



RESPECT INCLUSION TEAMWORK EFFORT

14 January 2022

DIARY DATES

Wed 19 Jan Parent Council 7pm-8.30pm

February – LGBT+ Month

Mon 7 Feb- Fri 11 Feb P6 Benmore; Children's Mental Health Week

14- 18 February Break; 21 February All resume

Dear Families

Fourteen positive cases were reported this week, with cases in P2, P3, P4, P5 and P7. We continue to maintain our strengthened mitigations and regular Lateral Flow testing at home continues to be recommended as a powerful tool for keeping everyone safe.

Playground Supervisors

We are grateful to Robbie Crockatt, Learning Estate Planning Manager, and City of Edinburgh Council for supporting us in managing play during break times with the appointment of six new Playground Supervisors. Five began working at Sciennes on Monday and another will begin soon. We are delighted to welcome to the team: Steve McMahon, Natasha Houston, Safiya Abas, Xinmei Yu and Saira Bano. Mr Armstrong and pupil Digital Leaders took their photographs for a slideshow and a display so all can be quickly introduced to the children. Supervision of multiple breaks, not only for COVID mitigation but also because of reduced playground space while the new build takes place, has been very challenging so the additional staffing will ease that and provide many more opportunities for play for the children.

Sciennes Community Running Club

*A new lunchtime Running Club will be open to P5-7 pupils and any parents/carers or family members that would like to join us. We will aim to meet weekly on a Tuesday at 12:30pm and go for a 3/4k run in the local community. Start date yet to be confirmed. Trials for this group will take place on **Wednesday 19th of January** at 11:20am so can children please remember to bring appropriate running clothes and shoes on this day. We welcome all pupils to join us but should consider being able to run consistently for around 20-25 minutes at a leisurely pace without stopping.*

John Armstrong, Depute Headteacher

LGBT + Schools Charter Award

A staff team and Pupil Champions group have been established to take forward this initiative as part of our school wide Equalities focus.

We are pleased to announce that we have begun our LGBT Charter journey. Staff and students will be working together along with LGBT Youth Scotland to ensure that we have a LGBT inclusive curriculum at Sciennes. Through the charter journey we will take positive steps to educate learners, in age-appropriate ways, about LGBT identities and issues which will continue to ensure that Sciennes is a safe and welcoming place for all to learn and achieve together. Pupils' voice is at the heart of our approach and a group of LGBT Charter Champions have already begun meeting and planning the ways that they would like to lead this exciting new project ahead of LGBT History month in February.

As always, we welcome the views of our wider community and if you would like to share comments or experience then please get in touch via the school office admin@sciennes.edin.sch.uk

Jamie Gilchrist, P6 Class Teacher

Empowered Learning

The city-wide initiative to provide all pupils in P6 to S6 with a personal iPad is moving at pace, and we have had an indication that James Gillespie's Cluster's timeframe is likely to be in early May,

Assembly

Thank you to our P7 Sports Captains who led both P1-3 and P4-7 Assemblies this morning. The theme was setting goals for 2022, particularly sporting goals. Our Captains shared their own goals for 2022 as well as details of their own sporting interests and how to get involved in sports clubs. As restrictions ease, increasingly more clubs are becoming available and our Captains will play a key role in passing on information as well as being sources of inspiration and advice. Sports Captains have been invited to plant a tree at Whitehouse and Grange Bowling Club on 23 February to mark the Queen's Jubilee.

P6C pupil Zach Thomson invited any pupils who have reached ski-ing Level 7 to contact him if they wish to trial for a competitive Ski Team at Hillend.

Some of our LGBT+ Champions shared information about the Schools Charter Award at both Assemblies.

Donate Coats for Homeless

We are collecting coats for all the homeless people who may be very cold and they have no money to buy coats. We would be very grateful, and so would countless homeless people, if you could donate old coats and bring them up to P6A, Classroom 17 (near Ms Gallagher's Office). Thank you.

P6 pupils Rosemary Reid and Tanya Bishawi

Tennis Success!

Congratulations to Ray Gallacher P7A who took part in Tennis competitions during the holiday. Ray won the U12 singles and doubles at a competition in Bolton and also made the final of the U11 at the Scottish Indoor comp in Glasgow. Very well done, Ray!

Parent Council Meeting

Our Parent Council meets online on Wednesday and is open to all. The meeting is on Teams 7pm-8.30pm.

Business Manager Steve Davies and I were conducting Pupil Support Assistant interviews this afternoon so will send this Round Up newsletter on Monday.

With that in mind, we hope you enjoyed a relaxing weekend.

Lucy, Carolyn, John, Steve and Jenni



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