



Crookfur Primary School & Family Centre



Friday 28th January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

COVID 19 – Reminder

A reminder of current guidance for Covid self isolation is noted below.

- **Positive cases** are advised to self-isolate for 10 days. However, if the individual returns two consecutive negative LFD tests taken at least 24 hours apart with the first test no earlier than day 6 they may end isolation before the end of the 10 day period if they have no fever. This guidance for **cases** also applies to those under five years old.
- **Close contacts, both household and non-household** who are fully vaccinated, having received three doses of the vaccination (plus 14 days) or are aged under 18 years and 4 months, can take daily LFD tests for seven days instead of isolation - provided the tests are negative and they remains without symptoms. If someone has not received three doses of the vaccination, they will need to book a PCR test and even if this is a negative result, they will need to isolate for 10 days. Contacts aged under five years are not required to undertake daily LFD testing. They should be encouraged, but are not required to, take a one-off LFD test before ending isolation. If any contact develops symptoms at any point during or after the post-contact period, they should take a PCR test.
- **Advice on confirmatory PCR tests:** where people test **positive** on a lateral flow device (LFD) test they are now not advised to get a PCR test to confirm infection, unless advised by a clinician, but to follow isolation advice as it applies to them as a positive case. There is an exception for people who may be eligible for the Self-Isolation Support Grant who are advised to take a PCR test to ensure they can confirm their infection to be potentially eligible for financial support. If someone with Covid symptoms tests **negative** on a LFD they should disregard this and undertake a PCR.

Young Carers school visit

Kevin Dailly, Young Carers Education Worker, visited the school today to talk to children in Primary 5-7. The purpose of the visit was to raise awareness about what a young carer is and how the team can support them.

A Young Carer is a young person aged between 8-18, who looks after or helps to look after someone at home who is affected by any type of physical or mental illness, physical and/or mental disability. East Renfrewshire Carers' Centre is a voluntary organisation who support Young Carers' and Carers in East Renfrewshire.

The Young carers service will provide:

- Information and advice
- 1 to 1 support
- A break from a caring role
- Outings
- Groupwork/Activities
- Someone to listen to your worries

If you require more information with regards to this service please do not hesitate to contact the school. Alternatively you can find out more information on the website:

<https://www.eastrenfrewshirecarers.co.uk/young-carer/>

Safe Routes to School – Reminder

We continue to promote active travel to school and our Junior Road Safety Officers are encouraging everyone to walk, cycle or scoot to school. Not only is this a great for your health, it helps to reduce traffic congestion and pollution around the school.

I know that a number of parents/carers are reluctant to allow their children to walk or cycle to school because of the traffic and many have raised concerns about drivers parking on the double yellow lines in Lomond Drive and Harvie Avenue in particular. They worry children will not be able to cross safely and that drivers are even mounting the kerb to park, endangering pedestrians.

I hope that in spring and summer, we can encourage even more families to leave their car at home. In the meantime, I must stress that drivers should exercise caution when approaching the school and only park in a marked bay at Eastwood High School. Please do not use the Crookfur car park for drop off or pick up.

Further car parking information can be found on our school website;

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/er/Crookfur/parents/car-parking-information/>

Children's Mental Health Week 2022

Children's Mental Health week will take place from 7th-13th February.

This year's theme is **Growing Together**, with the focus on encouraging everyone to consider how they have grown emotionally, and how they can help others to grow. Time will be taken in school to look at different challenges and setbacks we may experience and discuss how they can help us to grow and adapt.

Parent and Carer Information Evening – Change of Date

As part of the work of our Diversity Focus Group, I have arranged an information evening for parents/carers to explore current approaches to challenging gender stereotypes and gender bias. This is a fascinating and thought provoking area and I am sure parents who are able to attend will find it really interesting to consider the stereotypes and bias that exist but also what we can do to change them. Marilyn Brennan (Quality Improvement Officer) will lead the session. Marilyn is an engaging speaker and leads much of the work around Diversity and Equalities across schools in East Renfrewshire.

