

# Maidenhill Primary School

## Head Teacher's Bulletin



Thursday 7 May 2020

Dear Parents/ Carers

Amongst all the chatter and occasional mixed-messages about easing lockdown, it is increasingly clear that schools in Scotland will not fully return to normal any time soon. As I write, there are no definite plans or timescales in place for re-opening but it is apparent, whether schools begin to open up before or after the summer break, that re-opening will likely happen with a phased approach. This will mean that selected children only may attend initially or groups/ stages will attend at certain points of the day or week. Routines (including dropping-off and picking-up times) may be very different. Online learning will likely continue to be part of children's educational experience for some time to come and the need for social distancing will remain crucial (a huge challenge for any school or nursery setting!) The potential for a future partial or full closure will remain.

I have no doubt that this will continue to have a significant impact on your family and working lives. We are all eager for life to return to normal as quickly as possible, but it is important to be up-front and realistic about what we are facing. I am ever hopeful that most employers will also be realistic about the challenges families will continue to face and will be eager to remain flexible and accommodating, but I don't think it can be too early to start having those conversations now!

As a (new) member of the Education Department's Recovery Planning Working Group, I would be really keen to hear your views or ideas on how we could re-open in a way that best supports our children but also ensures our staff and our families feel confident and safe. Share your thoughts with me via [schoolmail@maidenhill.e-renfrew.sch.uk](mailto:schoolmail@maidenhill.e-renfrew.sch.uk)

### Online and Home Learning

Thank you again for all the support you are showing our children in helping them to engage with our online learning. Last week, approximately 90% of our children from P1-5 were engaging regularly and I know this would not be happening without your hard work at home. We are really keen to make this 100% in the coming weeks, but do appreciate that home learning does not always need to happen online and that children may not be able to engage at certain times for a variety of reasons. We are also conscious that this will also be a very overwhelming experience for many parents. If you are looking for any guidance or support in helping your child to engage, do not hesitate to get in touch via [schoolmail@maidenhill.e-renfrew.sch.uk](mailto:schoolmail@maidenhill.e-renfrew.sch.uk)

We know our nursery class children will be learning and developing in many different ways at home, but we are also keen that they are able to engage at times with some of the fantastic resources, photos and film clips that Andrea, Dyan and the team have been sharing via their Google Classroom. I would continue to encourage you to log in and try some active activities for children to engage in (all with a literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing focus and a few added extras from our nursery team) in order to support the transition for our pre-school aged children as well as developing these all important foundations for our 3 year olds. If you have not been able to access the nursery Classroom, please don't hesitate to get in touch with Miss Shaw via [schoolmail@maidenhill.sch.uk](mailto:schoolmail@maidenhill.sch.uk) and she will respond as quickly as possible with information on how to log in.

As promised Miss Atkin has been working flat out to develop an updated home learning guide, 'Maidenhill's Top Tips for School Closures'. This is a fantastic piece of work and I am absolutely certain you will find it of great use:

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/er/public/maidenhill/uploads/sites/17578/2020/05/07115554/Maidenhills-Top-Tips-for-School-Closures-Booklet.pdf>

## Recruitment

Speaking of Miss Atkin, I am delighted to announce her appointment as Maidenhill's very first Principal Teacher. I am sure this will come as no surprise to those of you who are aware of the power of work Lesley has been doing behind the scenes this year, particularly in terms of curriculum development. Her work ethic and commitment to Maidenhill make me confident that she will be an extremely valuable addition to our small Leadership Team when she takes up her new post in August.

## P1 and Nursery Induction

Recent temporary adjustments to the legislation and timescales around placing requests and the 1140 hours early years provision mean that our new entrants for Primary 1 and our nursery class have not yet been fully confirmed. This should happen shortly and as soon as I am able to access this information I will write to all parents of new entrants to give further information about the (revised) transition and induction arrangements for their child. I can imagine this is a very unsettling experience for children and families who are due to join us in August- please be assured that we haven't forgotten about you and will be in touch as soon as we can.

## Key Dates for Term 4/ Term 1 2020-21

Thursday May 7<sup>th</sup>- INSET Day

Friday May 8<sup>th</sup>- Holiday

Friday May 15<sup>th</sup>- P1 Assembly; P1 Parents/ carers welcome- **CANCELLED**

Friday May 22<sup>nd</sup> and Monday May 25<sup>th</sup>- Holiday

Tuesday May 26<sup>th</sup>- INSET Day

Tuesday June 2<sup>nd</sup>- Nursery Sports- **TBC**

Thursday June 4<sup>th</sup>- School Sports- **TBC**

Friday June 12<sup>th</sup>- Summative reports issued to parents/ carers

Thursday June 25<sup>th</sup>- Nursery Graduation, am -**TBC**

Monday August 17<sup>th</sup>- INSET Day

Tuesday August 18<sup>th</sup>- INSET Day

Wednesday August 19<sup>th</sup>- Pupils due to return for Session 20/21

Apologies if I have started this bulletin with a bit of a downbeat tone; not my preferred way of doing things but it is important to be realistic so that we can all be prepared. Whether we open partially or fully, next week, next month or beyond, I am confident that we will all have our children's best interests at heart.....and let's face it- there is nothing that a smiling face, a lightbulb moment or a daft story from a child can't make better (although, after 7 weeks of lockdown, even that may be wearing thin for some parents....!)

Take care,

Alasdair McDonald  
Head Teacher