



Crookfur Primary School & Family Centre



Friday 12th March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

School Re-opening P4-7

We are delighted to welcome our P4-7 children back to school next week. Detailed information about the return of P4-7, including information on timing of the school day, staffing and PE days has been e-mailed out families.

A list of PE days for all classes is included at the end of this letter. Please check the days for your child's class as this may have changed.

Covid -19 Update

We are all looking forward to the full re-opening of our school next week, however we are mindful of the steps that we all must take to keep everyone as safe as possible.

In school, we will re-visit all guidance around handwashing, tissue hygiene, physical distancing (where appropriate) and one-way systems.

Covid-19 is still present in our community and although we will do everything we can to reduce the risk of catching and transmitting the virus, we may find that positive cases are reported in school.

Following identification of a positive case this week, we were able to quickly identify close contacts and provide guidance about self isolation and booking a Covid-19 test.

If anyone in your household displays symptoms of Covid-19, then everyone in the household must isolate until the result of a PCR test is known.

If results are received over the weekend, please e-mail the school straight away to let us know so that we can begin the process of identifying close contacts (SchoolMail@crookfur.e-renfrew.sch.uk).

Mental wellbeing

Our whole school health and wellbeing focus for the next few weeks will be on mental wellbeing. We know the huge impact that this school closure has had on children and value the importance of providing them with tools to acknowledge and support their emotions. Following whole school training we have chosen to focus on the themes:

- Staying connected
- Staying calm
- Regulating emotions
- Promoting self-care
- Resilience

All staff have worked to plan sessions looking at exploring ways to stay calm, promote self-care as well as placing emphasis on reconnecting with our children. It is vital that we acknowledge how children are feeling and ensure that they know these feelings are ok. Approaching the subject of mental wellbeing with children can educate them about identifying the best way to make themselves feel better while also highlighting key people that they can talk to.

I have provided the video that was shared with children in today's assembly, hopefully this will help us all to feel relaxed as we start the weekend.

<https://youtu.be/SEfs5TJZ6Nk>

Kitbag Ambassadors

We have recently purchased six kitbags, a resource to help develop our inner capacity for mindfulness, calm, resilience, compassion, relationship, reflection and so on. These resources can be used by individual or in groups.

Throughout remote learning Mrs Norman has been working to develop a group of Kitbag Ambassadors from the upper school who will help deliver sessions throughout the school to help develop a culture of hope, resilience and connection. Already these sessions are helping both staff and pupils develop their own resilience and build on different strategies that help us work through challenging times.

Crookfur Primary Problem Solving Challenge

Earlier this week different Primary 6 and 7 teams logged in to Google Meets to compete to become our Problem Solving Champions! The enthusiastic teams worked collaboratively to solve some riddles, problems and visual challenges to score the most points within twenty minutes.

All teams showed an excellent working ethos and the sessions were thoroughly enjoyed by the pupils as well as Mrs Norman. The final scores were extremely close with only ONE POINT separating first and second place! Well done to all our participants and special congratulations to our champions, the Mathsters! (Simone P7B, Rachel P7B, Dhruv P7B, Chloe P7B, Euan P7B, Owen P7B, Charlotte P6A)

Parents Evening P1-3

A letter with information about parents evening has been issued to P1-3 parents. Telephone appointments will be held on **Wednesday 24th March (4.30pm-8.00pm)** and **Thursday 25th March (4.00pm-7.00pm)**.

The school cloud booking system is live to make your appointment and will remain open until Sunday 21st March.

Read, Write, Count – P2 & P3 Evaluation

Read, Write, Count is a national campaign to improve the literacy and numeracy skills of Scotland's children.

As part of the campaign, every child in primary 2-3 receives a free bag with books and activities to support their learning. In addition, the campaign provides advice and support for learning professionals and families via the Scottish Book Trust and Parent Club through training events, online resources and handy tips. It is a key part of the Scottish Government's commitment to raise attainment for all.

During Book Week Scotland in November children in Crookfur received their bags.

Read, Write Count organisers are keen to gather feedback and I would be grateful if parents/carers of children in P2 and P3 could take time to complete this survey.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/H837TYB>

Global Festival

Many thanks to the families who have already sent in a video for the Global Festival. If you haven't yet but would like to get involved you still can.

We are looking for families to send in a recorded video which shares an aspect of your culture. You could share a video on; how to cook a recipe, creating a piece of art, teaching a song or dance, reading a story etc. You can send your videos in by uploading it via the link below.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=oyzTzM4Wj0KVQTctawUZKfgZwUcUOYdPgyDpdh0EsR9UNDZUNDdUuk9RQJFCUTNMRFFKTVFSWFRKNC4u>

Our Global Festival will be a celebration of the wonderful cultures that we have within our Crookfur Community so please join in!

