

Maidenhill Primary School

Head Teacher's Bulletin



Friday 15th November

Dear Parents/ Carers

I am writing my bulletin this week after having been away from Maidenhill for the last three days. Although it is always interesting to have the opportunity to meet up with other Head Teachers, to work collaboratively and share practice, I am greatly looking forward to being back in school on Monday. The daily commute into Hope Street is definitely something I can live without!

Sitting in traffic has at least let my old knees recover from last week's MUGA Dash. Our Pupil Council did a fantastic job of organising the day and all of our children (and many of our parents) put a phenomenal effort into the dash. Thanks to the outstanding generosity of our parents, friends and families, our children have managed to raise over £1229 for our School Fund- amazing! I cannot thank you enough for your support in this- our first spend from the fund will be for our Christmas parties in December.

I have also to say a huge thank you to all the parents who gave up a Friday evening to run the Hallowe'en Disco for our children. It really was a fantastic night and the children all seemed to be having a ball. Special mention to Mrs Lamont who has missed her vocation in terms of event planning. Her organisation skills and attention to detail are second-to-none.

With Hallowe'en and Bonfire Night out the way, we turn our attention to the next big seasonal event in the calendar. If you are updating your seasonal décor this year (peacock blue-out; rich amethyst-in, apparently) we would be extremely grateful for any donations of pre-loved baubles, trees, wreaths etc. to help us build up a stock of festive decorations. Anything that you are able to hand in to our office would be much appreciated.

Parent Consultation Feedback

Thank you to everyone who completed our online feedback survey following our Parent Consultation Evening. Twenty Two responses gave us the following results:

- *How user friendly was our online booking system? Score: 4.59 (out of 5)*

The online booking system that we used this time round was provided to us on a free-trial basis. This gives us the opportunity to review the system before potentially booking it again. It is highly likely, given East Renfrewshire's core Local Improvement Priority of developing digital capacity, future events will be organised using an online booking system.

- *How convenient was the range of appointment times? Score: 5*

All responders unanimously welcomed the range of appointment times. For as long as our class sizes allow, we will continue to have this model as an option when teachers meet to negotiate their Working Time Agreement in May 2020.

- *How valuable do you find parent consultation appointments in updating you on your child's progress? Score: 4.68*

Two responders stated that they would prefer having appointments in classrooms. Similarly two responders stated their preference for the one central location. Two responders stated that they would welcome longer (15 minute) appointments. Several responders would value having the opportunity to look at examples of learning prior to their appointment. All responses will be considered before planning March's event and before negotiating the teacher's Working Time Agreement in May 2020.

World of Work Week

Last week's World of Work Week was a huge success with all our children experiencing a range of opportunities to identify and explore skills that are necessary in the modern, constantly evolving workplace. The week culminated in our Dress for the Future Day and an interactive, pupil-led jobs fair in our atrium. Special thanks to Miss Atkin and Miss Bannerman for their organisation and to all the parents who visited classes to share their experiences and provide a 'real life' context.

Book Week Scotland

w/b 18th November is Book Week Scotland, giving us the opportunity to further celebrate and promote the joy of reading. This coincides nicely with the arrival last week of our brand new library books, which are already going down a storm with the children who have had the chance to sample them. Our staff will now begin the long (but extremely worthwhile) task of banding our fantastic books so that we can guide our children to appropriate texts. Book Week Scotland will culminate with a visit from children's author, Simon Puttock, and a Bookbug Bag launch event for available Primary 1 parents/ family members on Friday November 22nd at 11 am.

NHS Flu Vaccination Programme

The NHS's flu vaccination programme for Maidenhill, which was due to take place on November 11th, was cancelled at short notice. We have not yet been informed of a re-arranged date but I will let you know as soon as I hear.

Key Dates for Terms 2, 3 and 4

Thursday November 21st- Whole school photograph

Friday November 22nd- Primary 1 Bookbug Bag gifting event, 11.00 am

Friday November 29th- Be Bright Day

Monday December 16th- P3, 4 and 5 Christmas Party (pm)

Tuesday December 17th- Nursery Nativity, am and pm

Wednesday December 18th- P1 and 2 Christmas Party (am)

Thursday December 19th- School Nativity, 9.30am and 1.45pm

Friday December 20th- School closes for Christmas Holiday

Monday January 6th- School re-opens for Term 3

Friday January 24th- Tartan Day- a celebration of all things Scottish; tartan optional!

Thursday January 30th- Learn With Us Afternoon 2, 2.00-2.45pm

Thursday February 27th- STEM Fayre, time tbc.

from Tuesday 24th March - Scholastic Book Fair comes to Maidenhill

Thursday March 26th - Parent Consultation Evening 2, from 3.30pm

Friday April 3rd- P4/5 Assembly; P4/5 Parents/ carers welcome to attend

Friday April 3rd- School closes for Spring Holiday

Monday April 20th- School re-opens for Term 4
Thursday May 7th- INSET Day
Friday May 8th- Holiday
Friday May 15th- P1 Assembly; P1 Parents/ carers welcome
Friday May 22nd and Monday May 25th- Holiday
Tuesday May 26th- INSET Day
Tuesday June 2nd- Nursery Sports
Thursday June 4th- School Sports
Friday June 12th- Summative reports issued to parents/ carers
Thursday June 25th- Nursery Graduation, am

Alasdair McDonald
Head Teacher