



Maxwellton Primary School

November Newsletter



Head Teacher Welcome!

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope everyone is well at this time and that all our families are keeping safe. We are thinking of all our families at this time as we all navigate our lives through these challenging days. If you need us for anything or we can support or help in anyway please do not hesitate to contact our school office.



Maxwellton continues to be extremely vigilant in our Covid practice. We have had one Covid cases so far in our nursery and we were praised for our swift and immediate action of this. Parents will be notified through the proper NHS procedures if a confirmed Covid case occurs.

During October/November it has been our delight to welcome some new pupils to Maxwellton. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Lilly-May to P1, Jacob to P2 and Mollie and Mairead to P6! A huge Maxwellton welcome to you all. We hope you are very happy here and that you enjoy your learning at Maxwellton Primary School. It already feels like you are very much part of the Maxwellton family! Thank you for choosing and joining our school.

Level 4 – Covid Update

As you will be aware South Lanarkshire Council is now in tier 4 of lockdown. Our school risk assessment has been updated accordingly and an updated copy of this will be available on our school blog soon.



Can I take this opportunity to remind all parents about the following procedures...

- **Parents** must remember to **socially distance** when waiting in the playground
- The wearing of face coverings for all adults is **mandatory** in Primary schools and nursery grounds unless medically exempt. Please ensure that you wear a face covering whenever you are near the school /nursery grounds.
- No child should enter our school playground before **8.50am** in the morning as the playground is not supervised until then.
- Only **P1 parents** should enter the playground in the morning.
- **P1-P3** children should go **directly to their class** on arrival at school **in the morning**.
- **P4-P7** children should **wait in their 'zone'** on arrival at school **in the morning**
- If the weather is **extremely wet all children will go straight to their classes in the morning**
- **P1** children will **finish at 2.55pm**. Parents should wait at the picnic benches.
- **P1-P3 parents** are welcome to **come into the playground at 3pm** to collect their children but must remain socially distanced.

- **P4-P7 should leave the playground independently.**
- **Parents** should remember to **socially distance** when waiting in the playground
- The wearing of face coverings is not mandatory in Primary schools for pupils, unless using school transport, however children **may wear a face covering if they choose.**

Covid Update Changes...

- All adults within the school have to wear face coverings in public spaces e.g. corridors, dining hall etc
- All PE must continue to be outdoors but will not take place if the weather is too inclement.
- **Any child that requires to shield should make contact with the school immediately.** If you have any concerns over your child's health please do not hesitate to contact us.
- No singing can take place.



Covid Positive or Self-Isolating

A reminder that if your child tests positive for Covid or displays any symptoms, **they must not come to school and you must contact the school as quickly as possible.** Please make contact with the school office.

If this occurs **out of school hours** the HT email is gw14maxwelltonht@glow.sch.uk

Please use this email address to **notify us immediately in these circumstances.**

If your child is self-isolating, school work will be provided on Google Classroom for your child. Again, please notify the school office to ensure this happens.



Heating & Ventilation



The heating is now on within our school building and the building has been warm.

You will be aware that ensuring proper ventilation within our classrooms is an essential part of our risk assessment and Covid protocols.

Classroom internal windows are all opened as well as the external windows to ensure a constant flow of fresh clean air within our classrooms. Classroom doors are also left open too.

Since the heating was switched on children have found it much warmer within the building. If your child is still finding it cold within the building for any reason then we encourage our children to wear extra layers or to bring an extra cardigan or hoodie that they can put on if they feel this is necessary. We will continue to monitor this with our children as we move through the winter months.

Book Week Scotland

We were delighted to celebrate Book Week Scotland last week and enjoyed raising the profile of reading for pleasure. Our children have been putting photos of themselves reading their favourite books on Twitter to share ideas and genres of things to read with one another. Primary 1-Primary 3 also received the Book Bags with some lovely free goodies in them also. We hope you all enjoyed!



