



1 March 2019

Diary

February Digital Safety P1-P7; Fairtrade Fortnight; ECO Waste Week

P6/7 Cross Country 10.30am-12pm

P6 Euro Quiz City Chambers 1pm

Thurs 7th WORLD BOOK DAY

P4/5 Disco 6.30-80pm

Fri 8th P5B Child Labour March 11.30am

Tuesday 19th March and Thursday 21st March 4pm-7pm Parent Consultations (Book appointment online)

Dear Families

The children absolutely LOVED the glorious weather we had at the beginning of the week. At one point I was in the playground and looked around at the children in sweatshirts/t shirts and it could almost have been believed it was early summer! It was wonderful to see our outdoors areas and the Meadows used throughout the day for teaching and learning.

The children have enjoyed many enrichment activities this week to deepen their learning. Dee Issac (parent) visited all the P5 classes on Monday and ran a fantastic music workshop inspired by the sounds of the Rainforest. The classes also had opportunities to play new instruments and learn about timbre and rhythm.

Mr Roberston and Kirstin Unger (parent) helped run a fire pit session with P5c. The children also learned about forest tracking.

The Early Years assembly this week was about general safety, following on from internet safety last week.

Primary 2 classes had a fantastic time visiting the Victorian school this week. They learned about life at home and school. They were also able to make comparisons with home and school life today. The children certainly seemed happier that they attend Sciennes in the current day with lovely, caring teachers!

Primary 3 classes all went on a trip to the National Portrait Gallery as part of their study of Elements of Art. The children took part in a workshop called 'Does a Portrait Need a Face?' The gallery instructors spoke really positively about the children's responses, participation and ideas.

On Tuesday, I attended a meeting with parents Laura Bird, Phoebe Cochrane and Jane Ewins from the Parent Council Playground group, Councillor Cameron Rose, Mark Symonds City of Edinburgh Council Active Travel Liaison Officer, Mrs Reid and Ms Gallagher. We

discussed the process for putting in a Sustrans 'Safer Routes to Schools ' application as part of our drive to have Sciennes Road closed to enhance our playground provision.

On Thursday, we had our first fire drill without staff or children knowing it was going to happen. It was a success, with the school being cleared and all children accounted for at the meeting points in 8 minutes and 51 seconds. We discussed it at our staff meeting this morning as there are always issues that come up. Our next plan was to have one during a playtime in the summer term.

That brings us to Friday....and guess what?! The fire alarm went off at playtime and it was not a planned evacuation. It appears that the smoke alarm went off in the kitchen area. The evacuation went very smoothly although again, it raised minor issues that will be easy to address. I think the staff assumed it was set by me as a test as I had mentioned it at our morning meeting! There was no fire in the kitchen and children were able to return safely to school immediately.

The upper school assembly today was led by P5B pupils, campaigning to raise awareness on the issue of Child Labour. Miss Caideron and Ms French were very proud of them and the children were extremely confident, knowledgeable and enthusiastic. The P5 children will be holding a demonstration march in the playground next Friday .P7 Captains announced that Sciennes is a supporter of the right of children not to be affected by tobacco use. Look out for leaflets asking you to make a pledge to have smoke free homes and cars.

A reminder that it is World Book Day on Thursday 7 March. Children may come to school dressed as a book character or something associated with a book. Last year I was a Golden Ticket from Charlie and the Chocolate Factory! Outfits are available to borrow on the day from school. If your child does not want to dress up, they may dress down that day but no football tops please.

Blackwells have kindly agreed to give us a small supply of World Book Day books so that some of our pupils can exchange their tokens for books in school.

I hope you all have a super weekend. Tonight we are taking my Dad out for dinner to mark what would have been my Mum and Dad's 55th wedding anniversary. They were actually married on 29th February! On Saturday I am off to see The Favourite for the second time!

Andrew

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