



RESPECT INCLUSION TEAMWORK EFFORT
 Happy Chinese New Year to all families celebrating

28 January 2022

DIARY DATES

February LGBT Awareness Month
 Chinese New Year Tuesday 1 February
 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
2	3	3	3	3	2	4

20 positive cases were reported in school this week; half the number of cases reported last week (41).

NEW SCHOOL TIMES FROM MONDAY

From **Monday 31 January** we are going to revert to our normal school day times. We had initially planned to re-introduce these after the February break but after careful consideration we believe it would be better to give time for children and families to adjust to these before returning after a holiday. We hope you will welcome this change. Staff will remain on duty in the playground so that you can drop off outside the gates to avoid congregating and lingering as much as possible. Thank you.

ENTRY FOR ALL 8.50am

8.45am doors open for soft start **by 8.50am**

P3, P5, then P1 West Side (hospital)

P4, P7, P6, then P2 East Side (main door)

Please note we will still gather P1 and P2 classes as we have been doing and direct them in once the older children have entered.

ENTRY AND EXIT Times

P1-P7 Start time **8.50am**

P1 and P2 Finish time **2.50pm**

P3-P7 Finish time **3.20pm**

Fridays - all finish 12.05pm

Morning break

P1 and P2 10.20-10.40am

P3 and P4 10.25 - 10.40am

P5-P7 10.50-11.05am

Lunch break

P1 and P2 12.00-12.45pm

P3-P7 12.35-1.20pm

Please note there will still be three sittings for lunch.

After the February break we will invite parents to volunteer to help us supervise P7 pupils at the Meadows at lunch time.

Year Group	Start	Mon–Thurs Finish	Friday Finish	ENTRANCE / EXIT
P1	8.50am	2.50pm	12.05pm	WEST DOOR
P2	8.50am	2.50pm	12.05pm	EAST DOOR
P3	8.50am	3.20pm	12.05pm	WEST DOOR
P4	8.50am	3.20pm	12.05pm	EAST DOOR
P5	8.50am	3.20pm	12.05pm	WEST DOOR
P6	8.50am	3.20pm	12.05pm	EAST DOOR
P7	8.50am	3.20pm	12.05pm	EAST DOOR

PLAY SPACE NEWS

Thank you to Caroline McKellar, Chair of the Parent Council, and Councillors Steve Burgess, Alison Dickie, Ian Murray MP, Ian Perry and Cameron Rose who have lent their support in providing safe play space for our children. The motions Councillor Steve Burgess kindly submitted to the Transport and Environment Committee (TEC) on behalf of the Southside Newington Ward Councillors and the Parent Council have been agreed at the TEC meeting on 27 January. You can access the relevant section of the meeting online via this link: https://edinburgh.public-tv/core/portal/webcast_interactive/638917/start_time/20174000?force_language_code=en_GB Positive news and testament to the tireless energy, dedication and drive of our Parent Council and always supportive Ward Councillors. Councillor McInnes, who convened the meeting, acknowledged legal complications continue to hamper ambitions but we are grateful for her longstanding support and action to improve play space for the children. We fervently hope that agreed proposals to close the road permanently outside the school – first raised as a motion by Councillor Burgess in 2013 - can be hastened.

ROAD SAFETY PLEA – NO CARS NEAR SCHOOL AT DROP OFF AND PICK UP

Police officers attended school on Wednesday and observed that cars are still driving into Sciennes Road at drop off and pick up. The road has been closed to all traffic at these times the entire length of Sciennes Road from Livingstone Place to Sylvan Place for many years. We implore parents, for safety reasons, that you please do not drive into, stop, reverse or turn in Sciennes Road during road closure times. Parents have also been double parking or stopping on double yellow lines in Tantallon Place and surrounding streets. Please note this far too regularly causes significant hazards to children and families on foot and cycling and we ask for your support in keeping all our children safe. A car which was photographed on Monday driving through the cycle path from west to east along the front of the school has been reported to the Police. Fortunately, P1 and P2 were safely in the playground and no children were using the road play space at that time.

ST LEONARD'S NURSERY LEADING THE STRATEGY

Carolyn Anstruther (DHT for St Leonard's Nursery) and Lauren Taylor the Senior Early Years Officer were invited to present at two City of Edinburgh 'Leading the Strategy' meetings on Thursday 27 January as an example of excellence in practice. The theme was Working with our Families. We continue to enjoy and build on our relationship with St Leonard's Nursery and look forward to developing further links across both communities. What fantastic recognition for Carolyn's wonderful leadership skills! Well done to both Carolyn and Lauren. Please see our school website for further information about St Leonard's Nursery.

