



11 January 2019

Dear Families

Happy New Year to everyone! I hope you enjoyed the festive period and that the start to 2019 has been good to you. How are your New Year resolutions going? I decided to restrict myself to two and have made progress with both. The first was to use my annual Dominion cinema pass more. So far this year I have seen Mary Poppins Returns, Bohemian Rhapsody, The Favourite and I am off to see Stan and Ollie tonight, so very good progress being made here. My other is to use my gym membership and so far this year my gym bag has moved from a bedroom to the boot of the car, so some progress but could do better!

The staff all returned to school on Tuesday. It was a very exciting start as we welcomed teachers from all our cluster schools as we were hosting a training session on assessment and moderation in Writing. We were joined by Jackie Reid, the Quality Improvement and Education Manager and Evelyn Love Gajardo a Literacy Development Officer. They gave presentations to the teachers and then everyone went off in groups to discuss standards in writing and approaches to teaching and assessment. The aim is to develop a shared understanding across our cluster of standards at each level in Writing and to share teaching and learning strategies. The rest of the day was taken up by feedback on our progress in each of the School Improvement Groups with opportunities for questions and discussion. Teachers also had time to review and adapt the planning for our whole school Scots study. It was a full on day and it was great to have valuable time for collaborative dialogue.

We welcomed the children back on Wednesday and it was so good to see everyone again. The school came alive once more with enthusiastic and happy learners! The first day of the P6 decant to James Gillespie's primary went very well and the children and staff received a warm welcome when they arrived. Our building work has also started well. The areas where the work will take place have been segregated off from the rest of the school with no access for children and staff. Regular meetings will take place with those involved from the contractor side, council staff and of course school staff so we are fully informed of progress being made.

We welcomed Jazz who is a new full time Pupil Support Assistant and Anna Robertson who is a volunteer and will work with P7 all day Monday and a Tuesday and Wednesday morning. We are delighted to have them and I'm sure they will be a great addition to our team.

Finally, I wanted to let you know that I will be delivering a presentation to The Grange Association on the evening of Tuesday 5 February. My presentation will be on Sciennes School - Past, Present and Future. I will send out a flier separately and if you are able to come along it would be nice to see some familiar, friendly faces in the audience!

I hope you all have a great weekend.

Andrew

Ps Our new dog Edmund does live up to the breeder's description of very happy and fairly wild! He is a good boy though. It was nice to meet quite a few of you whilst out dog walking over the holiday.

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