

# Maidenhill Primary School

## Head Teacher's Bulletin



Thursday 21 May 2020

Dear Parents/ Carers

Hope this finds you and your family well. My weekly visit back up to Maidenhill on a Wednesday is an absolute joy. The trees are all looking healthier, stronger and less wind-swept, the grass has a glossy sheen (the benefit of not having 162 pairs of little and not-so-little feet trampling over it daily) and all the bulbs that our nursery staff planted have bloomed and are adding colour. It just a shame that we are not all there to enjoy it! If I was of a slightly more poetic-bent, I could really go to town on the symbolism and pathos of the scene but you will be no doubt glad that I am sparing you my efforts.

As I write, however, we are awaiting further detail from the Scottish Government on the route map for reopening schools. As I think everyone is aware, it is highly unlikely that there will be a blanket, full-time reopening in the near future. As soon as I have enough detail to inform our recovery plan, I will get back to you.

It has been great to spot some of you out exercising over the last few weeks as I make my way up and down to the Hub (surely the government might want to wave the need to pass a driving test in these difficult times). You are a very healthy bunch! It's been really nice to have a brief (socially distant) catch up and to hear how your kids are doing.

### Remote Learning

As we start to accept that remote learning will continue to play a part in how we educate our children moving forward, the Education Department is looking at ways to ensure consistency in approaches to video tutorials and, potentially, live broadcasting in some circumstances. Miss Atkin has joined an authority working group to provide East Renfrewshire teachers with guidance and support in this area in Numeracy and Mathematics and a similar group will be looking at Literacy across the authority. I am also aware that staff from Mearns Castle High have been keen to use Google Meet to pilot some live tutorials in some departments. Although the focus and the clear steer from the government when remote learning began was on the consolidation of prior learning and core skills, it is good to know that there is a willingness amongst the teachers of East Renfrewshire to think innovatively about how we can start to incorporate new learning.

Again, our engagement from children in our remote learning programme is sitting around 90% for our children in P1-5 and we have seen a huge increase in the number of our nursery children engaging in their Google Classroom. Thank you so much for everything you are doing at the moment. We are still concerned that we have a very small number of children across the school who may be missing out- please do get in touch if you feel we can help you in any way to get your child to engage.

Just a reminder that any comments or queries related to our remote learning should be directed to [schoolmail@maidenhill.e-renfrew.sch.uk](mailto:schoolmail@maidenhill.e-renfrew.sch.uk). As per our guidelines issued in March, teachers are unable to respond to anything posted through Google Classrooms. Miss Shaw holds the overview for all of our Google Classrooms, so anything e-mailed in relation to remote learning will be forwarded to her. She will liaise with the appropriate teacher and get back to you as soon as possible.

If you haven't had the chance to look at Miss Atkin's home learning guide, 'Maidenhill's Top Tips for School Closures', make sure you don't miss out:

[https://glowscotland-my.sharepoint.com/:b:/g/personal/gw10atkinlesley\\_glow\\_sch\\_uk/EUPZ-H\\_3SaNOmjwU0jZyq70BIQYG\\_U16mK0Rz0T-b\\_i24A?e=hrtb4n](https://glowscotland-my.sharepoint.com/:b:/g/personal/gw10atkinlesley_glow_sch_uk/EUPZ-H_3SaNOmjwU0jZyq70BIQYG_U16mK0Rz0T-b_i24A?e=hrtb4n)

## Classification

Finalising details for a new school session is always subject to a variety of ever-changing factors which continue to remain fluid right up until the end of June (and sometimes beyond). The degree of uncertainty we all face at the moment has multiplied this by about 100!

Despite this it is looking highly likely that we will have two Primary 1 classes, identified as 1a and 1b for registration purposes but basically working as a single, extended class with 2 teachers. This has worked really well this year and will definitely be our plan for next session (social distancing guidelines notwithstanding).

We will also have two Primary 2 classes, each with their own class base but with plentiful opportunities for children to play and learn with others across the entire stage. More details for parents of children in next session's Primary 2 will be issued separately in June.

It is likely that we will also be running with Primary 3, Primary 4, Primary 5 and Primary 6/7 classes.

When our staffing arrangements are finalised, I will inform you of the teachers for each of these classes in June. I am sure you will understand when I say I am always cautious when announcing class teachers. I would much rather hold off until things are looking certain than let the children think one thing and then have to change at the last minute.

## P1 and Nursery New Entrants

We are hoping that the details of our Primary 1 and Nursery Class new entrants will be released to us imminently and I will write to all parents of new entrants to give further information about the (revised) transition, induction and joining arrangements for their child.

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

Tuesday May 26<sup>th</sup>- INSET Day- **please note no new remote learning will be posted on this day**

Thursday June 4<sup>th</sup>- Possible virtual sports day- **watch this space**

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- **TBC**

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

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

On a final note, I wandered around the playground to take a look at our willow tunnel. It has really taken off and looks amazing- Mrs Hamilton has suggested I hire it out for weddings! It made me think of this quote about resilience, adaptability and surviving very windy playgrounds from Robert Jordan:

**"The oak fought the wind and was broken; the willow bent when it had to and survived"**

Take care,

Alasdair McDonald  
Head Teacher