

Maidenhill Primary School

Head Teacher's Bulletin



Thursday February 18 2022

Buenos Días Amigos

If it's not one storm, it's another (although admittedly neither seems to have lived up to the hype- yet). I'll hold off on that Head Teacher exchange for the time being (although 'Bargain-Loving Head Teachers in the Sun' could prove to be a new ratings-winner for Channel 5)!

Fortunately the new slip road onto the orbital seems to be fully operational, meaning that there are at least options for staff and parents entering the development. I have been passed on proposals from the roads department for new signage to further indicate no-entry points and speed limits at the orbital junction which would definitely seem like a wise move. With the increase in the routes the children are now taking to come to school, we will be looking to develop our Active Travel Plan over the coming months

Head Lice Prevention

Even when I first started teaching at the dawn of the new millennium, children who had head lice (or were even suspected of having head lice) were routinely removed from class and had to complete their work in isolation, sitting outside the Head Teacher's office. I am sure we can all remember similar situations from our own school days and can imagine how this made the children involved feel. Fortunately times have moved on. Avoiding this scenario, however, does rely on a really proactive approach from parents.

Head Teachers no longer issue the old-school 'warning' letters that often identified individual classes (schools all over Scotland would be issuing letters every five minutes if we did). Like many things, prevention is better than cure and I have attached the NHS Scotland's guidance leaflet on the matter. I would ask you to read it carefully, follow the guidance and ensure that you are regularly checking your child's hair at least once a week if not more. (The leaflet also advocates seeking advice from the school nurse- unfortunately a school-based nurse service is no longer available to us.)

Parent Consultation Meetings

Our parent consultation meetings for children in P1-7 will take place during w/b March 28. Unless something major changes in the guidance between now and then, appointments will continue to be held by telephone. All schools in East Renfrewshire will be moving to using Parents Portal to organise appointment times, whether appointments are in person or held remotely. You will be unable to book an appointment unless you have registered- if you have still not registered, please get in touch with us via schoolmail@eastrenfrewshire.e-renfrew.sch.uk

Parental Involvement and Engagement Census

An e-mail was sent earlier in the month to one family member per household about the national Parental Involvement and Engagement survey. Don't forget that the survey will close on Monday February 28.

Numeracy and Mathematics Review

Maidenhill has been chosen to participate in a review of Numeracy & Mathematics next week. The review team will visit us to speak to children and staff, but mainly to observe learning and teaching across the school and nursery class. As part of this review, children from P3-7 were surveyed on their views about Numeracy & Mathematics at Maidenhill and it has been fascinating to analyse their responses.

These included over 90% of the 230 children who were involved saying they agree or strongly agree they enjoy learning in Numeracy & Mathematics with a similar percentage stating that they feel confident they are making good progress in developing mathematical skills.

This is really heartening to hear. In the past, many children quickly switched off from Numeracy & Mathematics early in their school careers, quickly identify themselves as 'not being good with numbers'. Many adults also still make that claim in a way that they would never do when it comes to discussing Literacy skills. Positive engagement, stimulating experiences and a move away from rote learning towards conceptual understanding are always the key and I feel confident that the interactive, active and enquiry-based approach we prioritise at Maidenhill has led to the positive attitudes and confidence reflected in the children's survey results.

Latecoming

Sorry to end on a moan, but persistent latecoming (although somewhat understandable on a snowy day like today) is really starting to become a bit of a problem for quite a number of children and also for our poor office staff (for whom latecoming can have a significant impact on workload at the start of the day).

We know that children themselves are rarely responsible for their latecoming but it does have a real impact on their learning. In particular they miss out that smooth transition from home to school that helps them to focus and sets them up for the rest of the day. You can imagine how unsettling it can be for children who are rushing into their classroom late when everything is already set up and underway and everyone is already settled and working.

Obviously everyone can have a one off day where nothing goes to plan- that is totally understandable. However if you find that your child is regularly late in the mornings, then the simple solution is to readjust your morning routine to ensure you are not rushing at the last minute. Easier said than done sometimes, I know, but the benefits to your child of being here before 8.55 (school) and 9.30 (nursery class) will be considerable. If there is anything you feel that we can do to help you ensure your child is here on time, please do let us know.

Diary

wb Monday March 28- parent consultation meetings
Friday April 1- School and nursery class close for Spring break

Enjoy a hopefully slightly less-chilly weekend.

Take care,

Alasdair McDonald
Head Teacher