



Crookfur Primary School & Family Centre



Friday 23rd April 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope that you enjoyed the holidays and that the children are excited to return to school for the final term of this session. It has been an eventful year, but I can't believe how quickly it has gone and soon we will be thinking about the transition to next year!

Covid -19 Update

We continue to follow all guidance to ensure the safety of children and staff in school. As case numbers continue to decline, we welcome the move from Level 4 restrictions to Level 3 from Monday. This will facilitate a number of changes, including re-introducing some indoor physical activity (individual, non-contact).

We always plan a number of activities and events in the summer term and we hope that in the next few weeks we will be able to arrange these e.g. school sports days. We will do everything that we can to offer the children all of these experiences, though they will likely have to be adapted, as we work towards the move to Level 2 in May. I will keep you up to date with all of our plans.

Children wash their hands frequently throughout the day and I have asked teachers to remind them of the importance of carefully drying their hands. We have both paper towels and hand driers but children's hands can become quite sore if they don't dry them well. If you feel your child's hands are becoming chapped, it is worth giving them a little hand cream that they can apply in school to help soothe them. Please mark your child's name on their cream.

Homework

We do not usually issue homework in the summer term, however, given this extraordinary year, I feel some homework would be helpful for the children to consolidate and reinforce taught skills, particularly in the lower school.

P1-3 – Mental maths (Sumdog), reading and phonics

P4-5- Mental maths (Sumdog), spelling and some reading

P6-7 – Mental maths (Sumdog), reading

Homework will be issued on a Tuesday to be returned the following Monday. Dates of issue are noted below:

- Tues 27th April (return on Tues 4th May)
- Tues 4th May
- Tues 11th May
- Tues 18th May
- Tues 25th May (return on Tues 1st June)
- Tues 1st June

Homework tasks will be posted on your child's Google Classroom. If, for any reason, your child is not able to complete their homework, please let the teacher know. We understand that out of school activities are starting up and you will want to take advantage of the lighter evenings and less restrictions to enjoy time with family and friends. We hope set tasks will be valuable and not onerous and we are keen to support children's learning as much as possible. If you have any questions, please feel free to get in touch (SchoolMail@crookfur.e-renfrew.sch.uk; 0141 570 7120).

Reporting progress and achievement

Parents evening telephone consultations for children in P2B, P2C and P4-7 will be held on Wednesday and Thursday next week.

Appointments for parents/carers of children in P2B and P2C will be carried over from the postponed dates in March. Parents of children in P4-7 should book an appointment to speak to their child's class teacher via the School Cloud system. Further information about the format of the telephone consultations and details of how to book appointments were issued in a separate letter on Tuesday (20/4/21). If you need any help or further information, please contact the school office who will be happy to assist (SchoolMail@crookfur.e-renfrew.sch.uk; 0141 570 7120).

I had intended to send home children's jotters and other class work for parents/carers this week. As the children have only recently returned to school, I feel it will be more beneficial to send these home later in the term so that you can see how their learning has progressed since school re-opened.

Teachers are currently writing children's end of year reports. We have slightly adapted the format of the report this year, which will focus on children's progress in literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing.

These will be e-mailed to you in June.

Class News

I know many of you enjoy reading our class blogs, posted regularly on our school website. We hope these give you some insight into your child's learning and life at school. As we are not able to have our usual timetable of open classroom events in the current circumstances, I wanted to share some news of day to day learning within our busy classrooms. I will try to capture a snapshot of just some of the learning in particular stages over the coming weeks, beginning with Primaries One, Two and Three.

In Primary One, the children have been enjoying Helicopter Stories. This is an approach, based on storytelling, where children create and dictate their own stories. Their stories are transcribed by an adult exactly as they are told and opportunities are provided to gather around a taped out stage and to act the stories out with their classmates.

This is a simple and child-centred approach, creating a culture of curiosity and wonder around language and drama. We used a helicopter approach for the children's Nativity performances and we do keep a book of all of their wonderful stories.

In Primary Two, the children have been investigating and exploring the process of photosynthesis! They have been very intrigued to learn about how plants take the energy from sunlight and use it to convert carbon dioxide and water into food. They have enjoyed planting their own beans and are eagerly monitoring how they grow!

Primary Three children are excited to be starting a new topic based on Scottish agriculture. They have been writing their own letters to local farmers to find out more about farming and food production in Scotland. They have also been exploring technology using Bee-Bots as part of their learning in Numeracy and Mathematics. These are small, programmable devices used for teaching control, directional language and early coding skills to young children.

Spring Scavenger Hunt

Well done to everyone who took part and enjoyed our Spring Scavenger Hunt. The fantastic spring weather made it such an enjoyable experience and it was fantastic to see so many families out and about with their Scavenger map in hand.

We hope you were able to unscramble all the letters to create our very important Crookfur message, 'Working together to be all we can be.' Certificates and house tokens will be handed out next week to all those who submitted the google form and took part.

Thank you to our fundraising committee for their work to organise the hunt. We hope you all had a great time!

Diversity Focus Group

Thank you to all of the children and families who have contributed videos for our Global Festival celebration. We look forward to launching this celebration in May – more details to follow.

In today's assembly, we shared some of the work of the Diversity group with the children and took time to think about the importance of respecting and celebrating all of our unique qualities. To support our school reconnection, the diversity group are planning an art project that all of the children will contribute to. We hope this project will help capture our strong school culture and ethos and allow us to show that each and every individual plays an important part in creating our Crookfur community.

The next meeting of the diversity group is Tuesday 27th April at 8pm (Google Meet). Please contact the school office if you would like to get involved (SchoolMail@crookfur.e-renfrew.sch.uk; 0141 570 7120).

Staffing Update

We warmly welcome Miss Heather Doig to Crookfur. Miss Doig has taken over as class teacher in P1C and she has had a lovely week getting to know the children and school.

We also have a number of teaching students in Crookfur this term. Miss Dunlop will be working with P5A and Mrs Rose and Mrs Scott are completing their final year placements in P6. I am sure they will enjoy excellent mentoring from Miss Bishop, Mrs O'Meara, Miss Estlick and Mr Atkinson as well as the pleasure of getting to know our Crookfur children.

Miss Adair has now commenced her maternity leave and we await the arrival of her little one. We do have more baby news to celebrate in Crookfur, as this week Mrs Walk shared with the children in P3/4 that she is expecting a baby boy in the summer. Congratulations Leonie!

Finally...

We have a busy term ahead and lots of planning is already underway. We recognise the challenges we have faced this year and wish to celebrate the strength, dedication and resilience our children, staff and families have shown. This will be a great term and we look forward to it with confidence and optimism. Thank you for your continued support. I hope that you have a lovely weekend.

Warmest wishes



Sheena McGuigan
Head Teacher

Dates for your Diary

Tuesday 27th April – Diversity Focus Group meeting, 8pm

Wednesday 28th April – Parent/Carer telephone consultations P2B, P2C & P4-7 (4.30pm-8.00pm)

Thursday 29th April - Parent/Carer telephone consultations P2B, P2C & P4-7 (4.00pm-7.00pm)

Monday 3rd May – School closed (May Day bank holiday)

Thursday 6th May – School closed for polling (Scottish Parliament Election); in service day for staff

Friday 28th May – School closed

Monday 31st May – School closed

Tuesday 1st June – School re-opens

Tuesday 15th June – Parent Council meeting, 8pm

Friday 18th June – Jotters home to parents/carers

Friday 25th June – School closes for summer holidays