

Maidenhill Primary School

Head Teacher's Bulletin



Friday March 4 2022

Dear Parents/ Carers

What is the collective noun for a group of Harry Potters? A wizard of Potters? A Rowling of Potters? Whatever it is we definitely experienced it yesterday! No Elizabeth Bennetts, Heathcliffs, Miss Havishams or Jay Gatsbys (those costumes obviously being a bit trickier to come by) but certainly a colourful literary cast of characters in evidence, headlined of course by the ever-popular boy wizard.

Dressing up aside, World Book Day really gives us the opportunity to focus on the joy of reading and what it means to be part of a reading culture. It was great to see a wide range of books being used as provocations to play both indoors and outdoors across our school and nursery class. Our librarian group were also excellent in their storytelling for younger children.

It is in the shared experiences that reading truly comes to life- as adults how often do we read an excellent book and then not want to talk about it and share our thoughts on it with someone else? Reading shouldn't be a solitary business, nor should it simply be about the mechanics of decoding (important though they are). Reading is about new horizons and it is always a joy to take some time to celebrate that.

Don't forget the reading guidance on our website for more information on our approach:

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/er/maidenhill/newsletters/our-curriculum/>

Lockerbie Manor

We were never totally sure how things would be looking by the time we reached this point in the year or what the guidelines of the time would allow for, but (fingers crossed) it looks like we are very much full steam ahead for our Primary 7's residential visit to Lockerbie Manor next week. The P7 residential has become one of those rite-of-passage moments where our children have the opportunity to learn new skills, a degree of independence (yes Primary 7, you do have to make your own beds) and forge memories that will genuinely stay with them for many years to come. My own P7 residential experience (I won't mention how many years ago, but I am pretty certain that Scott and Charlene had only just made it up the aisle and New Kids on the Block were 'it') seems like only yesterday!

Unfortunately last year's Primary 7s had to miss out (don't worry- we made it up to them later in the year) so we are delighted this this year's bunch will have the full experience. I am sure you will join me in wishing them all the best for a fantastic week. Let's hope that Mrs Barr, Miss McKendrick and Miss Waddell get plenty of rest over the weekend as they are going to need all their energy for the week ahead. (In Miss Waddell's absence, Mr Edge and Mr Keir will be taking good care of P4alpha).

Nursery Class Crazy Hair Day

Monday 14 March is Crazy Hair Day in our nursery class. Make a donation at the door and come to nursery with your craziest 'do'. All donations will be used to buy plants which the children will then be planting and cultivating as part of their learning about 'growing things'.

P1-7 Parent Consultation

Parent consultation meetings for children in P1-7 are set for w/b March 28. Each teacher will run 10-minute telephone appointments on either the Monday/ Wednesday or Tuesday/ Thursday of that week.

We are hoping to have the ParentsPortal system up and running by Monday to allow you to book your own parent consultation appointment- look out for an e-mail winging its way to you at the start of the week. If you have not yet been able to set yourself up to access ParentsPortal, please contact our school office.

Diary

Tuesday March 8 and Thurs March 10- Nursery Class parent consultation meetings for pre-school year children

wb Monday March 7- P7 Lockerbie Manor residential visit

wb Monday March 28- parent consultation meetings

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

I remember spending a week in Las Vegas and watching the various conference delegates finish up their programme for the day at around 11am, heading straight for the bars and the pool.

In contrast, I will be attending a 2 day Head Teacher conference next Thursday and Friday in East Kilbride where it is likely that opportunities for pool parties will be somewhat restricted. Miss Shaw will be ably running the show in my absence and I will issue my next bulletin on March 18.

Take care,

Alasdair McDonald
Head Teacher