

Croftmalloch Primary School

Chronicle



August 2021 Newsletter

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to school and welcome to Term 1! I hope that you all had a lovely summer break and were able to enjoy the good weather. The weather has been very nice again this week which has enabled our children to have great fun in the playground with their friends. Let's hope that this continues. The sun makes such a difference!

We have a busy, first term planned across all classes and stages until our October break. I will keep you updated of all news with regular Group calls and emails as well as monthly newsletters. Please keep a close eye on our Twitter feed as photos of class learning will be posted here each week. We can't wait to showcase all that we are doing in school!

Staffing News

Miss Shanks had a lovely, little boy at the end of June and both Mum and baby are doing well. We are delighted to share this news with you! We do love a Crofty baby!

Miss Dodgson (Support for Learning) left us at the end of last session to take up a new, teaching post in Mid Lothian Council. Miss Dodgson worked very hard with our children during her short time with us and we wish her the very best in her new job. Mrs Enna Ali has taken over Miss Dodgson's Support for Learning Role until Mrs Martin returns to our school around Christmas-time.

Mrs Weyzig, Pupil Support Worker, also left us at the end of June, to take up a new post with Falkirk Council. Again, we thank Mrs Weyzig for all that she did to support our pupils during her time with us. Mrs Andrea Russell, who has worked in our nursery since 2019, will take over Mrs Weyzig's role in school from August 21. Mrs Russell has already formed good relations with school staff and pupils and we are delighted to have her on board.

Class Structure 2021/22

As a reminder, we will have 9 classes this session. These are:

P1A

P1B

P2

P2/3

P3

P4/3

P5

P6

P7

All pupils have made a positive return to school and there is a lovely, happy atmosphere around school at present with learners hard at work and enjoying their classroom experiences.

Curriculum/Teaching and Learning

All children have started off the term, learning about our school values and how these apply to all aspects of the life and work of our school. As a reminder our values are:

-Be Ready (to learn).

-Be Responsible

-Be Respectful

We are a Rights, Respecting School and all classes are currently busy creating their own 'class charter' to showcase the different expectations and responsibilities that pupils will try to adhere to in each classroom, as a part of respecting others.

In the next few weeks, all pupils from P1-7 will begin a block of learning in Social Subjects with a Geography focus. Pupils in each class will choose a country to study and compare this with Scotland. They will look at geographical features of each country and compare and contrast these.

In Health and Wellbeing all classes will begin a focus on Mental, Emotional, Social and Physical health with Miss Campbell leading a lot of this work, when she is in classes across school.

Classes will also be looking more closely at food and nutrition as a way to stay healthy.

School Improvement Priorities 2021-2022

Before the September break, we will send all parents/carers a copy of our Standards and Quality Report for last session (2020-21) and this will also be published on our school website. This report details the many successes that we had last year as a school as well as giving our next steps.

As always, we are always striving to improve for the benefit of our pupils. This year, our main areas for improvement will be:

-To boost the Health and Wellbeing of all pupils, by ensuring full access to a wide range of opportunities across the life of the school.

-To consolidate our work in Literacy over the past two sessions and continue the good progress made.

-To further develop our approaches to the use of assessment across school.

-To raise attainment in Numeracy and Maths at key stages and across school through a range of different interventions.

-To increase pupil skills in the use of digital technologies, enabling them to lead learning.

Health and Wellbeing Questionnaires:

In the next few weeks, all pupils will be supported to complete their termly health and wellbeing questionnaire. The results of these important surveys help us to ensure children are safe and well and to plan any interventions necessary to better support their changing needs. We will always contact parents/carers directly if we are concerned about any child and likewise, please pick up the phone to us if you have a worry or concern.' Fixing' problems early on for children, before they become bigger issues, is one of our key priorities

Assemblies

We are busy preparing our assembly calendar for this session. As per Government COVID guidance, all assemblies will continue to be virtual for the time being. We will continue to celebrate pupil success in assemblies this session as well as promoting our Goblet of Good Manners. This special 'cup' is given to the class who earn the most Goblet Points each week. Goblet Points are a Croftmalloch initiative to support children to display good manners and respect for others.

In a change to last session's assembly programme- all classes will create one, virtual assembly throughout the year which will be shared with parents/carers and the rest of the school. We will let you know the dates of these assemblies so that you know when it is the turn of your child's class. Creating an assembly will involve children using digital technologies and increasing their presentation skills.

Family Learning Events

Our family learning calendar has been created for the year, taking into account parental feedback from last year's sessions. Once again, for the time being, all activities will be virtual in nature. We will send out our new calendar in the next few days. We hope that you enjoy taking part in some of the activities on offer this session.

Reminders:

- Car park- Please don't walk through our school car park at any time for the safety of everyone. The school park is strictly for the use of school staff only please.
- Water bottles- Please ensure that children come to school with a water bottle so that we can encourage children to stay hydrated throughout the school day.
- PE Kit- Please ensure that children come to school dressed for gym (gym may be outdoors!) on the days that they have PE.

Friday 'Dress Downs'

As promised, we will re-start the Crofty tradition of 'Dress Down Fridays' on the first Friday of each month starting from Friday 3rd Sept. Children are invited to come to school wearing clothing of their choice on these days but no football strips or colours please. 'Dress Downs' allow all families to have rest from washing uniforms and also boost the wellbeing of all, across school.

Dates for your diary:

- Thursday 26th August- P6 Bikeability to start for those who are interested.
- Monday 30th August- Home Learning to start for all pupils. Sharing the Learning sheets will be on Seesaw/Teams for the term, from today.
- Monday 6th September- 'Meet the teacher' sheets will be sent home to all parents/carers to enable you to 'virtually' meet your child's class teacher and find out some information about them.
- Monday 20th September- September holiday- staff and pupils off school. Nursery open.

-Tuesday 21st September- September holiday- staff and pupils off school. Nursery open.

-Wednesday 22nd September- Staff and Pupils return to school.

-Wednesday 22nd September- Tempest photographer in school- more info to follow.

-Monday 27th September- Virtual, Parental Consultations to be held this week- more info to follow

-Wednesday 6th October- Flu vaccines in school for all school pupils all day.

-Friday 8th October- All staff and school pupils to break for October holidays. Nursery open during the October break.

-Monday 18th October- INSET day- School closed for pupils

-Tuesday 19th October- School pupils back to school for Term 2

Take care everyone and enjoy the next few weeks,

Kind wishes, **Miss Baillie and all staff at Croftmalloch x**