

Maidenhill Primary School

Head Teacher's Bulletin



Friday June 5 2020

Dear Parents/ Carers

Hope this finds you and your family well. It's hard to believe we are in June already-always a busy time of any school year with Sports Day usually a firm favourite come rain or shine (and in 19 years of sports days, I would say 80% rain/ 20% shine and that's being generous). Many thanks to Mr Johnston for organising and to everyone else who contributed in making sure Maidenhill's very first Sports Day went ahead as scheduled, albeit with a more virtual slant than we had first intended. Thank you also to all our enthusiastic children, families and staff who took part. I have thoroughly enjoyed seeing the photos and video clips you have sent in- it was heartening to realise that, despite everything, our school community remains strong. Well done, everyone!

Recovery Planning

Miss Shaw, Miss Atkin and I moved back full time to Maidenhill this week and we are looking forward to being joined by our fantastic 'hub' children (children for whom both parents are essential frontline keyworkers who are unable to work from home) and some of our teachers next week. East Renfrewshire's Health and Safety Team have completed their visits and risk assessments have been carried out to enable this to happen.

In terms of the rest of our plans for June, all our nursery class children who are moving on to P1 in August (regardless of which establishment they are moving on to) have been invited back for some sessions during w/b June 15 and w/b June 22. Children who are joining us in P1 from partner nurseries have also been invited to come along for 'Story and Play' sessions in our playground on Wednesday June 17 and Wednesday June 24.

Parents of children who are due to join our nursery class in August/ September will receive a phone call from a member of our nursery class team in the coming weeks.

Things remain slightly less definite in terms of the plans for August and we continue to wait on further crucial information. A great deal of our planning for August will be dependent on any updates/ changes to social distancing guidelines in Scotland and I know this is a situation which is being continuously discussed and reviewed. I am conscious that we are now only 3 weeks from the end of term- please be as assured I am as eager to have a firm plan in place as you will no doubt be.

What is clear, however, is that learning is likely to follow a blended approach of in-class (approximately 10 hours per week) and remote learning. Even with our growing roll for next year (our school will grow by about 1/2 in August) we are extremely fortunate to continue to have plenty of space which will hopefully make social distancing easier (although not totally straightforward). What will be a crucial factor, however, will be staffing availability as the same number of staff will now need to work with much smaller groups of children whilst also maintaining programmes of online learning. It will be a stretch, but with only 1/2 of our total roll attending at any one time, I am confident it will be do-able. I have written to all our Parent Council members this week to gather initial thoughts and will continue to share details and seek views from the wider parent forum whenever I can. As always, thoughts and ideas to schoolmail@maidenhill.e-renfrew.sch.uk

House System

We are planning to bring forward our plans to introduce a house system to Maidenhill. Our staff will begin to work on this next week and pupils will be consulted, most likely via their Google Classroom. The introduction of the house system will then inform attendance patterns for August with our first priority always being that family groups (placed within the same house) will always attend at the same time.

Summative Reports

Our summative reports (report cards, in old money) are due to be issued by the end of next week. These will be e-mailed to you. They will give you an indication of your child's progress through Curriculum for Excellence as of Friday March 20. They will also indicate standardised results in Literacy and Numeracy for those children in Primary 3 and Primary 5 who sat East Renfrewshire standardised tests in February.

I am very conscious that our second parent consultation evening of the session had to be abandoned and it is now some considerable time since you had a direct update on progress with class teachers. Hopefully the summative report will give you some indication, but it is not always the same as a face-to-face chat. I feel it is important we aim to have a direct update from class teachers as soon as guidance allows us as early in the new session as possible, although we may need to remain flexible on a specific date for this at the moment.

INSET Days

The exact nature of the first few days back in August has not yet been confirmed. I am currently planning based on the supposition that Tuesday August 11 and Wednesday August 12 will be INSET days and that the first day back for children (or for 1/2 of them at least) may be Thursday August 13. Obviously this may be subject to change.

Key Dates for Term 4/ Term 1 2020-21

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

Tuesday August 11th - INSET Day - TBC

Wednesday August 12th - INSET Day - TBC

Thursday August 13th - Pupils due to return for Session 20/21 - TBC

The final words today come from philosopher Henri-Frederic Amiel who said:

"Uncertainty is the refuge of hope"

Take care,

Alasdair McDonald
Head Teacher