



20 September 2019

Dear Families

We may have had a shorter school week but we have still achieved a lot! The children have settled very well in their new classes and they are working really hard. We are looking forward to sharing their learning with you at Parent Consultations. If you have not made your appointment yet, then please do so. We are keen to see a family member for all children. If you are unable to attend, could you let me know.

On Tuesday, I attended the Cluster Head Teacher meeting at James Gillespie's High School. A focus of the meeting was transition activities with JGHS feeder schools. We feel it would be great to start these much earlier so we are going to explore activities/events that could start in Primary 5. This will give all our cluster children more opportunities to mix and work with each other before moving to high school. When I was leaving it was lovely to bump into some S1s (formerly Sciennes P7s) and they told me they are thoroughly enjoying being at high school.

I attended an Edinburgh Head Teacher conference on Wednesday at Craigroyston High School. The focus of the conference in the morning was on raising attainment and I was inspired by the journey Craigroyston High has embarked on, to ensure that children from some of the most deprived areas of our city get the support and help they need to achieve and attain. In the afternoon, I worked with James Gillespie's High School cluster Head Teacher colleagues to discuss attainment in our schools and to start thinking about a joined-up approach to assessment strategies. Ms Gallagher and Ms Anstruther attended the Depute Head Teacher version of the conference on Wednesday. We are looking forward to comparing notes and sharing ideas. Our first Parent Council meeting of the school year took place on Wednesday evening. This was also the first meeting for our new chair L-J Stewart and new vice- chair Morven Caddell. It was great to welcome some new members too. We discussed many areas including Events and Fundraising, Building Works and Communications. Emma Kirk gave a presentation based on the Homework Survey that families completed in May/June. As I mentioned in my last Roundup, homework is one of our Improvement priorities for this school session, so we will take forward the findings from the survey. Thanks again to Emma for her hard work with this. We really are grateful for the parental support in our school. You help us make our school a better place not just for our children but for our staff, our community and for you too!

On Thursday, our P6 children took part in an outdoor learning experience. Rather than me telling you about it here is a few lines from Rowan McMillan and Ellie McGill from P6c.

Sciennes P6's were very lucky to get the opportunity to go on an exciting outdoor learning experience. The event took place at the vast Holyrood Park. After a long trek there, our class got split into two groups. Some of the great activities we took part in included: mountain biking, problem solving, clay art and many more. It was an awesome day out and our class enjoyed the trip very much. Thank you to all the help everyone gave!

Ms Gallagher and I would like to thank the parent helpers and staff who made this happen, especially the Parent Reps who helped with arrangements at short notice.

Our Primary 1 Curriculum Evening took place last night. It was super to see lots of families there. I enjoyed welcoming everyone and giving a brief overview of Curriculum for Excellence and our school values. Parents were then split into class groups and rotated around three sessions on Literacy, Numeracy and Play Based Learning. a huge well done to our talented P1 teachers, Mrs Barker, Mrs Lake, Ms Gallagher, Mrs Thomas, Mrs Kerr and Ms Kennedy (Additional Support for Learning) for their inspiring presentations. We were then treated to some wine/soft drinks and anti-pasti courtesy of our friends at Victor Hugo Delicatessen. We are very grateful for their delicious support! Parent Council members Emma Kirk, Leanne Boyle, Fran Armour and Teresa Thomson helped to set up. This was a great help. Emma also gave an overview of what the Parent Council does and sold some Sciennes badges! It was a great evening and special thanks to Ms Anstruther for coordinating it all.

Throughout this year, we are celebrating the 30th anniversary of the United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). At the P4-7 Assembly we launched our participation in UNICEF's OutRight campaign which challenges our children to learn and speak about or take action on children's rights. Many of our pupils are speaking out about climate change today. Joseph Denvir presented his excellent Resilience Role Model poster on David Walliams and pupils still have another chance next week if they wish to present their own posters. Anyone wishing to be considered to be an ECO Rep should note interest with their Class Teacher by Monday 23rd September and we are still looking for designs for new House logos. We publish our Assemblies each week on the school website – News>Assemblies – where you can access school news and achievements or follow us on Twitter.

<https://www.slideshare.net/SciennesPS/presentations>

The Swimathon/Fun Challenge Run fundraising page is still open so there is time to make those last-minute sponsored donations count! Can I add Debbie Stove to my thanks from last week. Debbie was there every day encouraging all our children and helping to coordinate it all.

Our advertisements for our Business Manager and two Principal Teacher posts have now closed. We will now sift through the applications and interview in the coming weeks. I will let you know who the successful candidates are in due course.

A reminder that the next Cycle to School day is next Friday 27 September, leaving King's Buildings at 8.20am or join en route.

I hope you have a good weekend. Enjoy the sunshine!

Andrew

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