



RESPECT INCLUSION TEAMWORK EFFORT

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Friday 7 February	Break up for midterm.
Monday 17 February	Pupils and staff return
Thursday 27 February	Parent Council Meeting 6.30pm – 8.30pm
Thursday 2 April	P4 Scots Evening
Friday 3 April	Break up for Easter/Spring Holiday
Tuesday 21 April	Pupils and staff return to school
Tuesday 28 April	Parent Consultations
Thursday 30 April	Parent Consultations
Monday 4 May	Inservice day 7 school closed to pupils
Friday 8 May	School closed for May Day holiday (VE Day)
Monday 18 May	Victoria Day Holiday School Closed
Thursday 4 June	School Sports Day 9.30am Meadows
Thursday 11 June	School Sports Day back up day 9.30am
Tuesday 16 June – 18 June	P7 visit to High School
Monday 22 June	P7 Show to Parents 1.30pm
Wednesday 24 June	P7 Leavers Dance 6.30pm – 8.30pm
Friday 26 June	School breaks up for Summer Holidays

Dear Families

Monday 27th January to Friday 31st January

We have been joined by PGDE students Ita Reddington in P3a with Ms Rogerson and Lucy Westlake in P4A with Mrs Walker.

Principal Teacher, Mr Armstrong received a huge number of P5-P7 Digital Leader applications. Many thanks to all who submitted a form and he will announce the successful candidates soon, following consultation with Class Teachers. Ms Kennedy hosted a Seasons for Growth meeting for parents after school which was well attended. There are limited places available for this excellent programme which she has run successfully for many years to support pupils who have experienced significant loss and change through for example, bereavement or parental separation. She will meet with Class Teachers and then inform parents next week who has been selected to take part.

Our Relationships, Sexual Health and Parenthood (RSHP) programme in P6 explores all aspects of puberty with girls and boys together but also sets aside time for each gender to meet separately to discuss issues, questions and concerns. We greatly appreciate the time given by our School Nurse Pamela Craig and Health Assistant Lorraine Smith who annually speak to girls from each of our three P6 classes. The boys will have a separate session later in the term. Primary Six were in the limelight for their tremendous poetry recital skills, competing for the coveted Steven Lui Cup for Burns' Recital. All the finalists performed exceptionally well, and I was hard pushed to come to a decision with Ms Anstruther and Ms Gallagher. A very close competition. Our finalists were: P6a Bella, Isla and Josh D; P6b Amy, Neva and Keyu and P6c Isla, Jemimah and Rowan. I am delighted to announce that this year's winner is Isla Griffith in P6C. Very well done to all our P6 pupils who took part.

All three P5 classes visited the National Museum of Scotland this week for a 'transport trail'. The children explored four different areas of the ground floor gallery and used their skills in reading, observing, experimenting and discussing to answer questions and come up with questions of their own within the sub-themes of flight, speed, power, robotics and production. This teacher led tour could not have happened without the support of the PSAs and parents who came along to support, so a huge thank you to them for helping to make this valuable learning possible. The children now have lots of questions and new areas of interest to inspire their learning in and around the bigger theme of transport, journeys and the environment.

On Friday we had a Fire Inspection by the Fire Brigade. We gave them a copy of our Fire Safety Management Plan and the inspectors walked round the school with our Business Manager and Janitors. The feedback was positive although there will always be things we can improve on. When we receive the final report, we will liaise with the City of Edinburgh Council re any areas for improvement.

The P4-7 Assembly had a focus on ECO, with presentations from our ECO Pupil Group, the ECO Warriors, on our three main ECO topics this year: Litter, Water and Health. Juline O'Connell in P7C updated everyone on her campaign to reduce the use of plastic cups in the canteen and pupils from P5B shared their Palm Oil campaign. Great initiative and commendable commitment from our young leaders! Haris Rafiq in P7B shared how he has been preparing as a Member of The Children's Parliament to meet the First Minister and her cabinet on 3rd March. We are extremely proud of Haris and his fellow MCPs Jennifer Robertson and Rory McIntosh. Remarkably, their input to the Children's Parliament 'My Kind of Edinburgh' project will shape and influence City of Edinburgh Council's next three-year Service Plan.

Monday 3rd February to Friday 7th February

On Monday our very excited P6 children arrived at school carrying suitcases (some very large!) in preparation for their trip to Benmore. They have had a great week and have enjoyed lots of exciting activities. They have been very supportive of each other when activities have been challenging. They also had a great disco last night. We are looking forward to welcoming them back this afternoon. I want to thank the staff who gave up their own time to go with the children. I know the P6 families will be very appreciative of them. Well done and thank you to P6, Mrs Maguire, Mrs Clark, Mrs O'Hara, Mr Tsarnas, Ms Gladstone, Ms McGrouther and Ms Gallagher. You are all amazing!

Mr Sunil Yogi, a PGDE student started with Ms French in P7. I'm sure he will learn a lot from P7 and Ms French.

Our basketball team attended the Hope Trust Basketball Competition at The Craggs on Monday. We took part in two hard fought qualifying heats and I'm pleased to let you know

that Sciennes have made it through to the final on Monday 16 March along with 7 other Edinburgh schools. Well done to our Basketball Team!

On Tuesday, Thursday and Friday this week I interviewed current probationer teachers who are hoping to secure a permanent teaching post in Edinburgh. It is always a privilege to do this and encouraging to see such talented teachers coming in to the teaching profession. The Edinburgh String Quartet performed to all pupils in two half hour concerts on Tuesday. They played a number of pieces showing different styles of music and then allowed the children to ask questions about their instruments, and what inspired them to take up Music. The Quartet then stayed to play alongside our orchestra members during our rehearsal. This obviously inspired some of our children, who were asking the musicians how they too could have a career in music. They hope to return to our school in the near future and engage with some smaller workshop groups. It was a lovely experience for everyone.

This week we welcomed families of P1 in for a Learning Together Session. The parents participated in a phonics lesson and the P1 children shared their literacy learning. There was a fantastic turnout and the children loved sharing their learning with the parents (the parents loved it too)!

P1 also visited the new Dinosaur Exhibition at the National Museum of Scotland. It was an interactive exhibition which the children absolutely loved. The highlights included being chased by dinosaurs in Edinburgh and testing our strength against a T-Rex!

This week was National Children's Mental Health Week and all classes took part in lessons associated with this. The P1-P3 assembly was all about 'Finding your Brave' and the children heard the story of 'The Wolf's Wonderful Coat'. The P4-P7 assembly on this theme will take place after the February break with an input from P6 about 'Finding their Brave' at Benmore! Today they enjoyed a great singing get together with Mr Howie.

I hope you all have a good February break and that this splendid sunny weather keeps up! I'm looking forward to lots of dog walks and hot soup.

It will be great to welcoming the children and staff back to school on Monday 17 February.

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

