



Crossroads Primary School

'Learning together to be the best we can be.'

Creativity – Integrity - Perseverance – Resilience - Respect

May 2021

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Dear Parents/Carers

Firstly, I must apologise for not sending out a newsletter for so long. From the announcement in December that we were going to go into a second lockdown, it became obvious that we were far from "back to normal" but hopefully there is now some light at the end of a very long tunnel.

Due to staffing situations, I have had to spend a lot of my time at Rothiemay Primary. The principal teacher there, Mrs Karen Gray, very sadly passed away a few weeks ago which has hit the school community there hard.

There have certainly been many challenges to face over the course of the year but I feel that it has brought us ever closer as a school team. At this time of the school year we as a staff our busy with school evaluation work so we are also trying to focus on the positives. The children have been so resilient this year, with the initial return to school in August, second lockdown from January and on the second return to school in March. We continue to make sure that the health and wellbeing of all our children is at the forefront of our thinking and planning and are amazed at how well they continue to flourish.

Thank you so much for your continuing support of the school during what has been a very challenging period.

Mrs Diane Douglas (Head Teacher)

End of Term

The parent council have plans in place for some fun at the end of term, mainly led by our P7, Kaylin. Details to follow.



Term ends on Friday 25th June. Please note that there will be a slightly early finish at 2:30pm.

Staffing update

At the end of last term, our classroom assistant, Miss Howard, left us to start a new position at Milnes Primary. Our very own Mrs Malcolm was successful at interview and we, and the children, are so happy that she will be spending more time at Crossroads Primary.

Mrs Stepien has been on a phased return this term, gradually building up her hours again. We would like to say a huge thank you to Mrs Malcolm for covering these hours and a massive welcome back to Mrs Stepien.

Inservice

Miss Mackie worked together with teachers from Rothiemay Primary to develop more consistent approaches to teaching numeracy and to revisit numeracy progressions. She had a chance to look at our new maths books that will start to be used in August. She also worked with support staff in getting the school library organised with our new bookshelves, with the hope of some normality coming back in August.



Reporting

Children and staff have started working on reports for this term. In keeping with the move away from a large, annual report and keeping to more frequent and with more child involvement, you will notice a slight change in the format. It

will still contain information about where your child is working within Curriculum for Excellence as well as information about effort. Under the circumstances this year, I have removed the attendance figures. Reports will be out to you by the 15th June.

Homework

Just a reminder that we will be continuing to use Glow for some of our homework so children do not forget how to use the system. Any “snowdays” or other school closure days would now move to online learning rather than close the school completely so we don’t want to become rusty.

Sports Day

The Scottish Government have advised that there will be no parents at Sports Days this year and there will be no inter school sports events.

Parent Council

A huge thank you to our parent council who have always been at the end of a phone or an email this year. They have made sure that we can continue using the Waste by strimming the weeds and continue supporting the school whenever we ask.

REAP

We have been very lucky at Crossroads Primary to have REAP come in to support our outdoor learning. If you have been to the school recently you will have seen the raised beds that the children helped to build and the vegetables are starting to appear. Thank you to them for coming in to work with the children and we

are looking forward to welcoming them back soon.



Twitter

We have been using twitter over the past couple of years but we would like to increase its usage so we can share your children’s learning experiences, especially important, as it is more difficult for you to come into school to see this. The children enjoy seeing who has liked or commented under the pictures too. You can follow us at @CrossroadsKeith and a twitter account is not required to access our tweets. Here are some more of the recent photos.



Lateness and absences

Thank you for being so organised in the morning and reporting absences in good time. All absences must be reported to the school by 9:30am at the latest. As we do not always have an administrator (Mrs Jamieson is here on Tuesday and Thursday) if it is possible to email or use the parent portal, that would be great. During the current pandemic, we have to be even more careful with recording the reasons for children being absent. As part of our care for your children, we follow up any unexplained absence, which can take a lot of time and cause worry. If your child is going to be late, please let the school know and let us know their lunch choice if they are school dinners as this has to be recorded by 9:30am. Thank you.

Sickness bugs

Just a reminder that if your child has had a bug that they are to be absent until they have not been sick or had diarrhoea in 48 hours.

Water Bottles

Please ensure your child brings a water bottle to school every day. Your child will have access to this throughout their learning time to help hydrate their brain. It is therefore important that it is filled with plain tap water only. This can be refilled throughout the day from our water fountain.

Children may bring flavoured water or still juice for break or lunch but this should be in a different bottle/container to their class water bottle. **Fizzy drinks and energy drinks are not permitted in school.**

Thank you for your support with this.

School calendar: 2020-21

Moray Council Terms Dates & Holidays:
moray.gov.uk/moray_standard/page_55829.htm
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Summer

Keith ASG occasional day: Monday 7 June

Term ends: Friday 25 June 2021 – 2:30pm finish

Autumn

In-service closure: Monday 16 August 2021

Term starts: Tuesday 17 August 2021

Term Ends: Friday 08 October 2021

Autumn holiday: Monday 11 October 2021 -

Friday 22 October 2021