



RESPECT INCLUSION TEAMWORK EFFORT

25 February 2022

DIARY DATES

Thursday 3 March World Book Day
 Monday 7 March P5 Scottish Opera
 Friday 18 March Comic Relief
 Friday 8 April Term ends
 Monday 25 April All resume

P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6	P7
3	0	4	1	1	1	1

11 positive cases were reported in pupils who returned to school after the holiday. We only report pupil cases but as we begin to transition into a new phase, we think you should be aware there were three staff cases this week. Therefore, while we are absolutely delighted to be moving forward, we will step somewhat cautiously in the next few weeks until restrictions lift on 21 March. With three classes at each stage, our normal way of working is to maintain very strong links across the stage and this is something we have really missed. Great news that stage groups can now mix indoors. Restrictions on Assemblies have also been lifted but with so many pupils, we will re-introduce P1-3 and P4-7 Assemblies in the Hall in due course.

MR HUNTER

We continue to remain in close contact with Andrew and take some relief that the myriad tests he has had to endure may at last begin to offer some potential treatments, if not yet respite. He conveys his best wishes to you all and will return to Sciennes as soon as he is able to do so.

STAFFING

A warm welcome back to Sciennes to Pupil Support Assistants Mrs Helen Anderson and Mrs Sarah Sheehan. Mrs Saira Bano, one of our new Playground Supervisors, has recently accepted a new post at another school and Business Manager Mr Davies is interviewing next Friday for her replacement. We wish Saira well. We were very pleased to welcome Mrs Lynn Wilson to join our Playground Supervisor team this week.

PARENT COUNCIL

We regret the postponement of the planned Parent Council meeting on 23 February and thank Parent Council Chair Caroline McKellar for arranging a new date in March.

FSS

Friends of Sciennes School charitable body will meet on Tuesday at 7:30pm. Depute Headteacher Mr John Armstrong is leading on this for school in Andrew's absence.

CLUBS

Thank you to Parent Council Clubs Convener Janine Ridley who has worked tirelessly, supported by our Active Schools coordinator, Eliot Ambrose, to re-introduce school clubs. Several clubs have already started, where these are run by staff members or take place outdoors or where parents can drop off and pick up without entering the building. Janine has also been working very hard to plan for clubs which can restart when restrictions allow. Thank you, Janine! We greatly appreciate the huge amount of your own time and energy you have committed to the school.

RUNNING CLUB

The Tuesday Running Club is continuing and our children are enjoying getting out and about at lunchtime. Luckily, the weather is now beginning to improve. We have a supportive group of parents who kindly support us on a weekly basis but we would welcome anyone, in any week, to join us. Please email john.armstrong@sciennes.edin.sch.uk to get involved.

P7 JUNIOR NBA

We are delighted that Sciennes has been invited again to take part in a Junior NBA Basketball Tournament, this year with 7 other teams from Edinburgh schools. The competition takes place at Tynecastle High School and the pupils will take part in four or five games on Friday afternoons. Thank you to pupils who noted interest and to parents who gave provisional permission. There has been a tremendous amount of interest so it will be extremely difficult to choose only 12 players for the team. We hope families will help us manage expectations and inevitable disappointment for some. We intend to announce the selection by Monday and our first game is Friday 11 March. We hope a school Basketball Club will begin soon and there are currently wonderful opportunities at Blaze Basketball Club for Under 12s [Blaze — The Crag Centre \(cragseдинburgh.com\)](http://cragseдинburgh.com)

P6 AT BENMORE 7-11 FEBRUARY

Thank you to parents and carers who supported the children's attendance at Benmore, not least of all financially. Thank you to Ms French who has collated and posted photographs on our blog. [Sciennes@Benmore2022 \(wordpress.com\)](mailto:Sciennes@Benmore2022.wordpress.com)

P7 AT LAGGANIA 9-11 MAY

Meeting: Tuesday 15 March 6.00-6.45pm

Thank you to families who have returned KiC permission forms and we will hold an Information Session on Tuesday 15 March 6.00pm-6.45pm. Soon we will send a link to our bespoke website for the trip so that families and pupils can access further information.

WORLD BOOK DAY

Book tokens have been issued to each child and we invite pupils to dress up as a character from a book on Thursday 3 March. Homemade is best and we discourage expense. Each class is decorating classroom doors in the style of a book for a whole school guessing game. Our Literacy Improvement Group has come up with many similar ideas for fun ways to promote and celebrate Reading next week. Join in the fun!

LUNCHES

A reminder please to book your child's meals via ParentPay before midnight each preceding Wednesday.

EMPOWERED LEARNING

Engineers have been undertaking site surveys to improve further the WIFI network in school and this should be in place by the summer term. We are due to take receipt of new iPads in May and next Friday afternoon, Mr Armstrong and I are meeting with the CEC Empowered Learning team. The meeting is partly concerned with logistics but moreover will be in support of our strategy for using them to enhance Teaching and Learning. An extraordinary citywide initiative, coming to us soon!

ASSEMBLY

Thank you very much to Jenny Lewis from the Edinburgh Young Carers charity who was a special guest presenter at our P1-3 and P4-7 Assemblies today. Jenny asked the children for their own definition of a Young Carer and suggested we broaden our view to consider children who support and care for siblings, as well as parents or grandparents, either day to day or perhaps just evenings or at weekends. Jenny also encouraged us to recognise that translating or signing or reading and writing for a family member can be considered as taking on a Young Carer role. The children realised that although the role can be very rewarding, it can also bring challenges so they were receptive to being especially kind and considerate of friends in this position. Some children may have recognised themselves in this role for the first time today. Jenny highlighted that supports are available for Young Carers, through the Edinburgh Young Carers charity or other organisations, so pupils were encouraged to identify themselves if they feel they would benefit. Parents and guardians are also welcome to contact school if you would like additional information or support. One of our Support for Learning Specialists, Ms Paula Gilhooly, intends setting up a Young Carers Club at school for pupils who would welcome meeting with other children in similar circumstances. Contact paula.gilhooly@sciennes.edin.sch.uk

STEVEN LUI CUP

One of our School Values is Effort and we have seen that in abundance in Primary Six. There were ten extraordinary finalists for this year's Steven Lui Cup award for Burns Recital. We congratulate them all for their efforts and admired their talent in performing before the year group and staff. The standard was extremely high but Ms Anstruther and I managed to come to a joint decision. Huge congratulations to P6B pupil Zahra Abdullah who was a deserving winner of the cup! Zahra's expressive, word-perfect rendition of the entire poem 'To A Mouse' was outstanding. Well done, Zahra!

JUBILEE TREE PLANTING

On Wednesday afternoon, Ms Jenni McGrouther and School Administrator Mrs Brenda Ellis accompanied P7 Sports Captains Theo Griffin, Rayan Ahmed, Sadie Swan, Elizabeth Marshall, Maria Spadavecchia and Moses Bindi to the Whitehouse and Grange Bowling club. Several members and guests (from the Grange Association, Marchmont & Sciennes Community Council and St Giles Marchmont Church) also braved the weather to plant two trees to mark the start of the club's 150th year and the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Thank you to Jo and Trish from Radical Gardens who provided the trees and to the members of the Bowling Club who provided refreshments and lovely 'goodie bags' for the children. We were grateful to be invited and the children were pleased that the historic event was marked with a special plaque which mentions Sciennes.

Historic world events are giving us all pause to take stock and reflect this week. Our thoughts are particularly with those in our community we know to be directly affected.

Lucy, Carolyn, John, Steve and Jenni

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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