



RESPECT INCLUSION TEAMWORK EFFORT

9 September 2022

### DIARY DATES

Tues 13 Sept Meet the Teacher Informal Drop In 3.30-4.00pm  
Tues 13 Sept Seasons for Growth Presentation for P7 Parents/Carers 4.00-4.30pm  
Thurs 15 Sept P1 Engagement Session 6.30pm-7.30pm  
Fri 16 Sept Cycle to School Day  
Mon 19 Sept – September Weekend (Funeral of Her Majesty the Queen)  
Thurs 22 Sept JGHS Information Evening for Parents/Carers  
Thurs 22 Sept P6 Benmore Information Session 6.00-6.45pm online  
Wed 28 Sept Parent Council Meeting 7.00-8.30pm online  
Mon 10 Oct – Fri 15 Oct – P7 at Lagganlia  
Mon 17 Oct- Fri 21 Oct – October Break  
Tues 1 Nov and Thurs 3 Nov 4.00pm-7.00pm– Parent Consultations in school  
Fri 2 Dec P3-7 Lyceum Theatre “A Christmas Carol”  
Sat 3 Dec Parent Council Winter Fair  
Term ends Tues 20 December  
Mon 6-Fri 10 February 2023 P6 Benmore Residential

Dear Families

Teachers gathered their pupils on Friday morning to discuss the passing of the Queen, not only to learn about her life, significant legacy and the change it will bring during this historic period but moreover to check sensitively on the children and give them an opportunity to talk. Please let us know if you notice any concerns at home.

### ATTENDANCE

Thank you for your support in the drive across all city schools to improve attendance. In the event of illness or an unavoidable absence please call the school office by 9.15am on 0131 667 1243. In exceptional circumstances, it is protocol in Edinburgh to put any requests for absence in writing to the Headteacher. Sciennes will remain open as normal and is not affected by the closure of some schools at noon on Tuesday 13 September but please note that City of Edinburgh Council considers this an exceptional circumstance so let us know if you will be personally affected by closures at other schools. <https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/schools-learning/emergency-school-closures/1>

### P1 and P2 PICK UP TIME

Some children have been upset when not collected on time. A reminder to families that the end of the school day for P1 and P2 is **2.50pm** on Monday to Thursday (P3-P7 is 3.20pm and P1-P7 12.05pm on Fridays). Thank you.

### **SCIENNES SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM**

In Andrew's absence we continue to work closely as a team. I will remain as Acting Headteacher only to the point of Andrew's welcome return when we will all work together to phase him back to school, just as soon as his medical team allows. Andrew is keen to pass on that he has been very touched by the kind and caring wishes of pupils, families and staff. DHT Carolyn Anstruther continues to head up St Leonard's Nursery two days per week with a particular focus on P1 at Sciennes two days a week. This session we are delighted she is based at Sciennes during refurbishment of St Leonard's, able to support school wide throughout the week. DHT John Armstrong has particular responsibility for P2 and P3 and also supports school wide. In her normal substantive post as Principal Teacher over the last few years, Jenni McGrouther has supported the management of the school for a day and half, with the remainder of the week in class. We were able to increase this to three days school management time in the summer term last year. This year, she continues as Acting DHT, primarily working with the upper school though also supports school wide two days per week, and she has committed the remainder of the week to teaching in class. Business Manager Steve Davies is also a tremendous support to the school on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. We are grateful for the ongoing collective support of all the staff – teaching and non-teaching - and to you for yours.

### **PROFESSIONAL LEARNING**

We finalised our staff professional learning calendar for the year, with many priorities already underway. This includes a session after school last week where our Cluster buddies from Tollcross shared their developments within Writing. It was planned as an in-person session and a greatly anticipated chance to re-unite but the heavens opened so we hastily convened on Teams instead. Remote learning still has its advantages! Cluster HTs met on Tuesday last week and again on Friday to plan two sessions, one on 28 October and one on 3 February which will be held jointly for all teaching staff across James Gillespie's High School Cluster. All our teaching staff have embarked on a second element of the four-part City of Edinburgh's Teachers' Charter and some of us have already attended two sessions online with fellow schools across the South East of Scotland. We are delighted our application to take part in one of the South East Improvement Collaborative (SEIC)'s annual projects was successful. The focus for our SEIC project is on taking forward Empowered Digital Learning, with opportunities to collaborate between City of Edinburgh, East Lothian, Fife, Midlothian and Scottish Borders schools. Since the start of term P1 staff with Ms Anstruther have been immersed in numerous professional learning opportunities to enhance play pedagogy and look forward to collaborations with our learning community of schools throughout the year. We also look forward to forging a link with Castleview Primary School to share practice. There are many other professional learning opportunities planned for the year for staff and we are all really looking forward to connecting with colleagues in the city and beyond again.

### **PRIMARY ONE ENGAGEMENT SESSION**

All P1 parents/ carers are invited to the P1 Curriculum Evening on Thursday 15 September from 6.30pm until 7.30pm. The focus will be on Literacy, Numeracy and Health and Wellbeing, providing an insight into what is taught throughout the year and tips on how to support the children at home. We are really pleased that members of the Parent Council will be on hand and hope to welcome many new P1 parents and carers into the fold!

