



RESPECT INCLUSION TEAMWORK EFFORT

6 May 2022

DIARY DATES

Thursday 12 May P1 and P2. Dental Inspection
Monday 9 – Friday 13 May P7 at Lagganlia
Saturday 14 May Girls' Spring Football tournament at the Meadows 9.30am-12.30pm
Monday 16 and Tuesday 17 May School Photos
Monday 16 and Tuesday 17 May P1 and P2 Open Mornings 9.00am-9.30am
Monday 16 May P6 JGHS Cluster Languages Day at JGHS 10.30am-2.15pm
Friday 20 and 27 May P7 Junior NBA Tynecastle
Saturday 28 May Parent Council Summer Fair
Wednesday 1 June Sports Day
Thursday 2 and Friday 3 June Platinum Jubilee Holiday.
Friday 1 July Term ends noon
Wednesday 17 August Pupils resume

Dear Families

A busy and exciting start to the term! Staff really enjoyed meeting with parents and carers at Parent Consultations in the first week back. We erred towards caution by holding these online, partly anticipating an increase in cases after the Easter holiday and partly to protect our P7's forthcoming residential at Lagganlia. We had been averaging five staff absences per week before Easter, with an all-time high of ten staff absences, so had cause for concern but are greatly relieved that a predicted surge did not come to pass. We do have a strong sense that it is safe to resume normal practices, though our key mitigation of ventilation remains. We are excited about restoring all the usual Sciennes' events and opportunities for the children that we can. And we look forward to reconnecting in person again with you, too!

STAFFING

Andrew has been signed off until 20 May and unfortunately has caught COVID again but is being closely monitored. Congratulations to Principal Teacher Jenni McGrouther who has been formally appointed Acting Depute Headteacher two days per week in support of the Senior Leadership Team in Andrew's absence.

Congratulations to Playground Supervisors Mrs Bano and Mrs Yu who have taken up posts as Pupil Support Assistants elsewhere. Business Manager, Steve Davies and I interviewed last Friday and have put forward two candidates for the replacement posts. Welcome to the Playground team Patty Yip who joined us at the start of term.

BABY NEWS!

Congratulations to P4C Class Teacher Mr Stavros Tsarnas and his wife Maria on the birth of their beautiful baby daughter, Ariadne.

INSERVICE DAY

On Tuesday 3 May all staff participated in a training session with LGBT Youth Scotland as part of our journey towards LGBT Charter School status. The session was a follow up to an online training course and gave us opportunities to discuss and plan improvements to our existing Inclusion and representation approaches. Pupil Support Assistants undertook training with The Yard and teaching staff shared progress updates on our Improvement Plan with a view to finalising actions, ready to plan next session's priorities before the end of term.

PARENT COUNCIL

Thank you to the Parent Council for arranging our school photos next week and we are very excited to come together as a community once again at the Summer Fair on Saturday 28 May. P4 and P6 are undertaking Enterprise projects and parent volunteers are very welcome if you are available to help with stalls.

CYCLE TO SCHOOL DAYS

The next Cycle to School Day will again be led by Jenni McGrouther on Friday 20 May.

P7 STEM CHALLENGE

Before the Easter holiday, all three P7 classes took part in a STEM event run by Edinburgh College. The day started with an introduction from the engineering team who talked to the pupils about the components of a good bridge. The pupils then worked in teams to design, cost and test their bridges with an aim to achieving a good cost to weight ratio. The EC team came back online in the afternoon to provide the teams with some feedback, all of which was very positive. A great day had by all.

Jenni McGrouther, Acting Depute Headteacher

JUDO SUCCESS

Well done Aiisha Smith-Meer in P3A for receiving her 6th Kai grading in Judo.

P4B GOLDEN EAGLE

Fantastic opportunity for P4B to name a Golden Eagle and we all like the choice – Sienna! Thank you to parent Gidona Henderson for supporting their involvement.

ALENA AND EVA LITTER WARRIORS

P5C pupils Alena Beasley and Eva Maclean interviewed for three posts per class and introduced their team at Assembly. They are already having an impact, not just by picking up litter themselves but making others more mindful about using the bins.

CHILDREN'S PARLIAMENT

[Children's Parliament](#), have selected four pupils to take the lead with the P5 sustainability project this term. Congratulations to Maddie Bell, Krithi Subr, Toby Clements and Gordon Jones who will meet with the project leaders each week and feedback to classmates and staff.

EXETER UNIVERSITY CONCERT BAND

What an uplifting, joyful brass and woodwind concert from Exeter University Concert Band who played an array of medleys for several of our stage groups in the Gym Hall on 7 April. Wonderful to have a live band play at Sciennes again, resounding throughout the building.

EMILY'S EASTER EGG APPEAL

At our Easter Assembly before the holiday, we congratulated P6C pupils Emily Lake, Skye Cosan and Lisa Malmquist on the success of their Easter eggs for Ukrainian arrivals and local Foodbank. Thank you for your generosity in donating 135 Easter eggs!

KATIE'S ROAD TRIP

At our Easter Assembly we were able to share a PowerPoint created by P5C pupil Katie Bagshaw detailing her trip to Poland with her dad, Darroch. Together they drove 79 boxes of donated items to Poland which were then transported directly into Ukraine by the Red Cross. A tremendous initiative and £1229 was also raised for the DEC appeal during Katie's campaign. Thank you to all who contributed.

ASSEMBLIES

On Thursday 28 April Ms Anstruther held an Assembly for P1 and P2 in the Hall – their first there ever!

On Friday 29 April in our online P3-7 Assembly we focused on Eid and thanked Kinza and Aizah Latif's mum for superb Art lessons creating chalk moons. We also thanked Pupil Support Assistant Mrs Aliya Tariq for running a lunchtime arts and crafts club throughout Ramadan for pupils who were fasting. P4B pupils Flossie and Nuala demonstrated how to sign 'Happy Eid'. P6B pupils gave a slick, beautifully illustrated and powerful presentation on Katherine Switzer, the first woman to run Boston Marathon. Their watercolour paintings engagingly brought to life Katherine's inspirational drive to overcome discrimination.

On Thursday 5 May Mr Armstrong held an Assembly in the Hall for P1-3 with a focus on Eid. On Friday 6 May our theme for the P4-7 online Assembly was Empowered Learning. We told pupils about the visionary City of Edinburgh project taking place across all city schools and what it means for Sciennes. Mr Armstrong's Digital Leaders have been a superb support in readying us and they spoke about how they will continue to support classes in using our new technology for learning and teaching. P5B pupils Zoey Mellor, Kathleen Hunt and Emily Jobson launched an appeal to restock our **Playground Library Shed**. If you are considering donating books to the Summer Fair, please consider donating any children's books that are in good condition to the girls' appeal by handing to your child's Class Teacher. There will be a P4-6 Assembly in the Hall next Friday while P7 are at Lagganlia and thereafter all Assemblies will be held there.

Brighter days are finally here and we hope you have a relaxing weekend.

Lucy, Carolyn, John, Jenni and Steve

Lucy Gallagher | Acting Head Teacher | **Sciennes Primary School**
10 Sciennes Road, Edinburgh EH9 1LG | Tel +44 (0)131 667 1243

Email lucy.gallagher@sciennes.edin.sch.uk | Website www.sciennes.edin.sch.uk | Twitter @Sciennes



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