



Crookfur Primary School & Family Centre



Dear Parents and Carers

Friday 27th November 2020

Covid-19 – Tier 4 Restrictions

I hope that you are all well and thank you for your continued support in adhering to safety guidance in and around our school. Despite reported levels of Covid-19 in the area, our school is fortunate to continue to enjoy very low levels of isolation. I am certain that this is down to the efforts of everyone in our school community and thank you for this.

Over the last week we have noticed children talking more about the impact of covid-19 restrictions, especially their feelings about not being able to participate in clubs and activities they enjoy. I do believe that the children are finding it hard and, for many of our children, the effects of the darker evenings and winter weather seem to be making the Tier 4 restrictions even more challenging than the first lockdown.

The Scottish Government's Parent Club have produced a number of high quality resources for parents/carers to help you to talk with your child(ren) about this challenging time and to suggest alternative ways that they can safely meet up with friends or keep in touch with family members.

You can find tips and advice here at <https://www.parentclub.scot/topics/coronavirus>

Please remember that Mr McMillan's after school sports clubs are online and available to access through Google Classroom. In the new term we hope to extend this to other types of club, including dance and crafts as well as increasing the sports on offer.

We continue to place huge importance upon supporting children's mental and emotional wellbeing through our curriculum and all hope that by sticking to the rules just now, we will enjoy more freedom in the weeks and months ahead.

House Update

This week we held a Crookfur House Quiz, which the staff and children thoroughly enjoyed. The event was organised by our House Captains who created a tailor made quiz for each primary stage. Pupils were tested on a variety of areas including; geography, science, music, films, food and sport. The House Captains worked with Mr. McMillan to record a video presentation in order to host the challenge.

Competition was fierce, the results were close, but the winner was Stevenson! As a prize they will be given extra playtime next week. Well done Stevenson!

As you know, house points are awarded to children for demonstrating our school values of respect, fairness, kindness, honesty and friendship. They are also awarded for achievements.

We have celebrations for the winning house each term and at the end of the school year, the house with most points overall is awarded the coveted House Champion trophy.

The House Captains have announced the points tally so far and it is an incredibly close! In the weeks running up to the holiday we are planning some double points and even triple points days so these totals could change very quickly.

1. Stevenson - 1099
2. Fleming – 1046
3. Slessor – 1028
4. Livingstone – 1011

Uniform

We would like to thank you for your support with regards to our adapted uniform policy for this year. It has really helped to have children coming into school wearing their kit on PE days. Can I please remind you that children are not permitted to wear football strips during PE.

As we move into the winter months we will regularly assess our school environment to decide whether or not we are able to access the woodland. I ask that you continue to send children with their woodland items on designated days as we have a number of other areas to access in our school grounds if the woodland area is not accessible.

As previously highlighted we are coming to a time of year when children will require additional items of clothing, this is the case both within and out with the classroom due to the need to have well ventilated rooms. We will continue to encourage children to dress for excellence even in these times so ask that, where possible, your child/ren wear school jumpers or clothing in the school colours. Please be assured that we are not asking you to go out and buy new school uniform but would like to deter children from wearing their own hoodies, they can save them for our upcoming dress as you please events.

Given the increased requirement for ventilation in classrooms and the need for PE to continue outdoors, we are very conscious that there will be a need for pupils to bring additional clothing to school and consider extra layers when in class. This can be particularly challenging for some families to meet the costs of.

In seeking to tackle this, it has been agreed that this year the Council will be making an additional one-off payment of £25 to all recipients of the School Clothing Grant to help meet the costs of any additional winter clothing. The Education Department is currently finalising arrangements and will be in touch with families directly in the next 7-10 days. It is hoped that payments will be made in the week beginning 14th December and more information will follow.

If you would like any further information about entitlement to free school meals or school clothing grant, you will find this using the link below:

<https://www.eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk/free-school-meals>

Snacks

A reminder please that children should bring a bottle filled with plain water to school each day which can be refilled from our water coolers.

For break time, children should bring a healthy snack to eat e.g. cereal bar, piece of fruit, pancake etc. Our school catering service is running tuck shop at break time and although it is a reduced menu at present there is still plenty of choice. An overview of the tuck menu is available on the school website.

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/er/public/Crookfur/uploads/sites/80/2020/10/02122507/Tuck-menu.pdf>

We discourage children from bring large “share bags” of sweets and chocolates. Children are not allowed to swap or share snacks and please remember that we are a nut free school.

Primary One Admissions – August 2021

Parents/Carers of children due to start P1 in August 2021 are invited to apply for a P1 catchment place at their local primary school.

Parents/Carers should apply for a place at the catchment school even if they intend to apply to defer their child’s start to school or make a placing request to another school.

For 2021 P1 catchment school applications will be made via an online application form. The application form will be available on the Council's website at <https://www.eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk/school-admissions>, where you will also find a copy of the Council's school admissions policy.

Online applications should be made **1 December 2020 until 22 January 2021**. Any catchment applications after 22 January 2021 should continue to be submitted using the online form. However it is advisable where possible to make your application by this date as this provides you with the optimum chance of securing a place in your preferred school.

P7 – S1 transitions

The P7 letters and transfer forms, for session 2021/22, have been sent, by Royal Mail, to parent/carers of P7 pupils.

Each parent/carer has been asked to return their completed form, to their child's primary school, by **Wednesday, 16 December 2020**.

Christmas Celebrations

Advent

Last year Primary 7 children and teachers worked together to create a kindness advent calendar. Each day we were all encouraged to carry out an act of kindness linked to our school values. Following on from its success, we have worked again this year with the Primary 7 children to develop an updated kindness advent calendar. In addition to being kind to others we have also added in some ideas about how we can be kind to ourselves. Look out for the advent calendar on Twitter and our school website next week.

Present Room

Please see the attached letter for more detailed information about our *Dress as you Please Day* next Friday (4th Dec) and Present Room fundraiser on Tuesday 8th December.

Christmas cards

I know that lots of children like to send cards to friends and in order to do this as safely as possible, we have decided to operate a Crookfur Christmas Card Postal Service.

We will put up some post boxes around the school where children can drop off their cards and "process" them for the required period of quarantine, before delivering them to the children in their classes. I am sure we will have a team of willing post workers who will enjoy the responsibility of running the service.

Please ensure that the recipient's full name and class is written clearly on the front of the envelope.

The post service will commence on Tuesday 1st December and the final collection will be on Tuesday 15th December.

Family Centre Update

We are excited to begin to welcome children to our new Family Centre from next week. Our team has been on site every day this week to unpack all of our resources and arrange the play areas. I know that the boys and girls will love discovering all of the new places to play and getting to know new friends and staff.

Please use the link below to find out more and to take a virtual tour of the family centre.

[Crookfur Family Centre Sway](#)

Staffing Update

This week we have welcomed Mrs Rosalyn Gillespie to our team of Pupil Support Assistants. Mrs Gillespie will work alongside Mrs Liddle, Miss Kennedy and Mrs Reid to provide support to children in class and in the playground.

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 – Crookfur Christmas post service commences; Diversity Focus Group, 8pm

Friday 4th December – Dress as You Please - please bring a gift for the Present Room (*see separate letter*)

Monday 7th December – Parent Council, 7pm

Tuesday 8th December – Present Room (*see separate letter*)

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*)

Tuesday 15th December – Final collection for the Crookfur Christmas post service

Wednesday 16th December – P7 to S1 transfer forms to be returned to school.

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

Thank you for your continued support. I hope you have a lovely weekend.

Kindest regards

Sheena McGuigan

Head Teacher