

# Maidenhill Primary School

## Head Teacher's Bulletin



Friday December 10 2021

### Dear Parents/ Carers

It seems like a lifetime ago when the biggest thing we had to worry about at this time of year was that, no matter how carefully and conscientiously you tell yourself you packed them away last year, an unknown perpetrator has managed to access your loft and mix up all your Christmas lights and leave them tangled in an old Asda bag!

As we enter a further period of yet more uncertainty, the fragility of the current situation continues to be highlighted. After almost 2 years of peaks and troughs however, I am more than used to uncertainty- always planning for the best, but preparing for the worst. We are starting to enter that end of term 'danger zone' where any instruction to isolate could potentially have an impact on at least the first week of everyone's holiday. With the introduction of the new isolation instructions in relation to the Omicron variant, being fully vaxxed or having a negative PCR no longer negates the need to isolate. This is a time when, as a community, we will all want to do our best to exercise caution. I certainly wouldn't want to see any of our staff members or parents/ families isolating over the holiday, but I definitely don't want to think of any of our children being in that position.

It can be easy sometimes in a school and nursery class to feel that you are being too cautious; at other times, not cautious enough. It can be a difficult balancing act based on a lot of factors specific to our context, but with the children at the heart of our decision-making I feel confident, even when we adults are all having to make sacrifices, we are doing our very best to get that balance right for the children.

### Christmas Jumper Day

We kick off the official festive calendar on Monday with Christmas Jumper Day. If they wish, children can come to school or nursery class dressed for a winter wonderland- reindeer antlers, santa hats, added sparkle all allowed.

Please note we will limit Christmas jumpers to this day and, apart from the days of the children's Christmas parties, full uniform is expected right up until the end of term.

### Christmas Parties

Speaking of Christmas parties (now frowned upon in wider society, but still thankfully OK for us in school), the children in P1-7 will all have a snack of either ready salted Walkers crisps or Pom Bears, plus a Fredo and some sugar-free diluting juice. Our nursery children will have Pom Bears, sugar-free juice and their very own self-made Christmas biscuits. If you would rather your child has an alternative, please do not hesitate to get in touch via [schoolmail@maidenhill.e-renfrew.sch.uk](mailto:schoolmail@maidenhill.e-renfrew.sch.uk) or on 0141 570 7090.

### Nursery Carols

For a short time from 2.30 on Wednesday 15, our nursery class children are planning to make an appearance in our nursery garden to share 3 of the carols they have been practising. As long as there is no further

tightening of restrictions, we would like to welcome 1 family member to come and watch the cuteness unfold from the vantage point of 'over the garden fence'.

Due to the space we have available and the social distancing requirements still in place between adults of different households on school grounds, we would be grateful if you stick to the 1 family member requirement (hard I know!) and ensure that you are wearing a face covering. Photography/ filming of your own child is of course allowed, but please be aware that you will not have the express permission to photograph or film anyone else's child.

### **P1 application**

Just a reminder that 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.

### **Nursery applications**

I believe that online applications for next year's nursery places will open on Monday 13. If younger siblings are turning 3 in time for or during Session 2022/2023, please keep your eyes on East Renfrewshire's website and social media for details of the link being released next week.

### **Maidenhill Parliament**

The second meeting of our Maidenhill Parliament took place yesterday, with our MMPs, Equality Reps and House and Vice Captains considering the key question, "What can we at Maidenhill do to become more sustainable?" The children had gathered the views of their classmates and put forward some well thought-out proposals. Lana put forward a proposal to reduce paper waste, which was eagerly backed up by Nargiz. Harry, Daniyal and Maria have suggested contacting renewables companies for support and advice; Max proposed that classes build on our existing gardening success and grow more of our own vegetables; Murray put forward a proposal to tackle the significant soap wastage that is causing us headaches. All in all, I am extremely impressed with how thoughtful, proactive and well-prepared our parliamentarians were (if only all parliaments could behave so maturely!)

### **Parent Council**

Please see the following updates from our Parent Council:

#### **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

In addition the Parent Council have produced a handy poster of our festive dates which I have attached to this bulletin.

## 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

Wednesday Dec 15- Nursery Class carols @ 2.30pm

Thursday Dec 16- P3 party

Thursday Dec 16- Christmas lunch in the cafeteria

Friday Dec 17- P2 party

Friday Dec 17- Parent Council foodbank collection

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

Wednesday January 5- School and nursery class re-open

Have a great weekend!

Take care,

Alasdair McDonald

Head Teacher