

Maidenhill Primary School

Head Teacher's Update



Friday May 7 2021

Dear Parents/ Carers

Following a rather dismal bank holiday weekend, this week has seemed somewhat disjointed at times. Learning continues apace however, with certainly no let up before the end of term so I am hoping the children have made the most of their time off!

All staff met yesterday to review and celebrate the progress of our working groups over the course of last session. Teachers have met in their collegiate time after school to undertake development work and to drive forward improvements in our Literacy & Language, Numeracy & Mathematics and Health and Wellbeing curricula. Staff from our nursery class have also taken forward a Virtual Nature School project. All this was in addition to the huge amount of development work that went in to enhancing and developing our remote learning provision in the run up to and during the last lockdown. It was fantastic to hear back on the power of work that has been completed this session, despite the many challenges we have faced. I am incredibly proud of the commitment our team has shown and the proactive approach each and every one takes to school improvement.

Hand hygiene

Public Health guidelines continue to stress the importance of rigorous hand hygiene within schools and nursery classes. We continue to implement the 6-times daily structured handwashing approach that has now been in place since February 2020. Some of our children asked me at assembly last week about the possibility of using hand sanitiser rather than soap- I explained that current guidance stresses the importance and effectiveness of soap and water with sanitiser only to be used when access to soap and water is limited.

Obviously this amount of hand washing has taken a toll on all of our hands! All soap provided within school establishments must meet Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) standards and is sourced through the central procurement system for the local authority. This ensures these rigorous standards are being met but also limits the use of popular 'high street' brands. However, if parents/ carers wish their child to use a particular alternative, I am more than happy for them to send in their own soap with their child. This can be kept in the child's school bag (ideally within a sealed plastic bag) or within the classroom- please write a short note to your child's teacher to explain. Soap (or hand cream) bottles should be clearly labelled with the child's name. Children should be encouraged to take responsibility for remembering they have their own soap to use.

Tempest Photography

We have agreed to facilitate a visit from Tempest Photography on Tuesday May 18 2021, re-organised from a rather optimistic January date! I have attached a separate letter with all the details and the relevant permission slip. The easiest way to return the slip is to e-mail it back to schoolmail@maidenhill.e-renfrew.sch.uk marked 'Tempest Photographs'. Only children for whom slips have been returned will be photographed on the day. Please note that Tempest have assured us that all relevant social distancing guidelines will be followed. Looking sharp is a must!

Smart Drone Solutions Photograph

Smart Drone Solutions (a new company recently co-founded by one of our parents- www.smartdronesolutions.co.uk) has approached us about taking dynamic whole school and nursery class photographs to commemorate the memorable school year that has been 2020-2021. We are happy to facilitate this and have scheduled the afternoon of May 26 for the photographs. The company will then offer these photographs for sale, with a percentage of the profit going to school funds. More details and permissions to follow next week.

Eid Ul-Fitr

Next week will see many of our families celebrating Eid and I am able to grant 2 days of authorised absence for any religious festivals or holidays falling outwith the scheduled holiday calendar for the session. Please have a fantastic time and, guidance permitting, enjoy spending time with family. Please advise the school office if your child will be absent – schoolmail@maidenhill.e-renfrew.sch.uk or 0141 570 7090.

Diary

Tuesday 11 May- P5 Level 1 Bikeability Day 3

Tuesday 18 May- Tempest Photography

Thursday 20 May- Nursery Class intake for 2021/22 parent info event (tbc- dependent on nursery allocations having been completed and social distancing guidelines)

Wednesday 26 May- Smart Drone Solutions photography- tbc.

Friday 28 May and Monday 31 May- May Weekend holiday

Tuesday 1 June- Primary 1 intake for 2021/22 parent info event (tbc- dependent on social distancing guidelines)

Thursday 17 June- P7 Leavers' evening event (from 6.30 pm tbc)

Friday 18 June- School and Nursery Class Sports Day (please note change to previously intimated date)

Friday 18 June- summative report cards issued

Monday 21 June and Tuesday 22 June- P7 induction days @ Mearns Castle High School

Wednesday 23 June, 11.15 am- Nursery Class Leavers' Ceremony

Thursday 24 June, 11.15 am- P7 Leavers' Ceremony

Friday 25 June- Summer term ends

Take care,

Alasdair McDonald

Head Teacher