

Maidenhill Primary School

Head Teacher's Update



Wednesday August 5 2020

Dear Parents/ Carers

I hope everyone is well and that there has been some opportunity for rest and relaxation over the last few weeks.

Year 2 at Maidenhill is just round the corner and let's hope it proves to be slightly more straightforward than Year 1 was (although I may be being slightly optimistic there!) It's full steam ahead to ensure we are ready to welcome all our children back full time from Wednesday August 12 and although it is unlikely that things will be totally back to normal any time soon, it is an exciting prospect to see all our children and staff back together and to at least make a start in moving towards that new sense of normality.

I appreciate this may well be an anxious time for our children, families and staff. There will be more information from myself and from East Renfrewshire Education Department before Wednesday 12th but I wanted to get in touch to give you some indication about the logistics of our return.

Social Distancing

One of the most significant points from the Scottish Government Guidance published on July 30 is the recommendation that children of nursery/ primary age do not require to social distance from each other. This is fundamental in allowing that full time return. All adults within the school community are, however, encouraged to maintain 2m social distancing. The guidance also acknowledges that in nursery classes and in P1-2 maintaining a social distance between adults and children may not always be possible or desirable.

School Hours

The school day will run as normal, 8.55am-3pm, for all children in P1-P7 (with some exceptions on Day 1- see below) from August 12. There will be new arrangements for drop-off and pick-up and these will be detailed before the 12th.

New Entrants

Our new entrants in Primary 1 should arrive at school for 9.20am on Wednesday August 12. This will allow us to welcome back older children, clear the playground and quickly begin to communicate our new routines to them before Primary 1 children arrive.

On this one occasion, P1 parents may enter the school playground with handover to P1 teachers (plus photo opportunities) all taking place within the playground. Miss Shaw will be on hand to support. Although children do not require to social distance, P1 parents have the responsibility to ensure appropriate social distancing with all adults.

If they feel confident enough, new entrants in P2-P6/7 classes may join the rest of their classmates in the playground for 8.55 am and enter the school along with their new class and teacher on the bell. However they may wish to wait until 9.15 am and meet with Miss Atkin at the entrance plaza at the front of the school. Miss

Atkin will then be able to take each new child to their class and introduce them to their teacher and classmates.

Nursery Children

Miss Shaw is currently contacting parents and carers of all of our new nursery class entrants for August and September to discuss joining arrangements.

All returning nursery class children should arrive promptly for their allocated drop off time (8 or 9am) and line up starting at the bike racks, curling around the nursery and along the gates. A member of our nursery team will be there to welcome your child in to the building. We would ask that each child is supplied with a change of clothes, wellies and waterproof clothing that can be left in the nursery building to reduce the number of items travelling back and forth. Please ensure you supply your child with snacks to eat throughout the day as, unfortunately, we are not able to supply these at this time. All parents should supply their child with a cold packed lunch at this stage.

School Transport

The school bus will run from August 12 and all newly eligible children who applied should have been contacted by the Education Department. In line with government guidelines, the school bus will be considered as an extension to the school estate meaning that children will not be required to socially distance with each other. However, it would be helpful for all younger children to have lots of practice with fastening seatbelts in order to minimise any adult contact they require. Children will be collected from the bus on arrival. They will continue to congregate in the atrium at the end of the day and will be escorted by a member of school staff to the bus. For the first week back, a member of school staff will visit each class to prompt anyone travelling by bus to make their way to the atrium. If your child is newly eligible, please phone or send us an e-mail to let us know their likely pattern of travel.

Lunches

There will be a full lunch service of hot and cold options from August 12. Children in P1-P3 continue to be eligible for a free school meal. Children may also bring a packed lunch if they wish. As we have no refrigeration facilities for packed lunches, parents/ carers may wish to send children with small cool bags as opposed to lunch boxes.

In a change to routine, it is likely that children with packed lunches in P4-7 will eat in our atrium area. Children in P4-7 will probably go out to the playground first before coming back in for lunch.

School Bags

Children may bring school bags from home, which they will keep on their peg. They should be encouraged to bring only essential items (ie pencil case etc.) which they will use for learning. They should be discouraged from bringing any toys to school or from sharing items brought in from home.

PE Kit

Teachers will let you know shortly on which days children require their PE kit. Children are able to wear their kit (sky blue polo shirt, black shorts, grey joggers, grey sweatshirt etc.) to come to school on these days. Older children may wish to bring a change for after PE sessions. Younger children may wish to keep their PE kit in school in a labelled canvas bag.

At the risk of overwhelming you and myself, I will stop there! I know there will probably be many questions still unanswered but I will be back in touch before the 12th.

Take care,

Alasdair McDonald
Head Teacher