Flu Vaccination

The flu vaccination happen last week for all parents that requested that their child receive this. The NHS staff commented on the high percentage of children within our school that received this. The children were wonderfully behaved and were a credit to themselves and our school during this. Well done everyone!

Nut Allergies

A reminder to all our parents that our school is a nut free school and this includes products containing nuts. Nutella chocolate spread is therefore not allowed. Please can you ensure that your child's snacks and lunches are nut free as we do have children within our school this year that have an allergy. We want to work together to ensure the safety of all within Maxwellton.

Home Learning

We have prepared home learning packs for all classes again. These will be issued **only** in the event of a school closure. These packs contain school jotters and working materials for your child.

Work will also be provided on Google Classroom each day and a home learning guide has been prepared for all parents too.

Hopefully we won't need any of this, but we have it prepared in case this does happen over the next few months. We are ready to go if this should happen!

Staff have also been trained on some different techniques on Google Classroom also as new learning would be posted on Google Classroom this time if schools were to close.

Please can you ensure you are ready at home also for all eventualities by making sure your child has accessed and logged on to Google Classroom at home too.

We are extremely supportive in helping any of our families access Google Classroom and if you need any help in any way please contact the school office where Mrs Brown will be happy to help and support in this area. Thank you.



Miles for Maxi

Our Parent Council organised a wonderful fundraiser during October and November to raise funds for our school library called 'Miles for Maxi'! A huge thank you to all our children and families that have taken part. The event is running until the end of November so plenty of time to still take part or give! All the details have been sent out in a previous email and are on the Parent Council Twitter and Facebook page. A huge well done to P4 that were our October class winners for gaining the most miles and a huge well done to Katie MacDonald who received a book token prize for her efforts in taking part. Still plenty of days left in November and plenty of time to take part! Thank you to every child that has ran, walked, cycled and put in effort to raise money for our school library. I am super proud of you and loved seeing your pictures. Thank you for being Maxi super stars!

Parents Evening – Telephone Consultations

Thank you to all our parents for your partnership in our parents evening telephone consultations. We hope you found these phone calls beneficial and were updated on your child's learning since they have returned to school. Mrs Goodwin has returned to school and her parent appointments will now be rescheduled for Monday 30th November and Tuesday 1st December. A letter will be sent to all P4 parents regarding this. A parent feedback sheet has also been sent out to parents. Please would you take a moment to complete this regarding feedback of your telephone consultation. It definitely was not the same as seeing you in person but I know all the teachers appreciated the opportunity to speak with parents. We hope to be able to have you all back in the school building soon!

Guitar Lessons

We are delighted that some of our P7 children have started guitar lessons after school on a Monday during this time! These are being delivered virtually through the power of Google Classroom and Mr Harris our music instructor is leading these. The children have thoroughly enjoyed the lessons so far and we have welcomed the restarting of our music instruction in some form even if it is virtually. A huge thank you to Mr Harris and Mrs Graham who stays behind on a Monday to ensure all these children receive this experience. Thank you! We can't wait to see how you all progress!

