



Crookfur Primary School & Family Centre



Friday 22nd January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope that you are all keeping safe and well. It has been lovely to see posts from children who are learning at home on our Twitter feed – do please keep sharing these with us @CrookfurPS.

Our assembly focus this week is on our school value of kindness and in February we will be promoting our Friendly February action calendar to encourage positivity and happiness through acts of kindness. We will post the calendar on Google Classrooms from next week.

Learning at Home - School

Earlier this week the First Minister announced that schools will remain closed until at least mid-February, with a review set to be undertaken at the beginning of the month to outline any potential changes. Whilst there has been speculation about what a return could look like, we have received no update on this but will ensure that any information is shared as soon as possible.

We are continuing to adapt and refine our remote learning provision to offer as much help and support as we can to our families. We understand the immense challenges that learning at home poses, particularly for parents and carers who are juggling working from home and learning at home with their children.

To help us identify additional supports and ways to help, please complete the short online questionnaire that has been e-mailed to you today. Following feedback in the last school closure, we are collecting this data per year group so that we can plan targeted interventions for particular stages, groups and individual children and families as required.

I remind you that there are information guides and short video tutorials to support parents helping children access online learning. All devices are slightly different, but we have captured the main features of accessing using laptops/pcs, android and Apple devices. These are available on our school website,

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/er/Crookfur/coronavirus/learning-at-home-digital-support/>

Jotter and stationery supplies are available to pick up from the main school foyer (9.30am-3.00pm) for any children who need additional materials.

In-School Provision Update

We have experienced a significant demand for in-school provision during this closure period across our school and family centre. We are currently providing essential childcare for 16% of our roll which compares to a national figure of approximately 10%.

We have varying patterns of attendance across the week and I know that families have been trying to minimise attendance to only the days where it is absolutely essential.

We are in regular contact with families who require some additional school support and are trying to maximise the number of school sessions we are able to offer to those who need our help. I am sorry that we have not been able to grant places to all of the families who have enquired about school spaces. To meet current demand, we are already operating with double the number of staff compared to the previous closure and in line with guidance issued by the Scottish Government, places can only be allocated to those who meet the keyworker criteria and those identified as vulnerable.

Family Centre Update

The children have had another busy week learning both in the hub and at home. The staff team continue to work together to collate a range of home learning ideas supporting the development of key skills, we hope that you and your child are enjoying these. The learning blog will continue to be updated daily, this can be accessed by going onto our Family Centre website (which can be found via the school website) or by clicking on the link below:

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/er/crookfurnursery/latest-news/>

The children attending the hub will have the opportunity to access the blog while they are in the Family Centre.

The Crookfur Nursery Google Drive also continues to be added to as we come across additional online resources and games, this can be accessed by clicking on the link below:

<https://sites.google.com/er.glow.scot/crookfurnursery/home>

In addition to this, we are creating a virtual playroom that will provide parents with information to support play at home. This is in the early stages of development, we will keep you updated with our progress.

We will continue to use twitter and emails as a means of communication with parents. If you are on twitter, we love to see photos of our families at home so please feel free to post photographs and tag @nurserycrookfur.

Early Learning and Childcare Applications

The new online Early Learning and Childcare application process is now live for new 3 or 4 year old applications on the East Renfrewshire Council website

<https://www.eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk/nursery-places>

Applications require to be submitted by 28 February 2021. If you have any enquiries please direct them to earlylearningandchildcare@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk

Live Interaction – Google Meet

We are really pleased that so many children have been able to participate in Google Meet video calls with their class this week. Overall, the sessions have gone very well and children and staff have gained confidence with the functionality and experience of a live meet.

With this newsletter, I have attached a schedule which gives an overview of each class' planned Google Meet sessions for next week. The details of times and whether sessions are whole class or group will be posted on the Google Classrooms, however I hope the overview of days will help with your organisation at home.

Attendance at School

Although children are learning at home, if your child is unwell I ask that you please contact the school to let us know. This helps us to understand why a child hasn't been online or completed any work and their teacher can adapt what they are asking of them accordingly.

P7 Transfers

Parents of children in P7 who still require to upload a council tax and/or utility bill will receive a text reminder this afternoon. Please upload these as per the email sent by ERC on receipt of your transfer form. Please ensure the required documentation is uploaded by 6.00pm on Sunday in order that all applications can be completed next week. Many thanks.

February Holiday Arrangements

Please note there will be no provision for holiday cover over the February weekend for the children who are currently attending school. This includes the in-service day on Friday 5th.

During the mid-term holiday, no tasks or activities will be posted on Google Classrooms Fri 5th – Tues 9th February.

Remote learning and in-school provision will resume from Wednesday 10th February, pending any further announcements by the First Minister about the re-opening schools and nurseries.

Arrangements for the Family Centre differ slightly. The Family centre will be closed to all children on Fri 5th February. It will be open for essential childcare on Monday 8th and Tuesday 9th for the children of keyworkers who attend on a 52 week model only.

Diversity Group

The Diversity Group is continuing to work on developing an online Global Festival. We are really excited about this project and hope that as many families as possible will join in. More information about this will follow soon so please keep an eye out for this.

Our other areas of focus include supporting communication and including families across our school community and reaching out to support those experiencing hardship. A Sway presentation is planned which will give more detail about the aims of our group and to introduce group members to you.

The next Diversity Group meeting is at 8pm on Tuesday 2nd February.

Parent Council and Fundraising Committee Update

Our Fundraising committee met last night to consider spending requests and possible ideas for fundraising as well as family activities to help us stay connected during these difficult times. There were lots of great ideas and more information will follow soon.

Our Parent Council will meet on Tuesday 26th January at 8pm (on Zoom). The main focus of the agenda will be what the Parent Council can do in partnership with the school to support parents during the school closure and learning at home.

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

Warmest wishes

Sheena McGuigan

Sheena McGuigan

Head Teacher

Dates for your Diary

Monday 25th January – Burns Night

Tuesday 26th January – Parent Council, 8pm

Monday 1st – Fri 5th February – Languages Week Scotland (more information to follow)

Friday 5th February – In Service Day, School and Family Centre closed

Monday 8th February – School closed to all pupils; Family Centre open for essential keyworker childcare
(52 week models only)

Tuesday 9th February – School closed to all pupils; Family Centre open for essential keyworker childcare
(52 week models only)

Wednesday 10th February – School and Family Centre re-open for essential childcare; remote learning
resumes for all other children.

Friday 12th February – Sun 14th February – Chinese New Year