

Maidenbower Junior School

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Wednesday 10th June 2020

Welcome to all our Y2 families!

Dear Parents and Carers of our soon to be Year 3 children!

What strange times we are facing!

We are really disappointed not to be able to meet with you properly and particularly, that your child is not able to spend as much time in our school as we would normally like. We hope that this letter will help to reassure you that Year 2 have not been forgotten and we are doing as much as we can, at least virtually, to support some form of transition and ease any anxieties that you might be feeling.

Happily, your child has visited us already. Year 2 children from both Maidenbower Infant School and The Brook Infant School have met their Year 3 'Buddy' and have enjoyed some maths learning together. We intend to keep this connection running through other activities in the first few days and during the course of the autumn term as part of a settling in period. At least it also means that Year 2 have already been into our building, the Year 3 area and the Year 3 classrooms, and so have some memory to fall back on. In addition, I know that the teachers at Maidenbower Infant School and The Brook Infant School will have done and will continue to do a fabulous job in helping children to know that change is normal and can be exciting – helping children to overcome anxieties at the same time as developing resilience and curiosity.

Although neither you nor your child can meet with us in school and in person at the moment, we have attempted to capture our school in video form. We are incredibly fortunate that film director Steven Spielberg aka Mr Simon Pike (one of our Deputies) has created a superb video combining drone footage, staff introductions and a tour of Maidenbower Junior School. We are hoping that this will enable you to watch it time and time again with your child, identifying members of staff and areas of the school.

You can view the tour on our school YouTube area at

<https://youtu.be/4nL7x6rXTzc>

The Infant Schools have also been sent this link and they will be playing it to any Year 2 children that they have in school currently. We hope that those of you at home will do the same.

I would also like to draw your attention to our Maidenbower Junior School website (<https://www.maidenbowerjunior.co.uk/>) where we have a dedicated section for Year 2 parents and children. The folder contains the Year 2 pack you have been sent for completion as well as important information on power point slides that we would normally invite you in to share. The folder contains a 'leaflet' that Miss Witham at The Brook initiated – our thanks to you for this, Hannah! Our Year 3 lead, Georgina Child, will also be creating information that will give you an indication of the kind of learning your child can expect to cover in the autumn term.

Curious Children Growing Massive Minds

Whilst many Year 2 children know us already through older siblings, or because families walk past our school every day, since we share the same site with MIS, I am aware that many of you do not have any connection to our school currently. With this in mind, the new Year 3 team, myself, our SENCo, Stephen Turnbull, and our Deputies, will be here to open the gates to our school grounds between 3.00pm and 3.45pm after the school day so that you and your family can saunter around the site. Please note that the school itself will **NOT** be open. Pick any time during the 45 minute slot that suits you. We are lucky to have such a large outdoor space but we would ask, if you choose to do this, that nothing is touched and the 2m rules for social distancing must apply at all times.

Please note that this opportunity is only for those families who, as yet, have no connection with us.

Dates for visiting the school grounds:

Wednesday 1st July from 3.00 – 3.45pm

Tuesday 7th July from 3.00 – 3.45pm

We hope that all of the above will give you and your child a good flavour of our school. I will endeavour to keep you informed if anything is able to change and if we can do more to support transition in the last week or two.

In the meantime, if you have any concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to contact either myself or Miss Negus.

All the best,



Elaine Jenkins
Headteacher