

**Welcome (back) to East Craigs!**

It has been lovely to be together again as our East Craigs learning community following the summer break. Our pupils are looking happy to be back, refreshed from their holidays and, in many cases, considerably taller!

All classes have been taking part in some “Getting to Know You” activities, in order to reconnect with one another and re-establish relationships. Pupils who have a new teacher this year have been sharing facts about themselves and what makes them unique. We have a truly diverse pupil population and getting to know one another will help ensure classes work really well together as a team.

Our youngest learners in particular have shown great confidence as they start their Primary 1 year. They have entered the school purposefully, with hardly a backwards glance at parents/carers, and are settling in quickly.

**Health and Safety at the School Gates**

Can I request that all parents/carers continue to follow Government and NHS guidance at the start and end of every school day. This will help to ensure everyone’s safety, minimise the risk of localised outbreaks of coronavirus and keep absence rates low.

- Only have **one adult per family** come to the school at drop off and pick up times
- Encourage P4 and older pupils to travel to school on their own
- **Do not arrive before your child’s start time**
- Maintain **2m distance** between yourself and adults and children from other families
- **Move away the school gates** once your child has entered the playground

Face coverings must be worn in any part of the school premises and are strongly encouraged at the school gates.

Thank you for your support with this. For more details of most up to date advice, go to:

<https://www.parentclub.scot/topics/coronavirus>

Head bump protocol

At East Craigs Primary, part of our health and safety policy requires parents/carers to be informed if their child has a head bump in school. From now on, parents will be informed of any minor, accidental head bumps by text. However, if the injury is more serious, or the situation complex, a member of staff will phone to provide full details. In all cases, your child will still take the usual head bump slip home to you in their bag.

Thank you for your understanding with this.

Staffing Update

We have welcomed two new teachers into the East Craigs staff team this August. Miss Sophie Hollingsworth is teaching P3a and Miss Rebecca Crowley P5b. Both teachers are settling in well and loving being at the school.

During the summer holidays, two members of staff became parents. Miss Hannah Scott, Early Years Practitioner, is now the proud parent of baby Aria. Miss Amy Peters, one of our P5 teachers last year has also given birth and her baby is called Josephine. Congratulations to both families!

School Lunches

The school dining hall is back in use at lunchtimes, however, there are still restrictions around year groups mixing, therefore we are phasing this return. At the moment, Primary 1 and Primary 2 (including P2s from the P2/3 class) are eating in the dining hall.

East Craigs - A Nut-Free Zone

Please note that we have several pupils in school with a nut allergy. Therefore, pupils must not bring nuts or nut products into school. Thank you!

Nursery Update

The settling in period for new Nursery pupils is going very smoothly. Parents/carers have met their child’s keyworker and pupils have enjoyed short play sessions and exploring all areas of the nursery. Our returning pupils are also happy to be back.

Pupils attending Forest Kindergarten have also been getting to know their key adults and new, exciting environment! Well done and thank you to everyone!



Learning Journals

We will be using Learning Journals again this session from Nursery – P7, as a way of keeping you informed of your child’s learning and progress. The first post for all pupils from P1 – P7 was posted on Wednesday 1st September, and you should have received a notification about this. Please talk to your child about the photo and story. Nursery parents will receive information about Learning Journals in a separate letter.

If you have any difficulties accessing your child’s learning Journal, please email admin@eastcraigs.edin.sch.uk

We will also be asking all parents from P2 – P7 for their views on our first year of using Learning Journals. Please look out for a link to the survey, which will be sent to you very soon.

To access your child’s Learning Journal, go to <https://eastcraigs.yourlearningjournals.co.uk/Login.aspx>



School uniform and what to bring to school

Our pupils look very smart in their East Craigs uniform and wearing this also helps develop a sense of belonging to the school. If your child is still requiring some items of uniform for the new school year, or has grown out of last year’s clothing, don’t forget about our popular **uniform exchange – this is a great opportunity to keep your child kitted out for school at no cost to yourself.** Please contact the school office for more information.

Pupils are continuing to learn outside as much as possible, and PE lessons are also still being held outside, so a **waterproof jacket** and **sturdy shoes or trainers** are a must.

COViD restrictions do not permit changing into PE kit in school, therefore your child should come to school wearing the usual **school polo shirt and sweatshirt** and **joggers or shorts** suitable for play/sports outside.

All pupils must also have a pair of **indoor shoes**, to keep the school clean and feet comfortable and dry.

Thank you!

SWAY

We are hoping to change our current School Newsletter to a more interactive and engaging format. Sway is part of Microsoft Office 365. Please click on the link below for more information about “Sway” and to see an example. Send us your views to let us know if you think this might work as the new type of newsletter! Thank you!

<https://sway.office.com/ap6QJqj2Aa2w8KUF?ref=Link>



PTA Update

Hello and a Warm Welcome to East Craigs!

Whether you’re new to East Craigs or if you’ve been with us for a while, what better way could there be to meet other parents than to get involved with the fun events that we hold here throughout the year?

At the present time we have a small number of people on the PTA. Inevitably each year we lose some of those parents as their children move onto the next school, so it’s key that we get new parents coming through right from Nursery/P1 to take on the small task of getting involved.

All we ask is that you spare a few hours a month or as much time as you can. The more people we have on this fantastic team, the less everyone has to do. If we can build a team large enough, it may be that we all only do 1 or 2 events a year, rather than a small group having to attend every single event and missing out on being at these events with their own children.

Information about the first PTA meeting of the session will be sent to you very soon!



Parent Council (ECPC) News

ECPC main aims are:

- to support the school in its partnerships with pupils and parents/carers
- to represent the views of parents/carers
- to promote relationships between the school, parents, carers, pupils, providers of nursery education and the community
- co-chairs are involved in the appointment of senior promoted members of staff

We would love to have parents/carers involved from every year group to ensure that everyone is represented, therefore hearing all viewpoints.

Please feel free to contact us:

Email – eastcraigspc@live.com

Twitter @ecpcinfo

Or via the School Office

Current Co-Chairs– Caroline Wilkinson(Parent P5) and Nicki Russell(Parent P7)

The first ECPC meeting will take place on **Wednesday 29 September at 6.45pm**. Due to coronavirus restrictions, the meeting will need to be held virtually, on Microsoft Teams. Please email admin@eastcraigs.edin.sch.uk by Monday 27 September to receive a link to join the meeting. Thank you!

Dates for your Diary

Monday 20 September – Holiday Monday

Wednesday 29 September 6.45pm – Parent Council (ECPC) meeting on Teams

Friday 15 October – End of term, holiday week begins

Monday 25 October – In-Service Day (staff only in school)

Tuesday 26 October – All pupils return

Friday 17 December – Christmas holidays begin

Wednesday 5 January 2022 – In-Service Day (staff only)

Thursday 6 January 2022 – All pupils return