



Crossroads Primary School

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

Creativity – Integrity - Perseverance – Resilience - Respect

November 2021

Email: admin.crossroadsp@moray-edunet.gov.uk

Phone: 01542 870221

Twitter: [@CrossroadsKeith](https://twitter.com/CrossroadsKeith)

Dear Parents/Carers



While writing newsletters, I often look back to the previous years' version to see if there are things that I should be talking about at this time of year. It makes me realise just how long we have been living with this pandemic situation but also just how "normal" we have managed to keep things for the children at Crossroads. There definitely has been a huge advantage to being a small school during this period of time. We are also fortunate that Miss Mackie has kept fun and excitement in her learning and teaching and that all your children have shown real resilience during this unprecedented time.

I have now settled into a routine of being in Crossroads on a Wednesday and a Friday (although sometimes I have to change this due to circumstances beyond my control – flexibility is definitely a key skill as a head teacher of paired schools).

As always I would like to thank you all for your continued support of the school.

Mrs Diane Douglas (Head Teacher)

Staffing

We were very fortunate to have secured some funding through additional COVID monies to allow Miss Mackie additional development time on a Friday. A huge welcome to Miss Sam Howie who has been teaching instead of Miss Mackie on a Friday since the beginning of term and has quickly become a valued member of our school community. She has been covering a few areas of the curriculum that can be more stand-alone such as French, Music and Science and it is great

that the children have the opportunity to experience a different teacher every week.

Poppies

Poppies are available for sale at the school. Any size of donation is welcome for the Poppy Appeal.

Parent Council/Fund raising

In case any parents are not already on the Crossroads Primary Facebook page, I would like to let you know about 2 current fundraising opportunities for school funds. The first one is a 100 square, costing £2 a square, where the winner will receive £100 and the school will receive £100.

The other fundraiser is a Christmas Photo Shoot with Ceamara Photography. It will be on Sunday 21st November between 9 and 12:30 and costs £25 for some gorgeous photos with your choice of backgrounds. Definitely worth having a look and, while it is still difficult to do fundraising, we are grateful to the parents for organising this.

Christmas

As we head through this winter term, our thoughts will turn to Christmas. Like last year, with guidelines still being in place in school, we have made an early decision that we will not be doing a formal Christmas show. The Christmas party will still go ahead (hopefully with a visit from the man in red) and we have some plans for a Christmas outing as well that we will share when we have some more information. The school Christmas lunch will be on Friday 3rd December.

Uniform

Now that we are more back to normal, we would like all pupils to return to school uniform. The uniform is not strict but it is good when all the

children look smart. The uniform is grey/black skirt or trousers, school sweatshirt and white shirt or white/black polo shirt. Sports/leisure trousers and jeans are not acceptable. Our exception to this is a Wednesday when children are to wear clothes appropriate for the Waste.

Shoes

As we are getting to the time of year when children will be coming to school with bigger shoes/boots, could we ask that children have indoor shoes that they can wear in the classroom and can be kept at school please? This will be more comfortable for your child and will mean we won't have to worry about muddy carpets as the weather takes a turn.

Waste Wednesday

The children thoroughly enjoy their time in the Waste and are also enjoying using the mud kitchen. We will continue using the waste even as the weather is turning colder and the ground can be quite wet. This means it will be even more important that the children are dressed appropriately, especially their footwear. If anyone has any old, but still in good condition, welly boots at home, we will happily take them to use as spares if children forget.

We have moved our loose part play resources into The Waste which has aided in den building. If anyone has any resources that you think might be useful, please get in touch.

Lunchtime Club

To give a bit of an alternative to the Waste on a Wednesday, Mrs Stepien has been running a lunch time club indoors. The children can opt in and out of this club and it has proven to be very popular.

School Improvement Plan

Every year we decide as a staff what our school improvement priorities will be for the forthcoming year(s). With COVID, there has been more of a focus on the health and wellbeing of all our children. This year though we have created a new School Improvement Plan which will support

us in improving the outcomes for all our learners.

Our priorities are:

- 1) Quality of Learning and Teaching
- 2) Raising attainment in Literacy
- 3) Raising attainment in Numeracy
- 4) Recovery Curriculum – including relationship policies and pupil participation

We will be working with staff in Rothiemay for many of these and Miss Mackie will be using her additional development time on a Friday to ensure that we get it right for all our children at Crossroads in our own, unique context. A full version is available from the school.

Friday reflections

The weekly reflections will continue this term. We would really appreciate it if you could sign these to let us know that you have read them with your child. The children work hard on these on a Friday and they value conversations about their learning throughout the week.

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.

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.

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.

Adverse Weather

Soon enough we will reach the time of year when adverse weather may affect school transport and school opening hours. If the school building is not able to open, learning will go online in the form of Google Classroom. The school will not send out a text for adverse weather closures. Instead, we will:

- Post on the Moray Council Service Disruption webpage. This will be visible to anyone who visits <https://secure.moray.gov.uk/mcalerts/portal> on the Council website.
- Post on the Moray Council Facebook page and Twitter feed (facebook.com/MorayCouncil/ twitter.com/TheMorayCouncil)
- Send an Email Alert message. This message will only be received by those who have registered at mygovscot <https://online.moray.gov.uk/site/wss/home> and chosen Crossroads Primary School as services about which they wish to receive alerts.

(Note - this is not connected to our regular Crossroads school emails.)

School calendar: 2021-2022

Winter

Term starts: Monday 25 October 2021

In-service closure: Monday 15 November 2021 - 16 November 2021

Term ends: Thursday 23 December 2021

Christmas holiday: Friday 24 December 2021 -

Friday 07 January 2022

Spring

Term starts: Monday 10 January 2022

Mid term holiday: Friday 11 & Monday 14 February 2022

Term ends: Friday 01 April 2022

Spring holiday: Monday 04 April 2022 - Friday 15 April 2022 (Good Friday)