



27 September 2019

Key Dates:

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

It has been another busy and rewarding school week.

On Monday 23rd September, Ms Gallagher accompanied P7 pupils Molly Vardy and Laurence Evans to the launch of this year's Junior NBA tournament at the City Chambers with the Lord Provost. There were other primary school representatives from all over Scotland for the draft and this year sees the first wheelchair basketball tournament. The name drawn for Sciennes is 'The Charlotte Hornets' and our team will receive their personal basketball strips in due course. Team GB basketball players Hannah Robb and Gareth Murray signed and gave us two Junior NBA basketballs then supported a workshop at The Craggs in the afternoon. Thank you very much to Mrs Tariq for escorting. There has been a huge amount of interest in participating and we will advise on team selection next week. Please note that the start date has now been delayed until Friday 25th October at the Craggs 1.30-4.30pm.

The P1-P3 assembly on Monday was more about Resilience. This week the children heard the story 'After the Fall' - how Humpty Dumpty regained his confidence after his famous accident!

We had a training session after school and the teachers worked in their Improvement Groups. As mentioned before these cover Learning, Teaching and Assessment, Literacy, Reporting, Homework and Play Based Learning in Primary 1. We all made a really good start with plenty of ideas flowing!

I attended a Head Teacher discussion group on Tuesday at Carrick Knowe Primary. Each of us spoke about our own school's attainment over the past few years. We discussed the teaching, learning and assessment strategies we use. We also discussed a new tracking (attainment and achievement) system that the City of Edinburgh Council are going to introduce and we all got a bit excited about this. It will provide us with a platform to have attainment/achievement data all on one system. This will help us to track attainment over years at a glance.

On Wednesday 25th September we were delighted to be invited by Jenni Snell (Youthlink Scotland and Scottish lead on the UK wide #iwill campaign) to participate in a seminar at the Scottish Learning Festival on Wednesday 25th September 2019 at the SEC in Glasgow. A blog post on our website gives details (see link below, followed by a summary of the day): <https://sciennesprimarieschool.com/2019/09/25/iwill-scottish-learning-festival-seminar>

The #iwill campaign aims to create a culture of empowerment for young people through volunteering and social action. Four very excited Primary Six pupils – Bella Thompson, Serena Maguire, Lexie Sheehan and Sofia Eodenable – had a very early start, arriving at school for 7am to head through to Glasgow on the train. Thank you very much to families for supporting their participation. We hope our contribution to the seminar helped acknowledge the relevance and benefits of the #iwill campaign and that we were able to share some of the approaches, resources and agencies that have supported us in promoting young people making a difference. Thank you very much to Jenni for inviting us. It was a truly memorable day for our young people who rose to the occasion exceptionally well and spoke so passionately about issues that concern them and the actions they have taken to address these. When called upon, they said, “I will!” and they certainly did!

Primary 2A went on a walk around the local area as part of their learning about The Street. The children enjoyed having a look and taking photos of what they could see in the community. Their top spots included the 'School, Keep Clear' road markings, recycling bins and Victor Hugo! The children are now deciding what and how they want to learn about their local community.

We had our first full fire drill on Thursday. It is always interesting doing this when the children and staff know it is a drill and everyone is in different classrooms. It went well although there are areas we will aim to improve upon. It is imperative that children are always very calm and sensible in an evacuation, so we will remind children about this in class and at assemblies. Mr Scott, our janitor was pleased with the new fire alarm system that was installed in the summer holidays.

Primary 6A celebrated European Languages day on Thursday and extended their learning to all the languages spoken in the class. Some children dressed in their national costumes. They learned to say a few basic phrases and managed to sing 'Heads, Shoulders, Knees and Toes' in seven different languages. The children had great fun and loved hearing their classmates speaking their languages from home.

Friday morning saw another fantastic Bike to School Day. It never ceases to impress me, and I am very proud of the work the school and community do to promote active travel. Thank you to Ms McGrouther for arranging.

Pupils from Grange in P7A capably took their turn in presenting the P4-7 Assembly and in leading the singing. Serena, Lexie, Sofia and Bella shared their experiences presenting at the Scottish Learning Festival and P3A pupils Laura Kitchin and Michael Bell were roundly applauded for their clear and confident launch of this year's P3 led Harvest Appeal for

Foodbank. Non-perishable food items can be handed into class from Monday until Friday 11th October. P3 pupils will come to classes to collect. To celebrate the fourth anniversary of the launch of the UN Global Goals (which have their base in human rights) we watched a video - "Just A Kid" - and invited pupils to keep thinking about how they might make a difference to others this year. This was the last week for sharing Resilience Role Model posters and Ms Gallagher was genuinely touched that a group of P4C girls made a lovely poster about her! Heather's poster about her Grandad, Anaya's about her Dad and Anjalie's poster about Evelyn Glennie were really well presented as well.

Ms Gilhooly wanted to remind you that we have a Parent/Carer support group running at Sciennes. The group aim to meet monthly during the school year. The focus is usually on sharing parenting experience and strategies. If you would like to come along, or find out more, please contact Ms Gilhooly: paula.gilhooly@sciennes.edin.sch.uk The first meeting of this session will be on Thursday 24th October in school from 5.15-6.45pm. Subsequent meetings will be :21st November, 23rd January, 20th February, 19th March and 21st May. (There is no obligation to come to all the meetings.)

I would like to ask you to check your child's hoodies, sweatshirts etc at home. Some children have lost new uniform and even though their name is on it, they have not found it. It would be much appreciated if you could check the name on your child's clothing in case they have mistakenly brought another child's clothing home. Many thanks for this.

We are looking forward to seeing you on Tuesday and Thursday for Parent Consultations between 4pm and 7pm. If you are unable to make it, please let the school know and we will try to rearrange where possible. If you have not made an appointment, please let me know at the email address below and I will do my best to get you one. As I said last week, we would like to see a family member for each child where possible. The teachers are keen to share your child's learning with you. The Parent Council will be selling school badges at the consultations. If you bring your existing uniform with the old logo, they will have a heat machine available to iron them onto new or existing clothing. Badges are £1.50 for one and £4 for three. We only have a Book Fair once a year now and we have decided that the fair this year will be in March to coincide with the consultations held then.

I do hope you all have a good weekend. I am off to London to see Belinda Carlisle in concert. I've been listening to all her old hit songs, so I can sing along! I pity the people sitting close by me.

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



BELIEVE • ACHIEVE

