



Tuesday 26^h May 2020

Dear Families

SCHOOLS RE-OPENING

The First Minister announced on Thursday 21 May that the Scottish Government planned to re-open schools from 11 August 2020. The plans are contingent on scientific and medical advice that it is safe to proceed and complementary public health measures, such as Test and Protect, being in place. Planning is taking shape for the safe re-opening of schools after the summer and we have learned a great deal from helping to set up and operate two Keyworker Hubs, first at St Peter's Primary and now at James Gillespie's High School. The safety of children and staff will be paramount in all the plans we make both as a city and as a school to re-open Sciennes. It is most likely that there will be a blended approach of learning in school and at home online. We are awaiting guidance on this and include the links below for your information. Also see document attached to this email.

Coronavirus (COVID-19): framework for decision making - [Scotland's route map](#) through and out of the crisis_ Scottish Government [Safe return to schools and nurseries](#)

ONLINE LEARNING

Thanks to the families who have commented on our evolving use of online learning. It is great to hear that everyone's hard work is appreciated and we are grateful for all your support in getting almost every single child online. Thank you for supporting your own children in their efforts to engage with Teams and SeeSaw.

RECORDED VIDEO

We have received some feedback that children are missing school and would like to see more of the teachers. In line with our strategic approach, we are steadily building towards increased use of video to achieve this. We hope you will bear with us and recognise that technical elements, co-ordination with staff and staff training have to be in place first and we are currently working on this.

LIVE VIDEO

We are still bound by City of Edinburgh Council guidelines and if these change, I will inform families immediately. To summarise, live broadcasting is currently not permitted and neither is use of Zoom. Teams does have live multimedia capabilities - which we have been utilising as a staff, in part to set up our online platforms - but we are not at this time able to use these with pupils.

It is always going to be difficult to meet differing expectations and needs. We know from personal contact with families that many are finding it extremely challenging to cope with the amount of work we are setting and that is why we introduced a starring system to indicate which tasks to prioritise. Use of technology is also particularly challenging for many of our families who are working from home, sharing devices and requiring time (and school support) to grasp new ways of working.

Our learning platforms are steadily evolving and we are always aiming to take the majority of families with us as we proceed, at a measured pace and in a strategic manner. We do not wish to set a ceiling on our provision, but we are mindful of equity and safeguarding.

NAVIGATING MICROSOFT OFFICE TEAMS

There are currently four main **Channels** in Teams:

- **GENERAL**– the main Channel where teachers post announcements and key information.
- **QUESTIONS**– children are encouraged to ask about learning, resources or Teams here.
- **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 here.)
- 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 AND TASKS

In terms of set Assignments, we hope these are realistic for the majority of pupils and families as well as for our staff. Beyond these set Assignments, pupils are also encouraged to post examples from all the other activities on the Learning Grids in the Share Your Learning Channels. Teachers are committed to daily interaction online. Assignments are issued on a Monday and due by Friday or by the following Monday morning, if you prefer. It helps enormously if your child can stick to the submission deadlines. Once the teacher has given feedback and returned the Assignments, you will find this in the Assignments tab at the top of the screen.

LEARNING MATERIALS AND GRIDS

All learning materials and Learning Grids are available in SeeSaw or Teams (**General Channel in Files**). The Learning Grids will still be posted on the website in Class Pages each Friday <https://sciennesclasspages.wordpress.com>.

STAFF AVAILABILITY

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**

P3-P7 TEAMS

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**

JOTTER DISTRIBUTION

This Thursday 28 May we will set up some tables in the playground and you will be able to come and pick up a writing and a maths jotter. We will leave the main gate open so as you are able to walk straight into the playground. Please remember the physical distancing rules. We will have the tables ready from 10.30am until 2pm. Apologies for the short notice but we needed confirmation we could access the school.

PARENT COUNCIL

Check out another fabulous Parent Council Newsletter! This week Emma Kirk challenges everyone to learn something new. I'm going to learn how to look after my garden!

VIRTUAL SPORTS DAY

Thank you to Mrs Cynthia Berry, our PE Specialist, for all her input to our weekly Learning Grids. Next week, Mrs Berry has set some practice tasks each day in preparation for a Sciennes Virtual Sports Day on Friday 5th June! More details to follow early next week. Look out your House colours!

P1 TRANSITION

Week Two of the Edinburgh Bear Hunt is now live. Look out for weekly activities for the next six weeks on the Edinburgh Early Years website: <https://bearhuntedinburgh.wordpress.com>.

P7-S1 TRANSITION

A video tour of James Gillespie's High School can be found on their website with more details about P7-S1 Transition in the Parents section > Cluster Primary Schools.

<https://www.jamesgillespies.co.uk/cluster-primaries/>

LEARNER PARTICIPATION

SCARECROW

If you are out on your daily walk passing the school, do have a look and see if you can spot our school scarecrow. Thank you very much to Neva in P6B for making this with her family and donating it to the school. Thanks again to Emma Kirk for organising this! We are now the map! Are you?

<https://bit.ly/3brDJnC> Contact kirkem@yahoo.co.uk to add your scarecrow to the map.



RIBBONS

While you are passing the school why not tie a ribbon to our school gate. There are a few there already but it would be lovely to see more.

BABY NEWS!

Congratulations to Mrs Kat Ross and her husband Colin on the birth of their beautiful baby daughter Annie Jacinta Ross.



Enjoy the rest of your week. The sunny weather looks set to continue over the weekend and into next week. I suspect a few BBQ's will be fired up!

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 |

Website www.sciennes.edin.sch.uk | Twitter [@SciennesPS](https://twitter.com/SciennesPS)

BELIEVE • ACHIEVE

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