

Maidenhill Primary School

Head Teacher's Update



Monday August 16 2021

Dear Parents/ Carers

I hope you are all well and that you have managed to enjoy some quality family time and a degree of rest and relaxation over the last few weeks.

Session 2021-2022 (where has the time gone!) is nearly upon us and many of our dedicated staff team have been working hard behind the scenes for the last few weeks to ensure everything is in place for our children starting on Wednesday. A new school session is always exciting and it will be great to welcome back our returners and properly get to know our new starts.

Updated guidance on schools re-opening was issued from the Scottish Government on August 3. Whilst the country is now in Level 0 (or is it beyond Level 0? - I can't keep up!) there is still a requirement for several mitigations to remain in place within schools for at least the next 6 weeks (ie. until the September weekend). Therefore, for the most part the school will continue to run along the same logistical lines as we did last term with only some changes.

Isolation

The most significant change in guidance relates to the need for isolation following the identification of a positive case within the school or nursery class.

If anyone displays any of the relevant symptoms (new, persistent cough; temperature; loss of taste and smell etc.) or receives a positive test, they should isolate for 10 days and I would be grateful if you would continue to keep me informed as soon as possible within these circumstances.

Head Teachers, however, will no longer be responsible for identifying close contacts (yippee!) and this duty will fall solely to Test and Protect who will be in touch following any positive tests. I am attaching 2 letters (one specific to the school; one to the nursery class) from NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde Public Health to explain the new procedures in greater detail.

As this is quite a significant change, I would be grateful if all families are extremely vigilant in monitoring any potential symptoms and in taking personal responsibility within and around the school. Where isolation will definitely be required, all guidance should be followed to the letter to ensure we don't quickly fall into an outbreak scenario.

Handwashing

One of the most important mitigations remaining in place is our approach to handwashing. We will continue our structured 6 points in the day when all children are asked to wash their hands. In addition, children will be free to wash their hands at any further points they wish. This will be reinforced by positive hand hygiene messages and discussions in the nursery and in each class. Some parents may wish to send in an individual,

labelled bottle/ container of hand moisturiser for their own child. This may be kept in children's own classroom if they wish.

P1-7 Drop off and Pick up

Although guidance remains that parents should not access our school grounds (boulevard, MUGA, entrance plaza, playground) I continue to feel confident that we have enough space within Maidenhill to allow for 1 parent/ carer per family to enter to help facilitate drop-off and pick-up. I know that several parents expressed their gratitude last year that they weren't left standing out in Maidenhill Grove doing a pavement drop-off/ pick-up as was the case with other schools who unfortunately don't have the space and design we have. **However there remain specific mitigations for school grounds which now differ from mitigations in the wider community.**

Children from P1- P7 will continue to be dropped off at the MUGA (Multi Use Games Area) gate half way along the boulevard. The drop off bays in the car park next to the MUGA gate will remain out of use to allow for additional space.

At the end of the school day, **1 parent/ carer** may enter the MUGA as long as they ensure appropriate social distancing (currently 1m for adults within school grounds). Teachers will release children a class at a time into the MUGA. **Unless there is a specific medical exemption, the 1 parent/ carer entering school grounds (boulevard, MUGA, entrance plaza, playground) should continue to wear a face covering.**

Please also see **Day 1 Itinerary** below for specific arrangements for pick-up and drop-off for the first day for new-start children.

Nursery Class Drop off and Pick up

1 parent/ carer from each family is welcome in our entrance plaza for our nursery class drop-off and pick-up. This remains to the right of the entrance plaza at the main door to the school.

To ensure effective learning and care for all our children and for appropriate adult: child ratios within our nursery class playrooms, we have set times for drop-off and pick-up. This ensures that our staff's interactions with children will not be disrupted throughout the day by having to answer the door at random times.

Drop- off times are at **8 am** and, to allow a degree of flexibility for parents, from **9-9 30 am** each morning. This allows ample time for families who may be dropping-off at other establishments first. **Please note that we are unable to facilitate drop-offs after 9 30 am, unless by prior-arrangement as a 'one-off' occasion only.**

Pick up times are from **2 45-3pm** and then at **4pm, 5pm** and from **5 30-6pm**. Although we are keen that all children access their full 1140 hours entitlement and your child's nursery hours allocation will most likely determine when you pick them up, we are happy to provide this degree of flexibility.

