

Maidenhill Primary School

Head Teacher's Bulletin



Friday 14 February 2020

Dear Parents/ Carers

It was great to see the children all out playing in the snow yesterday- they really seemed to be having a ball and the smiling faces said it all. The adults actually seemed to be enjoying it too! We will always seize as many opportunities as we can to have the children playing outdoors and feel that the social interaction and resilience that come from this are crucial to our young people's development. We were delighted to see so many children coming to school in sensible footwear- it always makes things easier for us. If possible, a spare pair of socks or tights in school bags is always a good idea. The snow never really stays around for long, so we aim to make the most of it when we see it.

I spent three days the other week in the city centre attending the second part of an Evolving Systems Leadership course. The learning from the course, particularly in relation to the approaches taken towards systems leadership and collaborative learning networks in recent years in Ontario, is fascinating- although I can appreciate that not everyone will necessarily share my enthusiasm so will spare you any further details! One piece of learning that is relevant to us all, however, actually came from a copy of the Metro that I picked up on my morning bus journey. I was shocked to read a report identifying that Scottish children on average spend only 15 minutes a week engaged in reading books outwith the school day. My initial reaction was one of disbelief, however the more I have thought about it the more I realise there may well be a degree of accuracy in this report.

This has definitely fuelled my belief that as a school community it is absolutely imperative we foster a culture of quality, enjoyable reading experiences based on a shared love of texts and rich conversations about what we choose to read. With the support of our community, I have no doubt that we are fostering a love of reading and books in school and at home that will see the children of Maidenhill bucking the national trend.

Official Opening

After what seems like a very long wait, Maidenhill Primary & Nursery Class was officially opened by Education Convener, Councillor Paul O'Kane on Wednesday 29th January. The ceremony was simple, fuss-free and allowed for all of our children to come along- ideal! Our Pupil Council members were excellent and responsible helpers on the day and our P5 poets did us proud when reciting their special commemorative poetry. Considering they only formed this session, our choir did an amazing job; stirring our emotions with three beautiful pieces including our very own Maidenhill Song, composed by the very talented Mrs Hamilton and unveiled here for the very first time.

Now that we have officially opened, there is no turning back! Many thanks to our Parent Council members and all other family/ community members who were able to come along to help us commemorate this special occasion.

Learn With Us Afternoon

Thank you to everyone who was able to come along to our second Learn With Us Afternoon on January 30th. The children really seem to enjoy the opportunity to share their learning with all the adult visitors to their classes and, as I walked around, there seemed to be a real buzz to the afternoon. I appreciate that it can be hard for working parents to always attend events like this during the school day- we are open to any practical ideas about how we can potentially solve this problem in a way that is not to the detriment of our pupils, staff or parents. All sensible ideas welcomed so please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Spring Disco

Our fantastic Parent Council volunteers have organised another disco for the children on Thursday March 19th. Primary 1-2's disco is from 6.15-7.15pm, with Primary 3-5 from 7.30-8.30pm. Tickets cost £5, including snack and 'min-stalls', and are available on the door.

Authority Questionnaire Programme

Maidenhill Primary has been selected to be part of East Renfrewshire's Authority Questionnaire Programme for this year and I would be grateful if parents of children in Primary 1-5 could take time to complete the following survey:

<https://getinvolved.eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk/education/80b6ba5a/>

As we have only been open for 6 months and our first school session is yet to run its course, I appreciate that it may be difficult for you to fully comment on all aspects of school life. However all and any feedback will be of significant use to us and to the Education Department in planning for improvement and I would appreciate if you can spare some time to let us know what you think. Our older children and our staff will also be asked to complete questionnaires in order that the process can be triangulated.

Key Dates for Terms 3 and 4

Thursday February 27 @ 9.15am- Parent coffee morning; all welcome

Thursday February 27th- STEM Fayre, @ 10 am; join us for coffee (see above) then sample the fun of the Fayre

w/b Monday March 9th- Nursery Class Pop In and Play Week

Thursday March 12th- Nursery Parent Forum

w/b Monday March 16th – Nursery Parent Consultations (sign-up sheet in nursery)

Thursday March 19th – Parent Council Spring Disco

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