

# Welcome to



## Nursery Class

2021-2022

## Maidenhill Nursery Class Information

Welcome to Maidenhill Nursery Class situated within Maidenhill Primary School building. We are delighted that your child is coming to Maidenhill and is joining us on this exciting new journey. We look forward to working with you over the coming months and years. Our aim is to make your child's transition from home to nursery a happy, enjoyable time and the beginning of a successful and positive school experience. However, we do recognise that this can be an anxious time for both children and parents and hope that the information contained in this pack will provide some practical advice and support as well as key information.

At Maidenhill we aim to work closely with parents and from the outset and we would encourage you to voice any questions or concerns you may have as your child moves towards their first days of nursery.

Contact information will be as follows:

Maidenhill Primary School  
2 Maidenhill Grove  
Maidenhill  
Newton Mearns  
G77 5GW  
Tel: 0141 570 7090

Telephone: 0141 570 7090  
Email: [schoolmail@maidenhill.e-renfrew.sch.uk](mailto:schoolmail@maidenhill.e-renfrew.sch.uk)  
Website: <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/er/maidenhill/>  
Twitter: @ERCMAidenhillINC



## **The Nursery Class Team**

The Maidenhill Primary team will work together to provide a safe and motivating learning environment for your child. The following staff will all be involved in your child's nursery experience:

Mr Alasdair McDonald

Head Teacher

Miss Alison Shaw

Depute Head Teacher, with line management responsibility for the nursery class

Mr Alexander Johnston

Nursery Class Teachers

Miss Sarah-Jane Lawrie

Mrs Dyan Spence

Senior Child Development Officer

Mrs Sehba Ali, Miss Claire Brown

Child Development Officers

Mrs Helen Maberly, Miss Megan Gillen

Miss Heather Cook, Mrs Ciara Duffy,

Mrs Sharon Dobbie, Mrs Iqra Ahmad

Mrs Carol Wheatley and Mrs Gihan Temraz    Playworkers

## **Business Support Staff**

Our Senior Business Support Assistant is Mrs Annie Fraser. She is supported by our Business Support Assistant, Ms Lesley Robertson.

Your first point of contact will be the office where the staff work hard to ensure a warm, welcoming reception and that you are given all the necessary information you need. Mrs Fraser will help you with any queries but if you wish to speak to another member of staff they will pass on a message and we will aim to contact you within 24 hours.



## **Nursery Class Hours**

Children at Maidenhill Nursery Class will have sessions based on the 'core hours' or the 'extended hours' models.

You will be offered **5 days of 9am – 3pm or 3 days of 8am – 6pm**. You will be informed which of these sessions you have been allocated in your initial letter from East Renfrewshire's Early Years Admissions Team.

Provision	Sessions per Week	Times	Details
Core	5 x 6 hours	9am to 3pm	School days over school year
Extended	3 x 10 hours	8am to 6pm	Longer days over the school year

## **What Should I Expect Before My Child Starts Nursery?**

At Maidenhill Nursery Class, our priority and ethos is to create an environment where children feel comfortable, relaxed and secure. For most children, starting nursery is their first separation from their main carer, and we recognise that parents are children's first and most enduring educators. With this in mind, every child's transition from home to nursery will be considered individually and with the child's wellbeing at the heart of the process.

Prior to your child's third birthday you will receive a phone call from the school office to arrange the enrolment forms and to provide documentation to secure your child's place. When this has been arranged, a member of the nursery team will contact you to arrange a settling visit and start date for your child. On your child's first day, you will meet the team that will be working with your child; currently, these visits take place in the garden in order to adhere to social distancing guidelines, but may be subject to change. Your child's settling process will be completely individual to them and reviewed with you on a daily basis. When your child is happy to be dropped off at the nursery door, a familiar member of the nursery team will welcome your child and take them into nursery. At the end of the nursery session, we ask that you wait outside the nursery whilst a member of staff brings out your child.

Unfortunately, we are not able to welcome families in to the nursery for an induction at this time. This is subject to change and we will continue to keep you updated. In the meantime, please go to our school website to view our virtual nursery tour.

## What Does My Child Need to Bring to Nursery?

- Wellies, a waterproof puddle suit and indoor shoes

We access the outdoor area in all weathers and therefore children require these to keep them warm and dry. These items can be left in nursery to minimise items travelling back and forth, though we would ask that all items are clearly labelled with your child's name. In winter weather we advise you to bring a hat, scarf and gloves too.

