



Crookfur Primary School & Family Centre



Friday 20th November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Weekly Round Up

Covid-19 – Tier 4 Restrictions

I am sure you will all be aware of the increased restrictions that come into effect at 6pm this evening. We are delighted that our school and nursery will remain open during this time and that we will be able to continue to support children's learning and development through face to face teaching.

All of our staff are working tirelessly to ensure that children are experiencing a range of high quality experiences within creative contexts that are relevant and enjoyable. Learning and teaching during this period of recovery continues to focus on numeracy and mathematics, literacy and English and children's health and wellbeing.

The move to Tier 4 brings in to focus that, even though we have adapted to a new "normal", there are a number of restrictions to school life. I thank you all for your continued support in wearing face coverings in and around the school grounds and remind you that we continue to operate a one-way system to enter and exit our school grounds as well as staggered timing of the school day.

Only one parent/carer for children in P1 and P2 should enter the grounds at pick up/drop off times in order to reduce congestion and ensure adults are able to maintain 2m distancing.

Unfortunately, Tier 4 restrictions prohibit indoor PE. Although we do try to be outdoors as much as possible there will be times where it is not appropriate to take the children outdoors. Class teachers will risk assess the area and make a judgement on the day based on conditions. Please continue to send your child in their PE kit as normal but be aware that we may not be able to have the PE lesson if it is deemed unsafe. We do have a lot of falling leaves which can make wet ground really very slippery.

I have attached a letter from the Director of Education with further information in relation to the new Tier 4 restrictions.

Pupil Leadership Opportunities

We have a number of pupil committees in the school who take responsibility for leading aspects of the curriculum and school improvement. In addition to our House Captains and Junior Road Safety Officers, we will soon introduce our Senior Prefects, Prefects, Eco Committee, Sports Committee, Rights Respecting School Group, Pupil Council and Pupil Leadership Team.

Class representatives have been elected and will be issued with their badges as soon as they arrive. Our Fundraising Committee have generously agreed to pay for committee badges this session and I am sure the children will wear them with pride.

All children in P4-P7 are invited to apply to become Digital Leaders. There are 4 levels of this award and children can submit evidence towards their application for Bronze, Silver, Gold or Digital Leader status.

Miss Bishop and some of our current Digital Leaders will talk with classes in the next week and applications will open via the Digital Leaders Google Classroom.

Christmas Celebrations

This session we will not be able to host our usual Christmas Nativity and other festive performances, however plans are well underway for an alternative way to celebrate these special times and share them with you.

We will have our Present Room fundraiser on Tuesday 8th December and the Dress as You Please day for gift donations on Friday 4th December. A separate letter will be issued to explain all about the Present Room for new children and families, but this is a very popular school pop up shop where children can buy a gift for a loved one.

In the spirit of Christmas, we plan to donate the funds raised from the Present Room this year to Cash for Kids.

Sylvia and the catering team have planned a special festive lunch on Thursday 10th December. I will issue a menu in the next week or so for children who wish to order a school lunch. We will decorate the lunch room and play some Christmas music for all of the children to enjoy.

In the last week of term we are planning class parties and our Fundraising Committee are looking into arranging a special surprise for all of the children! More details of that to follow.

Although it will be a different end to the term, I am sure all of the children will enjoy these special times and thank you to all of the staff and fundraising committee for going the extra mile to ensure that our children don't miss out.

ADVENTure Trail

Our friends at Newton Mearns Baptist Church have invited our P6 classes to a virtual ADVENTure Trail. This is a really popular annual event where the children learn all about Advent. Usually held in the church, this year we will be participating in a live online event along with other local schools.

Anti Bullying Week (16th – 22nd November)

This week we have recognised national anti-bullying week. In the upper stages there has been a focus thinking about what we say and the impact that words can have on others. We have been talking about the difference between having a joke with someone and having a joke at the expense of someone else. There has been a close link with our school values, in particular respect and kindness.

In addition to this we have taken time to discuss the importance of talking to known adults when we are worried about something, this was reinforced last week in our school assembly where we reminded children about our "Worries and Wishes" boxes located throughout the school.

Although it is useful to open discussions during a focus week, please be assured that addressing bullying behaviour and ensuring that it has no place in our school is embedded in our ethos and actions. I am keen for our Pupil Council and Prefects to take the lead in ensuring our anti-bullying messages continue to have a high profile across the school.

Road Safety Week (16th-22nd November)

It has been a very successful Road Safety Week at Crookfur. Thanks to our JRSO's amazing ideas, all classes have been engaging in a variety of activities which allow them to consider how to stay safe near the roads. Through small world play, class discussions, debates and research, all classes have gained valuable knowledge about Road Safety. We also have some amazing Road Safety posters on display across our school. These highlight the key messages we have explored throughout Road Safety Week.

Book Week Scotland (16th-22nd November)

You only have to look at our Twitter feed to see all of the wonderful learning experiences the children have enjoyed as part of Book Week Scotland this week. We have all been charmed, listening to stories read over the school tannoy by some of senior pupils, enjoyed 'Stop, Drop and Read' sessions in class, had fun matching characters to titles in book scavenger hunts, explored and created stories, listened to live author events online and, last but certainly not least, our Mad Hatter's Tea Party ended the week on a high! As always, Crookfur pupils rose to the challenge and adorned their heads in some amazingly imaginative hats, headbands and hoods. Our lunch room certainly looked a little different as we enjoyed lunch surrounded by lots of Alice in Wonderland props. Please do visit our school Twitter feed, which captures lots of the learning and fun in and around the school throughout the week.

[@CrookfurPS](#)

Family Centre Update

Our plans for opening our Family Centre are well underway and families with children already at nursery have been issued with information about transition visits for their children. We will contact families who have children due to start in January in the next week or so to arrange their start dates.

We are working closely with our neighbourhood establishments to ensure we can provide photographs and videos of the environment to help the children to get ready for the move. If you have a chance, it is worth having a wander past to look at the building and the outdoor spaces.

All going to plan and with no further delays, we will open the Family Centre with all staff and children in week beginning 14th December. Fingers crossed!

Staffing Update

Although many of our school staff have joined Crookfur in recent years, we do have a few members of the team who have been here for a long time. I'm sad to say that our longest serving member of staff, Mrs Janis Iddles, has decided to retire.

Mrs Iddles has been a pupil support assistant in Crookfur for almost 20 years and in that time has supported many children to learn to read and with numeracy, as well as being instrumental in the creation of countless P7 yearbooks and the amazing organisation of our literacy resource store!

We will really miss Janis and wish her the best of health in her retirement.

In these strange and challenging times, I really do hope that you have a lovely weekend.

Kindest regards

Sheena McQuigan

Head Teacher

Dates for your Diary

Monday 30th November – St Andrew's Day and birthday of Guru Nanak

Monday 30th – Friday 4th December – Crookfur Family Centre transition week one

Monday 7th – Friday 11th December – Crookfur Family Centre transition week two

Tuesday 1st December – Diversity Focus Group, 8pm

Friday 4th December – Dress as You Please - please bring a gift for the Present Room *(more information to follow)*

Monday 7th December – Parent Council, 7pm

Tuesday 8th December – Present Room *(more information to follow)*

Thursday 10th December – School Festive Lunch

Monday 14th December- Full opening of Crookfur Family Centre

Monday 14th- Friday 18th December – Christmas Parties this week *(more information to follow)*

Friday 18th December – School closes early for holidays (timings to be confirmed)