



ANDREW'S WEEKLY ROUNDUP

Believe, Achieve



RESPECT INCLUSION TEAMWORK EFFORT

DIARY DATES

Friday 4th December Flu Vaccination
Saturday 12th December Winter Fair
Tuesday 22nd December 12pm End of Term

27 November 2020

Dear Families

It is a bumper Roundup this week! I hope you are all well and keeping safe and healthy.

STAFFING

Mrs McCracken (P2C) temporarily leaves us today to go on maternity leave and I am sure you will join me in wishing her all the best in this exciting new part of her life. Mrs Emma Kidd who currently teaches part time in P3A and P6C has been appointed full time teacher in P2C. Following a competitive recruitment process, Ms Charlotte Kuhlwilm has been appointed as part time teacher in P3A and P6C.

PARENT COUNCIL

The Parent Council met last week and this was followed up with a communication from them on Tuesday of this week. We thank Caroline McKellar and Leda Uberbacher for taking over the joint Chair role in the Parent Council. It is a challenging role as they need to reflect the views of all parents, work with the school and make decisions. Sometimes these decisions do not please everyone but the Parent Council is committed to listening to all views.

In the weeks that led up to lockdown some pupils began looking at the current technology in school and how it was being used. Following a consultation process that involved interviewing pupils from most stages, we agreed to audit some of the key technology in the school. It was found that a large percentage of the projectors in the school were nearing the end of their lives. On top of this the Promethean boards that work alongside projectors were requiring repair or missing key parts that can no longer be purchased. Technology continues to move at a remarkable rate and we felt that it was sensible to investigate replacing these systems with newer models, avoiding the 'sticking plaster' approach.

Mr Armstrong invested in the help of SSUK; a technology company which has a long standing relationship providing technology for Sciennes and schools throughout Scotland. Working together, they investigated the status of projectors and boards and put together a strategy for replacing the older technology. The new boards will provide the teachers at Sciennes with cutting edge technology that is relatable for the young people in our school, and link more effectively with an already excellent provision of portable tablets. Teachers will be able to engage with pupils in different ways, using a range of exciting approaches, and they will be able to do all of this without closing the blinds and shutting out the natural light. The Parent Council agreed to include this as part of their fundraising drive and will support the purchase of five boards per year being replaced over the course of the next three school years. A huge fundraising push has already seen funds raised for the first five boards and providing SSUK can accommodate us, we will see P6 and P7 rooms fitted out before Christmas. The staff and pupils would like to say a huge thank you to the Parent Council for supporting this initiative. The Parent Council and Friends of Sciennes School (FSS) will develop closer links. We will still strongly support Bikeability in school as this is part of our Curriculum Rationale under Skills for Life and the 1 in 5 work we do to support families facing financial difficulty. The Parent Council and FSS are keen to continue to fund raise to support these initiatives and we are very grateful to them for their support.

We are incredibly lucky to have such an interested and passionate parent body at Sciennes.

EQUALITIES

Our pupil Equality Advisors are keen to celebrate the launch of their anti-bullying/anti-racism questionnaire next week and to tie this in with us all being unique. To celebrate this, they have asked that next Friday 4 December be Odd Socks Day! Children can come to school wearing odd socks but may also choose what to wear to reflect their personality and what they like to wear. Our only exception is football tops from professional clubs. If children prefer to wear their school sweatshirt then of course they can!

"Over the last two weeks, Primary 7s have been researching and then presenting about the inspirational lives of some famous black Britons. Each group presented to their class and then the classes voted for two groups to go through to a 'Final'. We enjoyed finding out about these inspirational people. Some of them we had heard of and some of them were entirely new for us. We had people who were born around the world and who came to live here, as well as people from families who had lived in the UK for generations. The two winning groups from each class then presented to the P7 stage and we had a vote. Newsreader Sir Trevor McDonald was voted into third place, singer Dame Shirley Bassey came second and our most inspirational black Briton was Sir Harold Moody, once dubbed the "Martin Luther King of the United Kingdom." A worthy and inspirational winner! All three class teachers were impressed by the enthusiasm for the characters we studied, by the teamwork displayed and by the quality of the presentations given." Mr Forrest Howie

OUR AMAZING PROBATIONER TEACHERS

Ms Deeny, Mr Gilchrist and Ms Wittland were invited to be panel members at the University of Edinburgh Open Day for prospective Post Graduate Primary Teachers. They answered questions put to them by prospective students in a thoughtful and articulate way, giving a helpful insight into the course and teaching. Their contribution was greatly valued by the attendees and by the university staff.

