



23 August 2019

Key Dates:

Meet the Teacher	Wednesday 28 August 3.30pm - 4.00pm
Cycle to School Day	Friday 30 August
Stage Newsletters sent out	Tuesday 3 September
Swimathon	Monday 9 - Thursday 12 September
P1 Challenge Run	Monday 9 September (weather permitting)
Autumn Holiday	Monday 16 September
Parent Council Meeting	Wednesday 18 September 6.30pm -8.30pm
P1 Induction Evening	Thursday 19 September 6.30pm - 8.30pm
Parent Consultations	Tuesday 1 October 4.00pm-7.00pm
Parent Consultations	Thursday 3 October 4.00pm-7.00pm
P1 - P7 Nasal Flu Vaccinations	Thursday 3 October
P7 Lagganlia Trip	Monday 7- Friday 11 October
School closes for October break	Friday 11 October at 12.05pm
School reopens for pupils	Wednesday 23 October

Dear Families

I hope you all had an enjoyable summer break.

We had a very busy summer in school helping to ensure everything would be ready for pupils to return on Friday 16 August. Our Janitors worked very hard to coordinate and help with the work, with Mr Scott working the entire summer. Our teachers and support staff returned on Monday 12 August and I am grateful to them for the incredible work they put in over the days leading up to the return date for children. They worked long hours as an effective team to ensure we could open on time and went above and beyond! We are extremely pleased with the significant improvements achieved throughout our school and trust you are, too.

You will be aware that we also set up new classrooms in our ICT Suite and Library. As planned, firm solutions are in place to ensure the provision of high quality library resources so that pupils can continue to enjoy a rich range of reading experiences. The Fiction Library is being relocated to an identified room in the school. The Non-Fiction Library will also be relocated in school in two identified areas. Desktop computers have been distributed throughout the school and we are already very well resourced in terms of class sets of iPads.

The City of Edinburgh Council has supplemented this which has ensured pupils will maintain their access to learning with technology, on a whole class basis as required.

Our staffing has seen several changes from our last communication near the end of term. Ms Jenny Gaffney left on Wednesday 21st August to begin her maternity leave and Ms Mel Ross has left Sciennes to take up a teaching post at Letham Mains Primary School in Haddington. The school has yet to be built, so Ms Ross will be able to help with the setting up of the facilities. We wish her all the very best. Caroline Kennedy, one of our Pupil Support Assistants, decided to leave her post but asked us to bear her in mind for the future! Morag Crolla who was a part-time Depute Head at Sciennes has been on secondment for many years at Edinburgh University. She has been offered a full-time contract there so has resigned from the City of Edinburgh Council. Saara Reid, our Business Manager, also resigned in the summer holidays and has not returned to Sciennes. She has taken up an administrator post in East Lothian. We are in the process of securing a new Business Manager. We are all currently taking on parts of Mrs Reid's remit and Mrs Brenda Ellis in the Office has worked very hard taking on many extra duties with support from Mrs Fiona Bandeen. Please bear with us if things take a little longer or do not quite go to plan! Teamwork is one of our core values and it is great to see it in action!

It was wonderful welcoming the children back last Friday. Standing at the door each morning greeting the children is the best way to start a working day. I feel very lucky!

School is now in full swing. We have had stage assemblies across the school where teachers spoke with the children about the year ahead and the children got to ask questions.

Primary 1 children have had a brilliant first full week at school. They are settling into new routines and enjoying being at school. They have loved all the teddy bear books and activities and are looking forward to more fun next week! Primary 7 have made a fantastic start to their final year at Sciennes. They have already shown they are ready and willing to take on the challenge of the year ahead and are very much looking the part in their royal blue sweatshirts. As a year group they tackled their first collaborative task and worked successfully to construct marble runs. Congratulations on a super first week, P7!

The Convenor for Education (Ian Perry) and Vice Convenor (Alison Dickie) met with me on Wednesday. We had a good conversation about educational issues and of course our building works. I was able to show Alison round the new classrooms and show her the space we have at the back of the school where the two temporary unit classrooms had been. She was interested in our plans to use this as an outdoor learning space.

You will shortly receive information about a P1 Run Challenge and Swimathon for P2 to P7. Cathy McCormack from Friends of Sciennes School and Fran Armour from our Parent Council are working hard with the school to get this organised. The dates are at the top of the Roundup.

We had our first upper assembly (P4 – P7) today. It was great to welcome the new P4 children to it. We focussed on our school values of Respect, Inclusion, Teamwork and Effort. We threw in some school rules too!

Finally, we would like to give you the opportunity to pop in to say hello to your child's new teacher. You will meet them on a formal basis at parent consultations (dates above) but thought you may also just want to have brief introduction on an informal basis. In the past

this has been on different days of the week, but this year we have decided to hold it on the same day to make it easier for parents who have more than one child. If you are around at the end of the school day on Wednesday 28 August the teachers will be available and in their rooms from 3.30pm-4.00pm.

The class newsletters will be coming out on Tuesday 3rd September. We asked for your views last session on how we could improve them. We took your views on board and have made the layout consistent and have included all curricular areas. Instead of receiving three in an academic year you will now receive four. We have also tried to avoid jargon. You will receive them in an electronic format and they will also be put on the website.

I hope you all have a good weekend and enjoy the Fringe and the sunshine. My favourite shows so far have been Blizzard (Dance, Physical Theatre and Circus acrobatics in one show) along with Whose Line Is It Anyway?

Andrew

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