



Crookfur Primary School & Family Centre



Friday 26th November 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Anti-Bullying Week

This week our focus on kindness, and the impact this can have on preventing bullying type behaviours, has been evident throughout the school. Our Primary 6 ambassadors have been excellent role models for our children and have delivered fun lessons to other classes. They are going to work with Mrs Slorach, and their class teachers, to make a kindness display with all the bunting and kindness posters that have been created. Primary 6 will also be leading with I am Me lessons next term.

In addition to the One Kind Word sessions being carried out, our Primary 7 children have created a kindness advent calendar. As with last year all members of the school will be encouraged to carry out an act of kindness each day in December. Primary 7 will be looking out for these acts of kindness and will be promoting them through sharing examples on our assembly, on Twitter and with announcements over the school tannoy.

Ukelele club

Next term Mrs Hutchison plans to run an after school ukulele club for children in Primary 6 and 7. This will run for about 8-10 weeks for a group of around 10 children.

In order for children to see if this is an instrument they would be interested in playing Mrs Hutchison will provide two taster sessions before the winter break. The taster session for Primary 6 will be on Tuesday 7th December at 1pm and for Primary 7 it will be on Tuesday 14th December at 1pm. If your child is interested finding out more about this instrument they can attend the taster session. Following this, we will issue them with a letter to apply for a place in the club. As with other clubs, if we are oversubscribed names will be picked at random. More details will be provided in a letter issued to those who are interested.

East Renfrewshire Larder - 12 Days of Christmas collection

We know that Christmas is a very expensive time of year and in these particularly challenging times, local residents are relying more and more on the support of the ER Larder.

On the 12 school days from 6th – 21st December we plan a daily collection for the Larder, with particular focus on household goods and toiletries. Helping to ensure that children are coming to school clean and wearing clean clothes is so important to dignity and self esteem and cleaning products and toiletries are in high demand at the Larder. If you can give anything at all, donations will be greatly appreciated.

Donations can be left in the blue bin at the school gate and, as before, we ask that adults drop off cleaning products etc. Many thanks for your support.

Badminton Festival

Huge congratulations to the P6 and P7 children who attended the Active Schools Badminton Festival on Thursday this week. Our team joined children from 5 other schools at Barrhead Foundry for a day of friendly competition. We are very proud of the children who demonstrated excellent sportsmanship in the first festival we have had the opportunity to attend in two years. There are some photographs from the day on our Twitter feed and we are keen to set up some more matches with our friends across Eastwood cluster. Special thanks to Mr Weir, our janitor, for coaching the children on the day.

Christmas Gifts

As mentioned above, there are a lot of financial pressures on families at the moment and often there are unexpected expenses that soon add up. We understand that many children and families enjoy giving gifts to school staff during the Christmas season, however must stress that we do not wish anyone to feel any pressure to buy a gift.

I know that after the challenges of the last year, 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.

Christmas Celebrations – Update

Performances

A letter has been issued today with further information for P1 and P2 parents and carers about our Nativity performances. These will be held in Newton Mearns Baptist Church across Monday 14th and Tuesday 15th December. Tickets, limited to 2 per child, will be issued to parents/carers prior to the event and we would like to thank our friends at NMBC for their kindness in welcoming our children and families for the performances.

Primary 5 are beginning preparations for their Christmas songs and carol singing on Wednesday 16th December. In keeping with tradition, our carol singing will take place outdoors at the cycle track. We will invite friends and family of P5 to gather with us and join in from 3.30pm-4.00pm.

Festive Lunch

Within Crookfur, we have a very high uptake of hot lunches with our catering team serving around 400 school meals every day. For our special festive lunch we expect even more children may wish to order a school meal and so we would appreciate if you could please pre order your child(ren)'s meal(s) to help ensure we are well prepared. I have attached the menu for our special festive lunch with this newsletter and ask that you place orders by Friday 3rd December.

<https://forms.office.com/r/z2FFppMUvg>

Present Room

I have attached a letter which gives more information about our 4th annual Present Room event. It is one of our most popular events and the children look forward to it each year.

The Present Room is a two-part event with the dress as you please (for donations) on Friday 3rd December and the shopping day on Friday 10th December.

Friday 10th December is also Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day. We invite children and staff to join in by wearing their Christmas attire and some of the money raised by the Present Room will be donated to Save the Children. I know that many children will feel uncomfortable in a Christmas jumper and so they are of course permitted to wear an alternative e.g. Christmas t-shirt, antlers, Santa hat, tinsel etc. Where possible, school uniform should be worn as bottoms e.g. skirts, trousers, PE kit.

