



# Crookfur Primary School & Family Centre



Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

## **Responding to Covid-19- Holiday Arrangements**

Over the last few weeks in East Renfrewshire, we have seen the number of positive cases of Covid-19 begin to fall. The number of cases across all schools has remained very low, with fewer children and young people missing out on school as a result.

Whilst the number of cases remains low and the measures across Crookfur are helping to keep everyone as safe as possible, we might still see some positive cases in the weeks ahead. There are specific arrangements which should be followed if your child does test positive during the holidays when school is closed. Please refer to the information below:

### Positive Case where your child's symptoms first developed on or before Sunday 20th December

1. Email **COVIDeducation@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk** – there is no need to contact the school directly.
2. Provide your child's details including the name of the school, their class and their date of birth. This will help make sure your child's details can be found quickly.
3. Explain when the symptoms first began
4. Give details on when the test was undertaken and when you received the positive result
5. Let us know when your child was last in school

### Positive Case where your child's symptoms developed on or after Monday 21st December

If your child develops symptoms on or after Monday 21st December, there is no need for you to email the Education Department. Instead, you will be contacted by the Test & Protect team who will discuss the details with you and ask for the information they need. As your child will not have been in school for more than 48 hours before they developed symptoms, there won't be any need for any in school contacts to be identified.

Please note, it is important to remember the response required will depend on when your child's symptoms first start – not from when they receive a positive test result.

It is important if your child tests positive during the holidays and has to self-isolate beyond the school return date of 5th January that you contact the school directly as you would for any other absence ([SchoolMail@crookfur.e-renfrew.sch.uk](mailto:SchoolMail@crookfur.e-renfrew.sch.uk))

Separate guidance will be issued to family centre parents/carers at the beginning of next week.

## **Uniform and Clothing**

### *PE*

As you know we do try to have the children outdoors as much as possible. From Monday, as East Renfrewshire's restrictions have been revised to Tier 3, PE can again take place indoors in the hall. However, the hall will also be in use for parties next week so our PE timetable is unlikely to run as normal. Because of this, children will not need to wear PE kit if their party falls on their PE day. They can come dressed for PE on other days but the lesson may not go ahead if conditions do not allow.

### *Outdoor Learning*

I know that all of our children and families recognise the value of learning outdoors. I am aware however that some of the children have been getting particularly muddy. Teachers are planning lessons for next term and will take the condition of the ground into account, perhaps using other areas of the school grounds which will allow the woodland to recover.

Children should come suitably dressed for outdoor learning with wellies and waterproofs. Teachers will adapt activities if children have forgotten these. We want the children to enjoy these experiences, but we do not want for their school uniforms or shoes to be spoiled.

### *Indoor Shoes*

In the winter months it is sensible for the children to wear boots/wellies to school. They are able to change into a pair of school shoes or indoor shoes when they get to school rather than wearing boots all day. If you would like to provide a change of shoes, children can pop these in their school bags. Please also send in a bag big enough for their boots/wellies e.g. plastic bag, to store their boots during the day. They will have to take home their indoor shoes each day.

### *Spare Clothes*

It is useful for children to carry a spare pair of socks in their bag in case their feet get wet during the day. In addition, we are happy to accept uniform donations as our spares box is almost empty. If children fall over in the playground they often need dry clothes to put on, so if you have any clothes that your child has grown out of we are happy to take them. We will quarantine them for an appropriate time before use.

### **Winter Hardship Payment**

The Scottish Government have recently announced plans for a £100 Winter Hardship Payment to be provided for all children who receive free school meals to help support lower income families over the festive period. This payment is in addition to the planned £25 School Clothing Grant payment that I mentioned in a previous round up.

In recognising the challenges faced by many lower income families, East Renfrewshire Council will be making a £125 payment *per child* to all lower income families in receipt of either free school meals or a school clothing grant. This more generous award will ensure that all eligible families can receive this payment, including for example P1-3s who may not have applied due to universal entitlement. Please note, this payment will not be extended to include all P1-3s who receive a universal entitlement free school meal. It is only available to those children in P1-3 who would qualify for free school meals if required to apply based on eligibility.

Early next week, direct communication with more information will be sent to all families who will receive this payment.

### **Free School Meal Provision**

East Renfrewshire will be continuing to support families with the provision of free school meal packs over the holiday period. These will continue to be delivered as has been the case with previous holiday periods.

In addition, with many families in challenging economic circumstances, I would like to remind you that senior girls can stock up on free sanitary products available in school toilets to see them over the break. They are welcome to take supplies for themselves and also for any family members who might need these over the holidays.

## **P7 Information**

As you will know Primary 7 usually end their fantastic final year at Crookfur with a residential trip to Lockerbie Manor, their school show and leavers celebration. At present, we are unable to make any formal plans for these events but please rest assured that we have many other ideas up our sleeves if these activities can't take place in the usual way. Last session the Primary 7 staff worked tirelessly to provide a send-off for our class of 2020 and we know that they will go to the same lengths for this year's Primary 7.

It is highly unlikely that we will be able to have a residential visit for P7. In the New Year we will be look into alternative arrangements in consultation with our children and families. We will keep you fully informed of any plans and are happy to take suggestions which can be brought to the school through your P7 Parent Council representatives, Wendy Durie and Karen McGrady-Parker.

In addition to end of term events, Eastwood High School would normally host an open evening at the end of November for children due to start S1 in August. This year Eastwood has created some videos to give our Primary 7 children an idea of what high school life entails, as well as some information about the different subjects on offer in high school. The videos will be uploaded to Google Classroom and will be shown next week to the classes.

