



20 December 2019

Dear Families

The past two weeks in school have been incredibly busy but they have also been great fun!

We welcomed Mr John Armstrong to our Leadership Team and he is already getting to know the children. He is really looking forward to next term.

P2 performed their Winter Show, 'Space', to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the first moon landing. The performances were outstanding, and Ms Anstruther summed it up at the end when she said the children's performance was 'out of this world!'

We enjoyed our Christmas lunch in school and both dining rooms were full of very happy diners! Our P7 Leadership Team helped to supervise as well as assisting the younger children to eat their food. Well done to P7! Our junior leaders are also going to help us by welcoming the children into school next term. More details to follow in January.

All classes have had their Christmas parties and they all seemed to enjoy them. The dance moves were impressive. I'm not so sure I can say the same for the school staff! Santa enjoyed visiting the younger children and they loved seeing Santa.

The Primary 7 children performed at the James Gillespie's High school Christmas Concert at the Usher Hall. Their singing was outstanding. James Gillespie's High School has a fantastic music department and a lot of very talented musicians displaying great skill and creativity. We thoroughly enjoyed the whole event.

We had two super Christmas Assemblies at St. Catherine's Argyle church on Grange Road. We are very grateful to the Minister Stuart Irvin for letting us use the space. It meant our orchestra could play and we were able to invite parents. The singing, the orchestra and the woodwind group were all excellent. Special thanks to Mrs Campbell, Ms Moran and Mr Ironside for helping and encouraging our pupils. Our Vocal A Cappella group was mesmerising. Thanks to Mrs Carson and Mrs Davis for working with the children. Stuart gave an input on the Three Wise Men and gift giving and I was able to follow this up by talking to the children about the important gifts they can give at school. I spoke about the gift of trying your best (effort), the gift of friendship (inclusion, team work) and the gift of happiness that they give to all the adults in the school every day (respect). These gifts tied in very nicely with our values of Respect, Inclusion, Teamwork and Effort. I also want to say a

special thank you to Mrs McVicker who came back to play piano for us. The children loved seeing her again.

Today we finished with our traditional 'Carols on the Stairs'. We had such fun singing all our favourite festive songs gathered together on the stairs. A really happy way to be all together and celebrate the end of a hard-working term.

A few special announcements to make. Osian in P7C played for Scotland U12's last week in an international chess tournament ('The Liverpool Quadrangular' v Ireland, Wales and England) and his team won! Huge congratulations to Osian.

I am delighted to let you know that Sciennes won the Forrestine Badminton Trophy for the second year in a row. Well done to Quingyang P7C and Ben P7A. Quingyang won the final of the singles against Buckstone Primary and Ben won against George Heriots.

Laila Beint of Primary 7A was the overall winner in the Ian Murray MP Christmas card competition. There were over 2,000 entries so huge congratulations to Laila on this fantastic achievement.

Beth Deighton P3C represented Sciennes at the Daniel Johnson MSP Christmas card design prize giving ceremony at The Scottish Parliament. Beth was chosen as the school winner. Well done Beth!

Finally, our new library will be open in the new term. Mrs Peace has coordinated a team to get it all stocked after Mr Scott and Mr Reid built up the shelving in the October break. It is looking great and we are delighted to have a whole school lending library again.

I would like to say a special thank you to Leanne Boyle from our Parent Council who has gone above and beyond taking on the Christmas card scheme at a late stage. Leanne worked tirelessly to ensure the cards went out. I know the timing was not ideal, but I am sure you will join me in thanking Leanne as well as LJ and Morven who are Chair and Vice Chair of our fantastic Parent Council.

I would like to thank you for all your support as always. I do hope all have a very Merry Christmas and Winter holiday. I hope 2020 is a good year for you, too.

We look forward to welcoming the children back to school on Thursday 9 January 2020.

Best wishes

Andrew

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