

Maidenhill Primary School

Head Teacher's Bulletin



Friday 24th January 2020

Dear Parents/ Carers

As you will be aware, next Wednesday sees the official opening of Maidenhill Primary School and Nursery Class. This is another important milestone in our Maidenhill journey and another great opportunity to reflect on the progress we have all made since opening our doors in August last year. Although we are very well established in our new school, with some of us-myself included- finding it hard to remember a time before Maidenhill Primary, we look forward to commemorating our opening in an 'official' capacity on the 29th. The ceremony is at 9.45 am. Hopefully all Parent Council members have already received their invites (if not, please contact our school office) and we would like to now extend the invitation to our wider parent forum. If you are interested in attending please get in touch with Mrs Fraser or Ms Robertson in the office.

We were delighted to welcome new children and new families to our Maidenhill community at the start of this term, with the roll in Primary 1-5 now exceeding 100- another milestone! As I had the opportunity to say a quick hello last week to some of the families making applications for Primary 1 spaces next session, I was struck by the fact that our roll will grow further, probably by at least 50%, by August of this year. I feel confident, however, that no matter how quickly our school grows, our pupils, staff and parents will continue to extend the warm welcome to all newcomers that has already become a hallmark of the school community.

Learn With Us Afternoon

Don't forget our second Learn With Us Afternoon 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.

School Uniform

Many thanks to everyone who is helping us to maintain our high uniform standards- it is much appreciated. In line with East Renfrewshire policy and all schools in the area, I strongly believe that high expectations in terms of our uniform send a positive message about the value we place on our children's education and also helps us to project the image we wish to have within the wider community. I know the children all seem very proud of their common identity and the part they played in designing the uniform. The uniform looks amazing when we see the children all gathered together and I would be extremely grateful if children could wear their shirts and ties for the Official Opening on Wednesday.

If you are experiencing trouble in accessing any uniform items, please get in touch- we are keen that no child feels different or out of step with their peers. We will review our uniform policy by the end of this session and I look forward to hearing any suggestions for moving forward.

In addition, I would be extremely grateful if you could donate any spare or outgrown uniform items to our school office. We are in particular need at the moment of clean trousers, skirts, pants, socks and tights as we rely on donations to help us out when a child requires to get changed during the course of the day. All donations in good condition are very welcome.

East Renfrewshire Standardised Testing Programme

Children in Primary 3, 5 and 7 across all East Renfrewshire Schools will shortly begin standardised testing in reading and numeracy/ mathematics. The testing programme will be carried out by Miss Shaw and myself within the children's usual classroom environment. All effort is taken to minimise any anxiety children may feel about the testing process and we do not intend to intimate in advance the specific dates and times of the tests to the children.

Test papers will then be marked centrally with children's results (set against an East Renfrewshire standard of 100) returned to us be used diagnostically and to be reported to parents in our summative reports in June.

French Activities

Do you possess that certain *je ne sais quoi*? If so, we are looking for your help. If you are a confident French speaker and would be able to help out for short time during the day with games or craft activities, I would be delighted to hear from. Please get in touch.

Key Dates for Terms 3 and 4

Wednesday January 29th- Official Opening, 9.45 am- shirts and ties if possible, please

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