



## RESPECT INCLUSION TEAMWORK EFFORT

26 November 2021

### DIARY DATES

Thursday 2 December Christopher Bell NYCoS in P5

Week beginning Monday 6 December P5 Enterprise all week

Tuesday 7 December P7 Enterprise Day (P3-P7)

Tuesday 7 December School Christmas Lunch

Friday 10 December Christmas Jumper Day (wear or decorate a jumper – online donation to Save the Children if you wish)

### Friday 17 December End of Term

Wednesday 5 January Inservice Day

Thursday 6 January Pupils resume

Dear Families

We are pleased to share there have been no positive pupil cases reported in school this week. Our colleagues in other schools, however, are facing significant challenge. In some cases, specialist staff, Support for Learning teachers and senior leaders have been drafted in to provide much needed class cover for fellow schools. We acknowledge that ongoing restrictions can be frustrating and cause disappointment but keeping school open must remain our overriding concern. Lateral flow testing continues to be recommended for keeping everyone safe this winter.

Although we cannot gather year groups in the Gym Hall. there will be class parties in classrooms and next week we will give you a note of times for these.

What families may have found most disappointing is that schools cannot host or support or be associated with Fairs. This Council directive, put in place to keep schools open, is because 2m distancing between adults cannot be guaranteed. Pupil to pupil contact is considered low risk but the level of risk rises when adults congregate. As we mentioned last week, while restrictions elsewhere might have eased, schools are viewed differently and exceptionally. On an optimistic note, we hope that Sciennes will be able to hold a Summer Fair and enjoy that as a whole community, all together once more.

The children have adapted quickly this week to the new staggered entry and exit times. Thank you for your support. We feel it is easier for younger Primary One and Primary Two pupils to enter and exit separately from the older children so we will retain the two staggered times for the time being. We hope parents and carers of P1 and P2 children are finding helpful the slightly shorter wait time for older siblings at the end of the day.

**P3-P7 8.50am -3.20pm M-Th /12.05pm Friday**

**P1-P2 8.55am -2.55pm M-Th /12.10pm Friday**

The new fencing is providing a much safer segregated play space and we have begun to use the road and Nature Strip for other year groups at morning breaks. The fencing does cause some constriction at drop off and pick up, so please take care to avoid standing in the cycle lane at these times. There will be some adjustments to the fencing on Monday. Signage and road painting are planned and we thank the Parent Council and Robbie Crockatt, Schools Estate Manager, for their ongoing support with this.

A reminder please to label all school uniform and personal items. Lost property can be returned if it is labelled but we have quite a selection of items without names. Facilities Manager (Janitor) Mr Scott put these on tables on Friday so some could be reclaimed.

We are running low on stock, so would welcome donations of pants, socks, tights and trousers as changes of clothes for mostly younger children P1-P3. Great if borrowed clothing items can be washed and returned to the school office.

Over the past few weeks, to support learning in Social Studies and Numeracy, Primary 7 pupils have been working on a mini enterprise topic with Ms McGrouther, Mrs Maguire and Ms Gladstone: *To gain experience of setting up and running a business, they have worked within their classes to come up with ideas, to split up into teams and to assign roles and responsibilities within their groups. They have worked out the cheapest places to buy the materials that they need, have given themselves budgets and are working on costing games, goods and activities. They will then count money, pay back expenses, calculate the profit made and reflect on what went well and what we might adapt. The project itself is driven by the pupils, with a little support from teachers where necessary! The P7s would like to invite pupils from P3-6 to visit their stalls on Tuesday 7 December, with activities and items ranging from 50p to £1.50.*

*P5 are running a similar Enterprise project but on a smaller scale. Each class has come up with one activity and will safely visit classes throughout the week to invite them to take part. Pupils will be visiting classes next week to tell the pupils about what they will be doing. Each class has a guessing game with a prize and each guess costs 50p.*

Jenni McGrouther, Principal Teacher

Partly in response to queries raised, Colin Maclean, Headteacher at James Gillespie's Primary School, is arranging a Cluster Headteacher meeting soon to explore how we can adopt a unified approach to Active Schools clubs within the cluster next term. We will report any updates in the new year.

