

Maidenhill Primary School

Head Teacher's Bulletin



Friday January 28 2022

Dear Parents/ Carers

Wednesday night saw our teachers coming together to moderate evidence of learning from each of their classes. This level of professional dialogue is crucial in ensuring that our staff are confident in making their professional judgements and that we have consistency in approach across our nursery class and school. This sets the scene for further moderation activity on the In-Service Day next week, when we will be looking at evidence of learning across various East Renfrewshire establishments. It is always great to hear practitioners engaging in this level of conversation, sharing their practice and really looking in depth at learning, teaching and assessment. The life of a classroom teacher is filled with the unique daily joys that working with children can bring. However it is true to say that these moments of time for professional reflection and adult conversation are also always highly valued.

As part of their contracted 35 hour working week, 195 hours per session are set aside for directed activity over and above teachers' class contact time and the time during which they are expected to plan and prepare for all learning and teaching. These 195 hours are quickly set aside for our parent consultation meetings, writing summative reports, working together on moderation activity as described above, staff meetings, our school improvement working groups, professional dialogues etc. – basically every essential part of the job which doesn't involve direct contact with the children. As you can imagine, it is always a bit of a juggling act and 195 hours are never enough! Even with the increased demands and uncertainties that continue to be placed on our staff team, it is a joy to see their continued enthusiasm and engagement in our collegiate improvement activity.

Telephone Issues

We have only just had our telephone systems re-store after almost 3 days of outage. Apologies for any inconvenience this has caused and thank you for your patience. As always you can also reach us on schoolmail@maidenhill.e-renfrew.sch.uk

Tartan Day

Tuesday was Tartan Day at Maidenhill with tartan in abundance and a general level of cultural exploration that was more Scottish than Kevin Bridges eating haggis watching Take the High Road.

It was great to bring a performance element back in to proceedings, with those classes who had planned a performance aspect to their day being able to share it with 2 others. From Primary 1's 'Ye Cannae Shove Yer Granny Aff a Bus' (and certainly not without an up to date risk assessment!) to Primary 7's rendition of 'A Dug, A Dug' via P3b's classic 'If it Wishae Fur Yer Wellies' it was great to see the children giving it their all. I know across the nursery class and school, from baking to art work and poetry, children enjoyed a chance to celebrate what makes us all part of the unique Scottish culture.

Chinese New Year

Next week sees another important celebration- Chinese New Year. All our very best and wishes of happiness, health and prosperity for the Year of the Tiger to all our families who will be celebrating.

Parent Council

Tuesday sees the next meeting of our Parent Council on Teams. A parent council is a really valuable way of engaging our parent forum in our whole school improvement agenda and our council in particular have been crucial in supporting the school and our children over the challenges of the last two and half years.

It is important however that our volunteer parent council reps are not seen or used as 'shop stewards' or as a conduit to raise queries, concerns or issues about individual children or classes. This places an unnecessary burden on our volunteers and would certainly not be the most effective way of raising any issues given that the council only meets at several key points across the course of the session.

If you have any queries, concerns or issues please as always contact us directly on 0141 570 7090 (if it is operational!) or on schoolmail@maidenhill.e-renfrew.sch.uk Second only to interacting with children, Miss Shaw, Mrs Barr and I spend a significant part of our day chatting to parents about every possible kind of query and more. We are happy to do so- that is our role in the school and it means our class teachers and nursery staff can focus on fantastic experiences for our children. Please don't hesitate to get in touch with us- we are always keen to do what we can to help.

Diary

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