



RESPECT INCLUSION TEAMWORK EFFORT

10 January 2020

Diary

Friday 17th January Dance Show for P3 parents
Stage Newsletters Issued Tuesday 21st February
Monday 3rd- Friday 7th February – P6 at Benmore Outdoor Centre

Dear Families

Happy New Year to everyone! I hope you all had a good Christmas/Winter break and that 2020 has started well for you. I also hope you are still sticking to your New Year Resolutions!

Staff came back to school on Tuesday this week and we had two Inservice Days, the first being a regular one, with the second being part of the teachers' pay settlement to focus on reducing teacher workload. On Monday, I shared formal whole school feedback with the teachers in relation to teaching & learning visits by The Leadership team at Sciennes and the Depute Head Teachers from Carrick Knowe Primary and Gracemount Primary. I also shared stage feedback from The Leadership Team at Sciennes on homework jotters. Teachers then had time to discuss this and the Homework Improvement Group then examined this to help form their development work on homework at Sciennes.

The other school improvement groups covering Play Base Learning in P1, Literacy, Reporting, Learning, Teaching and Assessment also met. In the afternoon, all staff received Child Protection Training. This is refreshed every three years.

On Wednesday, as part of our reducing Teacher Workload day, our new Quality Improvement Education office (QIEO), Marie Lyon gave a presentation of Giving Feedback to Children, followed by a Q and A session. Teachers then worked in groups to explore ways in which we could reduce workload across a spectrum of school tasks and procedures.

It was great to welcome the children back on Thursday. It was a horrible, wet day but the children's smiles and positivity blew away the January blues! Primary 3 started rehearsing for their Dance Show and today our P4 – P7 assembly was all about setting goals and targets. Over this term, we are looking forward to exploring our values of Respect, Inclusion, Teamwork and Effort with the children, through assemblies and in class.

Today, I also met with Mr Robert Bravesmith today who is a PE teacher at Flora Stevenson's Primary School. Robert will work on a temporary basis at Sciennes on a Monday, teaching PE.

As it is the new year, I thought it would be a good time to remind you about the start time for school. We open the doors at 8.45am to enable children to be in school by 8.50am, when school officially

starts. We have noticed some children are regularly arriving at school after 8.50am, with some as late as 9.00am. This is disruptive for the class as learning has started by then. If all children can be at school by 8.50am then this would be much appreciated.

Have a good weekend.
Andrew

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