

Maidenhill Primary School

Head Teacher's Update



Friday November 27 2020

Dear Parents/ Carers

As we approach December and the temperature has noticeably dropped, I am attaching our updated Adverse Weather Contingency Guidance. A school closure due to snow (I think the last time this had to happen was February/ March 2018) seems relatively small-scale compared with the other events of this year, but I know it has the potential to cause substantial disruption and it is wise to be prepared for all eventualities.

The cold weather notwithstanding, yesterday's obstacle course in the MUGA went down well with everyone (not quite sure what an obstacle course had to do with the day's Be Bright theme, but sometimes in a primary school it is best not to overthink things!) Well done to the children of Stirling House who gathered the most points throughout the day and many thanks to Brandon, our Active Schools Coordinator, and our older Pupil Council children for designing and organising the course. Thanks also for your kind donations- we raised almost £180 for school funds and this will be well used over the next 3 weeks.

Preparations are currently underway for our Christmas film spectacular- look out for a letter from each class teacher with more information and an essential permission slip that we require for your child to take part.

A Fond Farewell

It is an exciting time of the year in our nursery class, but there will also be some sadness as we prepare to bid a fond farewell to our children who will be beginning to take up their original places at the new Crookfur Family Centre. We have loved making friends with you all and watching you grow and develop over the last few months. We wish you well and look forward to hearing how you are getting on in your new nursery. Please know you will always have a special place in our Maidenhill family.

Parent Council News and Fundraising

Our Parent Council met (via Zoom) this week for a very productive catch-up. Please see the message below from our chair, Lindsay Brown:

I would like to confirm the date of our Parent Council AGM as Tuesday 8th December @ 7.30pm (via Zoom- link to follow).

We would like to open the AGM to all parents, carers and staff with a warm welcome. We look to confirm office bearers and class representatives, welcoming on board class reps at our new stages and filling in any outstanding positions from the other classes. If anyone would like to note their interest they can email the parent council before the 8th on the parent council email:- maidenhillparentcouncil@gmail.com

I'd like to extend my gratitude to all the very talented festive volunteers who are so very kindly organising all the festive fun and activities for all the children and their families...it's massively appreciated."

I was extremely touched to hear about the huge amount of work parents have already been putting in to organise a whole series of virtual events for our children and families and their commitment is outstanding. This will hopefully ensure our children don't miss out on a full festive experience and will help parents raise even more essential funds for our school. **Please find attached a poster for next week's first event- a thrilling Family Santa Dash, with medals for all children from Nursery-P7 who participate courtesy of Bump to Birthdays.**

To make a donation to the Parent Council in return for participation in all 4 of their festive events, please visit their justgiving page:

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/maidenhill-parentcouncil>

From our opening, we have been committed to promoting a love of books and an appreciation of the role 'real' books play in broadening our horizons and stirring our creativity and curiosity. We have placed the use of 'real' books and children's engagement with them at the heart of our learning and teaching approaches; but books don't grow on trees! Continuously updating and refreshing our central and class libraries and involving children in the excitement that comes along with ordering and receiving new books, is a big financial commitment. We are delighted that our fantastic Parent Council have agreed to support us with this and all your contributions to their festive fundraising will be hugely appreciated.

In addition, and separate to the festive events above, the Parent Council have also registered with easyfundraising:

"We just want to let you know that Maidenhill Primary School and Nursery Class Parent Council are now registered with easyfundraising, which means you can raise FREE donations for us every time you shop online. Over 4,000 shops and sites will donate to us when you use easyfundraising to shop with them- at no extra cost to yourself! These donations really mount up and make a BIG difference to us, so we'd really appreciate it if you could take a moment to sign up and support us. It's completely FREE and only takes a moment so why not give it a go for the Black Friday sales! You can find our easy fundraising page at :

https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/maidenhillpsncpc/?utm_campaign=raise-more&utm_content=gs-e1”

Christmas Cards and Presents

Even the smallest things need careful planning in these times. I know how much children love giving out Christmas cards in December and certainly won't want them to miss out; normally we wouldn't have to give it a second thought but you don't need reminding that nothing is quite normal at the moment!

If you are happy for your child to bring in Christmas cards to either the school or nursery class, can I ask that this is limited to Friday 4th and Friday 11th of December? If the envelope is clearly marked with the recipients name (full names would be best if known) and class, children will then be able to post them in one of our post boxes. These will then be quarantined (if you had told me this time last year that I would be writing to you about quarantining Christmas cards, I would have been shaking my head!) and handed out to recipients on Tuesday 8th or Tuesday 15th. Nursery class children who don't attend on a Friday will be able to post on their last day of attendance in the week.

As a staff team, we were blown away by the generosity of our children and families last Christmas. However we do appreciate that this will be a very different Christmas for many people across Scotland and the rest of the world. As everyone's attention is quite understandably focused on COVID, we are concerned that many charities are finding their fundraising seriously impacted. If you wish and are able, rather than gifts, we would invite you to make a donation to charity on behalf of Maidenhill Primary School & Nursery Class. Our Pupil Council have been keen to support the **British Heart Foundation** and the **Prince and Princess of Wales Hospice** this year, but I know any charity of your choice would welcome your support at this time.

Applications to Primary 1/ S1 for Session 2021/ 2022

I have attached some information on how to make an online application for a Primary 1 place in any East Renfrewshire school for August 2021. Please note that applications should be made by January 22 2021.

Parents/ carers of all Primary 7 children transferring to S1 in August 2021 will have transfer/ application forms posted to them by the Education Department. These must be returned directly to our school office by Wednesday 16 December.

Diary

Tuesday 8 December- Parent Council AGM @ 7.30 (Zoom link to follow)

Monday 14 December - P3 and P6 and 7 parties

Tuesday 15 December - P1 party

Wednesday 16 December 16- P2 party

Thursday 17 December- P4 , P5 and Nursery Class parties

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

Please note that party clothes can be worn all day for party days. Christmas jumpers are welcome on Friday 18th December.

Have a great weekend.

Take care,

Alasdair McDonald
Head Teacher