Christmas cards

I know that lots of children like to send cards to friends and so we have decided to operate the Crookfur Christmas Card Postal Service again this year.

We will put up some post boxes around the school where children can drop off their cards for delivery to the children in their classes. I am sure we will have a team of willing post workers who will enjoy the responsibility of running the service.

Please ensure that the recipient's full name and class is written clearly on the front of the envelope.

The post service will commence on Wednesday 1st December and the final collection will be on Friday 17th December.

ERC Budget Consultation

I would like to draw your attention to the East Renfrewshire Council budget consultation for 2022/23. This consultation will be used to shape the council's priorities and it is important that East Renfrewshire residents share their views on how the council should focus its efforts to support the people of East Renfrewshire.

There are 6 key areas outlined within the survey, including supporting young people and vulnerable groups, and your views will be important in influencing how the council chooses to allocate resources in the coming years. Please take some time to share your views using the link below.

<https://www.eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk/article/4462/Budget-consultation-will-help-shape-the-Council-s-future-priorities>

Road Safety Week

Next week, as a school, we are marking Road Safety Week. The theme this year is Road Safety Heroes. As the mornings and afternoons grow darker, it is especially important that children are considering road safety.

Our Junior Road Safety Officers have planned activities for each year group, which will lead natural class discussions about our road safety heroes and link this with staying safe.

In addition to the great work done by our JRSOs to promote Road Safety, I would like to remind parents and carers who drive children to and from school that the school car park should not be used for drop off or pick up. We advise that you park in a marked bay (not the bus bay) in the car park at Eastwood High School. We have noticed an increasing number of cars attempting to access the school car park and request that, to keep children safe, you park at Eastwood. Thank you for your cooperation.

House Reward

Although June may seem a distant memory, our winning house, Fleming will receive their House Championship Reward on Monday 20th December. After much consideration, our House Captains have arranged a cinema trip of all of the children in Fleming House as a special treat for winning the 2020/21 House Championship. More information will follow for children in Fleming House.

Diversity Group Update

We had a very positive meeting of the Diversity Group on Tuesday this week and have identified 3 sub areas to focus our work this year. These are to continue to promote race equality and culturally responsive teaching, address the impact of Cost of the School Day, and promote awareness and understanding of gender stereotypes and gender bias in schools and LGBT inclusive practice.

Keen to develop a new action plan to target these key areas, the group has arranged to meet again on Wednesday 1st December (7.30pm, Google Meet). If you are interested in joining the Diversity Group, please contact me at school (SchoolMail@crookfur.e-renfrew.sch.uk)

Reflecting on our School Vision and Values

Thank you to the parents and carers who have taken time to respond to our survey so far. I have extended the survey and the link will remain open until Monday 29th November at 11am. If you haven't had a chance to submit your views, our House Captains would really appreciate if you could take a few minutes to complete their survey using the link below:

<https://forms.office.com/r/geKYhhTEyV>

I hope you all have a lovely weekend.

Warmest wishes



Sheena McGuigan
Head Teacher

Dates for your diary

Monday 29th – Friday 3rd December – Road Safety Week

Wednesday 1st December – Diversity Group meeting (7.30pm-9.00pm), Google Meet

Friday 3rd December – Dress as you please day (Present Room donation) *(more information attached)*

Tuesday 7th December – Parent Council Meeting, 8pm Zoom

Friday 10th December – Christmas Jumper Day/ Present Room Fundraiser *(more information attached)*

Monday 13th December – Friday 17th December – Christmas performances and parties – see below

Thursday 16th December – Festive lunch *(order using Microsoft Form link above)*

Monday 20th December – Fleming House Reward, cinema trip *(more information to follow)*

Parties	
P1	Friday 17 th December
P2	Friday 17 th December
P3	Tuesday 14 th December
P4	Wednesday 15 th December
P5	Tuesday 14 th December
P6	Thursday 16 th December
P7	Monday 13 th December

Performances	
P1A Nativity	Monday 13 th December, 10am, NMBC (tickets to follow)
P1B Nativity	Monday 13 th December, 11.30am, NMBC (tickets to follow)
P1C Nativity	Monday 13 th December, 2pm, NMBC (tickets to follow)
P2A Nativity	Tuesday 14 th December, 10am, NMBC (tickets to follow)
P2B Nativity	Tuesday 14 th December, 11.30am, NMBC (tickets to follow)
P2C Nativity	Tuesday 14 th December, 2pm, NMBC (tickets to follow)
P5 Carols and Festive Songs (All P5)	Wednesday 15 th December, 3.30pm- 4.00pm, Crookfur cycle track (please wrap up warm ☺)