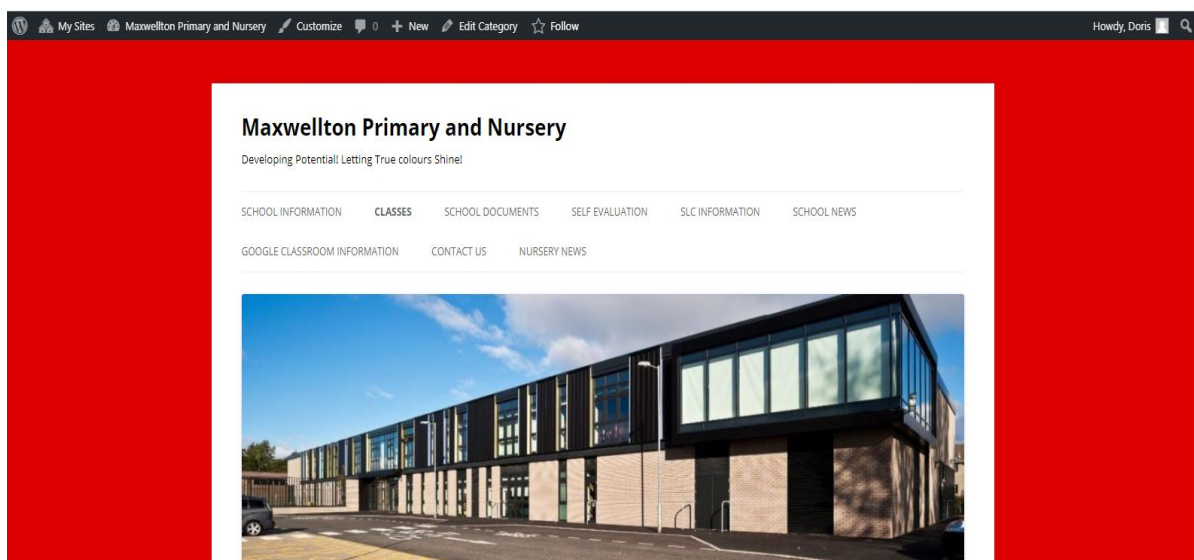


Blogs

Our classroom teachers update their class blogs **every week**. We are aware that parents are unable to come into our building this year, so we wanted to have a place where we could post photographs so you could see **inside our classrooms** and discuss the photographs and learning with your child.

The blogs are updated every Friday and can be accessed by following the following link

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/glowblogs/maxwellton/>



Jotter Monitoring

All literacy jotters within our school have been jotter monitored this term and staff and pupils have received feedback on these from the Senior Leadership Team.

We have enjoyed seeing all of our children's work and discussing these jotters with teachers and learners.

ASN Meetings

Mrs Brown our Principal Teacher, has carried out all of our Additional Support Needs meetings for this term. If your child has an ASN you should have had an appointment and allocated time to speak to Mrs Brown regarding your child's needs and learning. Please feel free to contact us at any point if you have any concerns regarding your child. Our next ASN meetings will begin taking place in January in the new year.

Harvest

Thank you to all our families for the very generous harvest donations that were sent in from our school. We donated these to the local **Loaves and Fishes charity** and they needed several trips to collect all our extremely generous donations! Thank you for helping our community and joining us in showing our love at this time.

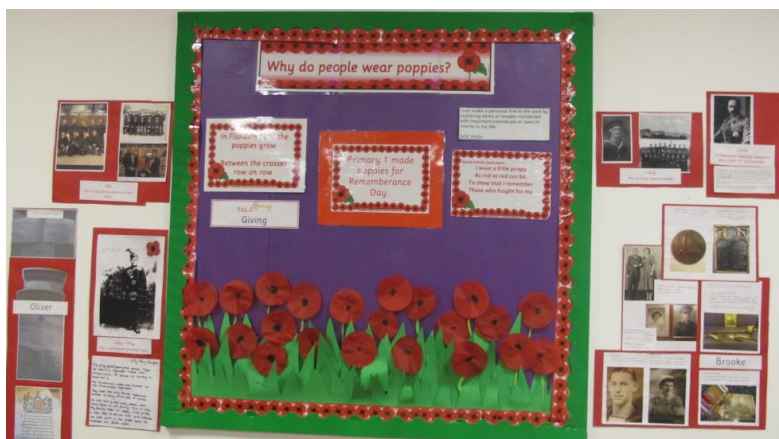
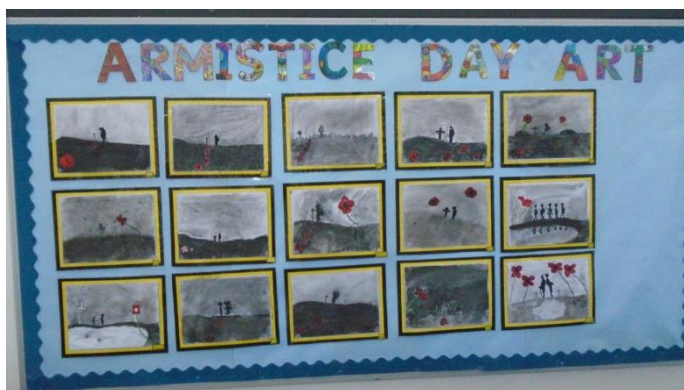
Communication

A reminder to all parents that our main method of communication at this time is **email**. Please can every parent ensure that the school always has an updated email address to contact you. We also use our **Twitter app** and our **School app** for communication also and our weekly **classroom blogs** give an insight into daily classroom life.