- A bag with clean, spare clothes/ nappies and wipes, if required

At times, our play can result in the children getting a little wet or messy so we ask you to provide a clean change of clothing. As we know, occasionally, young children don't always make it to the toilet in time so please include a spare pair of pants and socks- just in case! If your child is in nappies please provide these in their bag too.

- A painting shirt

We love to paint and explore lots of messy experiences at nursery so we would ask that you provide an old shirt or shirt that can be worn over your child's nursery clothes.

- Optional food

As part of the 1140 hours provision, East Renfrewshire will be supplying all nursery children with a free lunch and snacks throughout the day. More information regarding this will follow in due course. You are, however, welcome supply your child with enough food for the day if you would prefer. Please be aware that there are no facilities to warm up food for your child. ***IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT FOODS CONTAINING NUTS ARE NOT ALLOWED IN OUR SCHOOL. Please be especially vigilant when buying snacks and preparing packed lunches, particularly in regards to cereal bars, chocolate products and chocolate spreads.***



## What to Wear

Children in the nursery class are free to wear their own clothes. Bearing in mind how active and messy learning can sometimes be, parents may wish to send their children in a sky blue polo shirt and a grey sweatshirt. These may be with or without the Maidenhill badge.

The uniforms for nursery can be ordered using the following link:

[Schoolwear Made Easy](#)

## Illnesses, Accident and Medication



If your child complains of feeling unwell or has an accident, an adult will escort them to the Medical Room where first aid can be administered. In some cases we use hypo-allergenic plasters to cover wounds. Please inform us if you do not wish us to do so.

At Maidenhill, our policy will be to call parents if a pupil suffers a bump to the head or other more serious cuts and grazes. If you are unavailable, we will telephone your emergency contacts. **It is imperative that these contact details are kept up to date.** You will be given the necessary information to enable you to decide whether you should collect your child from nursery or allow him/her to carry on with his/her day. All medical incidents dealt with by staff will be recorded.

If your child has any health issues that we are unaware of then please alert a member of the nursery team or our school office as soon as possible.

We follow NHS guidelines and ask that if your child is suffering from a heavy cold, virus or any kind of contagious condition that you should keep them at home to avoid infecting other children. These guidelines also stipulate that children should be absent from nursery for 48 hours following a bout of sickness or diarrhoea. If your child has antibiotics or other prescribed medication you must give the first dose and inform staff on your child's return to nursery.

When completing your child's enrolment form you will be asked to give details of any medical conditions/allergies your child has and what medication is taken on a regular basis. This information will be logged on our computer system and shared with relevant staff.

If your child requires medication during the nursery session, you should discuss this with the Depute Head Teacher or the Senior Child Development Officer. We can only administer medication prescribed by your child's GP and with the permission of the Head Teacher. You will be asked to complete a form which authorises designated nursery staff to administer the medication. Medicines will be returned to you at the end of each school term to check expiry dates.

Please see also our Administration of Medication Policy (June 2019) on our school website.

## Covid-19 Procedures

Within Maidenhill Nursery Class our priory is the health and wellbeing of our young learners. During this Covid-19 pandemic we have identified key areas to keep everyone safe and well. These are:

- Enhanced cleaning and infection control procedures
- Increased hand washing throughout the nursery session
- A 'Covid-19 medical room' where any person becomes unwell and displays symptoms would be immediately taken to
- Social Distancing (2 metres) measures are strictly adhered to between adults

When in the nursery building, children will be assigned to one of three zones in the playroom, in which the children will remain with the same group of peers and nursery staff. We rotate to a new zone periodically, in order to ensure children continue to have a breadth of experiences. Each zone can also free flow to the outdoor space. This practice is dependent on tier restrictions and current government guidance and will be reviewed regularly. We ensure all children are fully prepared for a change in zones and frequently seek their opinions in how they would like to design their learning environment. All areas are well ventilated throughout the nursery session. If you would like more information with regards to our Covid-19 procedures, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.



## Child Smile Programme

Maidenhill aims to be a health promoting school and nursery. We will actively encourage children to adopt a healthy lifestyle make healthy choices and we encourage parents/carers to support us in this. We will encourage fitness by offering a programme of physical development and movement with daily opportunities to engage in energetic physical play both indoors and out. We will actively promote oral hygiene with each child having their own toothbrush and participating in supervised brushing every day as part of the Child Smile programme. You will be asked to give your consent for your child's involvement in tooth brushing.

## Parental Engagement

There are many ways in which you can become involved in the life of Maidenhill and in which you can support your child's learning. Mr McDonald is the Parental Engagement Coordinator for the school and nursery class. Please speak to him or to any member of the nursery team if you feel you can help in any way, either with nursery events or by sharing time, skills and resources to enhance pupils' learning experiences.

