



RESPECT INCLUSION TEAMWORK EFFORT

26 February 2021

DIARY DATES

Thurs 4 March World Book Day
w/c 22 March Parent Consultation
Thurs 1 April Term ends
Tues 20 April All resume

Dear Families

The week is finishing off with sunshine, my office window is open and I can hear the sound of children in the playground and in the school. That makes me happy! It has been wonderful welcoming the P1-P3 children back to Sciennes. They came in happily and have settled back really well into school life. They are a credit to each of you.

You will have heard the First Minister's statement from earlier this week where she stated that if the data allows she intends that P4-P7 pupils will be able to return to school on Monday 15 March. We really hope that this is possible. P4-P7 children, parents and staff are working really hard to ensure high quality Remote Learning but nothing is better than face to face teaching in a school building.

Thank you for your efforts in ensuring physical distancing at drop off and pick up. It is also good to see children arriving at school just before their start time and to see parents and children leaving the school grounds immediately after pick up. Thank you for wearing masks too. If this is repeated all over Scotland then we increase the chances of our older children returning on 15 March.

We will be working on staggered start and finish times for the whole school and will communicate these to you next week. It is a challenging task in such a big school but we must

ensure each child receives their statutory entitlement of hours as well as safely managing staggered start/finish times along with staggered lunch and breaktimes.

We had our second Parent Council within a fortnight on Wednesday. This was a really positive meeting with Parent Council groups sharing their latest news. Look out for the super Parent Council newsletter that comes out on Tuesday with lots of interesting information.

It is World Book Day on Thursday 4 March and this is being led in school by Ms Ferguson and Miss Deeny. Please find below a communication from them:

World Book Day 2021

Next Thursday 4 March we will be celebrating World Book Day. There will be lots of fun ways to get involved in school, at home and online. We invite the children to dress up on the day as a character from a book- this can be as simple as wearing an accessory and we love to see homemade costumes. We will also be sharing a WBD Activities grid with you all, which has lots of fun suggestions on how to take part at home this year. We would love you to share any photos from P4-7 on your class Teams channel or on the school twitter account @sciennesps with the hashtag #worldbookday. Even though we may not all be in the school together, we can still celebrate in style!

*Thanks,
Jen Ferguson and Bronagh Deeny*

This week, following on from the parent/pupil/staff surveys on remote learning, all children in P4-P7 are offered live interaction every day Monday to Friday. See times below:

Year Group	Session Times
P7B and P7C	9.00-9.30
P5 and P7A	9.30-10.00
P4	10.30-11.00
P6	11.00- 11.30

This morning we held the first live P1-3 Assembly of the term broadcast on Teams this morning and it was lovely to see the children and teachers listening in from their classrooms.

Below is the link to the recorded P4-7 Assembly link where the main focus is on Respect and Inclusion, tied in with LGBT+ and Digital Safety:

<https://vimeo.com/516907759>

Sciennes' Values are Respect, Inclusion, Teamwork and Effort. Today I shared the story of Catherine Duleep Singh, who was discriminated against as a woman (unable to vote), for her skin colour and because she fell in love with another woman. Catherine and her partner Lina travelled to Germany in the early 1930s and discovered religious discrimination so set about

helping Jewish people escape to safety in other countries, even though this placed them in danger themselves. Catherine had strong values and believed in respecting and treating everyone fairly. Our Equalities group is working on helping everyone to be treated fairly in our school.

Mr Armstrong has been working with our Digital Leaders and they put together a fantastic video to help everyone keep safe on the Internet. It was funny, engaging and also had a serious message about how we all need to take care to be safe online. You can view their video in this week's Assembly or by using this link:

<https://vimeo.com/516916367>

P4 have been making fantastic leaflets persuading people to visit Scottish Landmarks and using their superb IT publishing skills. Mr Hunter shared two excellent examples from Esme and Alena in Mrs Walker's P4C class.

P6 classes have also been putting in lots of effort, learning Burns' poems by heart, practising and performing these. They produced videos and uploaded them to Teams and it was such a difficult task selecting three Finalists, let alone an overall winner. Everyone did superb work but we awarded Hamish Young in P6A Third place, Lauren Redman in 6B a runner up in Second place and the winner of the Steven Lui Memorial Cup for Burns Recital 2021 is Hanna Johansson in P6C! Excellent work from everyone who took part and a tremendous effort from everyone. Congratulations and well done to all!

A few families have said they are running out of paper (the children are working so hard!) We will leave out some jotters on a table in the playground just inside the main gate from 9-9.30am and from 1.30-2.00pm on Tuesday 2 March.

Have a lovely weekend and enjoy the sunshine!

Andrew



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