

Maidenhill Primary School

Head Teacher's Bulletin



Friday 10th January 2020

Dear Parents/ Carers

Happy New Year! I hope everyone enjoyed a relaxing festive break and a positive start to 2020. A huge thank you for everyone's support and good wishes in December- the kind feedback from our nativity performances was much appreciated by our incredibly hard-working children and staff. Mrs Brown, the Parent Council and all our parent volunteers did an outstanding job in terms of fund raising, including an amazing raffle and some equally amazing home baking. For those who are worried they have missed out on one of the season's hot trends and are fearful of becoming a bit of a social pariah, do not panic; I believe that our school office still has limited stock of the super-stylish Maidenhill tote bags. Get in quick to avoid disappointment!

If you haven't had the chance to visit our book swap stand at the front entrance foyer, please feel free to pop in when you can. We feel passionately about promoting a culture of reading for pleasure and for broadening horizons. We believe this happens best when a whole community is actively engaged in reading for pleasure and sharing such a culture as well as sharing texts. We have books to suit all ages, so feel free to pick up a new book or leave behind an old favourite and help our children see that reading is a joy rather than just a chore.

Although the new term has only just started, don't forget that the Scottish Government have called for all schools to have an extra INSET day in February. This means that the school and nursery class will close for children on Thursday February 6th and will not re-open until Thursday February 13th.

Tartan Day

Our first event on this term's calendar is Tartan Day on Friday January 24th. This will be an opportunity for children in each class to investigate and celebrate our Scottish culture and to share poetry, songs, dancing and even some drama. Although children should ostensibly wear their school uniforms on the day, they are free to 'tartan-up' their look if they wish.

Official Opening

Now that election-mania seems like a distant memory, Maidenhill's postponed official opening will take place on the morning of Wednesday January 29th. The event is being coordinated by East Renfrewshire Education Department but Parent Council members should anticipate an invitation in the not-too-distant future.

Learn With Us Afternoon 2

Following the success of our first Learn With Us Afternoon back in September, Learn With Us Afternoon: The Sequel will take place on Thursday January 30th, from 2.00- 2.45 pm. Family members are welcome to visit their children in class to share in a learning experience and maybe even learn from the children themselves. Although we are conscious it is not always possible for family members to attend events like this during the course of the day, feedback from the last session indicated that most people who were able to attend were happy with the timing and arrangements. As before, our teachers will work hard to make sure all children feel included whether it is possible for a family member to attend or not.

P1 and Nursery Applications– Session 20/21

The closing date for online applications for P1 for Session 20/21 was on Sunday January 5th. Parents who have made an online application should bring all supporting paperwork to our school office during office hours next week (Monday 13th– Friday 17th). If you have missed the deadline for online applications, please contact our office as soon as possible to set up an appointment for making an application in person. I will write to the parents/ carers of all new P1 pupils when places have been confirmed (usually towards the end of April). In the meantime, we have pencilled in the following dates for our new entrant induction sessions:

- Wednesday May 20th, @ 5.30 pm– Parent/ Carer information session (parents/ carers only)
- Tuesday June 9th. @ 9.30 am–10.20 am, Come and Play morning (children and parents/ carers)
- Thursday June 18th @ 1.50 pm– 2.40 pm, Come and Play afternoon (children and parents/ carers)

The deadline for applying for a nursery class place for Session 20/21 is February 29th. This application should also be made directly to the Education Department using the form on East Renfrewshire's website.

Key Dates for Terms 3 and 4

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

Friday February 7th– INSET Day

Monday February 10th and Tuesday February 11th– Holiday

Wednesday February 12th– INSET Day

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 @ 11 am; 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