Usually, we enjoy having a Parent Forum for our nursery class, though with current restrictions, this has proven to be more challenging! These are short drop-in sessions where you will be able to join us for a coffee and a chat about various aspects of nursery life. Dates for the nursery parent forum are shared well in advance if you would like to attend, subject to Covid-19 guidelines.

Throughout the year, we will endeavour to host a variety of different experiences in the nursery for you to attend with your child. These may range from BookBug sessions, joining us for Forest School experiences, or coming in for 'Pop in and Play' week.

In the current climate, it is unfortunate that there will be restrictions place on parental access to inside our nursery building. However, we will strive to ensure that you continue to feel as involved as possible in the life of the nursery wherever possible.

We continue to develop our approaches to family learning, and we will be happy to listen any suggestions for workshops for parents to support this.

## Partner Agencies

At Maidenhill we aim to work with other agencies to ensure you and your child receive the best service possible. Our partners will include:

- Psychological Services
- Community Health
- Oral Health
- Bilingual Support
- Speech and Language Therapists
- Occupational Therapists
- Children and Family Services
- Care Inspectorate
- Police and Fire Services
- Family First

## Learning in the Early Years

We aim to ensure that all children enjoy new, interesting and exciting play experiences which introduce new ideas or concepts, as well as building on children's interests and skills to ensure a balance of adults and children leading the learning. We believe that through interaction with other children, adults, and a stimulating learning environment, children will develop their knowledge, skills and relationships at a pace that is led by them and their stage of development. Children will explore and make sense of the world around them through a play based approach that develops their curiosity, creativity and resilience.

The nursery teachers and child development officers will design the curriculum with our children at the centre, using evidence gathered through observations to create further opportunities to explore, experiment and follow their own lines of enquiry. Staff will skilfully interact with children in a way that supports and develops their thinking, encouraging them to find solutions to any challenges they face, or by helping children to see things from a different perspective. Children are involved throughout the learning process, ensuring that they are able to describe what they are learning and evaluating their play experiences.

## Our Learning Environment

In Maidenhill Nursery Class, we have an excellent learning environment that supports children's development in a number of ways. The circular design supports children to flow around the playroom, moving to different areas that will offer a variety of experiences. We strongly believe that the learning environment should be seen as the 'Third Teacher' (after adults and other children) and therefore ensure that all areas are developed with appropriate resources to promote inquiry, curiosity and creativity. Children are encouraged to play outdoors everyday (rain, wind or shine), as learning outdoors offers opportunities for play that are crucial for the development of a secure foundation to learning in all curricular areas.



## Literacy through Play

The term 'Literacy' broadly refers to all aspects of language-based communication and for the purposes of our curriculum it describes skills development in and through 'talking and listening', 'reading' and 'writing'.

It is important that the children in our nursery class continue to have opportunities to build on the foundations of language previously developed at home. The following approaches will form the basis of the experiences we foster:

- Developing expressive language through social interaction, communication, role-play, story-telling, use of imagination, recounting and games.
- Developing receptive language by following instructions, listening for information, reorganising and summarising key information and sequencing events.
- Developing phonological awareness (the ability to recognise patterns of sounds within language, including onset, rhyme and alliteration) through games, songs, poems, rhymes.
- Developing an appreciation of the conventions (and joy) of reading by encountering a range of shared texts and environmental print.
- Developing an understanding of the conventions of writing through mark-making and writing for a purpose.



## Numeracy through Play

Whilst the term Numeracy applies specifically to the use and manipulation of numbers to solve problems and to quantify and organize data, the term 'Mathematics' also includes the wider application of skills relating to shape, position and movement; measurement and time; and information handling.

As with skills in Literacy, it is essential that children in our nursery class continue to have opportunities to build on their early experiences of Numeracy and Mathematics in a way that is consistent with their learning at home. The following approaches will form the basis of the experiences we foster:

- Building on children's understanding of one to one correspondence within practical, everyday contexts. This fosters the ability of children to count objects accurately.
- Reinforcing number recognition by pointing out numbers within the environment, stories, games, construction tasks and role-play.
- Sequencing.
- Beginning to develop increasingly accurate number notation.
- Exploring the relationships between numbers within practical contexts for example the number after/ before/ between; one more than, one less than etc.
- Investigating the properties of 2D shapes.
- Using simple calendars, time lines, sand timers etc. to explore concepts of time.