



Headteacher Newsletter

24th August 2018

Mr Andrew M Hunter

Dear Parents and Carers

We have completed our first full week back with children and school is now in full swing! Our new timetables are now in operation and our super Primary 1 children have managed the full days in school really well. Well done to them.

I have really enjoyed being out in the playground on some playtimes and lunchtimes. It is the start of the long process in getting to know 670 children. It might take me a little while! The children have been enthusiastically telling me about the school and showing me the games they are playing as well as some dance moves. It really is great to see them having so much fun in the playground. Laura Bird from the parent council spoke to the school staff today about the proposals to extend our playground and much discussion took place amongst the staff. It will be fantastic if we are able to secure more space for our children.

I was able to go to tennis with P5c this week and today I ran the mile around the Meadows with P6. I was delighted I was able to do it but recognise I have some work to do on the running front. It was however great to see all the children giving it their best. We may be a city school but we are so lucky to have the Meadows on our doorstep.

Keyu, Amy and Ignancy from P5b came to my office to show me their work on engineering. They had made a very tall structure using straws and were able to explain to me the construction method and how they had stabilised their structure so that it remained upright whilst still being very tall. I was impressed!

I also have some exciting news to share. We have some stone skipping champions in our school. Matthew Marshall P6b is the English under 11 champion with a skim of 30m and Elizabeth Marshall P4b was joint 3rd in the under 11 girls event with a skim of 13m. Huge congratulations to both of them.

You should all have received an email yesterday to tell you about our first Cycle to School day. This will take place on Friday 31 August and I am sure many families will join in. It really is a brilliant initiative and we appreciate your support.

As you know Sciennes is part of the safer routes to school scheme and Sciennes road is closed for a short time before drop off and pick up times. We have a dedicated group of parents who help to stop cars coming along the road at these times but we need more help. This initiative is to help keep our children as safe as possible. If you think you could help out from time to time or would just like to know more about helping us with this please drop me an email to headteacher@sciennes.edin.sch.uk.

Finally, you should all have received your class newsletter by now. I am going to look at the newsletters from P1 to P7 and focus on the content, layout and style. They are a great communication tool and we want to make them as useful as possible. It would be really helpful to get a group of parents together to also look at them, get your views on them and see how we can make them better. I don't have a date for this yet but if you are interested please email me. There is no commitment at this stage! email address above.

I hope you have a good weekend and maybe catch a last minute fringe show. I saw Suzanne Vega at The Queen's Hall on Wednesday and she was superb. I'm glad I forced myself to go out on a school night.

Best wishes

Andrew