



RESPECT INCLUSION TEAMWORK EFFORT

21 January 2022

DIARY DATES

February LGBT Awareness Month

Monday 7 February- Friday 11 February P6 Benmore; Children’s Mental Health Week

Monday 14 - February Break

Monday 21 February All resume

P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6	P7
5	14	3	10	3	5	1

The table above shows the distribution of positive cases across the year groups. 41 pupil cases this week may seem high but that number includes the 19 cases which were reported on Monday (spanning from the previous Friday) and is in line with expected rises.

PLAY SPACE

On Tuesday, Caroline McKellar, Chair of the Parent Council, convened a meeting with Councillors Steve Burgess, Alison Dickie, Ian Murray MP, Ian Perry, Cameron Rose and Daniel Johnson to request their assistance in providing safe play space for our children. Councillor Steve Burgess kindly submitted a number of motions to the Transport and Environment Committee (TEC) on behalf of all the Southside Newington Ward Councillors and the Parent Council. Councillor Burgess noted the longstanding and ongoing challenge of providing adequate playground space for children at Sciennes Primary school and requested that council officers bring forward a plan for closing Sciennes Road to traffic in front of Sciennes Primary school on a permanent basis to provide adequate playground space for the school in the long term. We are grateful to all involved for their support. The TEC meeting on 27 January will be streamed live online: <https://edinburgh.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>

PARENT COUNCIL MEETING

On Wednesday evening, Caroline successfully chaired another - very well-attended - meeting of the Parent Council and it was extremely motivating to hear so many creative and exciting suggestions for school improvements from the parent body. We are incredibly fortunate, not only to have so much talent within the community but also such generosity of time and spirit. It was an opportunity to thank the Fundraising team for their extraordinary efforts, at the 'Winter Community Event' and with branded merchandise and Christmas cards. Thanks to P6 and P7 young entrepreneurs as well, the total raised so far is astonishingly in excess of £9000! This is in addition to existing funds and the staff are very grateful that their 'Wish List' spending proposals were approved at the meeting.

LUNCHES

We are really enjoying working with - and have great confidence in - Mrs Ayesha Hamid, our new Canteen Supervisor, who is also a former parent. Carolyn Anstruther, Steve Davies and I met with Ayesha last week and she was aware there have been some issues with children not always able to have the meal they ordered. Challenges have increased since free school meals were introduced for P5 children at the beginning of term. We would never turn children away but pupils turning up without booking has been having the biggest impact. What will help significantly is if all parents/carers please always remember to book each meal online via ParentPay. Carolyn has already begun working with Ayesha on other practical solutions to streamline sittings and improve systems. Ayesha is keen to work with Carolyn to survey children and families and we will arrange these later in the year. Everyone is keen to help make the Dining Hall experience as healthy and positive an experience as it can be and we really appreciate your support with this.

CLUBS

As restrictions begin to ease, clubs are beginning to restart and initially these are mostly sports and Active Schools clubs. Swimming in P1-P3 has been very successful and Cynthia Berry will soon be opening spaces to P4. Parent Ross Gellatly has successfully launched a Ski Club at Hillend on Friday afternoons. Pupil Support Assistant Mrs Shahida Mehmood will begin her Craft Club soon and she will be able to run this in school, because she is based here as a member of staff. Korean Club and Chess Club will continue online and we will advise on any other opportunities as they arise. We anticipate there may be further easing after the February break, once we have managed to get all the P6 children safely off to Benmore.

LUNCHTIME RUNNING CLUB

Over fifty children from Primary 5-7 turned up at the Meadows on Wednesday to trial entry for the lunchtime running club. Sadly, due to the nature of the club we cannot accommodate everyone that would like to take part but that did not deter the children. They demonstrated effort and determination over 2 kilometres and once finished took time to encourage the remaining runners. Children will find out on Monday if they have been successful. We aim to start on Tuesday the 1st of February at 12:25pm and will meet at the East gate. All parents/carers are welcome to join us on a Tuesday if they would like. Please drop me an email at John.Armstrong@sciennes.edin.sch.uk if you are interested at any point.

There will be further interschool competitions against James Gillespie's and Preston Street starting after the February holidays which will be open for all. In addition to this Edinburgh CEC EPSSA cross country events are hopefully going to resume in addition to the Lothian League.

Thanks.

John Armstrong, Depute Headteacher

P6 at BENMORE

On Thursday evening we held an Information Evening for P6 families about our forthcoming residential trip to Benmore Education Centre. We joked that if we were playing 'Outdoor Learning Top Trumps', we would have held the winning card last night because Head of Outdoor Learning Andrew Bradshaw was kind enough to lead the meeting. The main focus was on how the trip will be managed safely, which begins before we leave and throughout the week. There are many steps we can take to ensure all the children – and staff – can take part and we encouraged families to prepare in the same way we did for the Christmas holiday. We thanked Andrew and his team for the huge efforts they have made to ensure this trip can happen.

Further information is available on the P6 Class Page on our school website:

[Sciennes@Benmore2022 \(wordpress.com\)](https://www.sciennes.edin.sch.uk/P6-Class-Page)

WATER BOTTLE

A reminder please that each child should bring a water bottle to school every day and take it home again at the end of the day to be refilled.

ASSEMBLY

Our Assembly focus this week was on Robert Burns. Thank you to P6 pupils Rosemary Reid, Myada Alkhamisi and Tanya Bishawi for talking about their appeal for coats for the Homeless which closes next Friday. It was also great to see P4 pupil Flossie Reid teaching everyone to sign "Good morning" and "Thank you." Each week Flossie will share the signing for two words or phrases for everyone in P1 to P7 to learn. Mrs Lynsey McCracken continues to lead Signing in school and Flossie will be delivering a Finger Spelling Alphabet poster to each class next week. Thank you to Ms Kennedy for arranging that. We rounded off Assembly with a rendition of Shang-a-Lang. Great to hear it playing in many classes around the building at the end of the day. We have invited pupils to share their Scots' Week learning at next week's Assembly.

We are always pleased to hear about pupil achievements that we can feature in the Round Up so do feel welcome to get in touch and pass on.

As another Friday sweeps around again so quickly, we hope everyone can find some time this weekend to pause, take stock of our many good fortunes and enjoy the company of friends and relatives.

Lucy, Carolyn, John, Steve and Jenni



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