Due to the restrictions in school, we have been unable to arrange face-to-face curriculum and information events for parents and carers for some time. I had hoped that by February we could begin this programme again and provisionally arranged a date in the Parent Calendar (22nd February). I have rescheduled the session to mid March in the hope that we can meet in person, however, if not then the session will go ahead online.

I will confirm all of the details for the session as soon as I can.

A Message from the Parent Council – Denny Henderson, Parent Council Chair

Firstly, I want to sincerely thank all the staff at Crookfur for all their continuing efforts. The pandemic has hit staff and their families hard over December and January, as well as dealing with the ongoing restrictions within the school. Everyone at Crookfur has pulled together to minimise any impact on our children, and this is much appreciated, but we also realise the toll that this inevitably has on staff. Hopefully things will become easier as we move forward.

Our Parent Council meeting on Wednesday had a packed agenda as usual. Some of the areas we covered were:

- Forest Schools - Mrs Lamont, and two Family Centre staff members, have been doing the Forest School leader training. Mrs Lamont gave a really interesting presentation about the concepts and benefits of Forest School for the children and this will become integral to the school and Family Centre approach going forward.
- Health & Wellbeing - The pandemic has had an impact on the health and wellbeing of many of our children. Mrs Slorach talked about some of the approaches and initiatives that the school has been implementing. There are so many different health & wellbeing strategies within the school, many of which parents have limited awareness of. The Parent Council will work with the school to produce information to let parents and carers know of the many different supports and strategies that are in place within Crookfur.
- Parking - Mrs McGuigan talked about the use of Abercorn Road as a shortcut that she had included in an earlier round-up and the distress this was causing some residents. Parents have also raised concerns about parking on the double yellow lines on Lomond Drive.
- The school requested help to purchase visualisers for each classroom which we approved.
- Thank you to the new members of the Fundraising & Social Committee. It is great to have some new members, particularly from the lower school. The next meeting will take place on Thursday 17 February.
- A parent had approached the school about the possibility of setting up a group for parents and carers who have an interest in neurodiversity. From our discussions at Parent Council, we thought that perhaps the group could have a wider Additional Support Needs focus and would be open to anyone who wanted to come along. School management are hugely supportive and would be involved in such a group, but feel that it should be a parent-led group, so that parents/carers can decide the focus of the group e.g. the group might want to be there to listen to and support other parents, or signpost parent to information or arrange information sessions. More information will follow, but if you have any ideas or suggestions, or even would just like to express an interest in the group, then please do email CrookfurParentCouncil@gmail.com.

Finally, I know many parents and carers would like to do something to remember and commemorate Mrs Rattray. I've prepared a short form to gather parents' ideas <https://forms.gle/kq7W8QMSi9DMACAX7>. If anyone would like to help organise this then I would appreciate the help. Please email me at CrookfurParentCouncil@gmail.com

Staffing News

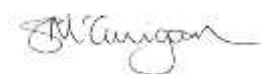
I am delighted that Mrs Denholm has announced that she is expecting her second child. The baby is due in the summer and all of the children in P1B were so excited to hear this lovely news today. Congratulations to Mrs Denholm 😊.

Holiday Weekend

A reminder that next week school will close on Thursday 3rd February (3.15pm as usual) and re-open on Wednesday 9th February for the mid-term holiday weekend.

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

Warmest wishes



Sheena McGuigan
Head Teacher

Dates for your diary

Friday 4th February – School closed to pupils (In Service Day)

Monday 7th February – School closed (mid-term holiday)

Tuesday 8th February – School closed (mid-term holiday)

Wednesday 9th February – School re-opens, 9am; Diversity Focus Group, 8pm

Wednesday 2nd March – Parents Evening 4.30pm-8pm (*more information to follow*)

Thursday 3rd March – World Book Day, Parents Evening 4.00pm-7.00pm (*more information to follow*)

Tuesday 8th March – Parent Council Meeting

Friday 2nd April – School closes for Spring Holiday, 2.30pm

Tuesday 19th April – School re-opens, 9am