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| **East Craigs Welcome**  I am being made to feel very welcome by everyone at East Craigs since taking up post at the start of term. I am enjoying spending time in classrooms and the playground, getting to know both pupils and parents/carers. East Craigs pupils are a credit to their school as they are so friendly, polite and enthusiastic about their learning.  I would like to invite all parents/carers in to school on **Wednesday 6th February** for a coffee/tea and chat. This informal event will be held twice during the day; from **9.00 – 9.45am** and again from **2.00 – 2.45pm**. I look forward to meeting many of you then. | **Loose Parts**  We are currently looking for ways to develop the playground provision for pupils. An easy and cost-effective approach is to introduce “Loose Parts.” Loose parts are materials that can be moved, carried, put together and taken apart in multiple ways. They encourage child-led play and can develop problem-solving, teamwork and creativity. More information on loose parts can be found at <http://www.playscotland.org/parents-families/loose-parts-play/>  Loose parts can be natural or man-made and are generally recycling from different sources. To start developing this type of play, we are looking for the following items:   * Car/van/lorry tyres (the bigger and wider the better) * Large logs   If you can provide either of the above, or for more information on Loose Parts play, please contact Ms Allan. |
| **Gymnastics**  Members of the school gymnastics club, led by Miss Niven and Miss Lowry, took part in the regional schools competition at Broughton High School last Sunday. The team performed with great confidence and scored very highly, narrowly missing out on a place in the Scottish heats.  Congratulations to everyone who took part and thank you to the staff and parents who gave up their time to accompany the team and support them during this prestigious event. | **Uniform**  At East Craigs, we are very proud of our school uniform. It identifies pupils as members of the East Craigs learning community and helps ensure a commitment to learning and the wider life of the school. Pupils do not need to wear uniform with the school badge, but I would expect to see them wearing the regulation green or grey colour scheme.  Uniform orders can be obtained from the school office. Most supermarkets also sell uniform, without the school badge. In addition, we have a highly successful uniform exchange system in school which is open to all and free of charge. Please ask at the school office for more information. |

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| **Staffing News**  Mrs Graham has started her secondment to the *Edinburgh Learns* team at City of Edinburgh Council. We will miss her very much, but wish her all the best with her new venture. The recruitment process for an Acting Depute Head Teacher has begun and I will keep you informed as this progresses.  Recruitment is also underway for a new Business Manager and again, I will keep you informed as this develops.  On 8 January, we welcomed three new members of staff:  Miss Shona Sinclair – Pupil Support Assistant  Miss Jude Ferguson - Pupil Support Assistant  Mrs Julie Corrigan – Early Years Practitioner | **Wider Achievements**  Congratulations to the following pupils for their endeavours out with school:   * Gustav Elmer, Nursery, who recently won a family orienteering competition at Cammo, along with his dad. * Blake Hatfield, P4A, has completed Level 5 in swimming, achieved his 5th Kai in Judo and has moved up to Cubs. * Brodie Hatfield in P5B has completed Level 10 in swimming. * Oliver Kukuruzovic, P3A, got full marks in “The People’s Story” Quiz. * Emma Gordon, P3A, received a Certificate of Achievement from Hearts Swimming Club for outstanding progress. * Tess Kelly, P3A, received a Certificate of Achievement from Hearts Swimming Club for outstanding progress. * Dominic Dewar, P3A, received a medal for taking part in a football tournament, playing for his team, Beechwood. |
| **Number Crunchers**  Mrs Sarah Gordon, from the Corstorphine branch of the Nationwide Building Society will be coming into school this term to deliver the “Number Crunchers” programme to Primary 5 and Primary 6 pupils. This will help our learners develop their numeracy skills with an emphasis on practical money management.  If you would like more information about “Number Crunchers” please contact Ms Donaldson. |
| **Dates for your Diary**  **Monday 21 January** – Parent Council Meeting, 6.30 – 8.30pm. All parents/carers welcome.  **Wednesday 6 February** – Meet the new Head Teacher, 9.00 – 9.45am and 2.00 – 2.45pm.  **Wednesday 6 February** – PTA Bingo Night, starting at 7.00pm.  **Monday 11 February** – Friday 15 February – School closed for mid-term holiday.  **Friday 1 March** - P4 year group assembly, starting at 9.15am. All P4 parents/carers welcome.  **Friday 15 March** – P7 year group assembly, starting at 9.15am. All P7 parents/carers welcome.  **Monday 18 March** - Parent Council Meeting, 6.30 – 8.30pm. All parents/carers welcome.  **Tuesday 19 March and Wednesday 20 March** – Parent Consultations. Further details to follow.  **Friday 29 March –** P2 year group assembly, starting at 9.15am. All P2 parents/carers welcome.  **Tuesday 2 April** – Primary 1 – 3 Easter Disco, 6.30 – 7.30pm.  **Wednesday 3 April** – Primary 4 – 7 Easter Disco, 6.30 – 8.00pm.  **Friday 5 April** – Easter Service at Craigsbank Church.  **Friday 5 April** – term ends at 12.15pm/12.25pm.  **Tuesday 23 April** – school re-opens, all resume. | |