

Maidenhill Primary School

Head Teacher's Bulletin



Friday March 12 2021

Dear Parents/ Carers

We are almost at the end of the last week of remote learning for nearly all of our children and a collective sigh of relief can be heard across the community! I don't want to tempt fate, but I will risk a cautious well done to everyone who has supported our children so ably over this period and has survived to tell the tale.

As I was sitting on a lengthy Teams meeting this morning, I could hear a lovely buzz of chatter and excitement as some of our children went about their learning in our atrium area. Schools are meant to be filled with children and they can seem like very strange places when they feel empty. We cannot wait to see our P4-7s again and let them add to that buzz.

From Monday, our nursery class children will continue to enter the building as usual through our main entrance, lining up to the right-hand side of our Plaza area.

All P1-7 children will also follow their usual routine of entering our playground through the MUGA gate. The school bus also continues to run as normal.

Children who will be attending in-person for the first time may also follow this routine or may wish to wait until 9.20am and enter by buzzing in at the front entrance. A member of staff will then be able to escort them to their new class.

However, at the end of the day our P5-7 pupils will be released from a (never-before-used) gate on the far side of the playground at the far end of the basketball court. They will then be able to use the footpath there either to set home independently or to walk around the perimeter of the MUGA to meet parents/ carers/ siblings at a pre-arranged point on the boulevard. If applicable, please chat in advance to your P5-7 child about where you would like them to meet you. I appreciate this may cause some minor inconvenience but most importantly, will prevent too many bodies congregating in the MUGA making social distancing for adults potentially difficult. **P1-4** children will continue to be released through the MUGA as usual.

In addition, for the next 3 weeks, children in **P4-7** will have a slightly later morning interval from 10.50-11.05. This will allow us to create more space in our playground for the children. Please note that morning interval tuck is not currently running.

We will review these relatively minor changes to routine on a regular basis and I will get in touch if we feel any further changes may be required.

Nursery Pick Up- Extended Allocation

Thank you to all nursery parents for continuing to wear facemasks during drop-off and collection.

You will appreciate that this can make it more challenging for our staff to always recognise mums, dads, grandparents, aunties, uncles, childminders etc. (and even more so in weather that makes it necessary to

wear big coats and keep your hood up!) . This is particularly so when children have an extended 8-6 provision and are being picked up at different times on different days.

If your child attends our nursery for extended provision, please follow the link below to help us with a smooth collection:

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=oyzTzM4Wj0KVQTctawUZKR_jJXHpbBIKskcOVuoCiFFUMlhEVFNaWjRCTzJDNVk1RVFETVNKSTQ4US4u

We would never want to cause offence by questioning who someone is, but I know you will also appreciate that the security of our children is paramount (please note that the survey asks you to identify a unique identifying 'collection word' that can be used by all the family members you have designated to be involved in pick up- we tried to ask for a 'password' and our survey was flagged up as a phishing concern!)

Parent Consultation Meetings P1-7

Don't forget that the online booking system (parent guide attached) for our next round of parent consultation meetings remains live until 5pm on Thursday March 18. If you have not yet booked your time slot(s), please follow the link below:

<https://maidenhill.schoolcloud.co.uk/>

The meetings take place on either Wednesday March 24 or Thursday March 25. Don't forget to leave your 1 preferred contact telephone number in the message box.

Staffing News

We are delighted that Miss Claire Nisbet is joining us in Primary 4. She has already been working closely with Miss Waddell and I know the Primary 4 children will be looking forward to meeting her in person.

Sadly, Cheryl Irvine finishes up with us in Maidenhill Nursery Class next Friday. Cheryl has been a child development officer within the nursery (and a dutiful first aider for the entire school) since we first opened. I am sure you will join with me in wishing her all the best for her future ventures.

Diary

Wednesday 24 March/ Thursday 25 March- Parent Consultation Meetings ii
Thursday 1 April - school and nursery class close for Spring holiday
Monday 19 April- school and nursery class re-open for Summer term
Monday 3 May- May Day holiday
Friday 28 May and Monday 31 May- May Weekend holiday
Friday 18 June- summative report cards issued
Friday 25 June- Summer term ends

Take care,

Alasdair McDonald
Head Teacher