



Crookfur Primary School & Family Centre



Friday 4th December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Winter Weather Contingencies

This week as we have had a bit of a change in the weather, I thought it wise to draw your attention to the contingency arrangements we have in place to deal with occasions when emergencies make it necessary for children to be sent home early. Although it is very rare for a school to close, we have experienced it in previous years. The decision to close a school rests with the Director of Education and parents/carers will be notified as early as possible using the following methods of communication: Email, Text Messaging, School Website and Twitter feed. Announcements are often also made through local radio and the East Renfrewshire Facebook page. Further information can be found on our school website using the link below:

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/er/Crookfur/information/severe-weather-contingency/>

During the winter months, children should wear suitable clothing to school in case of inclement weather. A waterproof jacket with hood and school shoes/boots should be worn when pupils are outside. Our playground staff find lots of children are reluctant to put their hoods up, however we try our best to encourage them to do so. If it is very wet or icy, the children remain in their classrooms at intervals and are supervised by prefects and staff.

Thank you to everyone for their patience and support on Thursday and Friday this week as we helped all of the children into school safely. P1 and P2 children in particular coped well leaving their parents at the gate. I think it may have helped that they could join the train and special thanks to our P7 helpers for keeping the children company and seeing them to class.

House Update

Over the next two weeks, the House Captains have planned Double Points Tuesdays and Triple Points Thursdays! I am sure this will be a great motivator for the children to support their House by demonstrating our school values.

Achievement Certificates

We do miss our whole school assemblies, however we still post assemblies online as we did during the school closure. Children usually listen to assembly on a Friday in class.

Today I was really pleased to be able to hand out a number of achievement certificates to recognise the efforts of children across the school. Certificates were awarded for effort and progress in learning as well as to children who have been especially kind or helpful to others.

I have a huge box of achievement certificates and look forward to awarding more soon.

Diversity Focus Group

The Diversity Focus Group met online on Tuesday this week. As usual, we had a great turn out and some really interesting discussions about our key targets.

We have drafted a set of aims for the group and an action plan and will share these with parents/carers when we have finalised them. We plan to set up a page on the school website to share information and will use our Parent Council's social media platforms to help communicate with parents.

Mrs Nasar provided an update on the Heartstone Project in P5 and plans for a virtual Global Festival are taking shape. More information to follow soon.

Christmas Celebrations

Present Room

Thank you all for the wonderful donations for our Present Room. I am sure there will be many loved ones who will be delighted by their carefully chosen gift.

The Present Room will open on Tuesday 8th December. All gifts will be priced £2 and children should bring the correct money in a sealed envelope. Alternatively, parents/carers may wish to make a direct transfer to our fundraising committee bank account. Bank details can be found on the Present Room letter issues previously.

All of the proceeds from the Present Room will be donated to Cash for Kids Mission Christmas appeal.

Christmas cards

A reminder that our Crookfur Christmas post service is up and running. We have a team of very willing P7 post workers who have been busy collecting and sorting the mail, ready for our first deliveries next week.

The last collection will be on Tuesday 15th December so there is still plenty of time to write cards and bring them in.

Christmas Jumpers (or other clothes) and Pantomime

On Friday 11th December, children can wear their Christmas jumpers or other festive clothing to school. I know that some children are not comfortable in a jumper so any other items e.g. T-shirts, dresses are absolutely fine. The most important thing is that the children are happy in what they are wearing.

We are delighted that our Fundraising Committee has generously paid for each class to view a virtual pantomime! The pantomime is by the Great British Pantomime Company and is a panto version of *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*. The children will also enjoy some interval refreshments.

We know that the children would usually see shows with their families and community groups e.g. Scouts, Rainbows at this time of year and we are really grateful to the Fundraising Committee for helping to ensure that the children don't miss out.

Christmas Crafts

Usually we would make and sell Christmas crafts at our Christmas fair. This year as we are not having a fair, the children will still make a craft but will just bring it home for you to enjoy or gift to a friend.

Christmas Parties

We are planning a party for each class in the final week of term. I will send home a note of the party days next week and children may come to school wearing their party outfit to save them changing.

Family Centre Update

It has been lovely to have our staff and children enjoying time in the Family Centre this week. We have our second week of transition sessions next week before all children and staff attend the Family Centre full time from 14th December.

We were delighted by the children's confidence coming into the new building and they all settled well with some new friends as well as some familiar faces.

Term time children and staff will stop for the holidays on Friday 18th December (6pm). The Family Centre will remain open for children attending 48 week models and will close at 1pm on Thursday 24th December.

The Family Centre will re-open for all children and staff on Tuesday 5th January 2020.

End of term

On Friday 18th December school will close early. Children in P2, P5 and P7 will finish at 2.30pm and children in P1, P3, P4 and P6 will finish at 2.45pm.

On Friday 18th, the hot lunch option will be quorn burgers. Children will still be able to order sandwiches and baguettes and can of course bring a packed lunch.

Dates for your Diary

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

Monday 7th December – Parent Council, 7pm

Tuesday 8th December – Present Room (*see separate letter*); Double House Points

Thursday 10th December – School Festive Lunch (*see menu attached*); Triple House Points

Friday 11th December – Pantomime and Christmas jumpers

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; Double House Points

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

Friday 18th December – School closes early for holidays (2.30pm P2, P5 & P7; 2.45pm P1, P3, P4 & P6)

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

Kindest regards

Sheena McGuigan

Head Teacher