

Maidenhill Primary School

Head Teacher's Bulletin



Friday November 26 2021

Dear Parents/ Carers

Before the madness truly begins, we are currently undertaking our programme of learning visits across our school and nursery class.

Working in trios, teachers and the Leadership Team visit each other to observe learning, talk to children and then engage in professional 'trialogues' to help inform each practitioner's self-evaluation.

As a school leader, I am fortunate enough to have the flexibility to be in and out of classes on a regular basis and to stop by to talk to children about the learning they are undertaking and the skills they are developing. There is nothing more satisfying (and an essential break from the many other aspects of the job which have nothing to do with learning and teaching!) For class teachers, however, there is little flexibility to visit others unless we actually create those opportunities through a structured learning visit programme. Whether we are children or adults, the best way for us to learn new skills and deepen our understanding is by watching and interacting with others. Even the most experienced teacher's practice can be enhanced by observing colleagues and engaging in professional discussion.

Through our visits, I have been delighted to see fantastic examples of rich learning- independent and responsible children taking the lead in organising and meeting their targets through our semi-integrated day approach, plentiful opportunities for collaboration and investigation, open-ended contextualised learning and, most importantly, engaged and motivated learners. We will never be complacent though and we will never stop evolving and aiming to improve our learning and teaching. It is our core business after all.

Nut allergies

Just a reminder that we should always be completely nut free in both the school and nursery class. No one ever sends their children into school or nursery with a bag of nuts these days but we do from time to time pick up on items which are laden with nuts as part of the ingredients. As always, the problems usually occur with cereal bars, cookies, pastries and biscuits and anything containing that old favourite, the chocolate/nut spread. I would ask you to always be extremely vigilant when sending anything in for lunch or snack- I know the many children who have nut allergies (and their families) will be extremely grateful.

Nursery Walk and Talk

In the absence of our pre-pandemic 'Coffee and Chats', Miss Shaw is initiating a 'Walk and Talk' for our nursery class parents on Tuesday 30 November, 2pm. This is the ideal opportunity for our nursery class parents to meet up with each other, get some fresh (and knowing Maidenhill, it will be very fresh) air and talk about the hot topics of the day. I'm sure it will make a nice change for Miss Shaw to have some adult conversation that doesn't involve me, although I am not entirely convinced she has worked out her route- I will have a search party on standby. If you are interested, please meet with Miss Shaw at the entrance plaza at 2. If the weather is atrocious, you will be at least able to huddle under the canopy to the right of the door.

Nativity Films

With the same tracks from our 'Super Star' nativity CD pack ringing over and over in my head (replicated by our children in an accent that can only be described as West of Scotland meets Home Counties junior stage school), I can safely say that preparations for our school and nursery class nativity films are well under way.

Please look out for e-mails today/ at the start of each week from each class with a link to a Microsoft Form that will allow you to give permission for your child to participate. Please note that the films will only be released through our Google Classrooms but that your specific permission is required before your child will be able to take part in filming. Our actual filming is due to begin next Friday (3rd).

Absences

We are currently running with (and have been for some time) a higher rate of absences and late coming than would be expected in a normal session (not that we have ever managed to have a normal session at Maidenhill yet!) Some, although not all, of this is totally understandable as the pandemic continues to raise its head from time to time.

I wrote to you a couple of weeks ago, however, about the importance of avoiding unauthorised absences during term time. In addition, I would appreciate also if your child is unwell and unfit for school that you contact us on each day of your child's absence (either by leaving a message on our answerphone or by speaking directly to Ms Robertson or Mrs Fraser in our office). We have a duty of care to ensure we know where our children are each day- if we have not heard from you by 9.30, Ms Robertson then has to begin the long process of trying to get in touch. As you will appreciate, this can be incredibly time consuming and easily avoidable.

On some occasions, we may have to contact Children and Family Services if we do not have appropriate information about a child's whereabouts. Most of our parents are incredibly efficient in this regard and I thank you for your cooperation in this manner.

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