



SCIENNES PRIMARY SCHOOL

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ANDREW HUNTER

Headteacher

21 December 2018

Key dates

School closes Friday 21 December for the Christmas holidays and reopens for pupils on Wednesday 9 January 2019!

Parent Council Meeting on Thursday 7 February 6.45 -8.45

P6 at Benmore Outdoor Education Centre Monday 4 February Friday 8 February 2019

School breaks for the February holiday at the normal time on Friday 8 February and reopens on Monday 18 February.

Dear Families

Here is my December roundup....my new year resolution will be to get back to a weekly roundup!

You will have noticed that the jumping wall section of the playground was out of action for a while. This was to enable us to make the area even more safe for children. The earth was dug out and some new earth put in with lots of new stones. Other areas in the playground have also been dug up with new stones put in. We have just had the most recent ROSPA report which we will put on our website when we have the full report. I am also meeting in January with a senior manager from the playground team in the council.

Our building works are due to start in January. We have worked very hard with the council to minimise disruption for these works. Thank you so much for your questions, suggestions and for your support. There will be a separate email coming out relating to concerns raised about asbestos. We received it this morning from Communities and Families and will pass it on to reassure you.

At the beginning of December we had our Winter Fair. It was hugely successful and we raised £6,500 which is just great. A HUGE thank you to everyone for supporting it by helping, by donating or by buying! We are so grateful to you all and of course special thanks to Fran Armour for leading the organisation of it.

We had our Primary 1 nativities and they were just so special. The children were superb and as I said on the day, Christmas can't begin until the nativities have been performed. I loved them and I may even have shed a tear but don't tell anyone! On the same day as the nativity, P3 to P7 went to The Lyceum to watch Wendy and Peter Pan. The feedback from the pupils and staff was incredibly positive. Our pupils were also a credit to our school!

Primary 2 performed their Winter Show to a sold out crowd....the hall was just a tad full! It was such an entertaining show based on their study of Space. It was fantastic to see every child involved and clearly loving it. It was also nice to see lots of proud parents and grandparents enjoying it too.

Primary 7 visited The Risk Factory to learn about personal safety in a variety of situations. P4 had a wonderful time at the Filmhouse cinema where they were entertained by Arthur Christmas.

We all enjoyed Christmas lunch in school. Children and staff were treated with a traditional or vegetarian Christmas lunch. Speaking personally, it was the best school Christmas lunch I have ever had....even the brussel sprouts were cooked properly! It was great to enjoy lunch with the children.

On Friday 14 December we had our jolly/Christmas jumper day. Children came to school in Christmas/winter jumpers or wore something Christmassy. It was a very colourful morning in school and we raised £211.76 for Save The Children. Thank you to all who supported this worthwhile charity.

This week we had our Christmas parties with lots of dancing, games and party food with Santa making a very special appearance for Primary 1 and Primary 2 children. I enjoyed attempting to dance to Superman and The Macarena at the P4 party. I got the hang of The Macarena by the end!

This week I attended the James Gillespie's High School concert at The Usher Hall. It was a fantastic concert! We were treated to an evening of singing (both traditional and contemporary), bagpipes, progressive rock and of course the amazing orchestras and choirs from the high school. Primary 7 pupils across our cluster also learned three Christmas songs and they performed them on stage with the S1 choir from the high school. This was such a fantastic experience for our children; being on stage at The Usher Hall is not something you do every day. Our P7 children were of course wonderful. They sang beautifully and they looked incredibly smart in white shirts and ties. I was very proud of them.

We had our two Christmas assemblies at St Catherine's Argyle church. It was very kind of Stuart Irvin the minister to invite us. It meant we could invite parents as well as have space for the orchestra, woodwind and the A Cappella singers. We couldn't do this in school. I had the pleasure of leading both these assemblies and both had a lovely, relaxed and festive feel to them.

We come to our last day and we had the renowned Carols on The Stairs led by Mr Howie. It was simply stunning and great fun at the same time. The singing was out of this world and the children and staff loved it. What a great Sciennes tradition!

Now it is time for the holidays! I shall be spending it trying to train our new nine month old cocker spaniel (he arrived on Wednesday!) to refrain from eating trousers, remote controls, phone chargers and from sitting on top of our much smaller and older cocker spaniel! Christmas day dinner may be interesting....

I hope you all have a lovely break, a Merry Christmas and a good start to 2019. We look forward to welcoming the children back to school on Wednesday 9 January 2019!

Best wishes

Andrew

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