Miss Shaw will have already have been in touch with all parents of nursery class new-starts to discuss starting arrangements and any specific settling-in procedures. Please do not hesitate to get in touch with her via schoolmail@maidenhill.e-renfrew.sch.uk if you have any further questions.

Day 1 Itinerary

800 Nursery class children begin arriving. 1 parent/ carer should wait with children at entrance plaza until welcomed by a member of nursery staff.

845 MUGA gate opened to welcome all children in P2-7 back to the playground; children travelling by bus escorted into playground.

855 P2-7 children line up and enter school building with new teachers.

915 MUGA gate opened to welcome all new **Primary 1 children**. Children and a maximum of **2 parents/ carers (for Day 1 only)** may enter playground to be met by Miss Livingstone, Mrs Dickson and Miss

920 New children (P2-7) may congregate to the left of the main door entrance plaza and will be met by Miss Atkin (if happy to do so, new children may alternatively join their classmates in the playground before the bell at 8 55 and join their class line with everyone else).

930 All P1 parents/ carers clear of playground.

245 Nursery class pick-up begins to the right of the main door entrance plaza.

255 MUGA gates opened for 1 parent/carer. Parents/carers have the responsibility to ensure appropriate social distancing between family groups. Classes released one at a time into the MUGA. Children travelling by bus escorted to bus bay.

Travelling by Bus

The school bus will run from August 18 and the Education Department has allocated limited bus places to some families. If your child is new to Maidenhill and the department has recently allocated them a place on the bus, please contact Mrs Fraser or Ms Robertson via the school office (0141 570 7090 or schoolmail@maidenhill.e-renfrew.sch.uk) to allow her to update the list we currently hold.

Intervals, Snacks and Lunch

For the time being we will continue to stagger our morning interval for children in P1-7, with P1-3 from 1035-10 50 and P4-7 from 1055-1110. For the first few days of the new session, P1 class teachers will support their children in the playground. Stephanie will continue to provide a tuck shop with a range of healthy snacks, toast and the occasional (nutritional standards-compliant) treat.

Lunch for P1- P7 will continue to take place over 2 distinct sittings:

1230 P1-3 children in lunch hall; P4-7 in playground

1255 P4-7 children in lunch hall or atrium (packed lunches); P1-3 children in playground

Children in P1-3 will be given additional time if required.

All children from **P1-P4** are now entitled to a free school lunch, with free lunches for P5-7 being rolled out later in the session. Our cafeteria is cashless and payment for all tuck shop purchases or lunch purchases for P5-7 must be made by topping up your child's ParentPay account online. Mrs Fraser is unable to set up a ParentPay account for children until they have actually enrolled within the school (ie. from August 18) but will endeavour to have all new starts set up as soon as possible.

Accommodation will continue to be made for children who prefer to have a packed lunch.

In our nursery class, lunch is now being provided for all children. Children will dine within the designated dining area within the nursery playroom, with the social element of dining and the importance of table manners emphasised.

Enrolment Paperwork

Our school office staff will be extremely busy this week (particularly in the mornings and at 3pm). If your child is new to us and you have not completed or handed in the necessary enrolment paperwork for either the school or nursery class, please do so before 3pm tomorrow (Tuesday). Please get in touch with Mrs Fraser or Ms Robertson in the school office in advance to let them know when you will be popping in.

Medication and Dietary Requirements

In addition, Wednesday will be too late to let us know about the need for any medication to be administered in school. This is done by completing an Administration of Medication form in advance. Please contact our school office to arrange to complete one prior to 3 pm tomorrow (Tuesday). Please note that a new form

must be completed/ updated each session. All medication from last session should have been picked up from our school office to be renewed- please make sure you have returned all updated medication (including inhalers, epi-pens, piriton etc.) by 3 pm tomorrow (Tuesday).

All dietary requirements should have been indicated within enrolment paperwork. If circumstances have changed or you would like a quick chat with Stephanie regarding your child's requirements, please get in touch via our school office.

I will stop now before I overload you with information. The first few days of the new term are always a bit hectic, but if you have any questions please don't hesitate to get in touch. I can't guarantee an immediate response this week, but we will hopefully reach you as soon as we can and I am looking forward to catching up with many of you (albeit briefly) on Wednesday- see you soon.

Take care,

Alasdair McDonald
Head Teacher