



## RESPECT INCLUSION TEAMWORK EFFORT

13 March 2020

### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

Friday 27 March Cycle to school Day... the first of the year.  
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

It has been a few weeks since my last Roundup. In that time, we have been faced with lots of news from around the world on the Coronavirus and the steps countries are taking to try and stop the spread of this virus. At Sciennes, we have had a big focus on handwashing and our children are now experts in this! They are regularly washing their hands and I know from parent comments that they are also showing you how to do this at home! I hope you have found the information we have sent home to be useful. Gidona Henderson, a P2 mum was in school last week and demonstrated handwashing to P2 children. They put gel on their hands and put their hands under a UV light and it showed all the germs. They were then able to see how thorough handwashing removed the germs. The children loved it! Thanks to Gidona for doing this. We are also encouraging children to use water fountains for filling water bottles and not to put their mouth on them to drink. Schools are governed by the City Of Edinburgh guidelines and at the moment it is business as usual except for the cancellation of international trips. I will keep you informed of any new updates as they arise.

A lot has been happening in school. I attended training on Respect Me which is an approach City of Edinburgh Council wish all schools to adopt to help prevent bullying. We have set up a P7 Equality Advisor group and are in the process of recruiting from P4 to P7. This group will work alongside a Quality Improvement Officer and parents to help us develop our approach at Sciennes. I am meeting with the Quality Improvement Officer next week and I

will then be formally asking for parent volunteers. This was mentioned in the Parent Council newsletter.

All our staff undertake Child Protection training and our Senior Leadership Team are trained at Level 4 every three years. Ms Anstruther and Ms Gallagher attended a full day Level 4 refresher course. The training can be harrowing but is a very important part of our procedures for keeping children safe and ensuring our policies are up to date. Mr Armstrong has been meeting with our newly appointed Digital Leaders in P5-P7 and they have great ideas for taking forward ICT at school. Ms Gallagher recently went to Parliament and enjoyed presentations by 17-25-year-old young people on the Sustainable Development Goals.

P7 Haris Rafiq spent a day at the Children and Young People's Commissioner's office preparing to meet Nicola Sturgeon and the Cabinet. Last week, Haris and six other Members of Children's Parliament met with the First Minister at Bute House to call on everyone to learn about and protect children's rights, with a particular focus on alcohol, food security and treating pupils with dignity and understanding in schools. (See attached document for details.) We are so proud of the achievements of Haris as well as fellow P7s Jennifer Robertson and Rory McIntosh in taking forward children's rights not just at school and in the city but also nationally.

<https://www.childrensparliament.org.uk/cabinet-takeover-2020/>

The recent Parent Council meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> February was very well attended and lots of really helpful discussions took place. We are so fortunate to have many supportive parents who spend a lot of their own time helping the school. We were also joined by Ms Gallagher, Ms Anstruther, Mr Armstrong, Ms McGrouther, Mrs Walker and Mr Davies from school. There is no expectation that any school staff ( apart from me!) come along to those meetings but they are also keen to support and work with parents. That is fantastic and something I do not take for granted.

PGDE students Lucy Westlake and Ita Reddington completed a very successful placement with us and we wish them well with the rest of their studies.

The Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SSPCA) has been delivering workshops to P3-P7 with Mr McKenna in Science. They arrived every day with a huge amount of kit and the children have really enjoyed their interactive, practical sessions.

P2 classes recently visited the Victorian School. They are very glad that they are being educated in 2020! Thank you to all the parent helpers who accompanied.

We welcomed Quality Improvement and Education Officer, (QIEO) Marie Lyon to school last week. She helped us with our Shared Class Experience. This is a piece of self-evaluation work that we do three times a year and involves observing Learning and Teaching in each class. This time our focus was on feedback to children and children leading their learning. Mr Armstrong and Ms McGrouther visited classes with Ms Lyon and in other classes colleagues observed each other. This gave us a wealth of information to help us improve in this area. Next week, I will be speaking to pupil groups about their views on teacher feedback and leading their own learning. Their views will also be incorporated into our improvement work in this area.

What a treat to see our fantastic School Orchestra perform at Resonate in the Queen's Hall last Wednesday evening! Huge thanks to Mrs Samantha Campbell (who leads the orchestra) and to Mrs Ruth McVicker and Mrs Katherine Peace for musical accompaniment on piano

and violin. A tremendous credit to families and to the school. We are grateful to former parent Martin Hutchison for inviting us to take part and it was a joy to see such a varied programme of talented young people from across the city acting, dancing, singing and making music.

