

# Maidenhill Primary School

## Head Teacher's Bulletin



Friday November 12 2021

Dear Parents/ Carers

Yesterday saw the inaugural session of our very first Maidenhill Parliament. Designed to represent the views of our entire school community and to help drive forward continuous school improvement, our core parliament consist of our MMPs (Members of the Maidenhill Parliament), House Captains and Vice Captains, Equality Committee Reps, 2 teacher representatives, Mrs Barr, Miss Shaw and myself. In addition, the Parliament agreed that from time to time we hope to invite additional attendees (including parents and community members) depending on the themes discussed and the motions tabled.

It is clear that the children involved were taking their responsibility seriously and were keen to engage in the democratic process. It was great to hear so many improvement ideas being generated. Following the impetus created by Cop 26, we have decided that the theme for our December parliament will be 'Sustainability' with the motion to be discussed being 'Maidenhill Primary Should Do More to Encourage Sustainability'. I have no doubt our eloquent and committed youngsters will be informed and enthusiastic in their contributions.

### Children in Need Appeal

The Parliament agreed with the Equality Committee's suggestion to support this year's Children in Need Appeal as one of this year's fundraising activities. Schools are bombarded with information and requests from (no doubt very worthy) charities throughout the year, but it will be our parliament who will make the final decision on any charity fundraising.

Please see the message below from our Equality Committee:

Children in Need Day will take place on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2021. We hope to help raise funds for the worthwhile causes supported by Children in Need. Children can come to school on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> November adding something yellow or with polka dots to their school uniform in return for a coin donation. There will be a collection bucket at the school gate and within each class. All proceeds will be donated to Children in Need to help remove the barriers sometimes faced by children and young people throughout the UK and across the world. Children in our nursery class are also welcome to be as yellow or as spotty as they like and we will leave a collection bucket at the front door.

I appreciate that this is another day which requires some kind of change/ addition to the normal school uniform and that this can often create a degree of last-minute stress at home! Please be assured that this will be the last such day until..... Christmas jumper day on Monday 13 December!

### Cop 26

Regardless of how impactful the actual event turns out to be (and only time will tell) Cop 26 has proven to be an excellent learning context for our children.

In the nursery class, children have been learning about planet earth and have been able to say that we have to look after our planet. They used Education Scotland's Dug the Dog Thinglink to spark some more discussion about COP26. The children were able to talk about the difference between what happens to the rubbish that

goes in the rubbish bin and the rubbish that goes into the recycling bin. They also talked about how some cars need to be plugged in, because they are electric, and how other cars need petrol from the petrol station to go.

In Primary One children read the book 'Winston of Churchill- One Bear's Battle Against Global Warming'. After receiving a letter from Winston, himself, the children then thought about what they could do to make the school a better place and help save the polar bears at the same time. They came up with some great ideas such as recycling, putting rubbish in the bin and cycling to school. They drew pictures about this and then made a pledge to do try to do these things.



Primary 2 children have been very engaged in COP26. They felt very passionate about their sustainability pledges and were excited to share them on the school Twitter. They have also really embraced the challenge to save electricity, often reminding their teachers to turn the lights off. They have been brainstorming and selecting ways to reduce, reuse and recycle materials in school and have been thinking creatively about what to do with their waste. Finally, they have looked at topical news items and stories surrounding climate change and engaged in discussions about the impact on our lives.

As well as investigating the summit itself, children in Primary 3 have focused on plastic pollution and its impact. They have created campaign posters to show people what they can do to help and to highlight the issue of climate change.

P4alpha have been busy making blended oil pastel pictures of the earth showing hot and cold colours to evidence the warming of the atmosphere due to climate change. They have also been busy exploring ways of powering a light bulb in the Exploration Suite. Daily classroom discussions following Newsround have helped them all to think of ways to make changes for sustainability.