*The final Winter Series running event took place on Wednesday the 24th at the Meadows. The events have proved to be a huge success with athletic clubs nearby recording more uptake from Sciennes pupils. We would firstly like to thank Simon MacLean at Preston Street Primary for organising, and also the parents/carers who supported every week. It was great to see people face to face again. Stella Crawford remained unbeaten but will have stiff competition from several girls when we resume in the New Year. In the boys' race Finlay Glass was the man to beat and Duncan Collin in Primary 6 did just that, recording an impressive 7 minutes 49 seconds for 2 kilometres and saving his best run for last. The fun run was also a great success and was good to see so many people enjoying running. Well done to all runners and we look forward to repeating the races some time in the new year. Thanks again.*

John Armstrong, Depute Headteacher

To date, we are still unable to come together as a whole staff, but after school on Wednesday teachers were able to meet in groups to take forward school improvements. We rounded off the session with some much-needed hilarity. Raucous laughter echoed around the building, thanks to Ms Anstruther and some festive finger torches! Best left to your imagination.

We were grateful to have Fiona Bogie and John Hannan from Additional Support for Learning Services (ASLS) in school on Wednesday. Staff really appreciated their time and expertise in progressing additional supports for our young people, including Signalong. Great to welcome back educational Psychologist Pamela Foster to Sciennes on Thursday. Pamela is a terrific support to our Child Planning Meetings and provides an excellent link during P7 Transition meetings but also provides ongoing guidance and support to the school. All three work closely throughout the year with Rhona Kennedy and Paula Gilhooly, our Support for Learning teachers, providing advice and tailored interventions.

The extraordinary [Empowered Learning](#) project is moving at pace in Edinburgh. The project will give every school pupil from P6 to S6 their own digital learning device. The 1:1 rollout of devices will begin in December and continue next year across the city. FAQs are available on the Digital Education Team's [Empowered Learning page](#). At Sciennes, we have had 1:1 devices since 2012 and all our P6 and P7 pupils already have a personal device in school. The Empowered Learning project will furnish us with additional devices to refresh many of our existing ones and further enhance our provision in P1-P5. We acknowledge the outstanding fundraising efforts of our Parent Council last year in funding brand new Promethean panels and Apple TVs in each of our classrooms, the Science Base and the Support for Learning base. Since the project will also provide each teacher with a new device – and access to Apple Classroom - this will really help us maximise the teaching and learning capabilities of the interactive panels.

Congratulations to Zara Malik, Stanley Grant, Adam Ly, Grace Huth and Esme Whelan in P5C on their winning entry to the Underbelly and CEC (City of Edinburgh Council) Winter Windows competition! Their 'Connection & Kindness' themed design will be printed onto huge windows lighting up one of five areas around our city! The children have also been invited to a special launch ceremony at City Chambers next week with a family member. Tremendous!

Exciting news and praise indeed for P7B pupil Jasmine Tsoi whose Christmas card design has been selected to be used as Ian Murray MP's personal Christmas Card this year! Jasmine's design will grace the mantlepieces of No 10, The White House and Buckingham Palace! Thank you very much to Mr Murray for providing a special celebration at Luca's Ice Cream Parlour for Jasmine and her family.

Former pupil Millie Stobie-Platts' Rickshaw Challenge inspired huge generosity from the school community, raising a total of almost **£1000** for Children in Need! (Final figure to be confirmed when our ParentPay donation page closes end of November.) Very well done and thanks to P7 pupils Diarmuid Sim and Edward McKenna for leading the truly 'Next Level' fundraising this year!

As you know, Andrew is still suffering from long COVID. We remain in contact and Andrew has asked us to pass on his best wishes to you all. We hope he begins to experience some improvement in the new year.

*Lucy, Carolyn, John, Steve and Jenni*



*Lucy Gallagher* | Acting Head Teacher | **Sciennes Primary School**  
10 Sciennes Road, Edinburgh EH9 1LG | Tel +44 (0)131 667 1243

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