**Maidenhill Primary School and Nursery Class**

**Parent Council- 15.6.22**

**Parent Council- Head Teacher’s Report**

**School Roll and Re-classification**

Our school roll continues to currently sit at approximately 340 with approximately 90 children in our nursery class.

In terms of classification, we plan to run with the following classes for next session:

1 large Primary 1 class with 3 teachers

2 Primary 2 classes

2 Primary 3 classes

2 Primary 4 classes

1 composite Primary 4/5 class

1 Primary 5 class

2 Primary 6 classes

2 Primary 7 classes

We are currently engaging in telephone conversations with the parents/ carers of children who we are re-classifying into the composite P4/5. Parents and carers at P1 and P6 will also receive confirmation of which class their child is being classified into (alpha or bravo) by e-mail on Wednesday 22 June. All children will have the chance to find out their new classes, see their new classrooms and hopefully meet their new teachers on the afternoon of the 22nd.

**Staffing News**

Congratulations to Miss Lawson, who was successful at interview and secured the substantive Principal Teacher post at the start of May. Miss Lawson will continue with line management and pastoral responsibilities in our nursery class and will also have whole school responsibility for digital technologies and extra curricular opportunities.

Our teacher staffing for next session is almost, if not quite complete, with 1 temporary vacancy still to be filled and the arrival of 2 newly Qualified Teachers to be confirmed. This has been part of a staffing exercise which began in February. Miss Bannerman returned from maternity leave at the start of May and Mrs Dickson and Mr Johnstone will also return in August.

In our nursery class, we have 2 Child Development Officer vacancies for August, with the Education Department currently seeking to fill these roles.

We also have 2 part time Business Support Assistant vacancies which I am interviewing for on Friday.

Miss McKendrick and Mr Edge led workshops at Eastwood House, showcasing best practice in the Learning in 1 + 2 Languages Strategy and have been asked to form a local authority working group which aims to lead approaches in modern language across all schools.

Mr Keir has managed to secure a significant amount of funding for Sciences.

Miss Mercer and Miss Johnstone share the outcomes of their professional enquiry projects over the course of this year at an authority–wide conference and then again with Maidenhill staff last week. Both had looked into the various factors that impact on children’s, and particularly boy’s, motivation to write and their findings suggested some interesting conclusions and potential next steps.

Our In-Service Day on May 5th, focused on sharing and evaluating all the school improvement work we have undertaken over the last session. It was amazing to pull everything together and to really highlight the high levels of collegiality and willingness to engage in self-evaluation and continuous improvement already within the staff team. It is really hard to fully do justice in words to what it felt like working here this year, particularly from late November to March, so to see the amount of work that has been done, despite it feeling like the odds were stacked against us in so many ways, made me feel incredibly proud. 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, our work is celebrated but we also used it to identify our next steps for improvement.

**Facilities and Resources**

As the account has grown, we are still looking to arrange our first school fund constitution meeting, with Lee de Franca kindly volunteering to be parent representative. We have had recent guidance on East Renfrewshire’s Participatory Budgeting strategy and this may inform our approaches.

Recent spends have focused on resources designed to support learners experiencing specific literacy difficulties, sensory difficulties, social and emotional difficulties and bilingual learners.

In addition we are paying for staff training in Forest Schools and Seasons for Growth.

We have seen an uptick in the damage being caused out of school hours in our MUGA, playground and nursery garden. Ashleigh, our latest Janitor, continues to liaise with the local Community Wardens and we continue to appreciate the vigilance and support of our local residents.

**School Events**

Our parent coffee mornings kicked off again in April with P1 parents and then subsequently with P2-3 and P4-7 parents. It was great to see the parents coming back into the building and to get the chance to catch up within an informal dynamic.

In the nursery class, Miss Lawson promptly organised ‘stay and play’ sessions for parents along with a virtual coffee and chat and a ‘walk and talk’.

Our P4-7 parents were back in again as part of the invited audience for the children’s Pop UK performance in the middle of May. It was amazing to see the children up performing to a public audience for the first time since our nativity in 2019. They entered the spirit of the occasion with real verve and I couldn’t believe how much they had achieved in just a few days of workshop sessions.

The Equalities Committee organised a fantastic Rights Day, highlighting again the key areas of the UNCRC for the children in a way that was fun and very active.

Speaking of active, the Primary 5s and Primary 6s completed their Level 1 and Level 2 Bikeability training and Primary 6 also organised a fundraising active fun day in aid of Cash for Kids.

A full and in-person induction programme took place for our new nursery class and P1 entrants. Parent information evenings were held for all new parents and our new P1s have had 2 visits to see their new classroom and meet their new teacher and our new nursery class children have been invited in for Book Bug sessions. In addition, Miss Shaw, Miss Lawrie and Miss Johnstone have done the round of nursery visits for children transferring to us and Miss Lawson and members of the nursery class team are currently undertaking home visits for our new 3 year olds.

And with Sports Day, the Talent Show, Leavers’ ceremonies, evening events and tea parties still to go we have a packed couple of weeks ahead until we finally collapse in a heap on June 29th!