P4bravo have been focusing on the impact that climate change has had on our oceans. They have been linking this with their learning about persuasive writing and considering ways that they can influence others to take positive action in protecting the oceans and the animals that inhabit them. They have also been looking at practical measures in school that we can take to reduce waste and be more environmentally responsible. They have generated some fantastic ideas for ways they can play their part to tackle climate change both at school and at home.

P5 children have been working hard researching the impact of climate change on Scotland and another country of their choice, along with finding out some more information about Cop26. They have been making sways and posters to display their information and will be presenting their final product to the class. Some of the pupils have also been making posters about what you can do to help the environment.

P6 have investigated the causes of climate change, their part in contributing to it and ideas/solutions that would help change the world, including the development of renewable energy. They created leaflets that could be used at future climate change events. They are also in the process of creating COP26 Art, using emotive images and language to convey a proactive message.

Primary 7 have been exploring different types of renewable energy and comparing them in terms of cost and environmental impact. They are applying this knowledge by evaluating a business of their choice (BP/Amazon/ McDonalds) and suggesting ways they could become more eco-friendly through their use of technology and renewable energy.

## 500 Mile House Challenge

Plan B kicked into place this morning when the weather threatened to put a dampener on Mr Edge's and Mr Keir's 500 Mile House Challenge. Quickly re-arranging (as we so often have to do) from outdoors to indoors, the children did not miss out on the fun-filled, all-out action with an active-travel promoting slant. Thanks to all our P5 and P7 helpers for ensuring that the day went smoothly. Points are still being tallied but I shall let you know which of our house teams proves to be victorious.

## Scottish Book Week

Next week is Scottish Book Week with Mrs Barr organising a programme of events throughout the week to help foster the joy of reading that we continue to prioritise at Maidenhill.

I'll never forget the first 'grown up' book I read on a long, summer holiday in France as an achingly-precocious 9 year old. It was 'Cards on the Table' by Agatha Christie (the cover of a blood-stained dagger slicing through a garish deck of playing cards remains with me still) and although I realise now that I completely misunderstood and misinterpreted the ending, it transported me to a time, a place and an atmosphere that had me absolutely hooked. I knew I wouldn't stop in my pursuit of the awe, amazement and suspense the book had engendered. To this day I always feel ridiculously short-changed if I get to the end of a novel and there hasn't even been one murder!

I am keen to compile and share some stories about the books that have inspired our parents' and carers' love of reading. If you are up for sharing, please send me a paragraph or two about the book that made you a life-long reader. Having positive reading role-models in their lives greatly enhances children's love of reading and I would be grateful if you could send any contributions to me via [schoolmail@maidenhill.e-renfrew.sch.uk](mailto:schoolmail@maidenhill.e-renfrew.sch.uk)

## Ladies' Night – Friday 26 November

The Parent Council have organised a Ladies' Night later this month. Please see the information below to make sure you don't miss out:

The Parent Council are excited to announce the next fundraising event - Ladies' Night on Friday 26 November @ Parklands. Tickets are £10pp which includes entry, entertainment and raffle.

There is a fantastic line up of raffle prizes. How do you fancy: a make up lesson, personal training, car valet, a massage, meal for two, and lots lots more? Get your Ladies' Night tickets today!

Purchase tickets <https://www.paypal.com/pools/c/8EoGESF6y3>

(ADD YOUR NAME TO THE PAYPAL COMMENTS SO WE CAN ALLOCATE TICKETS)

We look forward to meeting everyone.

Maidenhill Parent Council

## Asda Green Token Giving

Don't forget there is still time to get involved 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

Monday Dec 13- Christmas Jumper Day

Tuesday Dec 14- P5 party (*party clothes may be worn all day on each party day*)

Wednesday Dec 15- P4 party

Thursday Dec 16- P3 party

Friday Dec 17- P2 party

Monday Dec 20- P1 party (am)

Monday Dec 20- Nursery Class party (pm)

Monday Dec 20- World premiere of our P1-7 nativity film

Tuesday Dec 21- P6 and P7 party

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

Wednesday January 5- School and nursery class re-open

Have a great weekend!

Take care,

Alasdair McDonald

Head Teacher