

Maidenhill Primary School

Head Teacher's Bulletin



Friday December 3 2021

Dear Parents/ Carers

The time has definitely come- we could hold it back no longer! The trees went up, the tinsel is on, 'Frosty the Snowman' is blasting from the plasma screens and Mr Edge has gone to town with a lighting display that he assures me is carbon neutral. All we need now is for the Secret Santa box in the staffroom to start filling up and the scene will be truly set.

That's not to say the learning has been abandoned (not on my watch!) I spent a morning in the nursery this week building a boat that would help the children and I get from the beach we were on to 'Butterfly Island'. With some of us taking the lead in rowing, it was clear others intended simply to be passengers content to imagine what we might find when we reached our destination. With more than a dozen children joining our crossing, I left them with the challenge to build a much bigger boat. I don't know about the children, but I certainly enjoyed myself!

In Primary 3bravo, some of the children were exploring coordinates and I was impressed to see how well they were able to lead their own learning and thinking, stimulated by an open-ended provocation set up for them by their teacher. Others were consolidating their understanding of multiplication by 5; making links to repeated addition and creating grouping arrays- a sure-fire sign of 'deep' rather than 'rote' understanding.

In Primary 5alpha, the 'integrated day' approach was in full swing, with children taking the lead in deciding how they structure the completion of their literacy and numeracy targets. I was impressed by how purposeful the learning was and how this approach leads to very little 'dead-time' at points of transition.

As this cycle of learning visits begins to draw to a close, all I can say to our children and staff is keep up the fantastic work!

P1 Applications

The process for applying to East Renfrewshire Council to enrol in P1 for August 2022 is now open and will remain open until January 21 2022:

<https://www.eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk/apply-for-p1>

Please make sure you get in on time, otherwise you may be considered a late application.

I love that the web page uses the picture of some of our children on our opening day in August 2019. It is great to realise how much they have grown!

Walk and Talk

Well done to all the hardy souls who joined the nursery parent 'Walk and Talk' this week. The weather was nothing if not predictable! I know the current restrictions have sometimes made it difficult for our parents, particularly those who are fairly new to us, to get to know each other so this is a great opportunity to get the

chance to meet up. Well done also to Sarah Jane and Sehba for stepping in at the last minute to lead the way. Look out for Walk and Talk 2 in the new year and if the demand is there, this might be something we roll out to other stages within the school.

Toilet Training

Nothing says 'Enjoy the Festive Season' like a message about toilet training. However, I know the 2 week break will provide the perfect opportunity for many parents wanting to put their plan of action in place. Please do not hesitate to get in touch with a member of our nursery team if you wish to talk over your plan and seek advice on the strategies you are implementing.

As always, you can contact us via the school office on 0141 570 7090 or via schoolmail@maidenhill.e-renfrew.sch.uk

Nativity dance

Our very own Steven Spielberg and Martin Scorsese (Mr Edge and Mr Keir) are coordinating the filming of P1-7's 'Super Star' nativity with the cast of hundreds and the epic sweep of our ensemble pieces in full evidence today. Mr Edge is looking for your help and has posted the following message and an accompanying music file to each P1-7 Google Classroom:

"Like last year, we're going to finish our nativity movie with a dance number and need your help!

We're encouraging all our families to get involved by dancing with someone at home. It could be a sibling or a parent.

Please listen to the medley attached and record yourselves at home dancing along to it (remember to video in landscape).

Then submit your video on your Google Classroom by Thursday 9th of December to ensure time to edit the videos before being released.

If you would like to, please dress up in your best party clothes to take part in the dance.

Have fun and keep dancing!"

I don't know how you feel, but one of the real highlights of last year's nativity film was the 'family dancing' section- was it just me, or was there something quite emotional about it? (I did watch it on a Saturday night- it might just have been the Baileys.)

If you think you have the energy left, please get your dancing shoes on and upload.

P7 Enterprise

Our enterprising Primary 7s have set up their own festive pop-up company, 'Oh Deer'. They will be launching their line of eco-friendly reindeer food on Monday 6th of December. If your child is interested in buying a bag, they are each priced at £1.50. The P7s will visit the P1-7 classes for the next couple of weeks to sell their products.

Parent Council

Please see the following updates from our all-action Parent Council:

Ladies' Night Success

Thank you to everyone who came along and donated to Ladies' Night on Friday 26 November. A great night was had by all. We are pleased to announce that we raised £650 from this event and it is being donated to the school to support the Festive activities and gifts for the children.

ASDA Green Token

Thank you to everyone who voted for Maidenhill Primary in the Asda Green Token initiative. We are pleased to update you that we came top of the leader board and expect to receive a £500 donation from Asda to support future Parent Council and School activities.

Food Bank Collection (poster attached)

Following the success of last year, Maidenhill Parent Council will be supporting the Pollok Baptist Church Food Bank collection.

Whilst all donations are welcome suggestions include:

- Deodorant (Male and Female)
- Soap
- Tins of Meat
- Sugar
- Coffee
- Chocolate

Please gather your donations in one bag and bring to Maidenhill school car park (drop off bay at nursery fence) for a contactless drop on **Friday 17 December 8.50am- 2.50pm**

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

Thursday Dec 16- Christmas lunch in the cafeteria

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 (2.30pm) and nursery class (6pm) close for Christmas break- **apologies; my last bulletin had a 2pm finish for the school- its definitely 2.30pm**

Wednesday January 5- School and nursery class re-open

Have a great weekend!

Take care,

Alasdair McDonald
Head Teacher