



10.5.2019

Diary Dates

[See Parent/Carer Summer Overview]

Dear Families

I hope you all had a good long weekend. I enjoyed a night at Monachyle Mhor in the Trossachs, even if it was a tad chilly for May.

On Tuesday, we had an Inservice day in school. The Pupil Support Assistants took part in whole day First Aid Training. The teachers had a final session to agree our Vision, Aims and Values. We will officially launch these in the new term at an evening event in school. We also mapped out our curriculum from Primary 1 to Primary 7 to develop further our Curriculum Rationale as well as using this information to audit our current provision and to look at improvement priorities for the next school session.

It was great to welcome the children back on Wednesday and what a fabulous performance from Primary Five! Word perfect and in tremendous voice, they staged a rousing production of '1719!' with Scottish Opera to mark the 300th anniversary of the Jacobite Rising of '19. The team from Scottish Opera yet again wove their magic, as only they can, choreographing the entire show in a single day and also making the whole process such fun. We are also grateful to musical director Roger Glass who spent a day with the pupils in an advance vocal workshop. The children thoroughly enjoyed the whole experience and provided a knock out performance, inspired by the fantastic turnout of families. Thank you to Mrs McGuire, Mrs O'Hara and Ms French for preparing the pupils so thoroughly which gave them the confidence to bring the show to life on the day. Thank you to all the families who came along to shout "Bravo!" and "Encore!" The children were rightly proud of their efforts.

Also on Wednesday (V.E. Day), P7 pupils took a step back in time at East Fortune, the country's best-preserved First and Second World War airfield. Despite the weather, all thoroughly enjoyed and were inspired by exploring history through the stories of the people connected to the civil and military aircraft located there.

P6 have shown tremendous interest in learning about different types of natural disasters and designed their own experiment to create a volcano using baking powder, vinegar, coke and Mentos! I enjoyed spending time outside with P6B, Mr Hutchison and Miss McClure as they carried out the volcanic eruptions!

On Friday, we continued our current Building Resilience Health and Wellbeing topic - 'Look on the Bright Side' at the P4-7 Assembly. Pupils shared notes from the 'Gratitude Jars' they have created, stocked full of reasons to be thankful. The theme for our Summer Fair on Saturday 1st June 12pm-3pm is 'Year of Green Action' and we encouraged pupils to say #iwill and get involved.

Last week we announced that P7 Charlie MacSween had been chosen as the winner in our 'Oor Wullie' sculpture design competition, with elements from P7 Isla Robertson's design also incorporated. ECO Rep Charlie's 'Oor Wurd' design struck a chord with all the judges. Ms Anstruther has already set a team to work to paint the sculpture and we will give further information on how our school community can support fundraising to mark our very close relationship with the Sick Kids ahead of their move in July.

Also on Friday, Ms Gallagher and I met with Emma Kirk (Communications Convener) from the Parent Council today to start to look at the feedback from the Class Newsletter survey. Emma has done a fantastic job breaking down the feedback in to year groups as well as giving us the big picture message. Our next step is to analyse the data and discuss how we can improve this layer of communication about your child's learning.

A reminder that on Thursday 16 May, Mollie Hughes will be giving a talk in school in the evening from 6.30pm-8.00pm. Mollie's talk about reaching the summit of the north and south side of Mount Everest and being the only person in the world to take a Blue Peter badge to the summit will be exciting and inspiring. Tickets are available to buy at £5 and older primary children onwards are also welcome although they will need to be accompanied by an adult.

<https://www.parentpay.com>

Finally, the Edinburgh Marathon Fundraising page is almost ready. Thanks to Fran Armour from the Events and Fundraising Group for setting this up for us. I mentioned last week we are raising funds to provide free Dance and Tennis lessons to pupils throughout the school as well as buying new sports equipment. Some very keen teachers are now running every lunchtime in preparation for the marathon.

I hope you enjoy the weekend.

Andrew

Andrew M Hunter | Head Teacher | Sciennes Primary School | 10 Sciennes Road, Edinburgh, EH9 1LG

Tel 0131 667

1243 | **Email** andrew.hunter@sciennes.edin.sch.uk | **Website** www.sciennes.edin.sch.uk | **Twitter** @SciennesPS

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Andrew M Hunter | Head Teacher | Sciennes Primary School

10 Sciennes Road, Edinburgh EH9 1LG | **Tel** +44 (0)131 667 1243

Email andrew.hunter@sciennes.edin.sch.uk | **Website** www.sciennes.edin.sch.uk | **Twitter** @SciennesPS



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