

Maidenhill Primary School

Head Teacher's Bulletin



Friday August 27 2021

Dear Parents/ Carers

The final hazy days of August....wistful moments....blue skies....warm sunshine.....wasps! Note to self: fluorescent yellow jackets are to be avoided at all costs this time of year.

Stinging insects aside, our first full week at Maidenhill has been drama-free.

The children in our nursery class have been enjoying the new nursery lunch service and it has been great watching their independence grow as they help themselves 'family-style' from their chosen option. Please follow the link to view the nursery lunch menu:

<https://www.eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk/nursery-menu>

From P1-7, we now have over 300 children on our roll- as you can imagine, it makes a real difference from the 80 we started with in August 2019. As always, I am delighted with the way our 'old hands' welcome and encourage our 'newbies'. It is nice to think that the cosy, family feel we had when we first opened won't dissipate as our school grows.

Nuts

At the start of the year it is always important to remind everyone about nut allergies. Several of our children and staff in the school and nursery class have severe allergies to nuts, where even airborne exposure could have a significant impact. I would be grateful if you could be extremely vigilant with snacks and lunches and please ensure that no nuts or nut products (including Nutella and several other chocolate spreads) are sent into school.

Uniform

Thank you for everything you do to ensure the children of Maidenhill are as smart on the outside as they are on the inside.

To minimise transfer from home to school, last year's guidelines permitted children to come to school dressed in appropriate PE clothing on days when they knew PE was timetabled. This is no longer the case. Children should attend each day wearing school uniform and either bring their PE clothes in a bag with them, or (for younger children) leave their PE clothes in a labelled gym bag in their cloakroom.



The following is our list of uniform items:

Grey blazer (optional) + Maidenhill Badge

Grey jumper or cardigan

White shirt or blouse

Maidenhill tie (silver grey and sky blue)

Grey trousers, skirt or pinafore
Grey checked pinafore
Sky blue and white checked summer dress
Black shoes **or plain black trainers**

Younger children (P1-3) may wish the following options, particularly on PE days:

Grey sweatshirt (plain or branded with the Maidenhill badge)
Sky blue polo shirt (plain or branded with the Maidenhill badge)

(Although there are no requirements for children in our nursery class to wear a uniform, parents may wish their children to wear a sweatshirt and polo shirt as described above).

PE kit:

Sky blue polo shirt (plain or branded with the Maidenhill badge) or plain white T-shirt
Black shorts
Suitable training shoes for physical activity indoors and out
Canvas/ fabric gym kit bag (colour optional)

I appreciate that children's feet seem to grow at an alarming rate these days (was this always the case or is there something in the water?) so I have added **plain black trainers** to our list of uniform items. This hopefully offers the potential for these to be worn at home and at school to ensure children get their wear out of them.

I believe the Education Department are planning to review the Dressing for Excellence policy that is currently in place across all East Renfrewshire schools but I think it is highly unlikely this will lead to any major changes in the uniform for Maidenhill.

Homework

Our homework programme is due to start next week via Google Classroom. Learning tasks will be uploaded in each class on a Tuesday and are expected to be completed by the following Monday. Although most by now have considerable experience, Miss Shaw and our class teachers are currently working to ensure the children will all be able to access their specific Google Classroom. If you find your child is experiencing any difficulties next week, please do not hesitate to get in touch via the school office (please remember that the chat function in Google Classroom is for teachers and pupils and should not be used by parents).

Research has shown that homework only really adds value to a child when it results in shared learning and dialogue with parents and carers. If you find that your child is completing their homework in isolation, get in touch and we can help with ideas on how you can get more involved.

Rights Respecting Schools

This session, Mr Milligan will be leading our children in the journey towards UNICEF Rights Respecting School status. Please see the information from him below:

Maidenhill aims to be a school where children's rights are at the heart of our ethos and culture, to improve wellbeing and to develop every child's talents and abilities to their full potential. As a result, and in line with our school improvement plan, we are working towards recognition as a 'Rights Respecting School', an award given to schools on behalf of UNICEF. A Rights Respecting School models rights and respect in all its relationships, ensuring that the rights of the child are embedded in all areas of school life. We are currently working towards achieving 'Bronze' accreditation, which is the first stage of the award. The children continue to learn about their rights by putting them into practice every day and pupil voice continues to shape our decisions as a school. We look forward to sharing more details with you about our efforts towards the Rights Respecting School Award in due course. Further information about the Rights Respecting School Award can be found by accessing www.unicef.org.uk/rrsa

COVID Guidelines

I am sure that you are aware of the current increase in positive cases across Scotland, particularly in young people and I thank you for your adherence to the mitigations we still have in place within Maidenhill. A few people have asked me whether the sibling of a child with possible COVID symptoms would also need to isolate whilst awaiting results and my understanding from the current guidance is, yes- all members of the same household (including parents) should continue to isolate whilst waiting for the results of one child's PCR.

I have re-attached the 2 letters from NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde Public Health which outline the current isolation guidance.

From what I can see, face coverings on school transport would be down to personal responsibility for children under 12. This is in line with current wider public transport guidelines.

Diary

Friday September 24 and Monday September 27- September Weekend holiday

Tuesday October 5 and Thursday October 7- Parent Consultation Meetings (possibly by telephone- tbc)

Friday October 8- School closes for October Week holiday at 3pm/ Nursery Class remains open to 6pm

Monday October 18- In-service day

Tuesday October 19- Children return

Please enjoy the weekend, avoiding wasps and all boldly coloured wardrobe choices!

Take care,

Alasdair McDonald

Head Teacher