



RESPECT INCLUSION TEAMWORK EFFORT

5 March 2021

DIARY DATES

15 March P4-7 return to school
w/c 15 March Share a Smile Comic Relief Week
w/c 15 March UNCRC incorporated into Scots' Law
19 March Red Nose Day
23 and 25 March Parent Consultations
Thurs 1 April Term ends
Tues 20 April All resume

Dear Families

Return to school

We were all delighted to hear the First Minister's statement from earlier this week where she stated that P4-P7 pupils would be able to return to school on Monday 15 March. I am really looking forward to welcoming them and to our school being full of children again. Please see attached letter from Andy Gray, Chief Education Officer about this phase of reopening schools.

Staggered Start and Finish

We have been working on staggered start and finish times for the whole school which you can find below. 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. As before we will monitor and review as the weeks go by.

Once again, 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. This is helping to avoid too much congestion especially on a Friday. Thank you for wearing masks too.

Victorian Tour

This week our Janitor Mr Neil Scott worked his magic inspiring each P2 class with his fascinating tour of our Victorian school. This included a visit to the boiler room, swimming pool, Mr Hunter's office and the attic! Finlay Clark and Edie Cawston in Mrs Kidd's P2C class used these words to describe Mr Scott's tour: "Wow!", "Interesting", "Amazing!" "really good!"

World Book Day

We celebrated World Book Day on Thursday 4 March, led in school by Ms Ferguson and Miss Deeny. It was great to see P1- 3 and Hub children dressed up. P4-7 took part in activities online in their penultimate week of remote learning.

World Book Day Vouchers

P1-3 received a paper £1 voucher and P4-7 received a digital one via Teams.

£1 Vouchers can be exchanged for one of twelve exclusive WBD books

<https://www.worldbookday.com/books/>

or used as a discount when purchasing another book over £2.99.

As bookstores are currently closed, this year you can also exchange your voucher in selected Asda and Sainsburys stores. However due to current restrictions, selected bookstores will also be honouring the voucher beyond the 28 March while stocks last.

World Book Day Assembly

On Friday at our P4-7 Assembly I shared some of the books I have enjoyed throughout my life, including novels, comic books, annuals, art books, books about sport, travel and cookery. My great grandad used to write stories for the Rupert the Bear books! We all wish we could have been able to talk to the children about their favourite books in person, but we will be able to do this soon!

Please find a link below to watch the latest World Book Day Assembly. It is suggested that it is suitable for aged 9 and above.

<https://www.worldbookday.com/event/books-and-the-real-world/>

Other World Book Day Assemblies from earlier this week can be viewed here:

<https://video.link/w/04wYb>

<https://video.link/w/15wYb>

Comedy Fun

We are going to hold a comedy festival from 15 March to celebrate our whole school being back together again. We will tie this in with the Comic Relief theme of Share a Smile. P4-7 look out for activities related to this in Teams next week! If you are in P1-P3 your teachers will tell you all about this

Parent Consultations

Parent Consultations will again take place online on TEAMS on Tuesday 23 March and Thursday 25 March. The booking system opened today at 12pm and will close on Wednesday 17 March at 12pm. Please can you log on to <https://parents-booking.co.uk/sciennes> and choose one consultation per family per child. For families who are unable to meet together or share information with each other, please can you email me directly at andrew.hunter@sciennes.edin.sch.uk. Alternative arrangements will be facilitated. In this situation it would be helpful if the primary carer booked the appointment on either 23 or 25 March.

Please make sure you include the email address that you would like the meeting invitation to be sent to in the comments box of the booking. Also put the mobile number of the person who will be there on the night. If there is a problem with TEAMS, we will telephone you on that number to conduct the meeting.

Students

PGDE students Abeeha Tariq (P3B) and Daniel Norman (P4C) have had a very successful middle school placement with us. Abeeha was able to be in school when P1-P3 returned but Daniel carried out his placement on a remote basis. We are delighted that they shall be returning to Sciennes for their upper school experience.

Pupil Success

Congratulations to Mia Oliver in P6A who wrote a poem "Russel's Day Out" which was entered into a Young Writers' competition. She has been selected to appear in a young writers' poetry collection. Tremendous achievement, Mia!

Future School Session Dates Consultation

The Council would like to gather your views on future school session dates for 2022/23 and beyond.

The survey about the timing of school holidays over the next three years should only take a few minutes to complete. Parents and staff groups across the city have contributed to the wording of the questions.

The link to the survey is:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/schsd2022>

The survey is open until Thursday 1 April 2021. Your views are really important.

Spaces for People Survey

Please find below a message from City of Edinburgh Council Spaces for People:

Many of you will have seen some of the [temporary 'Spaces for People' measures](#) at schools and around the city that are helping people to physically distance and travel safely during the Covid-19 pandemic. We've created extra space for pedestrians and wheelchairs in shopping areas as well as putting protected cycle lanes on some main roads. There's also extra space for exercise in some areas. You can find out more about these measures at www.edinburgh.gov.uk/spacesforpeople

We're now considering whether to keep in place some of the temporary measures in place for a longer trial period so we can test them out when pedestrians and traffic begins to get back to normal. We want to do this as many of the temporary measures are likely to help us achieve the Council's long-term objectives to improve how we travel, making it easier for people to get about, and to help us meet the city's net carbon-free targets.

We're keen to hear what people think about this and are seeking views from residents, businesses and key city organisations. [Please fill in our online questionnaire](#). More information on www.edinburgh.gov.uk/streetschemes

Remote Learning

As always, a reminder of the times is below

P4-P7 live interactions sessions continue each day Monday to Friday are at these times:

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

Since January, our school community has been faced with yet another very challenging period of home learning. We all want to thank you for your hard work supporting home learning. We will maintain our key focus on Literacy, Numeracy and Health and Wellbeing (including outdoor learning) in school this term and next. Our teachers look forward to meeting with you at Parent Consultations on Teams. I am confident we can work together to settle all the children back into normal routines.

Have a lovely weekend.

Andrew



BELIEVE • ACHIEVE

SUMMARY OF STAGGERED START AND FINISH TIMES AT SCIENNES PRIMARY SCHOOL 15 March 2021

Year Group	Start Time	Mon – Thurs Finish Time	Friday Finish Time	ENTRANCE/EXIT
P1	9.00am	3.00pm	12.10pm	WEST DOOR (Sick Kids Hospital side)
P2A, P2B	9.00am	3.00pm	12.10pm	EAST DOOR (Main Entrance)
P2C	9.00am	3.00pm	12.10pm	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 All pupils can come into school directly without lining up at their designated time. Please observe COVID regulations by wearing a mask and keeping 2m apart.

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 vacate 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.