



6 September 2019

Key Dates:

P6 Bikeability	Monday 9 September P6B Tuesday 10 September P6C Wednesday 11 September P6A
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 6.30 -8.30
P1 Induction Evening	Thursday 19 September 6.30 - 8.30
Parent Consultations	Tuesday 1 October 4pm – 7pm
Parent Consultations	Thursday 3 October 4pm – 7pm
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 12.05
School reopens for pupils	Wednesday 23 October

Dear Families

I hope you have all had a good week. September has arrived and as if by magic, the weather has turned much cooler!

I wanted to start by mentioning the Cycle to School Day that was held last week. We think we had more families than ever before taking part and it was a huge success. We are grateful to Ms Jenni McGrouther, one of our P7 teachers, for organising this and to you and your children for taking part! Thank you as well to the vast majority of parents who are helping our children be safe by adhering to the School Street Scheme when lights flash at drop off and pick up. We have not had many parents volunteering to help ensure the scheme runs effectively, so a reminder to contact Teresa at teresa.vogel@me.com We really need your help!

It has been another busy and varied week in school. On Monday I attended the P1-P3 assembly and it was a joy to see so many enthusiastic, young children enjoying themselves as well as learning about respect, which is one of our school values. I also met with L-J Stewart and Morven Cadell who are the Chair and Vice Chair of the Parent Council. It was great to

meet with them prior to our first meeting. This will take place in school on Wednesday 18 September from 6.30pm-8.30pm. All welcome!

All newsletters were emailed out to parents on Tuesday and Ms Gallagher will put them on the website. I hope you liked the new format. Thank you to Emma Kirk from the Parent Council for designing the questionnaire that you fed into last session. Your views were much appreciated and helpful.

On Wednesday, we held a staff training session where we focused on long term curricular planning to help ensure consistency across our large school. We also shared ideas on how we can improve transition information between stages at the end of the school year. It was useful carrying out this exercise now as we have just been through the process of taking on new classes.

Ms Anstruther attended an Early Years training course on Thursday and enjoyed learning and sharing ideas with other professionals from Early Years settings. We have so many nurseries that feed into Sciennes so it is very useful to keep up to date with what is happening in the nursery sector.

My start today was very much based on a road theme! Ms Gallagher and I went out to Sciennes Road to support the School Street Scheme and stopped cars from going down Sciennes Road and spoke to drivers who drove along the street. Many drivers were very apologetic. Some were not! A group of parents who have been working on the proposed reconfiguration of Sciennes Road (subsequent to the Sick Kids' Hospital move) met with Sustrans in my office. This was a really useful meeting to help us plan the next steps in our journey to provide more space for our children as well as providing a community space. It was also great to meet some new parents who are joining the group. The P4-P7 assembly today reintroduced our resilience Health and Wellbeing programme and some of our P7 children spoke about key pointers to help us be more resilient. The Parent Council held one of our regular second-hand uniform sales and the sun came out just at the right time. It is great that we can re-use outgrown uniform!

This morning, Ms Anstruther and Mrs Barker both attended a course on play in Primary 1. They were so keen to attend that they gave up their day off. Neither of them works a Friday so we are very grateful to them for this. We are looking at how we can further develop play to enhance the P1 learning experience for our children.

Ms McGrouther is attending a Modern Languages course with cluster colleagues at James Gillespie's this afternoon and Ms Gallagher and I are off to Carrick Knowe Primary to attend a city-wide update on assessment and moderation approaches. A key focus of this will be to ensure greater consistency in assessing children's achievements as they move from P7-S1.

We have noticed that some dogs are being tied to the school railings or are waiting with owners by the school gate. Please can I ask that dogs are positioned towards the middle of the railings away from the gates. This is to minimise stress for children/adults who are anxious around dogs and also to reduce stress in dogs who may be anxious around large crowds.

Some sporting news! Well done to all the P6 and P7 pupils who took part in the first race of the Lothian Schools Cross Country League in the grounds of Mary Erskine's school on Wednesday. The sun came out for the races, and everyone enjoyed cheering on their team mates. This week's runners were: Boys' race; Andrew, Ben, Claude, Eddie and Josh; Girls' race: Bethan, Cathryn, Catie and Rosa.

Next week's race is at SMC playing fields, Inverleith. Please email katekitchin@talktalk.net if your P6 or P7 would like to give cross country a try.

Next week is the P1 Challenge Run and P2-P7 Swimathon. Thank you for your generous support raising funds for the school which will be of great benefit to all our children.

Have a good weekend. I am going to try and tackle our slightly overgrown garden!

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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