



RESPECT INCLUSION TEAMWORK EFFORT

## DIARY DATES

Autumn Holiday Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2020

Term ends Friday 16<sup>th</sup> October normal time

Staff resume Monday 26<sup>th</sup> October

Pupils resume Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> October

4<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Dear Families

In May 2019, John Swinney, Deputy First Minister came to Sciennes to launch a consultation on incorporating the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child into Scots' Law. On Tuesday, the Scottish Government introduced a landmark Bill proposing this. As a Gold Rights Respecting school, we welcome and support this. Ask your child what they have been learning about children's rights in school.

We are still experimenting with a new way to broadcast Assemblies but went with the old way this week! The focus this week was on our School Values and Vision and how all our children can contribute to making our school better. I enjoyed reading "Harry and the Dinosaurs Go to School" to Primary 1-3. I have already received dinosaur pictures from P1A and P1B!

We aim to publish a Meet the Teacher/Curriculum Overview PowerPoint slideshow from each stage in the school on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> September. I will also include a summary of our School Improvement work last session and an overview of our Improvement Priorities for this session. Stage Newsletters will be issued on the same day. These will give an overview of the curriculum covered at each stage from August to October.

Homework will resume after the September holiday and will be digital. This will avoid any need to quarantine and will provide an opportunity to sustain and further develop our digital skills.

We have zoned off the playground areas at playtimes and lunchtimes. Over the three breaks and three lunch slots each stage has an area to play in that is exclusive to their year group. We are also using the Nature Strip and P7 use The Meadows at lunchtime. This has helped us to keep outside 'bubbles' to year groups and indoor 'bubbles' to classes.

I enjoyed a run around The Meadows with the P4 classes this morning. The children were incredibly enthusiastic and everyone had a go including the five adults from school who joined them. Some children were so keen they went around again!

I want to finish by saying a huge thank you to parents who are continuing to adhere to our physical distancing requests. It is also reassuring to seeing many of you wearing masks when dropping off and picking up. We are noticing that some children are coming to school very early in the morning and coming into the playground. This results in our 'bubbles' being burst when children mix without being supervised. Please can you help us by enabling your children to arrive at school just before their allotted time. As usual, I have attached a reminder of school times and safety tips.

We have had a request that if possible it would be great if you could avoid driving on Findhorn Place at drop off and pick up times. It is widely used by young cyclists. As always, it would be much appreciated for safety reasons by the school and local residents if families also avoid parking and dropping off/picking on Tantallon Place.

I hope you all have a good weekend and that the rain decides that it has visited Edinburgh quite enough this week. We are adding to our animal family today with the arrival of Wilfred, a 10 week-old Rag Doll kitten. We are not expecting to have much sleep! I will try not to bore you with kitten stories....

#### SAFETY TIPS

- We encourage P1 parents to leave the playground once the children have joined their line. We have Gate Guardians, staff and Senior staff supervising at both gates. This will help your child to become more independent and ensure increased physical distancing between adults.
- Once you have dropped your child at school or picked them up, please can you leave the playground and move away from the school promptly (at P1, P2 Drop Off and P1-P5 Pick Up).
- The staggered start and finish times are helping but it can still get quite busy so please ensure physical distancing at 2m.
- You may wish to consider wearing a mask, though that is entirely a personal decision.
- Where possible, it would help reduce congestion if only one adult drops off and picks up.

Have a good 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](mailto:andrew.hunter@sciennes.edin.sch.uk) |

**Website** [www.sciennes.edin.sch.uk](http://www.sciennes.edin.sch.uk) | **Twitter** @SciennesPS

**BELIEVE • ACHIEVE**



