



12 October 2018

Dear Families

Monday morning saw our main hall full of suitcases along with eager, excited children. Primary 7 were off to Lagganlia accompanied by Ms Gallagher, Ms Sellar, Ms Dodds, Ms Gaffney, Mr McKenna and Miss McAlpine. We have had regular updates and the children and the staff seem to have had a great time. The weather has been fairly kind too! If you look on our website under class pages and click on P7 you will find a Lagganlia page. There are some cracking photos! They are due back this afternoon and we are expecting some exhausted, happy children and staff, along with some very dirty and smelly clothes! Well done to P7 for working so well together and overcoming fears to achieve some challenging goals. Our school motto of Believe Achieve in action. The staff at Lagganlia were very impressed with our children both in effort and attitude. Great to hear this! I also want to say a HUGE thanks to the teachers for giving up their own time to take the children. Teachers all over the country do this and without this good will your children would not be able to attend a residential excursion. I know you will all appreciate them for doing this.

Primary 5 have had a very busy week with two trips relating to their study of Old Edinburgh. Gladstone's Land took them back in time to the 16th century and a "roam with a ranger" around Holyrood Park taught them more about the geology of the surrounding area.

Fern from P5a said "Gladstone's Land was so much fun and we learned so many facts. We also got to dress up like children in the 16th century. It was a brilliant trip - definitely 100/100!"

Emily from P5a said "The geology trip was amazing and we learned lots about volcanoes and rocks. We got to take turns with rock rubbing and so much more. I really rated this experience."

Primary 6 enjoyed a visit to the cinema on Monday. They went to see the film Wonder as they are reading this in class. The feedback was that it was wonderful...but the book is even better!

I attended the Edinburgh Primary Head Teacher Association day on Tuesday. We have these days about 6 times per year when head teachers meet to hear about updates from the council, government or other agencies. We also meet to discuss issues affecting Head Teachers and try to come up with solutions. These are always hard working, productive and

enjoyable days. Areas that were covered this time included Additional Support for Learning, an Early Years update on Edinburgh's progress towards providing 1140 hours of Nursery Education and Outdoor Learning.

On Wednesday I was invited to be part of a small focus groups of head teachers to meet with an inspector from Education Scotland .They are carrying out a Thematic Inspection across Scotland to look at Head Teacher empowerment. Edinburgh have always been very good at not being overly prescriptive regarding Head Teacher roles and schools are always encouraged and given the freedom to be creative. Wednesday was a beautiful day. After the meeting, I walked back from Waverley Court taking the route across the Meadows. It was so lovely I didn't want to go back to work....then I remembered I have a mortgage to pay!

Thursday started of with a large meeting in my room with parents, councillors and officers from the council to further discuss the proposed closure of Sciennes Road after the Sick Kids move to the site at Little France. This will be a very long process but we edge a step closer after each meeting. In the afternoon, I met with Therese Laing, our Quality Improvement and Education Officer (QIEO.) This was our first formal meeting since I joined Sciennes and we discussed many aspects of life at the school. Theresa knows the school well and was one of the QIEO's who worked in Sciennes helping the school prepare for the Education Scotland Inspection that had been due to take place in May.

Today I had the privilege of leading the P1- P3 Harvest assembly. We were joined by Sara Friend from the Edinburgh Foodbank and the Rev. Stuart Irvine from St Catherine's Argyle Church. Stuart dressed up as a farmer to link Harvest with farming and the children loved it! P3 also gave an input and again the children were all super and spoke with great confidence. I enjoyed learning the actions to the songs we sang. I will get better at them! The P4-P7 assembly was led by Mr Howie and Stuart joined the children at this assembly. We collected an enormous amount of food and Sara from the Foodbank was overwhelmed. It will be collected today and distributed to families very soon. Thank you so much for supporting this charity and to P3 for leading it.

It has been a busy term and I would really like to thank the school streets volunteers for helping to keep your children safe coming to school. They do an amazing job and if you can help by sparing some time to help, I will be very grateful. Just let me know. If you have a Blue Badge you are of course allowed to pass through the sign and park next to the school.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my first term at Sciennes and I want to thank you all again for making me feel so welcome. Having said that I am looking forward to a few days holiday. We are not going away but it will be nice to have some time at home. I recently got a record player so I am looking forward to visiting the charity shops to see what vinyl I can find. I dug out my old records from my Dad's attic and was delighted to be reunited with Adam and the Ants, Depeche Mode, Lloyd Cole and the Commotions and ...erm...Shakin'Stevens!

Have a great October break!

Andrew

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Dates for your diary

October holiday 12 October. Children return Tuesday 23 October 2018.

P1 Open Day for children eligible to start P1 August 2019 is 31st October
9am – 11.15 and 1.30 – 2.30.

Please pop in anytime.

P1a P1d Learning drop in session 1 Thursday 8th November

P3 Dance Show Friday 9th November 11am

P1b P1c Learning drop in session 1 Thursday 15th November

Christmas Fair Saturday 1st December

Nativity Friday 7th December P1ab 10am; P1cd 11am

Lyceum Theatre trip P3-7 Friday 7th December

P2 Winter Show Tuesday 11th December 11am

Church service Thursday 20th December

School closes Friday 21st December 12 noon