



RESPECT INCLUSION TEAMWORK EFFORT

10 December 2021

DIARY DATES

Monday 13 December Santa Run

Tuesday 14 December P5 Class Party

Wednesday 15 December Class Christmas Parties

Friday 17 December End of Term

Wednesday 5 January Inservice Day

Thursday 6 January Pupils resume

Dear Families

You may have noticed that on Tuesday the children were all buttoned up and hooded, exiting quickly on the bell in the wake of the forecast Storm Barra. Although the storm did not come to pass, we were prepared, in case conditions deteriorated. That is how we viewed the First Minister's statement on Tuesday 7 December and it is how we view the rapidly changing landscape, including the First Minister's important statement this afternoon. Ms Sturgeon announced a **significant change** to contact tracing and isolation which will take effect **from tomorrow:**

- Household contacts of any PCR confirmed case need to isolate for 10 days irrespective of vaccination status or their own PCR test result.
- Non-household contacts are asked to isolate until they receive a PCR test result. They can leave isolation if they have a negative result AND are double vaccinated.

We await further guidance on how this might impact schools.

On Tuesday, the First Minister recommended a redoubling of efforts with mitigations – masks, 2m spacing, ventilation, sanitising, handwashing - and below is a summary of her statement. This advice still stands:

- Strengthen compliance with existing protections, keeping protections under daily review.
- Additional risk of flu and winter indoor mixing.
- Steadily rising Omicron cases. Expecting to see rapid rise in days ahead and Omicron to be the bulk of these.
- Degree of certainty that Omicron is more transmissible than Delta. Also, more capable of reinfection of someone who has had Covid. Potential to evade vaccine. Still many unknowns.
- Emergence of Omicron is a significant challenge. ‘Another serious moment in the course of the pandemic.’
- ‘Go back to basics’ – steps required to minimise risk. Wear face mask, ventilate rooms, ensure good hand and surface hygiene.
- Strongly emphasising Work from Home (WFH) and testing and isolation. Test regularly and repeatedly with LFD, do a test before mixing with other households (restaurant, other households, shopping...)
- Vital importance of vaccination.
- **Important to remain open to any additional measures**

Two positive COVID cases were reported on Monday this week, making five in total over the last three weeks within one of our P4 classes. We notified all families that one of the P4 cases was entirely asymptomatic so was only detected by a Lateral Flow Device (LFD) test. Three cases in total were confirmed on Thursday, one in a P5, one in a P6 and one in a P7 class. All were last in school on Tuesday. No positive cases were reported on Tuesday, Wednesday or today. City of Edinburgh Council, advised by Health Protection Scotland and in line with Scottish Government guidance, strongly advocates regular Lateral Flow testing for children and adults.

Health and Safety continues to be our priority and we would like to reassure you that we feel confident that the comprehensive, well-established systems which are in place in school and in the city provide us with effective supports. Each week we hold a Health and Safety meeting with representatives from the staff, led by our Business Manager Steve Davies, and this feeds into our weekly online Staff meetings. We also attend City of Edinburgh Council (CEC) online sessions held on Friday afternoons which give an opportunity both to share and discuss any updates to procedures and protocols. Today’s meeting demonstrated the remarkable agility of the CEC team who were responding in real time to simultaneous Scottish Government updates.

As a Senior Leadership Team, we continually review mitigations and are supported in this by the CEC COVID Management Team who regularly monitor any cases we report. Parents and Carers should use this email address covidcasemanagement@edinburgh.gov.uk to notify any positive cases out of hours, at weekends and in the holiday. We will send a separate email with this information.

We hope you feel safe and supported, too, but please feel welcome to contact if you have any concerns or queries. As a ‘just in case’ measure, it would be only prudent to check before the end of term that you have access to your child’s Microsoft Office 365 account and let us know of any problems.

If your child does need to self-isolate, we have a limited number of iPads we can lend. Please use [THIS FORM](#) if you may need to borrow a school iPad for your child's use at home. Whilst we hope this will not be necessary, it will help us to have this information to hand.

Andrew's continued suffering with long COVID since September is a stark reminder that we all need to keep everyone's health and wellbeing in mind. We do not wish to be alarmist but instead hope you find it helpful to share with you the advice we are receiving. The situation remains fluid and we will pass on any additional updates or changes to guidance next week.

We really appreciated parental input to the last Parent Council meeting about inconsistencies in extra-curricular clubs. Eliot Ambrose, working with Parent Council Clubs Convener Janine Ridley, will feed advice and recommendations to a Cluster Headteacher meeting next week. We will report on progress made in due course.

