

Mauricewood Primary School



NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER

MESSAGE FROM HT

Jen Mouat

It has been a busy and productive first term here at Mauricewood. Our highlights include our successful **Parental Consultation** evenings, the setting up of our **Pupil Voice Groups** and several new staffing appointments including our new permanent **Depute Headteacher**.

We are also proud of our **Class Charters**, which we shared via our **Rights Respecting Schools Newsletter**, and our plans for promoting and using **Seesaw** more consistently across the school to support parental engagement, build our learners' skills in leading their own learning and celebrate achievements.

We worked with partners this term. A massive well done to P5/6 and P6, with Mrs Burrell and Mrs Bell, who held a fabulous **Harvest Assembly**. Thank you to all our families who donated so generously. All donations were gratefully received by **Food Facts Friends, Penicuik**.

We have also worked with RBS delivering Money Sense Workshops to our P7 pupils.



More Highlights

- Edinburgh University Workshops - Super Tetris session with Dr Will Reynolds
- Drumming for Excellence whole school show, followed by workshops for 4 classes
- Midlothian Hockey festival - our team achieved 2 wins and 3 draws and were a credit to the school
- Nature Play - ongoing for various classes supported by our Early Years staff
- Gardening group - our ELC/ P7 group continue to thrive as they grow, harvest and prepare food from homegrown ingredients
- Cricket sessions from Penicuik Cricket Club across the school
- GLiN (Grow and Learning in Nature) Award started for a number of learners in conjunction with The Scottish Horticultural Society

Updates

HERE ARE SOME IMPORTANT UPDATES
ABOUT VARIOUS SCHOOL MATTERS

STAFFING UPDATE

Mrs Cunningham, our Acting Depute, has been successful in gaining the permanent position as our new DHT. She will continue to oversee the Early Years, P1 and P2. She will continue working part time until Christmas (Tues / Wed Thurs). From January she plans to resume working full time, and will have a class commitment on Thursdays and Fridays.

Mrs Hoyland, in our school office, has also been appointed to a permanent position at Mauricewood. We are delighted for both of these members of staff.

We have said goodbye to **Mrs Hale**, Learning Assistant, this term. We thank her for her hard work and commitment to the role, and wish her well.

We welcome two new members of staff to our Early Learning Childcare Setting: **Mrs Smith** and **Mrs Hamilton** are learning assistants supporting within the setting.

We are delighted that **Miss Pache** will be continuing to teach **P2B** Mon - Wed until at least Easter. **Miss Morrison** will continue on Thurs / Fri until Christmas. From January 2024, **Mrs Cunningham** will be teaching the class on Thurs / Fri.

We are pleased to welcome back **Mrs Anderson** to **P2A**. She has been phasing back and will resume full time responsibility for the class from 27th November.

Hate Crime / Anti-Bullying

On Friday 10th November we welcomed **PC Dolan** and **PC Pearson** to Mauricewood. This was an arranged visit for them to deliver important messages about **Hate Crime** including discrimination on the grounds of race, religion and gender. This is part of our whole school commitment to anti-racist and anti-bullying education. We would encourage all families to have conversations in the home, promoting kindness and tolerance for all. Our Learning Council will be finalising our **Mauricewood Anti-Bullying Charter** in the coming weeks which we will share with all families.



SEESAW

We consulted parents during our Parents' Evenings about our **school reporting procedures**. We have also discussed this at Parent Council. On the October In-service day, we met with teachers to review reporting and the ways in which we use **Seesaw Learning Journals**. We will be sharing our plans with parents in a separate communication but for now would like to ask that all parents sign up with Seesaw if they haven't already done so, and are connected to all their children's learning journals. If anyone would like support with this, please get in touch. We will be offering drop-ins for parents in the near future to support the use of Seesaw at home.

REMINDERS

- We would like to promote healthy choices for our children and ask that you support by sending healthy snacks as much as possible. We discourage fizzy juice drinks in school.
- We are a no-smoking / no-vaping school, including our school grounds and politely ask that all families and visitors respect this.
- We have a number of learners who are frightened of dogs, and request that our playground remains a dog-free zone at drop off and pick up times.
- Please see our Severe Weather Guidance on the app and website.

NATIVITY

Last year, as it was the first year since Covid where we were able to welcome visitors into school, we held multiple Christmas shows for parents. For various reasons this is not a sustainable model moving forwards. It significantly impacts learning time, pupil focus groups have shown that children in the upper years find these performance repetitive and less engaging, and the logistical implications of staging / space in our hall for guests.

We have decided that this year, we will have a P1 & P2 Nativity only. There will be 2 tickets available per child and these will be issued on a first come, first served basis once letters go out. The nativity will involve all P1 and P2 children including the P2 learners from P2/3 class.

Our ELC will also be hosting a Christmas Sing-along for parents, with further communication to follow.



The Term at a Glance

THE WINTER TERM AT MAURICEWOOD...

NOVEMBER...

- 16 Nasal Flu Immunisations in school
- 16 @ 6.30pm Parent Council Meeting in person at school
- 17 Children in Need - Dress in Spots / Pyjama Day (donations optional)
- 20 P1 Registration opens / S1 Placing Requests open
- 21 @ 2.30pm Tours for prospective P1 parents for August 2024
- 22@ 9.15am Tours for prospective P1 parents for August 2024
- 29 Basketball Festival for selected P7 pupils

DECEMBER...

- 4 @ 9.30 - 11.00 Building Racial Literacy Pathway Meeting for selected representatives
- 6 Christmas Lunch
- 13 @ 2pm P1 / P2 Nativity Performance (ticketed)
- 14 @ 9.30am P1 / P2 Nativity Performance (ticketed)
- 15 PTA Christmas Shop (provisional date, to be confirmed)
- 18 P2/3, P3, P3/4 & P4 Christmas Party (pm)
- 19 P4/5, P5, P5/6 & P6 Christmas Party (pm)
- 20 P1A, P1B, P2A & P2B Christmas Party (pm)
- 21 ELC Christmas Party (am) & ELC Christmas Sing-along (pm)
- 22 P7A & P7B Christmas Party (am). **School closes at 12.30pm.**

We are also hoping to host a Christmas fair on behalf of the PTA, but this is still in the planning stages. More to follow.