Parent Council and Fundraising Committee Update

Parent Council

The Parent Council met via Zoom on Tuesday night and covered a wide range of topics as always including:

- ✓ Financial support for P7 events.
 - The Parent Council spends around £700 each year on ties, autograph books and a contribution towards the leavers' party. We felt that this level of support was reasonable and no change was proposed.
- ✓ Helping families through difficult times.
 - If families find themselves facing financial hardship, the Parent Council would work with the school to try to ensure no child misses out of any school experience. This was quite a high level discussion but we continue to work with the school on matters such as cost of the school day.
- ✓ Reporting
 - Mrs McGuigan asked for our opinion on what we find most useful/valuable in the written report that is issued at the end of the year, and what parents are less keen on.
- ✓ School extension
 - No information is currently available about the proposed extension to the school, but it is included in the Council's capital plan. Mrs McGuigan will seek further information from the council and will report at a later meeting this year.
- ✓ Family Centre
 - There were quite a few questions from Family Centre parents and answers to these will be fed back by the Family Centre reps.

Fundraising Committee

The fundraising committee met once more last night to discuss our exciting plans for the Spring Holiday. Further details will be issued nearer the holiday. Your continued support to the fundraising committee this year has resulted in a healthy balance, with hopes to organise some special events for the children during the last term. We will hold our next meeting in May to discuss any possible events once we are aware of restriction levels at that time.

Heartstone Odyssey

Children in P5 have been involved in The Heartstone Odyssey project since September of last year. The Heartstone Odyssey is centred around a female heroine, Chandra, and tells the story of her quest, with the help of her friends, to overcome intolerance, prejudice and racism. The story combines fantasy with real locations and history and allows discussion of complex issues within the safe and supportive setting of a classroom.

Through our involvement in the project, we are delighted to have been invited to two very special and unique online events to mark the UN International Day for the Elimination of Racism.

P5A children will enjoy an online session with a group of performing arts students from Liverpool Hope University, who will deliver a Mudras Dance workshop. This is a classical Indian dance where feelings are expressed and conveyed via hand movements and gestures. As this will be a seated dance and requires no other physical movement, the children will be able to participate within current Covid guidelines for PE.

P5B children will attend an online event, hosted by Heartstone and STAR (Preston Standing Together Against Racism). The children will be special guests (via Zoom) to a live storytelling session with Sita Kumari, Director of the Heartstone project. The story aims to support all to see past differences and recognise a common human experience, challenge prejudice and develop understanding and empathy across different nationalities, races, faiths, cultures and backgrounds. The story is used to generate discussion and debate whilst also developing literacy and critical thinking. This will take place on 19th March.

I am sure the children will be delighted to share their learning with you and the rest of the school.

Homework

Our homework policy has been developed in consultation with staff, children and parents/carers. It was most recently reviewed in 2019. Following this review, we stopped issuing homework in the final term however, given the very different school year that we have had, I was keen to reflect on this.

I am grateful to all of the parents who contributed their views using the Parent Council poll as this has helped inform my decision.

In order to support recovery, teachers will continue to issue homework next term. This will be reduced to ensure children have time to enjoy much needed recreation time but will ensure that they continue to practice and consolidate core skills in reading and mental maths.

I will provide further information at the beginning of next term. There will be no homework this week for P4-7 though there will be some homework for those children week beginning 22/3.

I hope that you have a lovely weekend. If you have any questions or any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the school (0141 570 7120; SchoolMail@crookfur.e-renfrew.sch.uk)

Warmest wishes



Sheena McGuigan
Head Teacher

Dates for your Diary

Monday 15th March – Return to school for P4-P7 😊

Tuesday 16th March – Diversity Focus Group meeting, 8pm

Thursday 18th March - P1 Parents/Carer virtual coffee and chat, 7.30pm

Friday 19th March – Last day for P7 Leavers Hoodie orders

Wednesday 24th March – P1-3 Parents Evening, 4.30pm-8.00pm *(details in separate letter)*

Thursday 25th March – P1-3 Parents Evening, 4.00pm-7.00pm *(details in separate letter)*

Tuesday 30th March – P7 Transitions Coffee and Chat *(more details to follow)*

Thursday 1st April – P7 Transitions Coffee and Chat *(more details to follow)*

Class	PE Days
P1A	Monday, Wednesday
P1B	Monday, Thursday
P1C	Wednesday, Friday
P2A	Monday, Wednesday
P2B	Tuesday, Thursday
P2C	Wednesday, Friday
P3A	Tuesday, Thursday
P3B	Wednesday, Thursday
P3/4	Tuesday, Thursday
P4A	Tuesday, Friday
P4B	Tuesday, Friday
P5A	Monday, Thursday
P5B	Wednesday, Friday
P6A	Tuesday, Friday
P6B	Monday, Tuesday
P7A	Monday, Thursday
P7B	Tuesday, Friday