On Tuesday evening, Depute Headteacher John Armstrong chaired a meeting with members of the Friends of Sciennes fundraising body. As always, the meeting was productive and focused on enhancing the experiences at our school. They discussed strengthening the link between FSS and our Parent council and welcomed kind donations from our parent body. They hope to discuss how we use these donations in school at the next meeting in the new year.

Sciennes Reading Book Amnesty! Many thanks for handing in any school books you found to the school office or Class Teachers. Still no questions asked if you find more!

P4 pupils each had a Roman Feast on Wednesday in their classrooms and dressed up in togas and laurel wreaths. Photos can be found on the P4 Class Page [Sciennes Primary Four \(wordpress.com\)](#)

Ms Anstruther's 12 Days of Christmas plan continues next week with activities taking place each day next week including crafts, competitions and story reading. Most Christmas Parties will be on the same day Wednesday 15 December, with the P5 party happening on Tuesday 14 December. All the parties are in class bubbles with a maximum of 33 pupils gathering. Ms McGrouther has been working with our P7 Sports Captains to arrange Monday's Santa Run:

As part of our 12 Days of Christmas Calendar, our eight P7 Sports Captains will be leading a Christmas/ Wintery fun run for all Sciennes pupils in the Meadows on Monday 13 December. They will be encouraging each year group, who will be there in bubbles and accompanied by staff. The children are invited to wear festive accessories such as Santa hats, reindeer antlers etc. We have some hats here we can lend out.

If you wish to come and watch you are allowed to, but socially distanced from the children and each other!

PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS INFORMATION WAS ISSUED EARLIER IN THE WEEK. IN LIGHT OF TODAY'S ANNOUNCEMENT, SPECTATORS MAY ATTEND BUT MUST WEAR FACE COVERINGS AND MAINTAIN 2m DISTANCE. THANK YOU.

Here is the timetable:

9.30am – 10.00am is P7

10.00am– 10.30am is P6

11.15m – 11.45am is P4

11.45am – 12.15pm is P3

1.30pm – 2.00pm is P1

2.00pm – 2.30pm is P2

2.30pm – 3.00pm is P5

Elizabeth Marshall, Hamish Young and your Sciennes P7 Sports Captains

We will hear about the P5 Enterprise project next week. An intrepid team of entrepreneurs! P7 pupil Jonathan Baillie shared this write up of the fabulous – and tremendously successful! - P7 Enterprise project:

*In P7, we did an enterprise topic to learn about business and how to make people buy your things. We could do whatever we wanted, with a budget of £50, and as long as we could do it in the time given. First, we had to decide what to do. Some people decided on things like bake sales and adopt a teddy, while others chose to do target games and football. We then had to advertise our stall by putting up posters and adding adverts to an online Sway. The advertisements and posters had to include information about the stall, time, date, and place. Now, we had to get everything we needed, like baking, prizes or goals. We were allowed to bring in our own items from home, with risk of them getting lost. The stalls happened on the 7th of December, and we brought everything downstairs to the back of the school. We had to set everything up, which was slightly chaotic. After we were done, some people started arriving to do the stalls. Some of the stalls sold out fast, like the baking stalls, which had a low supply. Others, like the target games, could only run out of prizes, and stayed up for most of the enterprise. It got quite windy near the end, and things started blowing away. At first it was smaller things, the raffle tickets, for instance. Then bigger things started blowing over, like the money boxes. The wind did calm down again, and it was mostly calm after that. In P7 we made over **£993.00**, which we are delighted about.*

Jonathan Baillie, P7A

Today was Christmas Jumper Day and it was great to see so many pupils and staff wearing or decorating a festive jumper. As a 1 in 5 Child Poverty Aware school there was no collection but there is a [JustGiving page](#) for anyone who would like to donate.

As mentioned in last week's roundup, the focus at the Assembly today was sporting achievement. We were incredibly lucky to be joined by current Olympic 400m and relay team runner, Zoey Clark. Zoey joined us via Teams from Aberdeen and shared with children her championship experience and tales from competitions around the world. Importantly, she stressed the dedication and perseverance she has demonstrated to compete at the highest level. She congratulated all our young runners and answered questions from a variety of classes around the school. We would like to thank Zoey for giving her time to children today to congratulate and inspire them.

John Armstrong, Depute Headteacher

We were absolutely delighted to see photographs of lots of safe, happy fun last weekend. We are grateful that Grant Catto, Parent Council Communications Lead, was able to give thoroughly deserved recognition, praise and thanks in the most recent Parent Council newsletter. We are indebted to our always exceptional, and truly extraordinary Parent Council, supported with vigour and tremendous generosity by the wider parent body.

Brighter days are surely ahead and we hope you have a restful weekend.

Lucy, Carolyn, John, Steve and Jenni



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