



Diary Dates:

Friday 6 December	Primary 1 Nativity P1a and P1b 9.30am P1c and P1d 11am P3 – P7 go to The Lyceum Theatre to see A Christmas Carol.
Tuesday 10 December	P2 Winter Show 11am – 12 o'clock

Dear Families

It is another two-week bumper issue!

Monday 18th November to Friday 22nd November

On Monday, Primary 7 pupils attended The Risk Factory, taking part in interactive scenarios which explored every day risks in a safe environment. They learned how to manage risk in many different scenarios. Primary 5C visited the Georgian House on Monday and P5B visited on Wednesday. Thanks to all parent volunteers who supported the visits.

I attended the Edinburgh primary Head Teacher Association meeting on Tuesday. It was a varied day as usual and we discussed topics including: Quality Assurance in schools, Early Years and the roll out of 1140 hours in Edinburgh nurseries, Equity in schools, a consultation on proposals to change the General Teaching Council Scotland (GTCS) Values and Code of Conduct for teachers, central recruitment of teachers and Primary 1 Open Days. Thankfully, we all received a complimentary chocolate when we left at the end of the day!

Wednesday 20th November marked World Children's Day and was the 30th anniversary of the UNRC. Children across the world had opportunities to lead and take charge. Two of our own P7 pupils - Haris Rafiq and Rory McIntosh - did that too! The boys feature in a new Children's Parliament film about 'What Kind of Edinburgh' project so were invited to a very special event at Parliament where they met Nicola Sturgeon and MCP's in celebration of the UNRC and the government's commitment to incorporate it into Scots' law.

Members from the Sumdog team visited P3A on Wednesday afternoon. They got feedback from the pupils about how they are enjoying Sumdog and took suggestions for how they can further develop it as a resource in schools. The children showed the team how they would normally use Sumdog and the team very kindly answered lots of questions and brought along some Sumdog badges and stickers for the children.

Primary 1 had a visit from children's author, Rachel McGaw who read them some of her stories. The children loved meeting a real life author! They also asked some great questions.

On Thursday, also as part of Scottish Book Week, P4A had a lovely visit to Newington Library where they met storyteller Eric Brennan. The children thoroughly enjoyed themselves and Eric was super impressed with their listening skills, participation and overall enthusiasm.

Primary 1 - Primary 3 enjoyed a Road Safety Magic show as part of Road Safety Week on Friday. At the same time, parents leading our Sustrans application for permanent closure on Sciennes Road met with local councillors Ian Perry, Alison Dickie, Steve Burgess and Cameron Rose along with Steven Culthill from the City of Edinburgh Council. Steve Davies, our new Business Manager was brought up to speed very quickly at the meeting and contributed really well to our discussions. It is great to get such engagement on this as it is so important to our school.

Our Primary 7 House and Sports Captains met with myself and Ms Gallagher to discuss ways they can support school improvement as our Junior Leadership Team. They greatly impressed us with their innovative thinking. They dispersed ready to come back with more ideas for our next meeting next week!

Monday 25th November to Friday 29th November

On Monday 25th November, thirty of our Primary 7 pupils took part in a Sportshall Athletics event at the Jack Kane Centre. Thank you to Mr Mitchell, Miss Lavery and parent Kate Kitchin for supporting their participation. It was lovely to welcome back Freya Stroebel, visiting P7A in the afternoon from Brussels. P5A visited the Georgian House in Charlotte Square.

The Primary 3 children enjoyed a trip to the Museum of Childhood on Monday and Tuesday as part of their Toys project. They found out all about toys from the past and also noticed how some games have not changed much at all over time! I also received a phone call from a member of the public to say how well behaved, polite and smiley the children from Sciennes were on a school trip. It was our wonderful P3 children!

Primary 4 loved hearing about Humanism as part of their studies and they took part in drama activities relating to a Humanist wedding ceremony.

On Wednesday, the Literacy Improvement Group led an after school training session for staff on approaches to Reading from P1-P7, to share and agree best practice across the school.

On Thursday, the pupil Eco Group met with Ms Gallagher and Mr Johnson to share the ideas they have gathered from classmates for taking forward the three main ECO topics they have selected: Litter, Water and Wellbeing. They also decided to adopt an Amur Leopard and to take part in the Terracycling scheme (recommended by several parents) for recycling crisp packets. Details to follow!

I attended a Leadership Learning discussion group with other Headteachers on Thursday at Gracemount Primary School. The focus was to share our work in Wellbeing, Equality and Inclusion. In the afternoon, I welcomed Marie Lyon our new Quality Improvement and Education Officer (QIEO) to Sciennes. We had a long discussion about the work going on in the school, and in education generally. We are looking forward to working more closely with Marie next term and beyond.

I want to thank the Pupil Support Assistants and Ms Anstruther for co-ordinating the Winter Fair Grotto and Christmas decorations around the school and in the Hall. The stairwell looks

particularly festive! Ms Anstruther and P7 pupils created eye-catching Christmas Hampers which will be raffled at the Winter Fair. Many thanks to Mrs Maguire for co-ordinating and wrapping so beautifully. Definitely worth a flutter!

On Friday, Ms Gallagher attended an ICT coordinators' meeting at Wester Hailes Education Centre. Primary Seven pupils and staff worked really well in teams to set up their fantastic stalls, ready for the Fair tomorrow.

Thank you for all the kind donations and help given so far for our Winter Fair. I am really looking forward to it and hope to see you there tomorrow. It runs from 12 noon to 2.30pm. The weather is forecast to be sunny and cold....perfect for a Winter Fair. I am off to Glasgow afterwards to see Dido in concert. I may sleep in for a bit on Sunday!

See you tomorrow and enjoy the rest of the weekend!

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

<Outlook-gxi23jim.png>

BELIEVE • ACHIEVE