

Maidenhill Primary School

Head Teacher's Bulletin



Friday March 19 2021

Dear Parents/ Carers

I clearly spoke too soon last week when I wrote about remote learning coming to an end! Unfortunately this was not to be the case for some of our children this week, so I will attempt to avoid any further premature pronouncements on the subject for the time being. Well done, however, to all those still soldiering on!

I had been asked last week to speak (virtually) at East Renfrewshire's Education Committee about Maidenhill's provision for and experiences of remote learning during this last period of shut-down. Preparing my presentation for this really gave me the chance to reflect on the journey we have all been on over the last few months and the progress we have made since this time last year. Although we weren't exactly sure when it was going to happen, as a staff team we had effectively been planning for this shut-down since June. It has been great to see the confidence and capacity of the team growing and to be asked to share our good practice was an honour that reflects the entire staff's hard work and commitment. It also reflects the hard work and commitment of all our parents and carers and it was great to be able to share with the elected members the role you played in shaping our provision through your feedback.

Most importantly, this week saw the return of our P4-7s. It is amazing how much children can grow in 12 weeks! Yet again, our children demonstrate a determination, willingness and adaptability that is truly admirable. It was a year ago to the day that our school and nursery class had to enter that first, unprecedented period of shut-down in only our first year of existence. I am extremely proud of the way our children have tackled the challenges this year has brought and I am confident that they will face any future challenges with similar resilience.

Maidenhill All-Stars

As I awarded our P1-7 Maidenhill All-Stars with their certificates for this month, I was struck by the number of times the word 'kindness' was being used in the nominations that the teachers had sent to me. It is really heartening to hear, after being away for so long, that our children continue to demonstrate the qualities which have helped us so easily develop our school community spirit. I have a feeling that kindness will play an integral part in the finalisation of our Vision, Values and Aims in the upcoming term.

Congratulations to Anna R, Ryan, James, Ikna, Holly, Lewis, Monty and Muhammad for all their excellent achievements!

Parent Consultation Meetings P1-7

Don't forget that our Parent Consultation Meetings take place next week on Wednesday 24 and Thursday 25 March. Thank you so much for using our online booking system- it helps Mrs Fraser and Ms Robertson in our office immeasurably. Having said that, if you somehow managed to miss the cut-off for making your appointment, please do get in touch with them by phone or e-mail and they will try their best to accommodate.

Nursery Class

Outdoor play and learning is always central to our nursery class pedagogy. This is informed by the Virtual Nature School project that some of our staff are currently undertaking. The emphasis in this cohort of the project is the possibilities of 'looking'. Over the last three weeks, the children have been 'looking up', with a focus on trees and spiders; they have 'looked down', focusing on mud, prints and maps and they have 'looked through', with a focus on using binoculars, exploring how water changes and the different ways colour makes up our environment.

The sunny, but only slightly warmer weather has seen some people already throwing caution to the wind and casting off their winter coats. One of my neighbours has actually even fired up his barbecue! I'm not quite at that stage yet, but it is a good time to think ahead and start optimistically planning for some really sunny days. Our commitment to outdoor learning means that our children will always be encouraged to be outdoors as much as possible, rain or shine. If more shine than rain is anticipated, I would be grateful if you could apply any necessary **all-day sun screen or sun block** at home in the morning (this is not something our nursery class staff are able to do during the day) and send your child in with a sun hat. Many thanks.

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