



Tuesday 19th May 2020

Dear Families

I hope you have all had a good weekend and enjoyed the holiday yesterday, although I realise some companies take next Monday instead.

Thank you very much for working with us to help the children get online in SeeSaw or Teams. We realise there are multiple demands on your time and you are managing a whole host of challenges. We really appreciate your ongoing efforts and please do what you can, when you can. It is wonderful that together we have been able to welcome almost the entire school from P1-P7 to our new virtual classrooms! Thank you for your support. It has also been great to hear that parents are able to support each other too.

Now that we have almost all learners online, different stages have begun trialling some of the multimedia capabilities of Teams, particularly in P7 which will support their Transition. At some stages, teachers have also begun posting pre-recorded audio and video of themselves reading stories which we hope the children have enjoyed. This will continue to evolve. We are still observing current City of Edinburgh guidelines on live streaming of video to ensure safeguarding. We will update you of any changes.

We have been really struck by the children's wonderful manners and also the great kindness and support they are showing to one another online. A tremendous credit to themselves, to you and to Sciennes.

ONLINE LEARNING SCREEN TIME

In setting up our new learning platforms, initially we had to be very flexible at different times of the day (and often evening!) so that staff could support, encourage and welcome the children online. We now intend to put in place some measures which will help balance screen time for pupils and staff.

P1-P2 SEESAW

Teachers will generally be available in SeeSaw **Monday to Thursday** between **9.30am-10.30am** and **2.00pm-3.00pm** and **Friday 9.30-10.30am**

Assignments, tasks and activities are posted throughout the week in the mornings.

P3-P7 TEAMS

We hope you will find it helpful to move generally to core set times throughout the day when teachers will be available online in Teams. The intention is to reduce screen time and limit the need for children to be constantly checking for any updates. This new approach will begin from Monday 25th May when:

Teachers will be available in Teams Monday to Thursday between **9.30am-10.30am** and **2.00pm-3.00pm** and on Friday **9.30-10.30am**

N.B. Since staff are working at our Keyworkers' Hub School, have online meetings or have childcare arrangements, this could be your child's Class Teacher or may be one of the Stage Teachers.

NAVIGATING MICROSOFT OFFICE TEAMS

There are currently four main Channels in Teams:

- **GENERAL**– the main Channel where teachers post announcements and key information. (We realise the children are still familiarising themselves with Teams – and it is great to see them gaining in confidence and finding their online voice - but we are encouraging them to avoid using this Channel for chat so that the teachers' messages stand out.)
- **QUESTIONS**– children are encouraged to ask about learning, resources or Teams here. We would like them to use this Channel to approach their teachers with questions, just as they would in class. Classmates can also try to answer questions.
- **PLAYGROUND** – for chat to friends and asking for support or advice from each other.
- **SHARE YOUR LEARNING** – post examples of learning here which the children are proud of and wish to share with the whole class. (Please do not post Assignments on this Channel.)
- There is an **ASSIGNMENTS** tab at the top of the screen in the GENERAL Channel and this is where pupils can find and submit Assignments set by their teachers. This is also where to look for teacher feedback. Assignments will be issued on Mondays with accompanying materials and we ask that they be returned on Fridays or if you prefer, by Monday morning, as far as you can manage. Feedback will usually be returned by the end of the following week.

LEARNING GRIDS will continue to be posted weekly on the school website in Classes.

<https://sciennesclasspages.wordpress.com>. This now happens on Fridays, as requested, to give early sight of the learning coming up over the following week.

The Learning Grids can also be found in the **FILES** tab at the top of the screen in the **GENERAL** channel. Here you will find learning materials and resources from the start of the week.

WEEKLY EMAILS

In response to feedback, we recently began sending a weekly email from teachers on Fridays. Thank you to the Parent Reps who helped so much with this process, but we will now send these out from the school. We are aware many of you have pressures too and we don't want to add to them.

REPORTS

We had hoped to send home the first instalment of our new Reports, which were finalised in the week preceding school closure. However, the school building remains closed and logistically it makes sense to send out both parts of the report at the same time, so these will now be with you mid-June.

