

Head Teacher's Report

School Roll and Re-classification

Our school roll currently sits at approximately 340 with approximately 90 children all now started in our nursery class.

We have approximately 50 children currently registered for next session's Primary 1 with 31 children due to leave us in P7. Figures for new intake are not final and do not take into account new children moving into the area between now and August and also children who will be joining at other stages.

As previously mentioned, there will likely require to be re-classification at several stages for next session, taking into account our growing roll and the Education Department's legal requirement to provide school places within East Renfrewshire for all children who reside there. I have already written specifically to some parents and will provide further information to the parents/ carers of those stages involved later on in the term.

Staffing News

Miss Jennifer Mercer, Miss Nicola Johnstone and Mrs Eleanor Wilkinson were all successful at interview in March for permanent teaching posts within Maidenhill. With 340 applicants in total and 12 candidates leeted for interview, the successful candidates insight into the Maidenhill context and enthusiasm for the school shone through and we are delighted they will be joining the team on a permanent basis.

In addition, Maria Skamagka was successful in securing a permanent post within our nursery class team. Cassie Smart has taken up her role as Senior Child Development Officer and has already updated her Paediatric First Aid Training for us.

Our Principal Teacher vacancy, currently filled by Miss Lawson on a temporary basis, was advertised last week and interviews will take place towards the end of the month.

Our In-Service Day on May 5th, will focus on sharing and evaluating all of the school improvement work we have undertaken over the last session. With staff working groups and development time focused on assessment and moderation, developing the young workforce, family friendly approaches, learning and teaching of modern languages, equalities and sciences amongst other things, we have a lot of hard work to pull together and celebrate.

Facilities and Resources

As we continue to await the download of our devolved school budget, spending is at a bit of a standstill for the time being.

A recent spend, however, was on a significant amount of bark to help improve our playground facilities.

We are looking to invite a parent representative to attend our school fund consultation meetings and are hoping to hold a meeting in the next few weeks to look at our constitution.

School Events

East Renfrewshire's programme of Standardised Testing took place in February in P3, P5 and P7. Standardised scores in Literacy and Numeracy will hopefully be returned to us in time to be reported on the relevant children's summative report cards in June.

Our children eagerly took part in ERC's Beat the Street initiative and their overall 3rd place award will be announced at this week's assembly.

We were visited by a review team from the education department, looking specifically at learning and teaching in Numeracy and Mathematics. We were delighted with the feedback we received from the team who highlighted the innovative and engaging approaches they saw in classes which were leading to high levels of motivation in our learners.

March saw a very successful P7 residential trip to Lockerbie Manor, ably led by Mrs Barr, Miss McKendrick and Miss Waddell. The children had a great week, quickly adapting to the new environment and routines and revelling in the independence and responsibility of being away from home. May thanks to the staff for their dedication and commitment, without which trips like this wouldn't be able to take place.

In addition, we celebrated World Book Day on March 3 and hosted the Travelling Book Fair, earning us £737.62 in commission.

A cello instructor has now joined us on a Tuesday providing instruction to some P3 pupils, extending the violin provision already focused on Primary 4 and Primary 5.

Many thanks to the Parent Council for supporting us by providing a 'day of magic' prior to the end of term. From the noise coming from the drama studio, I could tell it was well received.

Finally the term ended with a seasonal house challenge, with Culzean victorious on the day.

The ending of many COVID restrictions has meant that we have been able to re-visit our plans for transition events during this term and key dates have already been highlighted to parents. Parents at key transition stages will receive further e-mail information.