

Maidenhill Primary School

Head Teacher's Bulletin



Friday 24 April 2020

Dear Parents/ Carers

Five weeks on from Maidenhill shutting its doors and already it feels like a lifetime ago! In reality, the doors never shut- the building itself is being used by East Renfrewshire's Facilities Team to coordinate free meal provision for hundreds of children across the authority and is a hive of activity. I got the chance to escape from our Hub at St Clare's/ Calderwood Lodge on Wednesday (thanks, Miss Shaw) and go back up to work in Maidenhill. I was so impressed by the number of council staff who have volunteered to be re-deployed from their normal duties and who were busy helping out this vital work. It was great to see that the building was not lying empty and was being put to good use.

The school as a community has not shut its doors either- online learning resumed on Monday following the spring break and proved to be so popular that the sheer volume of children accessing it resulted in a few technical glitches! It is great to know that our children and families are engaging with this. Miss Shaw and the team are constantly monitoring and reviewing what we are doing and we will let you know of any changes or future developments. As long as you're happy for photos to be shared on our Twitter feed (without names), let us know about your child's achievements and progress and if you need to get in touch for any reason, please don't hesitate to contact us via schoolmail@maidenhill.e-renfrew.sch.uk. We are conscious that parents are being bombarded from all directions with different links to various home learning and online resources. This is obviously great but I have no doubt it may feel overwhelming at times. Miss Atkin and a team of staff are working hard to pull a lot of this information together into one updated home learning document- watch this space.

Our Hub children have also had a busy week with two visits from our Active Schools Coordinators and plenty of opportunities to enjoy the good weather. They are a resilient bunch and continue to be absolute stars throughout all of this.

It is increasingly clear that there will be no overnight return to normal. As soon as key decisions are filtered down from the Scottish Government and our education department, I will be able to share details of our recovery planning with you. In the meantime, I want to thank you for everything you are doing at the moment to help keep our children safe, well and learning. Nobody ever said the role of a parent was easy but now, more than ever, our children are relying on you. Without the social stimulus of their friends, classmates and school staff, they will be looking for that stimulus and interaction from you. Not easy, I know, when you are trying to work from home or you're a key worker working every hour of the day on the frontline! Many of you will be facing new pressures and will be coping with your own routines being turned upside down. I do not underestimate the challenges you will be facing and the sacrifices you will be making- keep up the excellent work and I am sure it will pay dividend for our children in the months and years to come.

Recruitment

Congratulations to our 4 newly recruited teachers for Session 20/21. Miss Waddell, who is currently teaching P4/5 this year, successfully secured a permanent position within Maidenhill. She will be joined by Mr Edge, currently at Kirkhill Primary, Mrs Barnett-Main, an experienced teacher currently within a South Lanarkshire school, and Mr Milligan, currently at Carolside Primary. We are delighted to have them all on board and wish them well in their new posts.

I spent the day yesterday recruiting for Maidenhill's very first Principal Teacher. Interviews were conducted remotely via Zoom and I was highly impressed by the standard of the 10 leeted candidates and the time taken and effort made to prepare. I will share the outcome of the interview process with you when confirmed. In the meantime, if this is the way it has to be, I will have to do a bit more work on my Zoom face and posture!

P1 and Nursery Induction

We will shortly have details of the children who will form our new intake for Primary 1 and our Nursery Class for next session. This is always an exciting time for us and for the children and families involved. When confirmed, I will write to these families giving some indication of our revised induction plans. It is clear that this process will not take place quite as planned but I would like to reassure parents by pointing out how well last year's intake coped with their out-of-the-ordinary induction. I have every confidence that our new children will be no different and we will be on hand to support in any way we possibly can.

Key Dates for 4

Thursday May 7th – INSET Day

Friday May 8th – Holiday

Friday May 15th – P1 Assembly; P1 Parents/ carers welcome – **CANCELLED**

Friday May 22nd and Monday May 25th – Holiday

Tuesday May 26th – INSET Day

Tuesday June 2nd – Nursery Sports – **TBC**

Thursday June 4th – School Sports – **TBC**

Friday June 12th – Summative reports issued to parents/ carers

Thursday June 25th – Nursery Graduation, am – **TBC**

And finally, please let the children know how much I miss them. My work is 100 (or 162, to be exact) times more peaceful but 100 times duller without them!

Take care,

Alasdair McDonald

Head Teacher