

# Maidenhill Primary School

## Head Teacher's Bulletin



Friday January 21 2022

### Dear Parents/ Carers

Making ends meet has meant yours truly taking to the nursery floor in the afternoons this week- lots of fun and some fantastic interactions with our children (the way their minds work when exploring their 'lines of interest' is nothing short of amazing) but also totally exhausting! How our fantastic nursery team keep their energy levels up for a full shift is beyond me.

Stepping up to meet the next challenge, often at very short notice, and never really knowing what is coming round the corner is something at which our whole staff team are currently excelling. I remember back to the glory days when I would write up a master timetable that would pretty much see us through a term. Re-writing the timetable every week has become my standard practice this session and at the moment it feels I am issuing new timetable changes every day. I am fully aware of how disconcerting this can be for staff and I am so grateful that their dedication and willingness to adapt means, as always, our children are oblivious to any behind-the-scenes dramas.

### Mary's Meals

Thank you to everyone who made a kind donation to our Equality Committee's Mary's Meals appeal today. Between the nursery class and school you have helped the committee raise over £175 for this worthy cause. Much appreciated. This helps us with our focus this month on UNCRC Article 27- 'Children have the right to food, water and shelter.'

### P6 Sticker Studio

The buzz around Primary 6's 'Sticker Studio' enterprise project continues apace. It has been great to see the commitment and enthusiasm the children are demonstrating as they take the lead for their own learning by applying a range of skills to a very meaningful context. Every time I pass their class or speak to any of the children I am struck by how engaged they are in their learning- keep it up, Primary 6!

So far the success of their personally designed and hand-made stickers has meant that these socially-conscious youngsters have already been able to donate £50 to the Cash for Kids fund and they are currently finalising plans to make a further donation to another worthy cause.

### Parking

I had written to you prior to Christmas to ask for the co-operation and consideration of our entire school community when it comes to the use of the designated 'blue badge' parking bays to the right of our entrance plaza.

Regrettably, we continue to see these bays being occupied by parents/ carers who are not entitled to use them. I can only imagine that this is simply to save the effort of finding and parking in a space slightly further away. This inconsiderate behaviour does not represent the values of our school community and I think I can say with confidence that the vast majority of parents/ carers will be in agreement with me.

At Maidenhill, both in the school and nursery class, we work with children with a vast range of needs (it is estimated that more than a quarter of children in all schools will present with some form of additional support need during their school career). Some of these needs can be physical, life-long and significant- these bays are primarily for the parents/ carers of Maidenhill children who are entitled to a blue badge. These children may require one of our blue badge bays at any point in the day. In addition visitors/ parents/ family members who are entitled to a blue badge themselves may also use these bays if they are not required for our children.

Other than that, kindly keep these bays free. We do not have the staff at Maidenhill to be able to police the car park so those who are entitled to use the blue badge bays are reliant on the on the consideration of all members of our community.

### **Tartan Day**

Don't forget that Tuesday is Tartan Day in the school and nursery class and as I write this, I can hear that beloved classic of Scottish primary schools, 'The Jeely Piece Song' being practised across the atrium. Who needs the Proclaimers when we have dulcet tones of Primary 3 to sum up Scottish culture in a musical turn? Admittedly I can also hear Shakira in the background, who is definitely not an example of Scottish culture. I am hoping this is not a sign of confusion in one of our classes!

Children are free to 'tartan-up' their school uniform or add a bit of unique Scottish flair on the day.

### **ERC Standardised Testing**

Children in Primary 3, 5 and 7 across all East Renfrewshire Schools will shortly begin standardised testing in reading and numeracy/ mathematics. The testing programme will be carried out by Miss Shaw, Mrs Barr and myself within the children's usual classroom environment. All effort is taken to minimise any anxiety children may feel about the testing process and therefore we do not intend to intimate the specific dates and times of the tests in advance.

Test papers will then be marked centrally with children's results (set against an East Renfrewshire standard of 100) and returned to us in June to be used diagnostically and to be shared with parents in our summative reports.

### **Diary**

Tuesday 25 January- Tartan Day

Friday February 4- In-service day

Monday February 7- Tuesday February 8- February Weekend Holiday

Tuesday March 29 and Thursday March 31- parent consultation meetings

Friday April 1- School and nursery class close for Spring break

Enjoy your weekend.

Take care,

Alasdair McDonald

Head Teacher