



Headteacher Newsletter

7th September 2018

Mr Andrew M Hunter

Dear Families

We have had another busy week here at Sciennes. It ended with shrieks of excitement, cheering and applause...more about that later!

At the beginning of the week we held the Primary 7 conference. The children were split in to their houses. After an opening speech about responsibility and leadership in P7 the children rotated around 4 workshops, Knitting for All, Junior Award Scheme Scotland, Learner Participation in school and Dance. The children were incredibly enthusiastic, creative and had fun with it! I led 4 sessions on Learner Participation in School and I was very impressed with the children's mature attitude, their ability to reflect and their confidence in suggesting how their voice could and should lead to school improvement. The event finished off with a talk on Lagganlia, the outdoor centre the children will be going to for 5 days in October. They were exhausted by the end of it. So was I....i had forgotten how hard it is to be in the classroom all day!

On Tuesday I met with some of our parent volunteers who help with the School Streets programme. I mentioned in an earlier newsletter that these parents help ensure that vehicles do not go on Sciennes Road around drop off and pick up times. We are so grateful for their help in this way as without it the council scheme would be much less effective and make it more dangerous for our children. I shall send a separate note to you on this explaining the scheme in more detail and asking you for some help! Look out for this next week.

Saara Reid our Business Manager visited Carrick Knowe Primary on Tuesday to discuss medication in schools. This is a complex issue so it was great that both schools were able to discuss ideas to manage this effectively.

On Wednesday some of the Parent Council office bearers met in my office to welcome Fran Armour. Fran has agreed to take over the role of Events and Fundraiser coordinator. This is such an important role and I'm sure Fran will be great at helping galvanise support to raise money for our school. I will be 'keeping in' with Fran!

I also met with Lorna Nunn, a parent in the school who helps run the Scripture Union club at lunchtime. A note will come out to you from Lorna with details of the club.

On Wednesday the teaching staff got together for a learning session. We carried out a basic audit of our curriculum and had some discussions around key themes. We will use this information to develop our curriculum rationale and when this is completed I will share it with you.

On Thursday Brenda Ellis from the office attended some training on how to manage our online booking system for parent consultations. Information will be out soon and the dates are at the end of the newsletter.

Back to the shrieking , cheering and applause mentioned at the top. Claudius England , the Jamaican reggae star had a fabulous time with the children today! There was dancing and singing all with a life affirming message. There were even a few Bob Marley covers. The children and the staff loved it. The staff all realised though that no matter what we do, we will never be as cool as Claudius! Big thanks to Rachel Douglas who is a parent in the school for helping us organise this amazing event.

I will send you a separate note next week about Golden Time and the changes that we will be making. However a brief summary is that we believe that play is an important part of our curriculum and that children have a right to this. Golden Time was linked to behaviour and some children lost this right to take part in what we believe to be a curriculum area. We will be introducing a new structured play approach called Play Rite. This links in with the new school values that were developed last year (Respect, Inclusion, Teamwork and Effort.) Essie MacLeod in P7c came up with this idea to link this new approach with the right to play hence the name. Look out for this note next week.

We have some running success to share with you this week. Dylan Daunt (P7b) and Josh Daunt (P5a) took part in a running event called the Meadowmill series. They both took part in the 1000m for under 11's. Both boys did really well. Dylan came first and Josh who was the youngest in the race, was incredible and kept up with the older runners in front of him. A big well done to Dylan and Josh!

Our Primary 1 curriculum evening takes place on Thursday 20 September from 6.30-8.30. Part of this evening is a cheese and wine event put on by the parent council. New families to Sciennes are also invited to the cheese and wine part and are invited to come to the hall at 7.45pm. It is a nice opportunity for you to meet other families in the school.

Finally, a plea from the supervisors in the playground. Please could you ask your children not to throw stones in the playground after school. The supervisors are spending a great deal of time picking them up. Thanks for your help with this.

I hope you have a good weekend. I have my leaving do with the staff from Carrick Know Primary tonight so I thought it best to plan nothing for tomorrow!

Andrew

Key Dates



Key dates

Monday 17 September - School holiday

Thursday 20 September - P1 Curriculum Evening 6.45 - 8.45 (7.45 for new families)

Tuesday 2 October and Thursday 4 October - Parent Consultations 4pm - 7pm

Friday 12 October - school closes at the normal time for the October week holiday and resumes for pupils on Tuesday 23 October.