



5th October 2018

Dear Families

We have just finished the first school week of October and the weather has certainly felt a bit more Autumnal.

On Monday, the Early Years assembly was the final instalment covering the theme of Respecting Yourself. Ms Anstruther shared the very old Spanish story of Ferdinand, the bull who refused to fight, but instead stayed true to himself and preferred to sit under his favourite cork tree smelling the flowers. Primary 3 pupils also spoke about the Harvest collection for the Foodbank. There will be a reminder about this at the end of this roundup. On Monday afternoon, Ms Anstruther, Ms Gallagher and I met and discussed our plans for going into classrooms to share learning with the teachers and the children as well as making final preparations for parent consultations. We set a target of being finished by 5.30 and failed miserably and finished around 7. We are a bad influence on each other!

Our parent consultations took place on Tuesday and Thursday and they were very well attended. If you were unable to make an appointment or could not attend on the evening please don't worry, as we will be in touch with you to arrange another time. The teachers loved sharing all the wonderful learning that is taking place at Sciennes and sharing the progress that your child is making. There was a real buzz around the school and I really enjoyed meeting many of you. Thank you for coming over and introducing yourself to me! Mr Scott did a great job setting up and dismantling the hall almost single-handed. I also want to say a huge thank you to Fran Armour who looked after the refreshment table both nights. We made £201.40 from the donations you gave and this will go towards books. Cameron (P7) and Bella, Evie and Olivia (P5) helped Fran. I also helped and I do apologise if I made you a cup of tea. I really am not very good at making tea! I would also like to single out Cameron for very kindly munching the broken biscuits....he seemed to find a lot of broken biscuits! I would also like to thank you for generously supporting the book fair. We so appreciate your support with this and your purchases also help the school get some new exciting books for our library.

Parent consultations is a great way of us working in partnership with you. We do realise that from time to time things may not go as well as we or you would like. If you have a concern about anything to do with school, please make an appointment to meet with your child's teacher or with one of the leadership team and we will do all we can to help.

On Wednesday, I met with Ms Kennedy and Ms Gilhooly from our additional Support for Learning department (ASL) and we discussed setting up regular liaison meetings throughout the year with class teachers and with the leadership team. We are really lucky at Sciennes to have such highly skilled and dedicated ASL teachers. I also met with Fran Armour, Ms Maguire and some parents on Wednesday evening at Summerhall for the first of the Events and Fundraising meetings. The main focus of the meeting was the Winter Fair although we also discussed other fundraising ideas. The Winter Fair will be held on Saturday 1 December so please put this not to be missed event in your diary or on the kitchen calendar! The timings will be sent to you later in the term.

In addition to the parent consultations, there was lots going on in the school on Thursday. The flu immunisations took place and the operation ran like clockwork. Thank you to Mrs Reid for organising it and for your support with this. Our former JRSOs (Essie, Lyall and Anna) and representatives from the ECO Group (Max, Ellie and Matthew) took part in a photoshoot with Sustrans to celebrate the installation of the first Wee Hub bicycle repair station in Scotland, which is already attracting the attention of fellow schools! MJ Sommerville from Sustrans interviewed the pupils to gain their feedback, which will support many further installations in both primary and secondary schools. I enjoyed taking part in some singing activities with Ms Gallagher and children from P3 to P6. This included songs from The Jungle Book, Will I Am, as well as The Beatles! The children sang really well and I tried hard not to put them off!

The Primary 4 to Primary 7 assembly was led by Mr Howie this week and the main focus was on Learner Participation in our school. I really enjoyed watching the assembly and also reinforcing my view that I really care about pupil views and want to work with the children to make our school even better. Aizah, Catriona and Romeo (P3) spoke to us about the Foodbank and Jim from P7 gave a very moving talk on what kindness means.

As part of National Poetry week, Primary 5 wrote some poems inspired by a poem called 'What is the sun?' by Wes Magee. Some examples of the themes they chose included clouds, rainbows, unicorns, the moon and the stars. The children created wonderful images by creating lovely metaphors and using ambitious vocabulary. Fabulous river talks took place in P7 all week. A grand tour of the world by waterways! The children were confident and the talks were interesting and very well researched. Well done to the P7s and their families. P6A and P6C were invited to take part in a Team Tennis challenge today in the Meadows, which was run by Ryan Harrower and his tennis development staff. It was a brilliant experience for the children. They worked around 4 activities and were thoroughly engaged throughout. They received some very lovely feedback for their positive attitude from the staff. P6B will be going to the second session in June.

The Friday fruit group are doing brilliant work at Sciennes. The parent volunteers meet on a Friday morning and chop up all the fruit and this is then presented on platters for each class. This is a great initiative and helps us to promote healthy eating. The group are always looking for new volunteers and they are usually done and dusted by 10am. You are welcome even

with pre-schoolers in tow!. It is a great way to be a little bit involved without any need to commit to something every week. If you are interested, please drop me an email and I will pass your details on. andrew.hunter@sciennes.edin.sch.uk

We have now come to the end of another school week. Primary 7 have been making last minute checks for their Lagganlia trip next week. The children are incredibly excited and I am sure they will have a fantastic time.

I said at the beginning of the roundup that I would remind you about the Harvest collection so here it is!

Primary 3 came up with the suggestion that they would like us to collect food to donate to a local foodbank to help those in need. They want us to tie this in with our Harvest assembly. Our assembly is next Friday 12 October. Primary 3 have reinforced this message at both assemblies this week and they have visited classes to spread the message. I have been very proud of their efforts.

We would love it if you were able to donate some non-perishable food items for our chosen charity. We will display the items at assembly next week. The recommended items are UHT milk, tinned custard, tinned vegetables, tinned rice pudding, soups, jam, coffee, tea, fruit juice (long life), pasta sauce, chocolate, sweeties or any similar products. Please send your donations to school next week. Many thanks for your help with this. Your compassion and generosity is much appreciated.

Have a great weekend. I am looking forward to a takeaway tonight for dinner with a glass of wine. My target is to still be awake at 9pm. I'm not confident!

Andrew.

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