



RESPECT INCLUSION TEAMWORK EFFORT

10 September 2021

DIARY DATES

Monday 20 September – Holiday Monday

Thursday 30 September Flu Vaccination

Monday 18 October to Tuesday 26 October (Monday 25 October Inservice day for staff)

Dear Families

As you know, the Scottish Government advice on COVID-19 was updated for the start of this term and, like all schools, we have been following that guidance. Over the last six weeks, NHS Lothian, Health Protection Scotland and local authorities have been working together to support schools, as well as carefully monitor the return to school.

The original guidance has been under constant review and a draft update is currently being finalised. Families can therefore expect to receive a letter from NHS Lothian fairly soon, which will contain updated advice and be accessible online for your reference.

Since Monday, we have been able to notify you directly of the numbers of cases in your child's class and hope you are finding this helpful. There were 30 newly confirmed cases of COVID-19 this week (5%).

In total, there have been 67 cases **since the start of term** out of 651 pupils (10% overall since the beginning of term). Please bear in mind that many pupils who tested positive have already returned to school following ten days of isolation.

We also highlighted this week that all household members should now automatically consider themselves close contacts, without waiting to be notified by Test and Protect.

If your child develops symptoms, or a Lateral Flow test is positive, then please keep your child at home, notify school and confirm with a PCR test.

We have seen a pattern, which may only be discernible within our own school, but we wanted to share it with you to help keep you informed. On several occasions we have seen one sibling test positive and self-isolate and another sibling initially test negative and return to school only to test positive subsequently a day or so later. Please bear in mind that the rate of transmission does seem greater within households and for overnight stays and that there may be a slight lag time before testing positive.

Adjusting to a new landscape can be challenging and we are very grateful for the continuing support we receive from the school community. It is appreciated. Andrew has also been grateful for your kind thoughts and wishes. An expression of love and support has been particularly tangible in the response to the memorial appeal for Mel Ross.

A £1000 target to fund a Storytelling Chair as a memorial for Mel was reached within days and we are all very touched by the kindness and generosity of the Sciennes Family. The heartfelt messages posted on the tribute pages for Mel are extremely moving and we know that her family, friends and colleagues really appreciate reading these. Thank you.

Our new Equalities Advisers were appointed this week. On Thursday 9 September they were joined by last year's Equalities Advisers for a whole day Anti-Bullying training event led by Clio from The Diana Award. Clio was extremely impressed by their insight, perception and empathy. A great launch event for a strong team who will work with staff and parents throughout the year to help everyone at Sciennes feel included and respected. This year the group will also help us work towards the LGBT Schools Charter Award and promote Anti-Racism and Inclusion.

Thank you to everyone who submitted Digital Leaders application forms to Mr Armstrong and who has given or is about to give a short ECO presentation to their class. We hope to be able to appoint pupils to leadership posts, including P7 House and Sports Captains, before the September weekend.

Mr Gilchrist and P6A have been leading on promoting Nicky Atkinson's Care4Calais appeal. Instead of Assembly today, teachers were again focusing on Afghanistan and refugees and were supported by P6A pupils. Nicky is still collecting items at her home and there will be a second collection at school on Wednesday 15 September. Please refer to the attached leaflet and drop off any items you wish to donate in the playground, inside the main gate between 8.50 and 9.10am on Wednesday.

Schools have not been able to travel to use our pool so we find ourselves in the very fortunate position of being allocated Swimming Specialists from across the city every day of the week! They will begin weekly Swimming instruction for P4, P5 and P6 from Monday 13 September, starting with P6A and P6B. We want to say a huge thank you to our Facilities Managers (Janitors) Neil Scott and John Reid who maintain the pool for us. Special thanks to Neil who worked so hard over the last week to make sure that the pool is not only safe, it is also absolutely gleaming! Remember your Swimming kits on Monday, P6!

SWIMMING FROM 13 SEPTEMBER

Mondays P6A and P6B

Tuesdays P5A and P5B

Wednesdays P4B and P4A

Thursdays P4C and P5C

Fridays P6C

We hope you have a relaxing weekend.

Lucy, Carolyn, John, Steve and Jenni



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