGuigan

Head Teacher