

# Maidenhill Primary School

## Head Teacher's Bulletin



Friday November 5 2021

Dear Parents/ Carers

Happy Diwali- I hope all our families who have been celebrating have had a great time. It is that time of year when the clocks have gone back and already we have had to break out the bags of salt for the playground- winter is definitely coming!

Our Parent Council AGM took place via Zoom on Wednesday night. A solid turn-out was reminded of everything the council has achieved over the course of the year. Despite the many restrictions and upheavals, our Parent Council has continued to seek worthwhile and creative ways to support our school and our children. This support has been amazing. When things have been tough and any light at the end of the tunnel seemed far out of reach, it has been great to know that our Parent Council, and indeed our entire parent forum, had our back. I can't imagine what we would have done if this had not been the case.

Special mention must go to our outgoing chair and secretary, Lindsay Brown and Alison Langley. As I mentioned on Wednesday, Lindsay and Alison were members of Team Maidenhill long before I came on board and their support for the school and for me personally has been invaluable. Thank you so much- you will always be the First Ladies of Maidenhill!

The next meeting of the council is scheduled for November 16 and I look forward to another successful year working alongside everyone.

### **Petrifyingly Putrid Pumpkin Patch House Challenge**

Well done to reigning champions Stirling for winning our latest house challenge. Gruesome judges Bats-blood Barr and Monstrous McDonald awarded points for creativity, spookability and craftsmanship. All houses put on an excellent display and our house captains did a fantastic job of organising the event.

### **Shoe Box Appeal**

Please see the following message from the children of our Equality Committee:

*On behalf of the Equality Committee, we would love to thank you for all your recent donations for the recent Shoebox Appeal. Maidenhill's first ever appeal was a massive success! We were able to fill over 30 shoeboxes to be sent to Blythswood Care (with plenty of donations remaining to donate to the appeal), all thanks to your generosity. This will ultimately provide some joy to children around the world who live in less advantaged countries than ours. Your support with this has been very much appreciated.*

### **Considerate Parking**

I wrote last week about the importance of considerate parking, particularly in relation to leaving designated bays for blue badge holders only and using parking spaces (admittedly a slight inconvenience) rather than opening the door, dropping off and potentially blocking the traffic behind. Although there is still room for improvement, I have noted progress this week and I am sure it will be appreciated by our wider parent/ carer

community. Obviously my focus in the mornings and at the end of the day must always be on the children so I am relying on everyone playing their part in showing consideration to their fellow community members.

### Term-time Holidays

I have received several recent requests to authorise term-time holidays/ family visits abroad. Please note that East Renfrewshire Education Department has a strict policy that will not allow for term-time holidays/ family visits and all such absences will be recorded with the department as 'unauthorised'. Even at the best of times, any extended term-time absence can have a significant impact on a child's learning and attainment. Especially now, when children have already gone through a period of educational upheaval, I would strongly urge you, for the benefit of your children and their education within East Renfrewshire, to reconsider any such future plans.

### 500 Mile Challenge

Our current focus on sustainability and climate change culminates in our 500 Mile Challenge on Friday 12 November. All children from P1-7 will take part in an assault course event which aims to highlight different forms of sustainable travel (whilst also gathering those all-important house points). Children are welcome to add to their uniform that day with something borrowed or re-cycled **in their house colours** (please note: this is a change from the previous plan for everyone to wear something green.) Thank you to Mr Edge and Mr Keir for organising.

### Asda Green Token Giving

Don't forget about our involvement in the Asda Green Token Giving:

“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 30<sup>th</sup> November.

You and your supporters will be able to vote for you by visiting [www.asda.com/green-tokens](http://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!

### Diary

Tuesday November 2- Parent Council AGM @ 7.30pm

**Monday Dec 20- Hopscotch Theatre Pantomime Performance (courtesy of our Parent Council)- regrettably cancelled due to ongoing restrictions**

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

I shall be out of school on Monday and Tuesday next week, leaving everything in the capable hands of Miss Shaw and Mrs Barr.

Have a great weekend and I look forward to seeing everyone again on Wednesday.

Take care,

Alasdair McDonald  
Head Teacher