[Sciennes Primary School – Believe•Achieve](#)

LUNCHTIME RUNNING CLUB

The new Lunchtime running club kicks off this coming Tuesday at 12:25pm. We will meet at the East gate (main door) entrance and head off at 12:30pm. This a reminder that ANY parents/carers are welcome to join us for a 4k run through the community at a leisurely pace. If you fancy getting out there on a Tuesday lunchtime, please let me know -9055990@ea.edin.sch.uk We look forward to running with you.

John Armstrong, Depute Headteacher

P6 at BENMORE 7-11 February

We are all really looking forward to the P6 residential at Benmore and will do all we can to make sure it is a positive and rewarding experience for everyone. Medical forms will be issued next week. Please complete a form for any medication for your child (including Calpol or Travel Sickness pills) and hand to the Class Teacher **with the medication** in a clear, labelled bag on the **day of departure**. We will also issue boxes of Lateral Flow Device tests for use before we leave. As explained at the meeting last week and in the accompanying email, you are encouraged to test on three days before departure. Please also pack the remaining tests so your child can take these with them on the trip in case needed, though we hope it will not be necessary to use them. Further information is available on the P6 Class Page on our school website: [Sciennes@Benmore2022 \(wordpress.com\)](#)

Staffing for the trip:

Monday to Friday

Ms McGrouther, Ms French, Mrs Clark, Mrs Robertson and Mrs Stove

Monday to Tuesday, returning Wednesday morning

Ms Gallagher and Mr Gilchrist

Wednesday to Friday

Mr Armstrong and Ms Gladstone

Monday to Friday

Ms Anstruther is normally at St Leonard's Nursery on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesday mornings and at Sciennes on Wednesday afternoons and Thursdays. She does not work on Fridays but during Benmore Ms Anstruther will be at Sciennes Monday to Friday. Senior Leader Marie Lyon will also be on hand that week should we require any additional support in Andrew's absence.

P7 at LAGGANLIA 9 -13 May

Planning is well underway for our P7 residential excursion to Lagganlia on 9 May. P7s will be issued with KiC forms on Monday and payment details will be published on ParentPay. We will hold an Information Session for parents and carers after the February break.

UNIFORM SALE

Next Friday 4 February at 12.15pm there will be a uniform sale in the fenced area of Sciennes Road at the front of the school. Thank you very much to Diana Rapan and fellow members of the Parent Council for organising. Tables will be spaced out and we would appreciate families following a one-way system, entering from the main door side gate and exiting towards the hospital side gate. A great example of Sustainability in practice!

WATER BOTTLE

Another reminder please that each child should bring a water bottle to school every day.

ABSENCE REPORTING PROCEDURE

If you wish to report your child's absence, please always contact the school office in the first instance rather than inform the Class Teachers. Call 0131 667 1243 and leave a message on the School Absence Line which is easiest for our office staff though you can also email admin@sciennes.edin.sch.uk and they will inform teachers.

ASSEMBLY

Our Assembly this week was an opportunity to share learning across the school about Scotland and Scots Language. We heard some absolutely wonderful live performance poetry of Scots poems! P4B pupils performed in both Scots and Gaelic! P5 pupils Cara Dorman, Katie Bagshaw, Harris Welding and Nicky Ivlev-Patoka were tremendously confident and expressive as were P6 pupils Penelope Laforge and Martha Blewitt. P6A pupil Barnaby Smith represented his group by sharing their very creative shadow puppet animation of Tam O'Shanter. One of our school Values is Effort and we could certainly appreciate how much effort had gone into not only learning poetry but also practising its recital. Wonderful to share a flavour of all the wonderful learning on this topic from throughout the school. P4 pupil Roshan O'Kane stepped in this week for classmate Flossie Reid who has been teaching everyone to sign. Roshan demonstrated the difference between the sign for 'Please' and the sign for 'Thank you.' Thank you to Ms Kennedy for arranging that! She is also working with pupils to create a Top Five Tips for Signing video which she will share soon.

Big Garden Bird Watch 28-30 January

How to take part in Big Garden Birdwatch

1. Watch the birds around you for one hour
2. Count how many of each species of bird **lands** on your patch
3. Go online and tell RSPB what you saw

We wish you a restful weekend and hope you and your family can take time to enjoy signs of Spring and brighter days wherever you may be.

Lucy, Carolyn, John, Steve and Jenni

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