

Maidenhill Primary School

Head Teacher's Bulletin



Friday November 19 2021

Dear Parents/ Carers

The weeks are flying past and already we are starting to think about you-know-what! We try our best to hold off on any major discussion until December 1st but we obviously need to put our festive plans in place well in advance.

Despite many people still having the opportunity to work from home, when we see how packed bars, restaurants, shops, gyms etc. are I can appreciate it may be easy to start to think of the COVID 19 pandemic as a distant memory. This is not the reality of life in schools and nursery classes. We are still living with the guidelines and restrictions which have been in place for us since July (in recognition of the importance the government places on keeping schools and nursery classes open and operational).

With only a few minor updates, it was confirmed last week that these restrictions will remain with us until after the Christmas period. Although the wider community has had the opportunity to gain some semblance of normality in every day life, we continue to battle every day to ensure the children's experiences remain unaffected by the specific restrictions for our context. Not always easy, but certainly worthwhile and a testament to the hard work and resilience of our staff team.

It does mean that both our school and nursery nativities will again be on film, released via GoogleClassrooms on December 20. Anyone who experienced our films from last year will recall the epic cinematic sweep, the heart-wrenching narrative arc and the uplifting musical tour-de-force (or something along those lines!) A lack of live audience did not dampen spirits and I am sure this year will be no different.

Christmas parties can be held across stages (rather than individual classes) and our Christmas Jumper Day will get the 'official' season off to a bang for the school and nursery class on Monday 13.....and (weather permitting) if we can fit in a bit of outdoor carolling, I will certainly let you know.

Assembly and Maidenhill All Stars

As with last November, the theme for this month's assembly was Anti-Bullying- One Kind Word. It was a great opportunity to take some time to reflect upon both the impact and causes of bullying behaviour as well as trying to define what bullying behaviour actually looks like. It is certainly an emotive subject and one we can all relate some of our own experiences to. With our new Emotion Works resource for this session, we aim to develop children's emotional literacy and allow them either to express their needs without resorting to bullying behaviour or to know how to seek support if they encounter it.

There is no doubt children face amplified pressures in the face of the relentless rise of communication by social media and messaging apps and the sad decline of 'real' human interaction. As a school team we always endeavour to ensure that we provide the appropriate role models and that our words and deeds are as informed, thoughtful and as considered as the standards we hold up for our children. I am certain I can count on our wider community for similar support.

Given this theme, I was delighted again by how many times our Maidenhill All Star nominations for this month mentioned 'kindness'. Congratulations to:

P1- Layla
P2alpha- Harris
P2bravo- Kani
P3alpha- Otilie
P3bravo- Felicity
P4alpha- Carrson
P4bravo- Jade
P5alpha- Ayra
P5bravo- Aleeza
P6- Ismail
P7- Emme

Well done, everyone!

Children in Need Appeal

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our Equality Committee's fundraising for the Children in Need Appeal. It looks like we have raised approximately £360 across the school and nursery class and had some fun into the bargain.

Scottish Book Week

Book Week Scotland marked its tenth birthday this week and the chosen theme of 'Celebrations' allowed us to continue to promote and celebrate our love of reading in Maidenhill.

Last session, the Parent Council generously purchased lots of new and exciting 'real books' for our ever-growing library. This week, our Primary 6 librarians have been busy sharing some of these texts with our younger children. They have confidently read a different story every day and today the children had the opportunity to vote for the book they found most entertaining.

Primary 7 have taken the theme of 'celebrations' literally and have enjoyed reading famous party-scenes from novels such as The Great Gatsby, Alice in Wonderland and Harry Potter. They have also taken part in the 'mother-tongue story challenge' where they were tasked with writing a short piece of work in a language spoken at home. We have had some super entries including Russian plays, Urdu short stories and Cantonese poetry.

In Primary 5 the children have been engaging in mini book clubs, discussing their favourite texts and creating book reviews to add to their 'must read' list – watch out Oprah (..or Richard and Judy, even), there are some new literary critics in town! They have also used their knowledge of angles to direct some well-known faces around Hogwarts.

Primary 4 have enjoyed re-creating different scenes from their favourite books using a range of art materials and have shown off their interior design skills to update and modernise characters' bedrooms.

Our Primary 1-3 children are not coming home empty handed today! They have all been issued with their Read, Write, Count bags or Bookbug bags. Primary 1 have been busy exploring the texts throughout the week – have a look at all the fun they have had by following the link below:

<https://sway.office.com/kvDKbg9eLXI0oc2H?ref=Link>

And in our nursery class, as well as lots of interactive story time, the children have created their own library treasure chest and have even started creating some of their own books to keep within.

Safe Driving

I have written to you recently to encourage all of our community members to show consideration in their use of our car park, particularly in relation to considerate parking.

In a similar, but even more important vein, I would urge everyone to ensure that they exercise the upmost caution in their driving whilst in our car park and especially at the pedestrian crossing at the MUGA gate. I would ask you to make sure that your speed is no more than a crawl at all times. Go as slow as you think you can and then please go even slower, particularly in the vicinity of the crossing. Yes, children can be unpredictable at the best of times and we will continue to promote road safety throughout our curriculum. However the onus in a school car park will always be on the drivers to ensure they are as alert, as cautious and as careful as they can be.

Parent Council

Our Parent Council met again on Tuesday 16 November, with Mrs Lee de Franca selected as our new Chair. Congratulations to Lee and all our new office bearers and reps- I look forward to working with you over the remainder of the session and have no doubt you will make a valuable contribution to our improvement agenda.

Please see the following message from our Parent Council about their upcoming Ladies' Night:

Ladies' Night - Friday 26 November

There is still time to buy a ticket for the Parent Council **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

500 Mile House Challenge

I wrote to you last week about the fun had at our 500 Mile House Challenge. A significant number of house points were awarded for the children's efforts, but well done to Eilean Donan for coming out on top.

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) (*all children-regardless of allocation- welcome to attend*)

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

Tuesday Dec 21- P6 and P7 party

Wednesday Dec 22- School (2pm) and nursery class (6pm) close for Christmas break

Wednesday January 5- School and nursery class re-open

Have a great weekend!

Take care,

Alasdair McDonald
Head Teacher