We know that not all of our P7 children will attend Eastwood, however the information is relevant and useful for all children to support transition.

## **Christmas Celebrations**

### *Christmas Cards*

Our postal superstars (Kai, Eilidh and Muskaan) have been doing a fantastic job collecting, sorting and delivering Christmas cards across the school. They have devised a colour coded rotation to ensure that the cards are processed over a few days.

The last collection will be on **Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December** for delivery on Friday 18<sup>th</sup>, so please remember to post your cards by Tuesday at the latest.

### *Festive Lunch*

Yesterday we held our annual festive lunch. The catering team worked so hard to make the event special for the children - decorating the lunchroom, wearing their Christmas jumpers and Santa hats and playing Christmas music.

I feel it is important to recognise that the ladies did a marvellous job, serving over 400 lunches to children and staff. Everyone had a great time and all of the children gave them a special cheer to say thank you.

### *Present Room*

Once again, our Present Room has been an amazing success this year. Thank you to the staff and Fundraising Committee for helping with the organisation and setting up the room. The children all seemed pleased with their purchases and I am sure they will be thrilled to hand over their gifts at Christmas.

Thank you all for supporting this fundraising event, I am delighted to let you know that your kindness and generosity has raised over £920 for Cash for Kids Mission Christmas.

### *Christmas Jumpers (or other clothes) and Pantomime*

We have had a wonderful day in school with all of the children enjoying the *Goldilocks and the Three Bears* pantomime performance. Children were also treated to a drink and crisps or popcorn for the interval. As a special thank you for all of their efforts perfecting younger children, our P6s and P7s also enjoyed an ice cream 😊

Although our Christmas celebrations have been a little different this year, it has been lovely to see all of the children in their Christmas clothes today and across the school there is the same atmosphere of excitement and happiness that we always have.

### *Christmas Parties*

Please see the timetable below for Christmas party days.

Day	Classes
Monday 14 <sup>th</sup>	P1A, P1B, P1C, P2A, P2B and P2C
Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup>	P6A, P6B, P7A and P7B
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup>	P3A, P3B, P5A & P5B
Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup>	P3/4, P4A and P4B

Parties are timetabled across the day and children can come to school wearing their party clothes in the morning to avoid having to change.

### *Christmas Gifts*

At our Parent Council meeting on Monday 7<sup>th</sup>, giving gifts to school staff was discussed. We understand that many children and families enjoy giving gifts during the Christmas season, however we are mindful that this is a very expensive time of year and must stress that we do not wish anyone to feel any pressure to buy a gift.

The Parent Council expressed that, this year in particular, many parents/carers would like to give a token of their appreciation. I am sure these will be gratefully received but are not expected in any way. Staff do really appreciate your kindness and will be equally delighted to receive a little note or a card as they would a gift.

### **Staffing Update**

Mrs Melville has been working with us as Principal Teacher on a temporary part time basis since last year. Initially this was to fulfil Miss David's maternity leave and more recently, I was able to extend her contract to enhance our school recovery. From January, Mrs Melville will return to her substantive full time post in Hillview Primary.

Mrs Melville has become a very valued member of our leadership team and of the Crookfur community and we are incredibly sad to see her leave. She has a wealth of knowledge and experience, particularly in supporting children who have additional needs. Working closely with Mrs Slorach and our attainment team, Mrs Melville has played a key role in planning and implementing targeted supports across the school. Our loss is very much Hillview's gain and I know that they will be very keen to see her return. Lucy, we wish you all the very best.

I am delighted to share with you the good news that our Crookfur family has grown by two. Mr McMillan and his wife welcomed beautiful baby Daisy on Tuesday this week and just yesterday, Mrs Grieve gave birth to a gorgeous baby boy called Johnny.

Both families are doing well and tell me they are already learning a lot! I am sure Mrs Lamont will be on hand with a few hints and tips and baby Fraser will be pleased to have two new friends.

I am sure you will join me in wishing Andy and Jo and Kirsten and Douglas much love and every happiness as they get to know their new arrivals.

### **Family Centre Update**

We have been absolutely delighted by how successful our transition visits have been over the last two weeks. The children have been really well settled, exploring their new setting confidently. As a staff team, we have loved finally seeing and hearing the children playing in our fabulous new building.

We are all very excited about Monday when we all finally come together. We are aware that this will make for much busier drop off and pick up times than we have experienced over the last two weeks and a letter has been sent directly to families with some information about our procedures for keeping everyone safe at these times.

A reminder that term time children and staff will stop for the holidays on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December (6pm). The Family Centre will remain open for children attending 48 week models and will close at 1pm on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> December.

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

### **End of term**

A reminder that on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> 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 18<sup>th</sup>, 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 14<sup>th</sup> December- Full opening of Crookfur Family Centre

Monday 14<sup>th</sup>- Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Parties this week (*more information above*)

Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December – Final collection for the Crookfur Christmas post service; Double House Points

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December – P7 to S1 transfer forms to be returned to school.

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December – School closes early for holidays (**2.30pm** P2, P5 & P7; **2.45pm** P1, P3, P4 & P6);  
Family Centre (Term Time) 6pm close

Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> December – Family Centre closes at 1pm

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January – School and Family Centre re-open

Apologies for such a lengthy update this week, I will post it online if you would like to refer back to it. Thank you for your continued support and have a lovely weekend.

Kindest regards

Sheena McGuigan

Head Teacher