



# Crossroads Primary School

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

Creativity – Integrity - Perseverance – Resilience -  
Respect

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Email: [admin.crossroadsp@moray-edunet.gov.uk](mailto:admin.crossroadsp@moray-edunet.gov.uk)

Phone: 01542 870221 Twitter: [@CrossroadsKeith](https://twitter.com/CrossroadsKeith)

Dear Parents/Carers

Firstly, a warm welcome back to what is hopefully a more "normal" year, if any of us can remember what that looks like. For me, I am certainly looking forward to the chance of being a head teacher with slightly less COVID guidelines to think about.

I have now been head teacher at Crossroads for 18 months and during that time, along with dealing with educating children in a global pandemic, I have been looking at the strengths and some areas of development in our learning and teaching and curriculum. We all want the absolute best for all our children here at Crossroads and want them to become life-long learners with a desire to be the best they can be. I will be speaking to the children at assembly about how grown-ups continue to learn and develop and that I have learned over the years not to compare myself to those around me but only to aim to continue to be a better version of me. We will focus on being proud of what we can achieve, both at home and school, in upcoming assemblies so please let us know of any achievements.

Thank you for your support and understanding while we work through all the guidelines.

Mrs Diane Douglas (Head Teacher)

We have welcomed a new primary three child to Crossroads Primary this year, taking the school roll back to 11. She has settled in wonderfully and is already part of our school community. The children are spending more time in one classroom this year, with the younger children going through to access learning through play in the smaller classroom.

P1-7 - Miss Mackie (Principal Teacher)  
Additional Support for Learning – Mrs Reid (one morning per week)  
Non Class Contact Time – Mrs Reid

In addition to this, I recently advertised a teaching position for one day a week that will be funded for one year. This is to allow Miss Mackie out of class for school development time. I hope to be able to appoint at interview next week and will let you know which day they will be teaching.

Our wonderful support staff are the same as last session

- Mrs Malcolm (Children's Supervisor, Classroom Assistant and PSA (funded by PEF))
- Mrs Stepien (Classroom Assistant and PSA)

School Administrator – Mrs Jamieson (Tuesdays and Thursdays).

Additional P.E. – Ryan Cruickshank - This is generously funded by our Parent Council and provides our class teachers with support and expertise of the coaches who deliver specific skills to the spread of children within the class.

**Staffing and Class arrangements for 2021-22**

### **End of Last Term**

We would like to express a huge thank you to the Parent Council (and Kaylin) for planning and funding the end of term activities for all children, including bouncy castle and chippy lunch. The children all had an amazing week and formed some much needed happy memories.



### **Class termly newsletter**

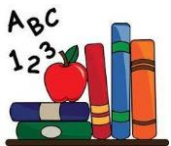
Miss Mackie will send out newsletter near the beginning of every term. This will have included information about the learning focus for literacy and numeracy that term and cross-curricular learning. It will also include any day where specific equipment may be needed (for example, gym days). If you have any questions regarding information in the class newsletter, please contact Miss Mackie via the school office.

### **Changes in guidelines**

We are now able to use the coat pegs at school and children are able to leave PE kits and indoor shoes at school. Could we remind you to have names on all school belongings, especially now coats and shoes will be back to being at pegs instead of with them in class.

### **Curriculum**

Last year we focussed primarily on the Health and Wellbeing of all our children and staff at Crossroads Primary, due to the unprecedented circumstances we were in due to COVID. We needed to respond to the needs of everyone during this time and we were proud of how we got through it as a community.



During that time, we were also looking at how best to revitalise the curriculum and to ensure that all our children received

consistent, high quality learning and teaching. Working in collaboration with Rothiemay, teaching staff identified numeracy as the first area to look at and we are now starting to use our new maths progressions and resources.

The approach to learning and teaching, particularly in literacy, is changing this year. We are looking for children to become more involved and independent in their learning. This will enable Miss Mackie to devote more time to challenge and support learners as is appropriate for each individual need.

We have identified that children are memorising spelling words for the Friday test rather than learning spelling patterns so we will be looking at a new way of teaching spelling. This will involve expanding their knowledge of vocabulary and grammar at the same time and, hopefully, we will see a transferring of their spelling skills to other curricular areas.

Reading will be heard more often in the school but not always by the class teacher who will instead focus on the teaching of reading skills. We will not be doing reading homework in the traditional sense but instead encourage you all to enjoy books at home. This will be helped by the welcome return of the library van.

Later this session we will be looking at how we teach writing and the teaching staff from both schools are going to work together to look at Listening and Talking as well. It is going to be a busy year and we are looking forward to seeing the impact on the learning of our children. I hope that soon we will be more able to join together as a community group to discuss these in person.

### **Friday reflections and home learning**

The weekly reflections will continue this term and we would like to see them signed and returned as we used to do before. Linked to the above changes in Curriculum, we are also looking into homework which has traditionally been spelling words and reading. Initially, while staff and children are working so hard in school to learn the new way of learning, there will be no formal homework in the traditional sense. We encourage you to read books that your child takes home with them together, perhaps you reading to them at times, and discussing the story.

Homework will remain on Google Classroom as, in the unfortunate event there is a school closure for COVID, snow or any other reason, learning will move online.

### Parent Council

A massive thank you to our parent council for working so hard last year to ensure the children continued to have the best experience at Crossroads. They recently held their AGM and we welcome Lynne Cameron as the new Chair. The parent council are always looking for parents to either join the group or to support the school in any way.

### 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.



### 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.

### 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**

### **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

### **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)