

Maidenhill Primary School

Head Teacher's Bulletin



Friday 28 February 2020

Dear Parents/ Carers

There was a real buzz about Maidenhill yesterday as children from our nursery class to Primary 4/5 took part in our STEM Fayre. Many family members were able to join us for a tea or coffee and then visit the learning stations organised by the children. This was a culmination of several weeks of interdisciplinary learning combining Sciences, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics and gave the children a great opportunity to reflect on their own learning whilst sharing it with others.

Our nursery children had been learning to use picture cues to operate programmable devices, whilst Primary 1 were inputting instructions for our Bee-bots and testing the properties of several materials. Primary 2 had been investigating the properties of light and were testing whether the shape of an object has an impact on its force in building designs. Primary 3 had designed Maths games which operated by using magnets and Primary 4/5 had been investigating and designing objects which fly as well as providing design solutions for a range of given problems. Well done to everyone for all the hard work. Thanks also to Ross from Rolls Royce and to Mr Finlayson for visiting our children during the course of the week, sharing aspects of their work and providing some inspiration.

We often hear from national guidance and media about the importance of 'Developing the Young Workforce' and yesterday really brought home to me how important STEM skills are going to be to our children as they prepare for and develop future career paths. It is vital, however, that we do not forget the importance and joy of learning across all areas of the curriculum in terms of broadening our horizons, informing our beliefs and values and stimulating our imagination and creativity. Learning to play the trumpet or having a love for 'Wuthering Heights' (the novel, not the Kate Bush single-showing my age with that reference!) may not have as immediately obvious a link to 'Developing the Young Workforce', but they are no less valuable in terms of the well-rounded, expressive and socially skilful adults we want our children to become and we must never lose sight of their importance.

Outdoor Play and Learning

The weather continues to dominate much of our daily lives and conversation, none more so than at Maidenhill. Despite this, it is absolutely essential that our children have the opportunity to play and learn outdoors as much as possible and the further day of fun in the snow that we had yesterday emphasised just how valuable it is to the children's social interaction and resilience. For the most part, our children are coming to school fully equipped for all weather conditions and we greatly appreciate your diligence in this matter. Even if your child has good waterproof shoes or boots, a spare pair of socks or tights in a school bag (just in case) would always be a sensible idea as we would never want anyone to miss out on the fun of outdoor play or a valuable outdoor learning opportunity.

World Book Day and Scholastic Book Fair

Thursday 5 March is World Book Day and teachers are planning a variety of activities to help children celebrate the day in class. I am aware there has been a bit of a backlash about the day in recent years due to the over-commercialisation of some of the celebrations (Hallowe'en Mark II?) and the pressure it places on parents to make/ buy increasingly outlandish costumes. If anyone wishes to wear a full costume, not a problem; however this is not something that we will be placing a particular focus on.

At Maidenhill the culture of reading for enjoyment, which is at the forefront of our approach to Literacy, means that we are keen to continue celebrating this event by giving it a wee bit of a re-boot and really focusing it on opportunities for shared reading and talking about books. Please see the attached flyer for more information.

In addition, the Scholastic Book Fair arrives at Maidenhill on Monday 23rd March. This is a great opportunity for parents and children to buy some fantastic new books and to help gain commission for the school. I am looking for parent volunteers to help run the Book Fair on the afternoons of Tuesday 24th, Wednesday 25th, Thursday 26th and Friday 27th, from 2.30-3.30pm. If you can spare some time on any of these days to help, please get in touch with our school office. In addition, we are hoping to keep the Book Fair open throughout our Parent Consultation Evening on March 26th.

Spring Disco

Don't forget- 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 'mini-stalls', and are available on the door.

Key Dates for Terms 3 and 4

Thursday March 5th- World Book day
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