



## RESPECT INCLUSION TEAMWORK EFFORT

### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

Thursday 27 February Parent Council Meeting 6.30pm – 8.30pm

Thursday 2 April P4 Scots Evening

Friday 3 April Break up for Easter/Spring Holiday

Tuesday 21 April Pupils and staff return to school

Tuesday 28 April Parent Consultations

Thursday 30 April Parent Consultations

Monday 4 May Inservice day 7 school closed to pupils

Friday 8 May School closed for May Day holiday (VE Day)

Monday 18 May Victoria Day Holiday School Closed

Thursday 4 June School Sports Day 9.30am Meadows

Thursday 11 June School Sports Day back up day 9.30am

Tuesday 16 June – 18 June P7 visit to High School

Monday 22 June P7 Show to Parents 1.30pm

Wednesday 24 June P7 Leavers Dance 6.30pm – 8.30pm

Friday 26 June School breaks up for Summer Holidays

Dear Families

I hope you all had a good February break with your children and that storms Ciara and Dennis did not take away from your enjoyment! My hopes for sunny weather were not fulfilled!

We arrived back to school on Random Act of Kindness Day and after lunch I found a bar of chocolate on my desk! It was delicious.

Also on Monday, our three P7 Members of the Children's Parliament (Jennifer Robertson, Rory McIntosh and Haris Rafiq) delivered a workshop about children's rights and meaningful participation to Childhood Studies students from the University of Edinburgh. Wonderful that our young people are again taking an instrumental role in influencing future educators! Thank you very much to Katie Reid from the Children's Parliament for organising. Orlaith McAree from the Children's Parliament was back in school on Wednesday to help Haris prepare for his forthcoming meeting with the First Minister and her Cabinet.

We are also extremely grateful to Alex Harkins for providing excellent taster Tennis sessions for all our P1s in the main Hall.

On Tuesday, Primary Seven pupils met as a stage to discuss how to complete the Transition forms for James Gillespie's High School. Pupils are asked to identify people they would work well with and the forms are completed in private in school. We would normally then discuss selections with families at Parent Consultations but this year we will send home the forms so that you can also express a view and sign that you are in agreement. Placing pupils in S1 is hugely complex and though Guidance staff put a tremendous amount of time and effort into the process, there is no guarantee that choices can be met because, for example, siblings' Houses are also considered. It can be an anxious time for Primary Seven and we aim to reassure and support throughout the year but do please contact Lucy Gallagher, DHT, with any concerns or queries.

Our Digital Leaders were announced, and they will begin their work next Tuesday. They are:

Primary 5: Vincent Hinchliffe-Drumm, Diarmuid Sim Angharad Hunt, Sadie Swan

Primary 6: Max Marsh, Lara Aslan, Henry Marshall, Cameron Bain, Anjalie Khan, Min-Gyu Ahn

Primary 7: Eris Larking, Eva Tai, Sam Ungless, Freya Mowbray, Andrew McKendrick, Roger Chen, Alasdair Mills, Celeina Dubey

Our P1-P3 Assembly was all about hygiene and handwashing. Ms Anstruther had great fun singing with the children, at the same time showing them how to wash their hands thoroughly!

Ms Gallagher, Miss Ferguson and I were invited by P5A to attend the premiere of their film on The Ages of Edinburgh. It was a fantastic, highly amusing yet informative film. I will look out for some of the children at the Oscars in coming years.

After school, the teachers met to look over, discuss and provide feedback on the first draft of our new Home Learning Strategy. There will be opportunities for children and families to give their views. We will then put the finished document on our website.

Mr Davies, our Business Manager was at a budget workshop all day. Thankfully, he informed me that I have not spent all our budget....yet!

I resumed my Wednesday morning walkabouts in school and enjoyed visiting classes and sharing in learning. I spent time in P3C with Ms Gladstone and Ms Mitchell. The children were recreating paintings from Scottish artists and were able to tell me all about why they liked the paintings and how the paintings made them feel. I then visited P4C with Mrs Barton. The children were very engaged in working with money tasks. I was very impressed to hear about the strategies they were using to work out problems. I enjoyed working with the children. I think there are a few keen bankers and investment managers in the making.

Our P7 Sports Captains met on Wednesday to discuss and decide how they will organise our contribution to Sport Relief Monday 9th-Friday 13th March. You will be hearing from them soon.

On Thursday morning, Rob Cockroft from James Gillespie's High School met with each of our P7 teachers, Ms Gilhooly and Ms Gallagher to begin the process of handing over information for Transition. We also put forward candidates for Enhanced Transition and Rob

will be able to confirm selection when he has reviewed potential candidates from across all the Cluster Primary Schools.

Our P4-7 Eco Warriors met on Thursday. Angus and Ty distributed #showthelove stickers which will be sent home on Friday. The group looked at all the contributions and suggestions so far from fellow pupils under the headings Litter, Water, Health and 'Other' and began to establish three main priorities in each category so the group can reflect the views of the wider pupil community.

P6A continued the outdoor learning they so enjoyed at Benmore, out in the Nature Strip on Thursday afternoon taking part in the RSPB Big Garden Bird Watch. The class really engaged with the learning and were excited to see robins, chaffinches and were lucky enough to spot a pair of bullfinches. The children would like to thank Josh's mum, Sue for coming in to share her expertise.

On Friday our P4-7 Assembly theme was 'Find Your Brave' as part of Mental Health Week. P6 pupils spoke about their experiences in tapping into courage and resilience at their recent Benmore Outdoor Education residential. Mr Armstrong introduced his new Digital Leaders and P7A Sienna pupils confidently and expertly led the Assembly and the singing. We sang 'This Is Me' from The Greatest Showman as the message behind this song is all about overcoming obstacles and being who you are. The children sang it with such emotion. It was one of those goose bumps moments.

P1, P4 and P7 pupils will soon take part in Scottish National Standardised Assessments (SNSAs) in Literacy and Numeracy. The assessments are online and provide us with very useful diagnostic information which forms part of our ongoing assessments and help confirm teacher judgements on progress.

Finally, three pupils from P3 Ramona Mattocks, Abigail Hunter and Madeleine Bell baked cakes at home and sold them in the bike shed after school. They wanted to raise money for The Sick Kids and they organised the entire event by themselves. Well done to them! I hope you enjoyed the Friday cake treat! (I had some meetings after school and was able to share treats. I think people enjoyed the meetings!)

I hope you all have a good weekend. I am looking forward to a cinema weekend and intend to see Emma and Parasite at the Dominion. It is good cinema weather!

Andrew

**Tel** 0131 667

1243 | **Email** [andrew.hunter@sciennes.edin.sch.uk](mailto:andrew.hunter@sciennes.edin.sch.uk) | **Website** [www.sciennes.edin.sch.uk](http://www.sciennes.edin.sch.uk) | **Twitter** @SciennesPS

**BELIEVE • ACHIEVE**