We are always willing to discuss any aspect of your child's learning so if you have any questions please feel to telephone us where we will always be happy to help.

Remembrance Day

Within our school we took time as a whole school community to show our respect by marking a 2 minute silence on 11th November at 11 am. Many of the children also learned about the meaning of the poppy and why it is used to mark this day. This fitted perfectly with the current P7 topic of World War 2 also.



Recovery Curriculum

As part of our recovery curriculum the children have been studying a topic called 'Happy and Healthy' as part of their health and well-being curriculum. This topic looks at 10 helpful keys that can help us live a happy and healthy life!



Playground

Due to the recent change in weather we have recently asked our children to stay off the grass during all intervals and lunchtimes as it was becoming particularly muddy. Please can we ask all parents to speak to their children regarding this and to reinforce it too.

Mrs Findlay – PEF Teacher

This year due to Covid restrictions Mrs Findlay is working with classes Primary 4 and Primary 5. Mrs Findlay teaches alongside the class teachers in these classes for reading lessons on a Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. This targeted support at the junior section of our school means that during reading lessons children work in much smaller groups as there are two teachers teaching the class. This also ensures that Mrs Findlay's work is targeted and she is only working with two 'bubbles' within Covid guidelines.

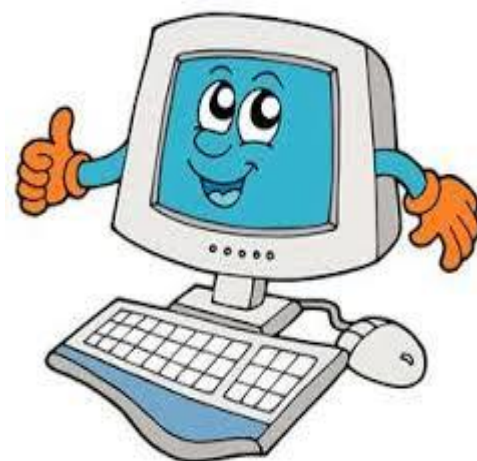
PE Days

A reminder to all our parents that PE is only allowed to take place **outside in level 4**.

Please ensure that your child has the appropriate clothing and footwear for this and has an outdoor jacket on their PE day. If the weather is very inclement PE will not take place outside and the children will do stretching/yoga/mindfulness exercises in their classroom instead.

Digital Inclusion

As part of our 'Contingency Planning' and preparations, we want to make sure that every child within Maxwellton is able to access Google Classroom in some way. As a school we ask you to make contact with us and to let us know if your family has **no way** of accessing Google Classroom. This may be because you may not have Wifi or a device to access it. Please note that google Classroom can be accessed via X-boxes also. We are able to seek support from SLC for devices for children that cannot access Google Classroom however, **this is prioritised on a needs basis with vulnerable and Free School Meals pupils being the priority. We are delighted to say that so far Maxwellton has issued 10 new ChromeBooks to children that have needed support accessing Google Classroom.** If your child is not accessing Google Classroom because they don't have a device, please make us aware so that as a school we can do everything possible to support.



Engine Idling

Thank you to all our parents for not using the main car park at the front of the school during this time. This car park should only be used by parents that are blue badge holders or in case of emergencies. Just a reminder that a **Park and Stride** facility has been made available at the **John Wright** car park.

Please can all parents be extra vigilant and considerate when dropping off and picking up at the school. Please drive slowly and be extremely mindful that children are about and crossing roads at this time.

