



# Headteacher Newsletter

31<sup>st</sup> August 2018

Mr Andrew M Hunter

Dear Families

It has been another incredibly busy and varied week in school and I can't quite believe it is Friday already. Perhaps that is a sign of age!

Primary 6 have started their cycle training and it has been really good watching the children developing their skills. It is wonderful that we have so many children who cycle to school each day. Today of course was the monthly cycle from Kings's Buildings. It was quite special seeing so many families arriving at school together on their bikes. I was so enthusiastic about it a few parents suggested I join in. I will see about saving up some pennies and maybe in springtime.... A huge thank you to everyone who took part and to Miss McGrouter and Mr Hutchison for leading it on behalf of the school.

P2, P3, P5 and P7 held their Meet The Teacher sessions this week. All were well attended and it really is a super opportunity to meet in a fairly informal manner.

On Wednesday, we were delighted to welcome a team from London to gather photos and film children's stories for the September launch of Unicef UK's OutRight campaign to protect children from air pollution. The campaign aims to raise awareness in the UK of the dangers of toxic air and to ask the government to tackle this. Class teacher and Eco Schools leader Gregor Hutchison worked with Dr Colin Gillespie from the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) to lead our Clean Air Day campaigns in 2017 and 2018. We were very impressed with our pupils who were able to speak so confidently and knowledgeably about the impact of air quality not only in our local area but also in the city and beyond.

The P1-P3 assembly this week was on kindness and the children heard a story called Jim and the Beanstalk. It is a bit nicer than the original! The P4-P7 assembly was on respect and started off with Bruce Willis singing Respect Yourself. I had forgotten he made an album! Probably for the best. The children were absolutely super at understanding and showing what kindness and respect means to them.

I spent an afternoon this week with Jacqueline Scott who is Head Teacher at Trinity Primary and is also a temporary Quality, Improvement and Education Officer (QIEO) and Catriona Iley, acting Head at Carrick Knowe. We had very good discussion about improving schools, curriculum development and cluster working. It was so good to have some protected time to share ideas about our own schools as well as hearing about initiatives other schools are taking forward. It helped give me some new ideas for Sciennes!

Saara Reid our school Business Manager was at some training this week to learn about school budgets. One of her jobs is to stop me from spending too much money! A tough job.

The teaching staff received some video training this morning about what to do if a fire breaks out in school. We tested the fire alarm today so that the new P1 children could hear it. We will have a fire drill with the whole school sometime in the next two weeks.

I had the opportunity to meet the parent class and year reps this morning at a meeting hosted by Emma Kirk who looks after Parent Council communications. It is great that we have so many parents who give up their own time to help the wider parent body in the school and in turn help the school. The class rep system is also a really good way for parents to get to know each other socially.

I hope you have a good weekend. The sun is out and our city is a bit calmer again after the excitement of the festivals. I watched the fireworks earlier in the week. They were amazing as always and a reminder that we live in a fantastic city! Enjoy it.

Andrew