



Dear Parents/Carers and Children

Our School Community and Communication

Mauricewood school community is made up of all our children in the school and nursery, our staff, our families and friends of the school. With such a large group we are finding it more difficult to reach everyone at this time. When we are used to seeing the children daily and having a catch up with some parents/carers in the playground or if it's just when they come into school for parent consultations, we are missing this contact just as much as the children are telling us they miss school.

We have several digital forms of communication, via Glow and social media to try to keep our community informed and up to date. In this newsletter we want to highlight them to you to ensure we are reaching you and your family.

Glow and Google Classroom

These are the new platforms for our children to be accessing learning directly from their class teacher. Every child has their unique username and password to log into a website Glow (a safe site used throughout education in Scotland). From here children access a Google classroom (with a class code - available in the school app).

Teachers are providing classes with a learning grid for each week to allow families to plan the learning to fit around the other needs in their home. We do understand that some people are busy working from home and so teachers can support children via the Google classroom by using the stream to ask questions. Work can be submitted online to the teacher and identified pieces of work will be given direct feedback to the child. They can improve their work and resubmit, just like they would do at school. The children can also get support from their classmates and can share their home learning activities with the rest of the class, if they would like to. We are in the early stages of using this and we are absolutely amazed at how well our school community has risen to the challenge to engage with this.

If you need support with getting online, devices or usernames and passwords please email the school at mauricewood_ps@midlothian.gov.uk and we will help you with this.

School Website

Our school website mauricewood.mgfl.net is communicating council updates and our school newsletters can be viewed here too. It is Midlothian Council's requirement for our school to have a website and therefore the more formal channel of communication to keep our community and the wider world informed of the current circumstances. There are several different drop down menus providing information about our school and gives any visitor an insight to our learning environment and policies.

School App for Parents

School App For Parents

We have been using the School app for parents to communicate council updates, school newsletters or important messages to our school community on a more regular basis. This is a quick and effective way to get information to the fingertips of our families. It is a one way tool for direct and more immediate information about our school. We have used this throughout the academic session to help reduce our costs on paper and printing. The school app is proving to be the best form of communication at this time when we cannot send out letters via the children's school bags or book bags - and even then some didn't make it home!

We are still finding some people have not heard of the app or did not know it existed so please tell friends of friends and make sure they have it! If anyone still needs to get the app then they can download it from the App store/Google Play store by searching for 'School App for Parents' and download it onto their phone/ipad/tablet. Please then select Mauricewood from the drop down menu. There are 3 main sections including a calendar (not in use at this time), news section and messages. We send messages to give important information or alert families of any news to be viewed. The news section is where letters/handouts can be downloaded to view.

Twitter

We use Twitter to give daily updates of what is happening in and around our school. Previously when we were in school, photos and tweets were being shared about the learning in the classrooms. Now we are asking our school community to share their learning from home with us and we will retweet to let the world know all about Mauricewood and the fabulous work being done by our families. We use hashtags to create/add to trends. You can follow us on Twitter @MauricewoodPS. We would love to promote the school and showcase our learning so please do send us photos using our twitter handle @MauricewoodPS.

Facebook

Our Parent Council and Fundraising Team have a Facebook page, owned and managed by members of the team on the committee. The school has no direct input into this page but often communications from the school app will be shared on this platform too. This page helps our small team of parents to communicate upcoming events and fundraisers that would normally occur across the school year. We hope you might consider joining them so that when we return to school we can all work together to plan events to benefit the whole school. You can view their page 'Mauricewood Primary School Parent Council and Fundraising Team' and contact them if you would like to get involved in the future.

Hopefully by seeing the different ways the school is communicating it will help to keep you up to date as we want you to be informed and feel very much part of our school community. Although we can't be together in person, we are very much together in our motto for all our children - Aim high, be proud and celebrate success.

We want you to show all the members of your family, as part of our school community, our special photo with a very heartfelt message from all the staff at Mauricewood.

Stay safe!

The Mauricewood Team