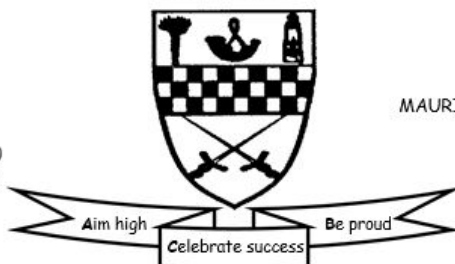


Midlothian

Mrs Judith Mathers
HEAD TEACHER

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MAURICEWOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL
MUIRHEAD PLACE
PENICUIK
EH26 0LE

A Message from Mrs Mathers

We have had a busy return to school after our October break and it is lovely to see how well children continue to cope with the changes in the world around them. We are enjoying our new Spotlight on Your Class and seeing the enthusiasm and hard work of pupils across the school.

Our P7s are finding new leadership roles and running assemblies complete with birthday celebrations and 'shout outs' for children going over and beyond. They are also working in their squads to share news through the school app. We are very proud of their achievements and hard work.

All classes continue to keep our focus on developing citizenship as they work on their chosen Global Goal. We can't wait to watch the films they will make to share their learning with other classes in the school.

As we head into the winter we have lots of plans to ensure we have a warm and festive Christmas in school despite the ongoing challenges. We hope that you will be able to share in this through our App, Twitter, Seesaw and Google Classrooms.

We have had a tremendous response to Parents Evening and the teachers look forward to talking with you this week.

Logging into Glow and Google Classrooms

In August, all classes were set up with a new Google classroom for this session. While we move forward as a school with our digital skills, these classrooms will be used over the course of the session for a variety of purposes. One of these purposes will be to support home learning in the event that any class cannot access face to face teaching. Therefore, we would urge you to access your child's Google classroom from home. If you require your child's username or password, please contact the school

Christmas

Christmas Movies - all classes will be preparing a short Christmas video for you to share in the joy of Christmas. These will be shared via the Google classrooms and also on the school website/App. Please look out for a permission form for this.



Christmas Lunch - a Festive Packed Lunch will be available for all P1-P3 pupils on Tuesday 15th December. More details will follow.

office.

All classrooms require each user to enter the Classroom Code the first time. These can be found on the School App in the News section.



Christmas Parties - Class parties will take place during the last weeks of term. We will share the dates of these closer to the time.

Christmas Stories - we are looking forward to some virtual stories for all ages from our friends Mac-a Story.

Brunton Theatre Christmas Pantomime - As we can't go to them this year Brunton will come to us with a virtual performance of Rapunzel. This will be available to all classes and the Nursery on Thursday 10th December.

Calendars - We hope to be able to sell our popular calendars again this year. Payment will be able to be made for these through ParentPay when they become available.

PE

Midlothian Council is currently reviewing risk assessments and guidance in order to deliver some PE indoors. We will review our current practice and what we are able to offer indoors/outdoors and keep parents updated on the App if changes are to be made. Please continue to send your child ready for PE on PE days as changing rooms will not be allowed to be opened.



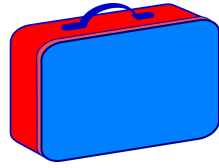
Face Coverings

In line with updated Scottish Government advice, all adults are now required to wear a face covering when entering the school grounds, either to the school office and at drop off/pick up times.

Can we also remind you that dogs are not permitted in the playground.

Lunches

As we enter the Winter months, we will be looking at our playground provision for lunches. As our classes are restricted in movement around the school, using the outside space is increasingly important. As in previous years, we have always had an outdoor lunch option, even throughout the winter. Where it is too wet or cold to sit outside, classes may eat their lunches inside and be outside to play after they are finished. These decisions will take place on a day to day basis and will be influenced by weather, timing of lunches and staffing. We ask that all children come to school with a coat and are prepared for all weathers.



Home Learning Hub

Any child self-isolating or working at home for any reason can access our Home Learning Hub Google classroom. There are home learning ideas here for all stages and areas of the curriculum. Work should only be undertaken if everyone is feeling well enough and there is support available from school should you need it.



Homework

Homework is issued weekly and is able to be accessed through Google classrooms/Seesaw.

In P5 - P7 there are 4 of a kind calculations to practise in Numeracy and a Reading activity matched to their reading book. Each activity should be completed by a Friday and can be uploaded into the classroom or completed in the Home Learning jotter and checked by an adult at home.

All pupils have an ebook available to them through Rising Stars website. Please contact your child's teacher if you need log in details or look for the Parent guide in the Classwork section of their Google Classroom.

Change of Clothing

As we spend time outdoors in the Winter, providing a change of clothing in your child's school bag would be useful, in particular a change of socks/shoes and trousers. We also require each child to wear a coat to school each day as the weather remains unpredictable.



Book Week Scotland

Week beginning 16th November is Book Week Scotland. We will be taking part in different activities over the week to celebrate reading and writing. Although it is not possible to invite parents/carers into school we



Financial and Family Support

During the pandemic, circumstances may have changed for your family. School has access to a wide range of supports including foodbank referrals.

We also recognise that families and children are experiencing different stresses and if you would like to talk through any

would still like you to share in this event and will be giving details about a Family Writing activity through the Google classrooms over that week. It would be great to see what you create! You can share in the Google classroom or via Twitter using @Mauricewood_ps

issues around your child we have staff available.

We also have some access to Play Therapy and Counselling services and are happy to discuss options with you.

There is a confidential link below for you to let us know if you would like to hear about any of the supports available.

<https://forms.gle/QnUekgi2Rh8hQ2Kc7>

Parksmart

Can we please remind our parents/carers to park responsibly during busy drop off and pick up times to minimise inconvenience to residents and ensure the safety of our pupils.



Covid Procedures

We would like to thank all of our parents/carers for supporting school so well in following Government advice regarding self-isolating and dealing with Covid symptoms. It is really making a big difference to keeping our community safe.



Parent Webinars

Midlothian Council is offering webinars to help parents with Digital Learning.

Monday 16th November 7:30pm – Introduction to Chromebook

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zvboEnrrork>

Thursday 19th November 7:30pm – Introduction to Read & Write

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wDm1LB1NaEI>

Monday 23rd November 7:30pm – Introduction to Google Classroom

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MRmZrRMkvbo>

Thursday 26th November 7:30pm – Introduction to Seesaw

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=68pOWss6p_8