We ask that all parents speak to their children regarding road safety around school entrances and exits and we will reinforce this in school through our safety lessons. The children are currently taking part in the SLC Road Safety Competition as part of their learning.



House Captains – Christmas Competition – School Advent Calendar

Our school House captains will be running this year for us our very own Maxwellton Advent calendar!

Each day the House Captains will open a door in our very own 'Maxwellton Advent Calendar'.

We would like to invite all our children to take part in a competition to have their drawing represented in the advent calendar. If your child would like to take part we are asking them to send us in a Christmassy picture. House Captains will select pictures to use and reveal behind the door each day!



Children can complete their drawing/pictures at home and can bring them into school. Please send the drawings and pictures into the school as soon as they are complete.

Again, we hope this spreads a bit of joy and fun during this time.

House Captains – Christmas Elf!

Arriving next week in Maxwellton will be Maxwellton's very own Christmas Elf.

This Elf will get up to lots of naughty pranks around the school and the House Captains will be documenting it and posting it on Twitter every day! Look out next week on Twitter to see our school Elf arrive and countdown to Christmas with a bit of Elf fun run by our House Captains!



Christmas

We are busy planning our Christmas celebrations, as this will look very different this year. We are sorry that we are unable to have any parents or visitors in our school for these events this year but are hopefully going to manage to film some festive cheer for you!

Below are a list of important dates and some information about some of the events we will be having.

P1 Nativity

P1 will continue to be the stars of the show and will perform their nativity for us this year. This will be filmed for parents and will be sent out to parents once all the filming is complete. We will keep you up to date with our progress surrounding this. Wish us luck!

P2-P7 Maxwellton Christmas Cracker – Christmas Around the World!

P2-P7 will also be performing this year. Each class has chosen a country to tell us all about to celebrate 'Christmas around the world'. The class will also perform a song too (no singing) and this will be filmed and sent out to our parents also.

Festive Fridays

To spread some festive cheer this year we have decided to have 'Festive Fridays'! On each Friday in December, 4th December, 11th December and 18th December our children can come to school wearing a Christmas jumper, antlers or festive Christmas colours for a dress down day. We hope this will bring some joy to our children at this time. Please do not go to the expense of buying any new Christmas jumpers as this can be a dress down day also for our children. Hopefully it will spread some Ho Ho Ho!

Virtual Pantomime

We have booked a virtual pantomime this year as we will be unable to make our usual trip to The Motherwell Civic centre. Although not the same we hope our children will enjoy this too.

As well as all of this we will have our usual Christmas tree decorating, Christmas class parties and our school Christmas lunch. We will send correspondence regarding each of these events as we enter into December.

Christmas Cards

This year we are discouraging children exchanging Christmas Cards in class. For anyone who chooses to exchange cards, we ask that this is done in the school playground before school and all cards are put straight into school bags and only opened when children return home after school. Please have a chat with your child about the importance of not opening cards within the school to ensure the safety of everyone.



Maxwellton Christmas Celebrations



Dates for the Diary....

Friday 4 th December	Christmas Jumper Day & Tree Decorating
Tuesday 8 th December	School Christmas Lunch
Thursday 10 th December	Filming P1 Nativity
Thursday 10 th December	Virtual Pantomime P4-P7
Friday 11 th December	Virtual Pantomime P1-P3
Monday 14 th December	Filming Maxwellton Christmas Cracker P2-P7
Wednesday 16 th December	Christmas Movie Afternoon P4-P7
Friday 18 th December	Christmas Movie Afternoon P1-P3
Wednesday 16 th December	P1 Christmas Party
Thursday 17 th December	P2 Christmas Party
Thursday 17 th December	P3 Christmas Party
Friday 18 th December	P4 Christmas Party
Friday 18 th December	P5 Christmas Party
Monday 21 st December	P6 Christmas Party
Monday 21 st December	P7 Christmas Party
Monday 21 st December	P1-P3 Virtual Christmas Fun Time
Tuesday 22 nd December	School & Nursery Closes for Christmas holiday 2.30pm

