



13 September 2019

Dear Families

Our week started with torrential rain, finished with glorious sunshine and we have had everything in between. School has been a bit like that too!

On Monday, our fantastic Swimathon event started. It has been a huge success and we are so lucky to have a really good Victorian swimming pool in our school. More about that later on.

We had to postpone our Primary 1 Challenge Run, our P6 cycle to Spylaw and our P7A trip, ironically to the Water of Leith! The P1-P3 assembly was all about resilience and this will be a feature of many assemblies across the year.

I attended the Edinburgh Primary Head Teacher Association meeting on Tuesday. The main focus was about Teacher Health and Wellbeing. It was a good opportunity to explore what we can do to reduce stress and promote health. One of the main areas that came up as an issue was emails being sent at the weekend and emails being sent out after 6pm on a working day. I am guilty of both so will make every effort not to do so. Getting a healthy work- life balance is not easy for any of us and I know it is something I have to work on!

On Wednesday, five of our very talented footballers - Eddie Melvin, Ben Ross, Rebecca Murray, Callum Stewart and Kris Bjarnason - attended the trials for The Edinburgh Primary Schools P7 Select Football squad. It is an amazing achievement to be nominated for these trials and all of the children did really well and should be very proud. I am delighted to let you know that Rebecca and Kris made it through to the next round. Our new P6 Junior Road safety Officers – Atreya Subr, Kenny Clements and Carla Lohse - attended a launch event on Wednesday at The City Chambers accompanied by Mrs Tariq. They came back to school enthused and ready to support and promote Road Safety at Sciennes. As you know this is an area we are passionate about.

After school on Wednesday, Ms Dodds led a session on Emotions Talk for members of staff. This is a programme we use throughout school to help all our pupils identify and describe their own and others' emotions. The capacity to regulate emotions develops over time and Emotions Talk is a wonderful support tool for equipping children to understand and accept emotional response in others.

Today at the P4 to P7 assembly we had a focus on Learner Participation. All our children belong to four Houses and these have been aligned against four school priorities so as we can capture children's ideas and views in these important areas. Our Learner Participation Groups (linked to our Improvement Plan) are :

Grange - Our Learning and Teaching - Homework

Lauder - Our Learning and Teaching - Literacy

Sienna - Our Success and Achievements - Reporting

Tantallon - Our Learning and Teaching - Learning, Teaching and Assessment

All children In P2 to P7 will work together in their Houses to help us take forward these priorities.

I had a lovely time this morning at the Meadows watching and encouraging the P1 children as they took part in their Challenge Fun Run. They all did really well and were very fast! Most important of all was that they were having great fun being active.

The Parent Consultation system should go live today, and fingers crossed it will work smoothly! We have enough space in P2 to P7 for one slot per child. If you are a family that needs two slots (usually because parents need to come at separate times for very specific reasons) please can you only put one down on the electronic system and arrange the other one with the school. We are happy to facilitate another appointment at another time this where this is necessary.

I would like to say a HUGE thank you to Catherine McCormack who did a massive amount of work to ensure the Swimathon and Fun Challenge Run went ahead successfully. These events would not have been possible without Catherine's organisational support. I'm sure you will all join me in thanking her. Please find below an email from Catherine to all families.

Super Sponsored Events!

A fantastic week of fundraising at Sciennes last week. The sun finally shone today for our very patient Primary 1s who were able to give their all, running laps on the Meadows. The super swimmers splashed and sprinted through the pool all week, where our fabulous lifeguard, Stuart Forbes, was on hand to keep everyone safe in a reassuring and entertaining manner.

Thank you to all the parents, grandparents and carers who gave up their time to count breadths, lengths and laps, we simply couldn't do it without you! A special thank you to Fiona Denvir, LeeAnne Boyle, Mary Ross and L-J Stewart who provided extra support throughout the week, and to all the staff for bringing the children to the pool on time, helping with getting changed and getting those goggles on.

Fundraising is currently around the £6,000 mark (74% of the target), a truly staggering achievement, and there is still time to make a donation for your swimmers and runners - <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/2019scienneswimathon>

(Paper sponsorship forms are available from the office. Completed forms and money raised can be returned to school.)

Thank you for your support,  
The Swimathon Team

I hope you all have a good long weekend and I look forward to welcoming the children back to school on Tuesday. I am taking my own advice about a healthy work-life balance and am off to Bia Bistrot for lunch today!

Andrew

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