

Maidenhill Primary School

Head Teacher's Bulletin



Friday October 8 2021

Dear Parents/ Carers

I am writing this week's bulletin on the final night of our P1-7 parent consultation meeting marathon and despite the time it takes to get round everyone, I know our teachers will have found the opportunity to catch up with you worthwhile (albeit in less than ideal circumstances) and I hope you have too.

Certainly, the feedback I have received from our staff is very positive and I would like to thank you for the support you continue to show our team. Let's be honest, there have been plenty of times in recent times when morale could have plummeted through the floor if the teachers had let it! That was never the case and, alongside the enthusiasm the children have continued to bring every day, knowing that there was an overwhelming support from parents and families made a world of difference to them.

The last few evenings of conversations have cemented that feeling of support and I know the teaching team hugely appreciate it... and, let's face it, giving an update on such hard-working and respectful children as the children of Maidenhill is always going to be a pleasure rather than a chore!

Nursery Class Home Learning Links

Children in our nursery class have been issued with 'Autumn Treasures' collection bags and we would be grateful to any parents/ carers who can spend some time with their child on an autumnal treasure hunt and then return the bags to us. Our nursery class team will then use your treasures to stimulate the children's play. Who will find the most interesting autumnal object? (no pressure!) Happy treasure finding!

Rights Respecting Schools

This week I was delighted to hear that Maidenhill Primary and Nursery Class has been awarded 'Bronze: Rights Committed' status as part of Unicef UK's Rights Respecting Schools Award. This was fantastic news and testament to all our children and staff who have demonstrated their commitment to rights-based education and approaches. Many thanks to Mr. Milligan for expertly coordinating our submission. Unicef have indicated they feel we will be ready to apply for Silver Accreditation in just a year's time.

I was determined that we wouldn't go down the route of any of the (numerous) accreditation journeys open to schools in just our first two years of existence- I felt it would be a bit disingenuous and unrealistic of us to be claiming any particular approaches were fully embedded across the school and nursery class after such a short time. Now that we are in Year 3, however, I am proud that Maidenhill is starting to be acknowledged for the hard work and values we have been building on since the very start.

Maidenhill Parliament

Congratulations to Olivia (Primary 3alpha) who was the last remaining MMP to be elected to our parliament this week.

Hallowe'en Celebrations

Despite recent progress, it is unlikely that anyone will be celebrating Hallowe'en again quite as normal this year. Last year our parents and families voted overwhelmingly in favour for my proposal to let children come to school in costume if they wished. I am more than happy for the same arrangement this year. In return for a coin donation to our school fund from our P1-7 children (children should carry their donation securely to school and they will be able to post it in a collection box at the MUGA gate or add it to the 'whip-round' when they get into class) they will be able to dress in their most frightful and ghoulish clothes for the day. Please remember that their costume needs to be comfortable enough that they can spend all day in it and the less props and accessories there are, the less props and accessories to be left lying in a heap on the floor at the end of the day!

I know some of our nursery class children can't get enough of dressing up on the other 364 days of the year, so why should Hallowe'en be any different! Go for it! (no donation expected for nursery class children)

Some children will have absolutely no desire to dress-up (I am definitely one of life's non dresser-upperers☹) and that is absolutely fine. We will make sure we let children know it is entirely their own choice and no child will miss out on any fun.

In addition, our Parent Council Fundraising Team have arranged some spooky fun with Kidnetics throughout the course of the day (following on from their fantastic Fun in the Sun sessions in June) and some tasty Hallowe'en treats for everyone. Thank you yet again to the Parent Council for everything they do to enhance experiences for our children.

Parent Council

Speaking of our fantastic Parent Council, please see the message below from our Chair, Lindsay Brown:

"I would like to confirm the date of our Parent Council AGM as Tuesday 2nd November @ 7.30pm (via Zoom - link to follow).

We would like to open the AGM to all parents, carers and staff with a warm welcome. We will look to confirm office bearers and class representatives, welcome on board class reps for new classes and fill in any outstanding positions from the other classes. If anyone would like to note their interest, they can email the Parent Council before the 2nd November using the parent council email - maidenhillparentcouncil@gmail.com

I would like to extend my gratitude to all the very talented volunteers who so kindly organised Spring and Summer fun and activities for all the children and their families, and are planning for Halloween and festive fun...it's massively appreciated.

Parent Council Constitution and other policies

Draft versions of the Parent Council Constitution, and other policies, are available on the Parent Council area of the school website for review via the link below.

We would very much appreciate any comments and suggestions to improve these before the AGM on November 2nd. Please send any feedback to the Parent Council email (maidenhillparentcouncil@gmail.com) by the end of October. Many thanks."

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/er/maidenhill/parents/parent-council/>

Asda Green Token Giving

Stalwart Parent Council Member, Mrs de Franca (sorry- no hiding your light under a bushel, here!) made an application for Maidenhill to be included in Asda's Green Token Giving scheme during the summer, and I am delighted that we have been accepted (thank you, Lee). Please see the information below from Asda, noting that the current context of our world today means that Green Token Giving is all currently online:

“Congratulations.

You have been nominated to be part of the Asda Foundation Green Token Giving online vote through your local Asda store Newton Mearns. I can confirm all the due diligence is complete and you are live on the vote!

The vote went live today and voting will close at midnight on Tuesday 30th November.

You and your supporters will be able to vote for you by visiting www.asda.com/green-tokens and selecting Newton Mearns from the drop down box. Supporters will be able to vote once every 7 days, so please encourage them to return and revote in the following weeks.

Your local store Community Champion will also be promoting the vote in store, listen out for our advert on Asda radio next time you are in store.

Thanks for being part of this exciting activity, we hope you are excited too.

Let the voting begin!”

We may well be in the running for a £500 donation to school funds so like the message says, get voting!

Finally, I want to make special mention of Miss Atkin, who will return to us after the October Week as Mrs Barr. As for many couples during a global pandemic, the road to the altar has been somewhat stop and start; however it looks like tomorrow could actually be the big moment and I am sure it will be all plain sailing from here on in! I know you would want to join me in wishing Lesley (and the future Mr Lesley) all the very best.

Diary

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

Friday October 29- Hallowe'en Fun Day

Monday Dec 20- Hopscotch Theatre Pantomime Performance (courtesy of our Parent Council)

Wednesday Dec 22- School and nursery class close for Christmas break

Have a great October week, everyone.

Take care,

Alasdair McDonald
Head Teacher