### **P2- P7 MEET THE TEACHER DROP IN SESSION**

There is an informal drop in on Tuesday 13 September 3.30pm-4.00pm to pop into your child's class to say hello. Sway presentations containing an overview of key learning at each stage will be issued on Tuesday to P2-P7 families.

### **ECONOMIC CLIMATE**

We are very conscious of current and increasing financial demands on families and invite you to contact us in complete confidence to discuss ways we can support. This can be in person or by telephone or video call.

## **BUILDING WORKS**

**N.B.** Please note this reminder that due to building works at the rear of the school there is **NO ACCESS OR EXIT AT ANY TIME** from Millerfield Place. It is vital for safety that pupils, parents and staff **only use the front doors** to access and leave the building at all times. Sciennes After School Care Club (SASCS) staff operate the west door (former Hospital side) from 7.30am for Breakfast Club and at pick up time.

This week our P2 and P3 Building Work pupil group had their first meeting with Barry, the contractor from Maxi Construction, to learn about the new P1 building at the rear of the school. Barry talked through the plans with the pupils, highlighting some of the energy efficient features. The group will provide monthly updates to pupils, staff and parents on developments on the site.

*"Today we saw the foundations. The concrete floor has been poured and is dry. It looks quite big. At the end of this month a big crane is coming."*

**Ms Anstruther and P2 and P3 Pupil Building Work Group**

## **DOGS**

A gentle reminder that dogs should not be brought into the playground. Thank you.

## **ASSEMBLIES**

Last week we launched our third full round of City of Edinburgh's '[Building Resilience](#)' Health and Wellbeing programme. Pupils were introduced to the ten toolkit strategies we can all use to develop resilience and how we can 'captain our own ship' like the character that features in the programme – Skipper. Pupils in P4-7 were also invited to put themselves forward for leadership roles to help captain the Sciennes ship.

It is always great to hear of pupil achievements at Assembly and P7B pupil Jamie Allen gave an excellent account of how he achieved his scuba diving certificate. P6C pupils Alena Beasley and Eva McLean have impressed us all by issuing application forms and conducting interviews for P5 ECO Warriors, carrying on the legacy of the group they established last year when they were in P5. Fantastic initiative! Isla Noble and Amy Harrison joined Alena at Assembly this week while Eva is in Australia to announce that successful candidates P5 pupils Esme and Evie will lead the group this year, supported by Akhil, Tom, Diana and Gordon. Congratulations to all!

This week we began our Assembly by reflecting on the Queen and that she once said grief is the price we pay for love, reminding pupils that they can continue to discuss any worries with staff. We also played a video of the Queen and Paddington Bear to say our own "Thank you, Ma'am, for everything."

Our Assembly continued with a Sustainability theme and we were thrilled to be joined by Katie Logie and Sophia Georgescu from [The Children's Parliament](#). Close neighbours based at SummerHall, our pupils have benefited tremendously from participation in many of their outstanding initiatives since 2016.

*Children's Parliament is Scotland's centre for excellence for children's human rights, participation and engagement. Children's Parliament have been asked by the Scottish Government to talk to children across early years – S1 about their experience of Learning for Sustainability education, why it matters to them and how it can be expanded for all children across Scotland. The children's ideas will be communicated at the end of the project through a creative output which Children's Parliament will share with the Scottish Government and educators nationally.*

Katie and Sophia worked with our P5 pupils last year on a very special Sustainability Investigation project and they shared at Assembly how the children's thoughts, ideas and illustrations will be published soon in a special report for the Scottish Government. It was very kind that they brought gifts for the four lead investigators Maddy, Krithie, Gordon and Toby and a framed print of a poem written by the pupils from each of the schools who took part.

There was another reminder of how to apply for pupil leadership roles and encouragement to celebrate achievements at Assembly. This week, Ellie Henderson from P5C gave a great account of her selection for synchronised swimming and how others can get involved and we congratulated P6A pupil Laura Kitchin on her outstanding success in achieving two gold medals in a national gymnastics competition. Great to hear from P7C pupil Jacob Kot, too, who spoke eloquently about his participation in the [Gang Show](#), explaining how he got involved and all that is involved in preparing for the show. Jacob has given flyers and posters to each class P4-7 and hopes to see Sciennes families in the audience Tuesday 1 to Saturday 5 November at the Festival Theatre. Wonderful that so many opportunities are on offer again to our young people and great to hear pupils encouraging others to get involved.

All eyes will be on Edinburgh in the forthcoming days and we wish you a restful weekend with perhaps a moment to reflect on some of the values the late Queen steadfastly embraced which chime with our own: resilience, positivity and compassion to all.

*Lucy, Carolyn, John, Jenni and Steve*

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Year Group	Start	Mon–Thurs Finish	Friday Finish	ENTRANCE / EXIT
P1	8.50am	<b>2.50pm</b>	12.05pm	WEST DOOR
P2	8.50am	<b>2.50pm</b>	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