



Crookfur Primary School & Family Centre



Friday 14th May 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Covid -19 Update

In recent days there has been a small but sharp increase in the number of positive Covid cases reported across East Renfrewshire. Whilst the total number of cases is still much lower than those experienced towards the end of last year, it does remind us of the continued risk of transmission throughout the community.

As we move towards the Level 2 restrictions from next week, we will continue to follow all of the guidance in place and continue to take necessary measures to ensure the safety of everyone in our community.

School staff continue to participate in the asymptomatic testing programme and ensure 2m+ physical distancing as far as possible. In communal areas, face coverings are worn and our enhanced cleaning regime is ongoing.

In addition to one-way systems in the school building and school grounds, we also maintain rigorous handwashing and hygiene practices in school.

If a child or adult becomes symptomatic in school, we have clear protocols for them to safely wait until they are able to leave.

If a child or any adult in your home becomes symptomatic (temperature, new persistent cough, loss/change in taste or smell) they should book a PCR test straight away. The whole household must isolate until the outcome of the PCR test is known.

If a case of Covid-19 is confirmed over the weekend, please contact the school by e-mail (SchoolMail@crookfur.e-renfrew.sch.uk). This will allow us to begin contact tracing.

Eid Celebrations

I hope that all of our children and families who were celebrating Eid this week have had a wonderful time. The children and staff enjoyed this week's assembly and learning all about Ramadan and Eid.

The link to watch the assembly has been posted on to each class Google Classroom and we do encourage the children to watch it over again. Our special thanks go to P1B and Miss Amin for their work in creating such a fantastic assembly.

Other classes in the school have volunteered to lead future assemblies and we will look forward to those.

Items from home

As far as possible we discourage children from bringing in items from home e.g. toys. This is in line with our Covid-19 risk assessment but also avoids things being lost or damaged.

I have noticed the latest craze for fidget toys and although they look like great fun, have asked the children not to share and swap these toys. Few children really need to use a fidget toy to help with concentration so if possible, I ask that these are not brought into school.

Similarly, Pokemon cards are also being brought in and traded. Children often don't really understand about trading cards and are upset when they want their cards back. For this reason, trading cards is not allowed and again, particularly in the current climate, it is perhaps best if children don't bring these cards in to school. Many thanks for your support.

Tempest Photographer

The Tempest photographer will visit Crookfur on **Monday 7th June** to take class group photos of P1 and P7. We will send out a reminder nearer the time.

Instrumental Music Tuition

Please note that for children currently in P5 and P6, the application deadline for instrumental music tuition for woodwind and brass has been extended to **Tuesday 15th June 2021**.

Applications can be made using this link <https://tinyurl.com/6endmpn9>

Healthy Eating

We are a health promoting school and as such encourage children to bring a healthy snack for break and a bottle of drinking water each day. I have become concerned about the large numbers of sugary sweets children are bringing to school. Aside from the effect on their teeth, this amount of sugar affects children's ability to focus and concentrate which can impact on their learning.

Of most significant concern is the number of children who are bringing large "share" bags of sweets, lollipops and chocolates. Many children report that these are to give out to friends, however because of the number of children who have food allergies and specific dietary requirements we do not allow children to share or swap snacks. Please do not allow your child to bring in snacks to share.

We have several children in school who experience severe allergy to nuts or any products containing nuts. We would therefore ask that you do not give your child any snack/lunch with products containing nuts.

Thank you for your support with this.

Virtual Visits

We are always looking for ways to enrich the learning experiences of our children and educational visits are a valuable part of this. As restrictions are eased, we may be able to plan some excursions but at the moment we are also exploring lots of virtual options.

At the end of this month, our Primary Five pupils will participate in a virtual class trip to the National Museum of Flight. This will be done via a live Microsoft Teams session and will give children the unique opportunity to see museum objects up close and find out the story behind them. There will be opportunities for the children to ask questions and take part in different activities before and after the session, which has been specifically designed to support delivery of the Scottish Curriculum for Excellence.

Class trips not only enrich learning experiences but also provide lasting memories for children. We will endeavour to make these experiences as close to a 'normal class trip' as possible and look to extend opportunities across the school.

