



RESPECT INCLUSION TEAMWORK EFFORT

14 May 2021

#### **DIARY DATES**

**P7 Epic! Day** Monday 17 May

**Holiday** (Victoria Day) Monday 24 May

**Parent Council Picture Day** w/c 31 May

**Reports Home** Thursday 17 June

**End of Term** Friday 25 June 12pm

Dear Families

Eid Mubarak to all our families celebrating!

It has been a very busy week at Sciennes and a very wet week outside Sciennes! Much better today.

#### **Equalities**

On Monday Ms Gallagher attended a training course on Race Equality and this will feed into our Equalities strategy. Courses have been offered to and attended by representatives from each school and it is great that the City of Edinburgh Council Communities and Families Department has developed a citywide approach to support improvements and initiatives in this area.

#### **Friends of Sciennes School Meeting (FSS)**

I attended the FSS meeting on Monday evening. We discussed the Seven Hills Challenge and thanked Diane Glass for organising this. We raised over £3000 including Gift Aid. A tremendous success.

We looked over a Webpage leaflet and when finalised we will share this on the school website. We also looked over our new draft constitution (the previous one was from 2001!) Thank you to Fran Armour. Her depth of knowledge and expertise in fundraising and governance will set us on a good footing as we move forward. The current members of FSS are

Andrew Hunter - Chairperson  
John Armstrong - Teacher representative and depute to Chairperson  
Diane Glass - Trustee  
Bruce Crawford -Trustee  
Amy Allen - Trustee and Secretary  
Lisa Wilkie - Trustee  
Catherine McCormack - Outgoing Treasurer  
Gayle McGill - Incoming Treasurer  
Fran Armour - Events and Fundraising  
Caroline McKellar/Leda Uberbacher -Parent Council

### **New Classrooms at Sciennes**

I sent you a letter on Tuesday from Robbie Crockatt, with details of the new classrooms to be built at the back of the school where the current Primary 4 huts are located. As the letter stated, this will be a permanent addition to our school. There will be four classrooms over two levels with breakout space, toilets and a lift. This will become the Primary One base. Once the new classrooms are completed and occupied in October 2022 we will be able to look at reopening our fantastic library and fully using our second Additional Support for Learning base. We are very excited that we are getting this superb addition to our school. In the meantime, two high quality temporary units will be built in the playground outside my office on two storeys. Similar units have been used as classrooms at Liberton Primary following the fire at the school.

### **Parent Council**

We are all dab hands at Teams meetings now! Although we have really missed seeing parents and carers in person, we have seen a marked increase in attendance and it was great that so many could take part. The main focus of Thursday night's meeting was on plans for the new build and was very positive and supportive. We were grateful to Robbie Crockatt for the clarity of his presentation and to Slim Guedanna who provided ideas for mitigating loss of playground space throughout construction. Exciting developments ahead! Thank you to Caroline McKellar for chairing the meeting so well.

### **Playground Switch**

Primary 2 pupils, Isla Adamson, Isobel Woods-Swan, Domino Nixon and Primary 4 Donald Dow-Ewing suggested that it would be a good idea for children to switch sides of the playground for the rest of the term. I agreed with them and we will put this in place from Monday. A great example of pupil voice effecting change.

### **Uniform Sale**

Thank you to Diane Rapan and parents who organised the Nearly New uniform sale today. Thank you to everyone who has donated and/or purchased uniform. A great example of sustainability within our school community!

## **Assemblies**

We managed to provide a recording of last week's Deaf Awareness Assembly for our P1-P3 classes and it's great to have Aicha Reid's signing videos so we can keep practising. Our Assemblies this week focused on Alan Turing, not only as an inspirational person but also to increase awareness of LGBT+ Equalities.

## **Clean Air Day**

On Friday morning we were delighted to welcome Lord Provost, Frank Ross and John Bynorth from Environmental Protection Scotland to join our three P6 Junior Road Safety Officers – Amy Yang, Eilidh Mowbray and Rory Smith – and our wonderful P7 Captains for the launch of this year's Clean Air Day. We have supported the campaign for a number of years since former Cabinet Secretary for the Environment Roseanna Cunningham came to Sciennes for the launch of the first Clean Air Day in 2017. Mr Gregor Hutchison has supported each campaign since and it was great to see his pupils' bunting on display. Thank you also to Co-Chair of Parent Council Caroline McKellar for representing our dedicated and tenacious band of parent supporters who promote active travel and clean air for our children every day. Mark (former Herald photographer) took some exceptional photographs of the children which should appear in the media on Monday. Mark has kindly offered to give us copies for P7 Memory Books.

## **WWF Cake and Plant Sale**

Eliza McHattie in P4B held a cake and plant sale on Sunday in aid of WWF. She raised £135.68! Fantastic effort, Eliza! Very well done.

## **Thank You!**

A big thank you from Miss Mitchell and P3C to Mrs Latif (parent) who very kindly spoke to the class about Eid, shared a story and made a lovely paper star decoration with the children via Teams. And thank you also to Zaid and Jad's families for speaking to the P2A on Teams about how their families celebrate Ramadan and Eid.

Hope the sun makes a reappearance at the weekend and that you manage to get out and about.

Andrew

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**BELIEVE • ACHIEVE**

SUMMARY OF STAGGERED START AND FINISH TIMES AT SCIENNES PRIMARY SCHOOL

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	<b>EAST DOOR</b> (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	<b>EAST DOOR</b>
P5	8.40am	3.10pm	11.55am	WEST DOOR
P6	8.40am	3.10pm	11.55am	<b>EAST DOOR</b>
P7	8.40am	3.10pm	11.55am	<b>EAST DOOR</b>

**\*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.

