

# Maidenhill Primary School

## Head Teacher's Update



Friday November 20

Dear Parents/ Carers

I hope everyone is well. As we all brace ourselves to face the new Tier 4 restrictions which will come into place, life continues as near-normal as possible at Maidenhill. The new restrictions shouldn't mean any significant changes for us at this moment in time but attached to this is another letter from Dr. Mark Ratter, our new Director of Education, in which he sets out the potential impact. I am particularly pleased to note that our supported study 'clubs', which our teachers all volunteered for, will be able to continue.

I am extremely grateful to all parents and carers for making changes to your normal routines ; wearing face coverings at drop offs and pick up, sticking to one family member at a time and keeping to specific drop-off and pick-up times from the nursery class are all appreciated and are helping the wider effort. Some days I feel my job title should be COVID Coordinator rather than Head Teacher, but your positive efforts mean I don't need to add COVID Police to my job description.

We have been extremely lucky so far (touch wood) that none of our classes or nursery bubbles have had to self-isolate en masse. I am sure you will be eager for this to remain the case as long as possible, so I am urging you to be ultra-cautious in helping us with this. If any household members are exhibiting symptoms, please do not send your child to school or nursery class whilst awaiting test results even if your child has no symptoms and appears to be perfectly well. Please always err on the side of caution.

Our fantastic Parent Council and parent volunteers have been busy trying to ensure this time of year remains as festive as possible for our children. Please also find attached a 'coming soon' flyer which sets out a programme of events- more information to follow.

**Be Bright Day**

Wednesday 25 November will be Be Bright Day in Primary 1-7. In return for a donation to school funds (suggested £1) children can help cheer away the November blues by dressing in their brightest clothes- the brighter the better! We will also be focusing on road safety in each class and we are very grateful to our partners at Miller Homes who have donated reflective high-vis vests for our younger children.

A healthy school fund is always essential when it comes to providing a range of experiences in schools. Our devolved school budget can only be used in line with local authority procurement guidelines so a school fund is necessary when it comes to buying consumables, including party food, prizes etc. We are reliant on kind donations from our Parent Council and for school fund-raising events (such as non-uniform days) to help give the fund a boost.

Although children in our Nursery Class don't usually need to wear uniform, they are more than welcome to get dressed up for Be Bright Day. There is no need for nursery children to make a donation- money for the nursery class fund (which is used for a wide range of consumables on a weekly basis) comes from kind donations via ParentPay.

We had also hoped to organise an obstacle course challenge for our children on the day as well, but Tier 4 restrictions mean this can only now take place outdoors. This means that element of the day will be very much weather permitting!

### **Maidenhill All-Stars**

Congratulations to our amazing Maidenhill All-stars for November; Finlay S, Saamia, Zander, Jessica, Ismail (P5), Abdullah, Lucy and Daisy- we are all so proud of you. It was so nice to hear how many times the word 'kindness' was used in the class teachers' nominations.

### **Sumdog Champions**

Hot of the press! Primary 5 are the reigning East Renfrewshire Sumdog Competition Champions. Amazing determination from our Primary 5s and also from Primary 3 who were the day-champions on Wednesday.

### **Book Week Scotland**

This afternoon sees the culmination of an amazing week of book-related fun, with the reveal of our whole-school story. Miss Atkin and our Literacy Working Group have done a great job of organising a whole range of activities, with the book-themed scavenger hunt going down particularly well. We are committed to ensuring the children of Maidenhill always see reading as a pleasure rather than a chore, and it was great to see their enthusiasm this week.

### **Diary**

Wednesday 25 November- Be Bright Day  
Monday 14 December - P3 and P6 and 7 parties tbc  
Tuesday 15 December - P1 party tbc  
Wednesday 16 December 16- P2 party tbc  
Thursday 17 December- P4 , P5 and Nursery Class parties tbc  
Friday 18 December- school closes for Christmas holiday  
Tuesday 5 January- school re-opens  
Friday 5 February- school closes for February holiday  
Wednesday 10 February- school re-opens  
Thursday 25 March- Parent Consultation Meetings ii- tbc.  
Thursday 1 April - school closes for Spring holiday

Have a great weekend.

Take care,

Alasdair McDonald  
Head Teacher