Class Arrangements 2021/22

We are beginning to plan for the next school session and I can confirm the expected class structure for next year. We will increase from 17 to 18 classes, which reflects an intake of three new P1 classes with two P7 classes moving on to high school.

Classes will be as follows:

P1A, P1B, P1C

P2A, P2B, P2C

P3A, P3B, P3C

P4A, P4B

P4/5 Composite

P5A, P5B

P6A, P6B

P7A, P7B

As has been the case this session in P3/4, a composite class will be formed at our P4 and P5 stage and class groups in our current P3 and P4 will be reorganised across 5 classes. I understand that parents/carers may be interested in the formation of composite classes and more information can be found on our school website [here](#).

Staff will take great care in arranging the classifications and are mindful of children's friendships as well as learning groups. We will contact parents/carers to discuss classifications but as always, if you have anything that you would like to discuss, please feel free to contact the school (0141 570 7120; SchoolMail@crookfur.e-renfrew.sch.uk) and a member of our team will get back to you.

I understand that a number of parents/carers are keen that their child's current class teacher continues with the class next session. I have not made any decisions about teachers for next session however, it is important for me to advise that it is unlikely that children will have the same teacher next session. I know that in most cases the desire to have the same teacher is to provide continuity for the children but please be assured that teachers do spend a great deal of time preparing children for the transition to their next class and working with their new teacher to ensure that this is as smooth as possible.

Parent Council and Fundraising Committee – Denny Henderson (Chair)

The Parent Council held a meeting on Monday 10th May. We covered some of the following topics:

Mrs McGuigan updated us on the recommendations following the traffic incident in the Eastwood High School car park. Some additional signage, road markings and speed bumps will be installed.

Parents/carers should always park in a marked bay and NEVER in the bus lane, even to drop off. For safety, please always try to cross at the zebra crossing between the parking spaces and the sports centre.

We approved spending for the school/family centre for pre-school ties and various end of year events.

We reviewed the performance of the Parent Council by using the Connect health checks and identified a few areas in which we can improve.

Mrs McGuigan updated us on school and family centre news and staffing and her initial thoughts for the 2021/22 School Improvement Plan.

The minutes will be issued in due course but speak to one of the parent council reps if you want any more details. Our final meeting of the year is on Tuesday 15 June. We will hopefully get an update from ERC on the proposed extension to Crookfur and also talk about how to welcome new and nearly new parents in August when we will hopefully be able to meet up again in person.

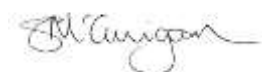
Lost Property

We have set up a collection for lost property at the school office and the admin team will try to reunite children with any items that are handed in. Please ensure that you label all of your child's belongings clearly with their name.

We will place any unnamed items outside at the end of the week for parents to check. If these aren't claimed then we will either use them as spares or donate to charity. If your child has lost something in particular, please let us know and we can help to look for it (SchoolMail@crookfur.e-renfrew.sch.uk)

Please stay safe and enjoy the weekend.

Warmest wishes



Sheena McGuigan
Head Teacher

Dates for your Diary

Monday 24th – Thursday 27th May – P7 alternative residential week

Wednesday 26th May – P1 New Entrant Parent/Carer Information Evening, (information issued separately)

Friday 28th May – School closed May holiday

Monday 31st May – School closed May holiday

Tuesday 1st June – School re-opens

Tuesday 1st – Thursday 3rd June – P1 New Entrant induction visit 1 (information issued separately- to be confirmed)

Monday 7th June – Tempest photographer to take P1 and P7 class photographs

Tuesday 8th – Thursday 10th June – P1 New Entrant induction visit 2 (information issued separately- to be confirmed)

Thursday 10th June - P1 New Entrant Parent/Carer Information Evening, (information issued separately- to be confirmed)

Tuesday 15th June – Last day for brass and woodwind applications; Parent Council meeting, 8pm

Friday 18th June – Jotters home to parents/carers

Monday 21st June-EWH transition Sports day

Tuesday 22nd June EWH transition visit day 1

Friday 25th June – School closes for summer holidays