CONTACT DETAILS

While school remains closed, contact details are:

- School enquiries – admin@sciennes.edin.sch.uk
- Whole school and P4 – andrew.hunter@sciennes.edin.sch.uk
- P1-P3 carolyn.anstruther@sciennes.edin.sch.uk
- P5-P7 lucy.gallagher@sciennes.edin.sch.uk
- 'In This Together' JGHS Keyworkers' Hub telephone number 07894708692
- Technical issues lucy.gallagher@sciennes.edin.sch.uk
- Website Latest News <https://sciennesprimaryschool.com/blog>
- Twitter <https://twitter.com/SciennesPS> @SciennesPS

KEYWORKERS' HUB

The citywide school booking form can be found here:

<https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/schools/emergency-school-closures>. We appreciate keyworkers' shifts can change suddenly so please complete and resubmit the form as necessary. If you have booked a place at the Hub and find you no longer need it, please also inform the Hub Manager on 07894708692. Thank you for all you are doing at this time. Congratulations to Cara from Taobh na Pairce who created the new logo for our JGHS Keyworkers 'In This Together' Hub. @HubJghs <https://twitter.com> @HubJghs

TRANSITION INTO PRIMARY ONE

Please find below an exciting Transition project for children joining P1 at Sciennes next session.

This term we would normally be enjoying transition activities to introduce your child to school. These are often based around a picture book. This year that book is '**We're Going on a Bear Hunt**' by **Michael Rosen** and all Edinburgh Early Years Centres and Primary Schools are taking part in a joint project: **The Edinburgh Bear Hunt** organised by The City of Edinburgh Council Early Years Team. (Find and Follow the [Early Years Team](#) on Twitter.) The Bear Hunt website launched on Monday 18th May. Look out for weekly activities for the next six weeks on the Edinburgh Early Years website: <https://bearhuntedinburgh.wordpress.com>.

The City of Edinburgh Council Early Years website www.edinburghearlyyears.wordpress.com has more information on how they are supporting transition into school this year during lockdown. Please keep an eye on our website www.sciennes.edin.sch.uk and Twitter [@SciennesPS](https://twitter.com/SciennesPS) for further transition details and updates from Ms Anstruther. We will also soon be in touch with our new families.

P7 INTO S1 TRANSITION

Fortunately, we began our Transition procedures earlier than usual this session and we have remained in contact with Secondary colleagues throughout school closure. P7 families recently received a Newsletter from Ian Porter, DHT at James Gillespie's High School, inviting questions from pupils. We have also posted this invitation in Teams: <https://tinyurl.com/y9dn2g5s> and encourage pupils to approach their teachers with questions, too. Further updates will be emailed and meanwhile please feel welcome to contact Ms Gallagher with any queries or concerns.

LEARNER PARTICIPATION

SCARECROW CHALLENGE

Have you all been making your scarecrows? Contact Emma Kirk who prepares the Parent Council's weekly Newsletter to add your scarecrows to add to our map <https://bit.ly/3brDJnC> Check out BBC Newsround <https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/52472582> where there are reports of scarecrows popping up all over the UK to bring some excitement to children to find them on their daily walks in their neighbourhoods. Please send Emma (kirkem@yahoo.co.uk) your address, or postcode, or street name so she can add yours to the map. Scarecrows can be made out of anything you can find - they do not need to be beautiful, well made, or works of art - the scruffier, funnier and more bizarre the better! Many people are dressing theirs up with face masks and gloves in support of the amazing NHS frontline workers. Would anyone be willing to create a scarecrow in school uniform we could display in the playground? Contact me if you might be able to help! andrew.hunter@sciennes.edin.sch.uk This week Emma's email from Sciennes School Parent Council Newsletter is all about competitions. Good luck and thanks very much to Emma for all her engaging ideas and hard work to keep us all occupied during lockdown!

UNIFORM DAY

It was great to see many photographs of the children in school uniform on Friday! Thank you for emailing, Tweeting and posting in SeeSaw/Teams. I enjoyed receiving emails from the children telling me about what they had been doing and sharing their uniform day activities with me.

TIE A COLOURED RIBBON ROUND THE OLD SCHOOL RAILING!

Missing school? We certainly are and missing all the children. Thanks to P7 Molly Vardy for her suggestion to tie a yellow ribbon to the school railing. P2 Finlay had the same idea and has already set the ball rolling by tying his yellow ribbon to the main gate! If you wish to take part, you can tie any colour of ribbon to the railing with your name and a message on it. Remember to look at the ribbons without touching please and only include your first name and class. [#stayconnected](https://twitter.com/SciennesPS) [#tieayellowribbon](https://twitter.com/SciennesPS)

JOTTERS

We are making plans to make jotters and stationery available for collection as jotters are filling up fast! We will give you details as soon as we can gain access to the school building for this purpose.

SCHOOL RE-OPENING

I know you will be keen to find out when schools can re-open. Unfortunately, at this time, we have no official information to share with you about this. We will of course update you as soon as we can.

I hope you have all managed to combine work/ learning with some time spent outdoors, especially as we can now go out for exercise more than once a day.

Have a good week.

Andrew

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