



RESPECT INCLUSION TEAMWORK EFFORT

15 October 2021

DIARY DATES

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

Parent Council Halloween trail Saturday 30 October 2-5pm

Tuesday 2 November and Thursday 4 November Parent Consultations 4-7pm

Parent Council meeting Wednesday 10 November 7pm-8.30pm

Parent Council Winter Fair Saturday 4 December 12pm-3pm

Dear Families

A great way to end the term with no positive pupil cases reported in school for the entire week. We will still maintain mitigations on our return from the October break, monitor carefully and keep you advised. Three separate morning and lunch breaks will continue but we are considering moving to two rather than three staggered start and finish times, five minutes apart. We will let you know of any changes next term.

After the October break, Ms Charlotte Kuhlwilm (who has been teaching P3C) will teach P7A on Mondays and Tuesdays to release Principal Teacher Jenni McGouther to support the work of the Senior Leadership Team schoolwide. We look forward to welcoming back Mrs Lynsey McCracken to P3C when she returns from maternity leave after the holiday. Ms Kuhlwilm will remain in P3, teaching P3A on Thursdays and Fridays. John Armstrong, DHT continues to support P3 to ensure continuity in progress and learning. He also has specific responsibility for P2. Carolyn Anstruther continues to lead and manage St Leonard's nursery School on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesday mornings as well as leading the P1 team on Wednesday afternoons and Thursdays. Carolyn, John, Jenni and I, strongly supported by Business Manager Steve Davies, continue to work closely as a team to support schoolwide. Mr Forrest Howie, who has taught for twenty-five years – twenty-one of those at Sciennes – has decided to take a career break. He will be sorely missed and we know you will join us in wishing him well. We all look forward to his return to school in 2023.

Many thanks to Parent Rep Paddy Napier who is co-ordinating host houses for the Parent Council Halloween Trail on Saturday 30 October 2-5pm. More details to follow after the October break. In school, Class Teachers will direct any Halloween activities happening in class on Friday 29 October and will inform you and the children of these when we return. Please note that we discourage families having to go to any expense on costumes. We encourage home-made wherever possible or limiting to a Halloween accessory. We also have a costume lending wardrobe and welcome any donated costumes. Please let 1 in 5 lead carolyn.anstruther@sciennes.edin.sch.uk know if you would like to borrow a costume by dropping her an email.

Another date for your diary is the Sciennes Winter Fair, set for Saturday 4 December, and as ever we are extremely grateful for Parent Council support in making this a safe but tremendously fun community event. Details of how to get involved will be shared next term. Our second Parent Council meeting for the year, chaired by Caroline McKellar and Leda Uberbacher, will be on Wednesday 10 November. All parents/carers are warmly welcomed to attend.

Parent Council members Chair Caroline McKellar, Slim Gueddana, Gidona Henderson, Kirstin Unger continue to advance progress on maximising play space in Sciennes Road and we thank them and Robbie Crockatt, CEC Schools Estate Manager for their support.

Parents and carers in our own community may be interested in applying for one of the six Playground Supervisor posts advertised on MyJobScotland. We are indebted to City of Edinburgh Council and to Robbie Crockatt and his team for this tremendous support in helping us increase play opportunities for the children during the period of the new build at the rear of the school necessitating the installation of the two temporary classrooms in the playground. (Please note that the advertised salary is pro rata for this part time 38-week term time sessional contract.)

<https://www.myjobscotland.gov.uk/councils/city-edinburgh-council/jobs/supervisory-assistant-playground-sciennes-primary-school-240342>

SURVEY CLOSES TODAY 5pm

Support for Learning Teachers Paula Gilhooly and Rhona Kennedy are leading a Neurodiversity, Belonging and Inclusion project in school and would welcome participation and input from families and pupils. Here they explain how to contribute:

*“We know that the school environment really suits some learners and that other learners find the school environment more challenging. This can be linked to how learners process information. In school we are talking with all the children to find out **what things about the school day might be hard for them to manage and what things might make the school day easier for them to manage.**”*

We invite parents and carers to contribute their views on this subject too using this [**survey link.**](#)

We are happy to receive your views in an alternative form that suits you, or your child e.g. picture, video or audio message. Please contact paula.gilhooly@sciennes.edin.sch.uk or Rhona.kennedy@sciennes.edin.sch.uk with responses.

The closing date for responses is **today**, Friday 15th October.”

We have a busy programme for the Inservice Day on Monday 25 October which includes Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Training, delivered online for us by senior members of CEC Additional Support for Learning Service (ASLS). In City of Edinburgh, you may be aware that this training takes place for all staff – teaching and support staff - every three years and we are grateful to ASL Service Leaders, Jodie Morrison and Nicola Hammond-Evans for putting this in place for us on Monday. We look forward to welcoming the children back to school on Tuesday 26 October.

Instead of Assembly today, the children made ‘Get Well Soon, Mr Hunter!’ cards for Andrew and we know these will bring him cheer, delight and succour when he receives them later today. He was very touched to receive beautiful paintings from Kaspar and Emilie LeMay.

Andrew has asked us to pass on that he hopes everyone has a really lovely holiday.

Our best wishes and sincere thanks to you, too.

Lucy, Carolyn, John, Steve and Jenni



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