The Glee Club had a visit from Alice from the Frisson Foundation to do a workshop with the children. She had really positive feedback for the group and was impressed with the hard work and effort they have put in so far. The Glee competition is scheduled for 23rd March and we are waiting to hear if this will still go ahead. Primary 3A entered the Edinburgh Maths contest on Sumdog. They came 10<sup>th</sup>, with classes all over the city competing and over two thousand students participating. Well done to Nicky who impressively finished 5th on the student leader board.

Last Thursday was World Book Day, organised by Class Teachers Mrs Lynsey McCracken, Miss Sophie Mitchell, Ms Jen Ferguson and Mr Stewart Johnson as well as P7 Lauder pupils. Wonderful costumes and great to see our costume lending wardrobe in full use, first established by current P6 pupils Bella Thompson and Emma Rednall when they were in P2 as part of our 1 in 5 Child Poverty Awareness programme. It was a bonus to have Blackwell's Bookshop run a stall in school providing free books in exchange for pupil's WBD tokens. It was also great to see the staff in the school embracing this, dressing up and having fun with the children.

Our P7 Basketball team played at Tynecastle last Friday and Ms Gallagher and I had hoped to manage along to see them play. The children played really well, narrowly losing one match and comfortably winning the other. They showed great maturity in agreeing the teams and substitutes and showed remarkable level-headedness and humility in their matches. They were a credit to our school.

On Monday, school staff, parents and a Council representative met to look at proposals for creating four new classrooms at the rear of the school. We will meet again in April to discuss this further.

On Monday, Mr Armstrong and Ms Gallagher accompanied forty P6 and P7 runners to the EPSSA Cross Country event at the Meadows. The results were the best Sciennes has ever had, with five medal winners in the Top Ten and many pupils placing extremely well in an event that saw 900 pupils from across the city taking part. Many thanks to Athletics coaches Willie Jarvie and Henry as well as all the parents who turned out to support. Particular congratulations to medal winners P7 Bethan Kitchin who gained First Place, P6 Josh Daunt who gained Third Place, P6 Emma Rednall who gained Fourth Place, P6 Sofia Bautista-Flecha who gained Fifth Place and P7 Freya Mowbray who gained Seventh Place. The first five in each race will go through to the Final at Inverleith Park (should it go ahead on 23rd March).

On Thursday, Tempest took class photographs in the Hall and P4A and P4B visited Chocolatier. They learned all about the process of making chocolate and even made a bar themselves! Mrs Walker saved a small piece for me! Well done, Mrs Walker.

On Friday, P7 Swim trials took place with Mr Marquez for the forthcoming EPSSA Swim and Dive Gala at the Royal Commonwealth Pool on Wednesday 3rd April. The twelve fastest P7 swimmers have been selected to compete in three relays - front crawl, backstroke and butterfly. P6 and P7 pupils who are part of the RCP Diving programme have been issued with letters about the diving event.

The P1-P3 and P4-P7 Assemblies in the past few weeks have had a focus on Kindness. I had the privilege of leading a P1-P3 assembly. I thoroughly enjoyed it even though I hopelessly ran out of time! Mr Howie led the Assembly last week for P4-P7 and there was a palpable impact in the Hall when he reminded them it was up to them to choose to be kind. This week, Jackie Robson from the Sick Kids came to the P1-P3 Assembly to accept a cheque for £260 raised at the recent bake sale led by Ramona, Abigail and Madeleine from P3. An amazing effort and a great amount of money for a super cause. Well done! Ms Anstruther also spoke to the children about the Hindu festival of Holi. Well done to our P7 Sports Captains for co-ordinating and for leading the Sport Relief Assembly today. It was great to see so many pupils dressing in red, in their own sports kit or as a sporting hero for Sport Relief.

Teachers across the school are starting to have one-to-one dialogue time with pupils to discuss learning in Literacy and Numeracy and set new targets. The children's views on their learning will be incorporated into the new school report.

I would like to finish today by saying a huge thank you to our School Street Scheme volunteers. They do an amazing job every day keeping our children safe as they come to school. I would also like to take the opportunity to remind parents not to park over driveways in neighbouring streets. This causes distress to the home owners and we are keen to maintain positive relationships with our neighbours. Blue badge holders may come along Sciennes Road during the closure period. Our volunteers respect this. Please can I ask all parents to respect this, too.

The sun is out, and it is Friday! I hope you have a great weekend.

Andrew

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**Coronavirus**  
Covid-19

## Please remember to wash your hands

Follow the correct hand washing procedure  
[www.nhsinform.scot/coronavirus](http://www.nhsinform.scot/coronavirus)