



RESPECT INCLUSION TEAMWORK EFFORT

13th November 2020

DIARY DATES

16th-22nd November:

Road Safety Week

Anti-Bullying Week

Book Week Scotland

#iwill Week

Friends of Sciennes School Meeting (FSS) Monday 16 November

Parent Council Meeting Wednesday 18 November 7pm-8.30pm

Dear Families

I want to start off this week by thanking the school staff for the tremendous efforts they put in every day to educate your children. These are very challenging times for everyone but they do everything they can so that your children's experience at school is the best it can be. I also want to thank you for your understanding that school staff are working under challenging circumstances and for the kindness and support you show them.

PARENT CONSULTATIONS

We were delighted to be able to hold our first 'virtual' Parent Consultations this week. Our technology on the whole performed well and we were able to speak to most of you in Microsoft Teams. Teachers really appreciated being able to see you whilst talking to you about your child's learning. It took a huge amount of organisation and trialling to get us up and running so we could offer this. I want to say a special thank you to Jenni McGrouther, P7, Principal Teacher, who devoted many hours of her own time to ensure we were all prepared and ready.

ROMAN FEAST

P4C held a Roman feast in their class on Thursday. Everything was prepared in school within the class bubble and I was invited to try some houmous, pitta bread and honey cake. It was delicious and the children's Roman outfits were fantastic. P4A and P4B are planning to do this next week.

ASSEMBLIES

Our Assemblies today related to our values of Teamwork and Respect through Learner Participation. P7 Sports Captains Josh Daunt, Cyrus Salman, Finn Boyle and Callum Schenk introduced themselves and shared their own inspirational sportsmen to mark the upcoming International Boys and Men in Sport Day on 17th November. Many thanks to P5 pupil Alfie Dimeck for drawing this date to our attention. All sixteen of our P7 Junior Leadership Team members have now introduced themselves at our weekly online Assemblies, broadcast live to the school. Our P6 Junior Road Safety Officers Eilidh Mowbray, Amy Yang and Rory Smith again took the lead, this time in launching Road Safety Week. The theme this year is 'No Need for Speed' and they invited pupils to take part in designing their own Road Safety poster next week as well as encouraging everyone to 'Be Bright and Be Seen.' I read a short story to P1-3 called "Bright is Right" from Think Education about the importance of being seen in the dark.

LEARNER PARTICIPATION GROUPS:

#iwill WEEK

We have a longstanding connection with the #iwill campaign which promotes and celebrates youth social action. We received an email this week from Jenni Snell, national lead for #iwillscotland, commending Lexie Sheehan, Serena Maguire and Sofia Eodenable for their ongoing initiatives as the M.ake A. D.ifference (M.A.D.) Group – raising awareness of Child Labour, supporting #iwill4nature and this year focusing on Mental Health. The girls have previously presented with Jenni at the Scottish Learning Festival (and with fellow p7 pupil Bella Thompson) on youth social action. Jenni has awarded the girls the status of #iwill Champions (and badges are in the post!)

ECO TEAM

We held a socially distant meeting in the playground on Monday with our P4-P7 ECO Reps. Each year we focus on three main topics. Litter is always one of the three because ECO Schools Scotland is part of the Keep Scotland Beautiful charity. Previously the reps all chose Climate Action (Sustainable Development Goal 13) as the second topic and on Monday eleven pupils voted for Life Below Water (Sustainable Development Goal 14) as the third topic. The need to maintain bubbles (class indoors and year group outdoors) and radical timetabling changes means that it is challenging to meet with our pupil groups but we are creating Microsoft Teams for each of the groups and it is wonderful to see so much activity and engagement on these.

DIGITAL LEADERS

Mr Armstrong met with Digital Leaders this week, social distanced in the Hall, and they are reviewing and updating our Responsible Use Policy (RUP) of Technology and the Internet for pupils, which will be shared electronically in due course.

EQUALITY ADVISORS

Next week is also Anti-Bullying Week. Our Equality Advisers all met in school this week and will be putting together a school questionnaire to pupils, staff and parents to gather views

on anti-bullying. Look out for this next week. I will be in touch with the parent volunteers soon!

FACE COVERING/DROP OFF and PICK UP

Thank you for continuing to wear face coverings at drop off and pick up. We all appreciate it.

We have noticed that at the end of the day there are a number of children playing in the playground and families having social conversations. Ms Anstruther and I had to go out yesterday afternoon at 3.30pm to ask children and adults to leave. I know that social interaction at the school gate/playground is lovely but we need to minimise the risk of any infection spreading. Once you have picked up your child please can I ask you to leave the playground immediately. If you need to come back for a sibling please can you physically distance in the road or go for a little walk and come back. Your help in keeping our school community safe is much appreciated.

I do hope you have a good weekend. I'm off to have a late lunch with a friend and a dog this afternoon and if the weather holds tomorrow I'm going to enjoy a walk with four dogs and lots of hot chocolate at Dalkeith Country Park. A relaxing weekend after the excitement from the football last night. It was certainly the hot topic in school today!

Andrew

Andrew M Hunter | Head Teacher| Sciennes Primary School |10 Sciennes Road, Edinburgh, EH9 1LG

Tel0131 667

1243|**Email** andrew.hunter@sciennes.edin.sch.uk|**Website** www.sciennes.edin.sch.uk|

Twitter@SciennesPS



BELIEVE • ACHIEVE



Please remember to wash your hands

Follow the correct hand washing procedure

www.nhsinform.scot/coronavirus