ASSEMBLIES

The focus on our Assemblies last week was about Making a Difference and was related to all of our school values of Respect, Inclusion, Teamwork and Effort. We celebrated World Children's Day and heard from Sofia, Lexie and Serena in P7 who set up the Make a Difference (MAD) group. They presented at both Assemblies and they choose the book for me to read to the P1-P3 children. It was called "Superbat" by Matt Carr. At the P4-P7 Assembly, Mr Howie spoke about the project (researching the lives of inspirational black Britons) mentioned in the Equalities section above.

Unfortunately, we were unable to have any Assemblies this week.

COVID-19

As you will be aware, we had a confirmed positive case of Covid-19 in the school. As a result of this P6C and two staff members need to self-isolate until Tuesday 8 December. We would like to thank P6C families in particular for their understanding and support. When we are notified about a case we have to act swiftly, so apologies for the 5am emails! We look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on 8 December.

Thanks as always to all parents for continuing to wear face masks and for leaving the playground immediately after picking up your child. We all appreciate it.

FLU IMMUNISATION MOP UP

The NHS nurses will be back in school on Friday 4 December to vaccinate those children who had permission from home but who were absent and for P2B who were self-isolating at the time of the previous visit.

HOMEWORK

A reminder that Homework is not given out to children in December.

DANGEROUS WALL

We received an email from a local resident regarding a dangerous wall on the southside of Sciennes House Place, past the Jewish cemetery. The resident wanted to make families aware as many of our children use this route. The resident has notified the Council of the concerns and we will do the same.

END OF TERM

I am aware there is speculation that schools may close on Friday 18 December and that blended learning may be in the pipeline for these two days. This is merely speculation. If anything changes, I will let you know immediately. In the meantime, we are still planning for the end of term on Tuesday 22 December. This will be around 12 noon but with slight variations for staggered exits. We will let you know details once they are firmed up.

BOROUGHMUIR RUGBY CLUB FILMING

Tuesday 24th November saw a welcome opportunity for our P7 Sports Captains (Ellen, Ellie, Emma, Rowan, Cyrus, Finn, Callum and Josh) - as well as Rugby club players Eoin, Hugh, Findlay, Logan, Elliot, Leo, Jamie and Samuel - to take part in a video for Active Schools and Boroughmuir Rugby Club promoting Rugby. Expert coaching from Justin Loveridge, Academy Manager at BmuirRFC and the pupils were a credit to the school.

HAPPY NEWS

I have some happy news to share with you. Mr Mitchell (P6A) and his partner Hazel got engaged last weekend. In these days where news is dominated by COVID it was lovely to hear this. It helped give us all a spring in our steps on Monday!

I hope you have a good weekend. We are having a meal delivered from one of our favourite restaurants. It only requires minimal cooking which is a huge bonus and the wine at home is free!

Andrew

Andrew M Hunter | Head Teacher | Sciennes Primary School | 10 Sciennes Road,
Edinburgh, EH9 1LG **Tel** 0131 667 1243 | **Email** andrew.hunter@sciences.edin.sch.uk |
Website www.sciences.edin.sch.uk | **Twitter** @SciennesPS



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SUMMARY OF STAGGERED START AND FINISH TIMES AT SCIENNES PRIMARY SCHOOL AUGUST 2020

P1, P3 and P5 WEST WING

P2, P4, P6 and P7 EAST WING

Year Group	Start Time	Mon – Thurs Finish Time	Friday Finish Time	ENTRANCE/EXIT
P1	9.00am	2.50pm	12.15pm	WEST DOOR (Sick Kids Hospital side) Parents wait in playground in West zone
P2A, P2B	9.00am	2.50pm	12.15pm	EAST DOOR (Main Entrance)
P2C	9.00am	2.50pm	12.15pm	Classroom Entrance/Exit from Playground
P3	8.50am	3.20pm	12.05pm	WEST DOOR
P4	8.50am	3.20pm	12.05pm	EAST DOOR
P5	8.40am	3.10pm	11.55am	WEST DOOR
P6	8.40am	3.10pm	11.55am	EAST DOOR
P7	8.40am	3.10pm	11.55am	EAST DOOR

***N.B. PUPILS SHOULD ONLY USE THE ENTRANCE/EXIT STIPULATED**

DROP OFF P1 pupils can come into school directly without lining up at **9.00am** BUT ONLY USING THEIR CORRECT ENTRANCE AT THEIR PARTICULAR ENTRY TIME. P1 and P2 Parents may enter the playground at Drop Off. Please then leave the playground promptly. **Please note that P2 start time is also 9am.**

PICK UP P6 and P7 pupils may only be collected from **outside the school gates**. P1-P5 Parents, please **only enter the playground just before your designated pick up time**, ensure 2m distancing and then **yacate the playground immediately** you have collected your child to avoid congregating. If you have siblings who need collected at different times, please leave the playground, move away from the front of the school and return at the designated time. Thank you.