

Maidenhill Primary School

Head Teacher's Bulletin



Friday March 26 2021

Dear Parents/ Carers

Next Thursday sees the start of the Spring Break (2.30 pm finish for P1-7; normal hours for the nursery class). I am sure this will seem strange for some of our children who must feel that they have only just come back. However for others of us, this feels like the longest term on record!

I think we can all agree however that this has been a term of great achievement and excellent teamwork; children, parents and staff all working collaboratively to ensure the narrative of 'learning loss', which now seems like a bit of an overused cliché, does not necessarily reflect the reality we are seeing in each and every class. I feel confident in saying this has been a term we can all be proud of.

Staffing News

Sadly we say good bye to Mrs Rasul and Mrs Wood next week.

Mrs Rasul has worked in Maidenhill since January, initially supporting children in our hub and then in Primary 2alpha. We wish her all the very best in her next post.

Mrs Wood has been a fantastic asset to the school for more than a year and a half. An extremely conscientious teacher who has the best interests of her children at the heart of everything she does, we will miss her greatly and hope she keeps in touch.

ERC Standardised Testing

Children in Primary 3, 5 and 7 across all East Renfrewshire Schools will shortly begin standardised testing in reading and numeracy/ mathematics. This is obviously later in the session than previous years. The testing programme will be carried out by Miss Shaw, Miss Atkin and myself within the children's usual classroom environment. All effort is taken to minimise any anxiety children may feel about the testing process so we do not intend to intimate in advance the specific dates and times of the tests to the children.

Test papers will then be marked centrally with children's results (set against an East Renfrewshire standard of 100) and returned to us in June to be used diagnostically and to be shared with parents in our summative reports.

Parent Council Spring Events

The fundraising/ events planning wing of our amazing Parent Council have planned a programme of family events for Spring Break, starting on April 1. Please find attached a flyer and the recipe card you will need for the live 'bake-a-long'. The Spring Activity Grid will follow next week. Many thanks to all those involved.

MUGA

Since our Primary 4-7s have returned to school, local authority and Police Scotland guidance to our facilities staff is that MUGAs (Multi Use Games Areas) should remain unlocked unless there is just cause to keep them shut. It is great that our MUGA can again be used for the full purpose for which it was designed- a school resource during the day and a local community resource outwith school hours. It has never been more important that our young, primary school-aged children from the Maidenhill community have this safe area where they can exercise and socialise.

This shared use however is dependent on everyone playing their part and taking responsibility for looking after this wonderful resource. Respecting local residents, clearing away all litter and ensuring the MUGA is left as it was found will ensure that we can keep the facility unlocked after school and at weekends.

Unfortunately after only one weekend of being re-opened, the MUGA was left in a terrible state for last Monday morning. Considerable time and effort had to go in to getting it back in to a suitable condition for our children to use during the school day. I am fully aware that older children and even adults (obviously with way more time on their hands than I have) travel from afar to use our MUGA, however our extensive CCTV coverage threw up some surprises on this occasion when it came to identifying the cause of last weekend's mistreatment.

A similar weekend to the last one would be just cause for keeping the MUGA locked. Hopefully this was just a blip and any thoughtlessness was simply down to getting caught up in the excitement of having it open again. I urge all community members to take responsibility and to work in cooperation with us to ensure our children continue to benefit for a long time to come.....and here endeth the lesson for this week!

Diary

Apologies- I hadn't included the May INSET day within my previous bulletins. Although Maidenhill will not be a polling station, the INSET day has been re-arranged to Thursday 6 May to coincide with the upcoming Scottish Parliament elections (please note that previous school holiday calendars- of which there have been many this session!- may have had this INSET day down for Tuesday 1 June; May 6 now replaces June 1). This means that during w/b 3 May, children will only attend on the Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. Diary dates for next term then read as follows:

Thursday 1 April - school and nursery class close for Spring holiday (2.30 pm for school/ 6 pm for nursery class)

Monday 19 April- school and nursery class re-open for Summer term

Monday 3 May- May Day holiday

Thursday 6 May- INSET day

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