



Friday 15th March 2019

KEY DATES

Monday 18th 10am-1pm P7 Hope Trust Basketball Final at the Craggs

Tuesday 19th 4pm-7pm Parent Consultations

Wednesday 20th 10.45-12.30pm P7 at EUMS Concert, Reid Hall

Thursday 21st 4pm-7pm Parent Consultations

Thursday 28th 6.30-8pm P4 Scots' Night

We have managed another week without Andrew and wish him a speedy recovery. Meanwhile another round up from Lucy and Carolyn.

On Monday, Rob Crawford from UN House Scotland met with eight of our pupils who will be participating in a Model UN Conference at City Chambers on Monday 25th March. The topic is single use plastic and our pupils were passionate and knowledgeable about issues and potential solutions, at school and beyond. Thanks to Rob for explaining the format for the day and guiding preparations.

The P1-3 assembly focus was Making A Difference and how our actions affect others. Isobel in P3b made a valuable contribution to the assembly by sharing her thoughts on behaviour using slides she had prepared at home. Each week a child from each class is nominated as being 'Star of the Week' for doing a little bit extra, and many pupils this week were chosen for kindness to others.

All pupils in P3-7 have completed the annual online Well Being Survey this week. At Sciennes we believe that it is important that we hear the opinions of all of our pupils, so Ms Anstruther has created a short, simplified survey for P1 and 2 which is implemented and analysed each year also. This was completed by all P1 and P2 classes this week.

Mrs Saara Reid and Ms Gallagher had a meeting with CGI about our planned computer Refresh which takes place every four to five years. We are looking forward to receiving our new equipment and are waiting for dates to be finalised. Thank you to Mr Hutchison for his assistance in co-ordinating.

Mrs Reid attended a whole day Child Protection course on Tuesday and after school Miss Rogerson and Ms Gallagher met with fellow Literacy Co-ordinators from James Gillespie's High School Cluster.

Great to continue to share ideas and practice within the group. Thank you to Preston Street Primary School for hosting this time.

A fantastic Music Outreach event on Wednesday at the Reid Concert Hall, Bristo Square, organised for Primary Five by the Edinburgh University Music Society (EUMS) and thank you to all our parent volunteers for accompanying. We have a longstanding tradition of attending and our children are always inspired by the musical talents of the students through their lively presentations. P7 have been invited to attend next Wednesday.

Mrs Reid, Ms Gallagher and Mr Scott took part in one of our regular meetings with City of Edinburgh Council building works managers and contractors. This is in addition to on the ground daily consultation. We are very pleased at how well works are proceeding and greatly appreciate the excellent ongoing communication. Everyone is working very hard to keep to timescales in this highly complex and ambitious programme and we are delighted with the many enhancements already complete throughout the building which will benefit all our children for many years to come.

Also on Wednesday we were delighted to welcome Councillor Alison Dickie, Vice-Convener Education Children and Families. A former teacher, Alison knows not only how to talk to, but also how to listen to young people. Our Primary Sevens clearly articulated their impressively insightful views on Climate Change, gender equality and inclusion. Lots of ideas to take forward and opportunities for our young people to get involved in #makingadifference in Edinburgh!

After school, Ms Anstruther attended a Health and Wellbeing co-coordinators meeting where information about the new programmes for Relationships and Sexual Health and Parenthood, Food and Food Hygiene, and Keeping Myself Safe were shared. Many of these programmes will be implemented next session.

On Thursday Ms Anstruther and Ms Gilhooly attended a conference in Glasgow run by Sleep Scotland. Sessions will be offered to staff and parents as a result of the training, as well as individual advice to families if requested. Assemblies and follow up lessons on the importance of sleep are planned for the pupils to follow up on the excellent work done during our Mental Health focus week on sleep last year.

Mrs Reid welcomed a Fire Safety Officer who gave another thorough inspection of the building and our procedures. Mrs Reid and Mrs Tariq slickly organised group photographs of each of our classes throughout the day. We also welcomed six senior pupils (two of them former pupils) and three teachers from George Heriot's who delivered lessons in Spanish and French to some of our P1 and P2 classes.

In January, P6C supported the Children's Parliament with their interview process to select a new Children's Voices Programme Manager and Project Worker. They did a sterling job and have now been invited to support interviews for three posts working with the Children and Young People's Commissioner Scotland! Recruitment will take place in the Easter holidays and would require parents to escort the children so we will email families to gauge interest and availability.

P7s began selling red noses on Thursday which were also on sale on Friday. Thanks to all who supported buying noses or donating. We welcomed Craigmillar Park Golf Club to our P4-7 Assembly

who shared how to get involved in their Junior Golf Club. Mr Howie led the rest of the Assembly with a focus on how to be an active citizen.

Friday saw the beginning of the next phase of our building works with several classes on the move. This time the attention is back on the Top Floor in the remaining two classrooms there and Miss Ross' Maths Base. Mrs O'Hara's and Miss Farmer's classrooms as well as the Staff Room will receive their makeover in the Easter holidays.

At Parent Consultations next week, most teachers will meet families in the Hall, as normal. Our Primary Seven pupils attend meetings with their parents and these will take place in Ms Gaffney and Ms Dodds' rooms on the Top Floor as usual, with Ms Sellar meeting parents in her temporary classroom (Miss McGrouther's room) on the first floor which P7A will be using until the Easter break. P7A's work will be laid out in the Science Base. P6A, P6B and P6C's work will be available to look through in Mr Mitchell's room. We look forward to welcoming everyone and do look out for our new uniform badges!

Some pupils were attending the Climate Strike protest in the morning and many others took part in the Southside Primary Schools march on Parliament in the afternoon.

Andrew has remained in contact throughout the week and we hope he is on the mend soon,

Carolyn and Lucy