



RESPECT INCLUSION TEAMWORK EFFORT

7 October 2022

### DIARY DATES

Mon 10 Oct – Fri 14 Oct – P7 at Lagganlia

Mon 17 Oct- Fri 21 Oct – October Break

**Mon 24 Oct Exceptional School Holiday**

Tues 25 Oct Inservice Day (Staff only)

**Wed 26 Oct Pupils resume**

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

### COMMUNICATIONS

As a staff we have been discussing ways to make communications more manageable. We suspect families are also likely to have witnessed a dramatic increase in the volume of electronic communications in your lives. Perhaps it is a hangover from lockdown or perhaps just a reflection on our technological age. Personally, having lived in the Headteacher Inbox for some time now, I will never again say to anyone, “But I sent you an email about that”!

Communication is of course a two-way process and after the October holiday we would like to inform improvements by seeking your views and insight on the communications you receive from us.

Meanwhile, we hope it might help to offer some initial suggestions on how we might help each other. Class Teachers do check their Inboxes but the points in the day they can do this varies in line with differing priorities each day and primarily with their teaching and preparation commitments. Since they cannot access email while teaching, it is far preferable to contact the school office [admin@sciennes.edin.sch.uk](mailto:admin@sciennes.edin.sch.uk), particularly if it is an urgent message. We embrace technology at Sciennes but an old-school, low-tech method we have seen go out of fashion might be worth revisiting - a simple written note to the teacher.

Another avenue open to you is to contact the Senior Leadership Team member responsible for particular stages and we will liaise with each other as well as decide who else to inform about specific issues.

P1-P7 Overall and P4 and P5 specifically [lucy.gallagher@sciennes.edin.sch.uk](mailto:lucy.gallagher@sciennes.edin.sch.uk)

P1 and Nursery [carolyn.anstruther@sciennes.edin.sch.uk](mailto:carolyn.anstruther@sciennes.edin.sch.uk)

P2 and P3 [john.armstrong@sciennes.edin.sch.uk](mailto:john.armstrong@sciennes.edin.sch.uk)

P6 and P7 [jenni.mcgrouter@sciennes.edin.sch.uk](mailto:jenni.mcgrouter@sciennes.edin.sch.uk)

Please note that amongst the staff, to ease workload pressures, we strive to communicate all work-related information via email rather than by text or WhatsApp. We are aware that some families might have held onto teachers' personal mobile numbers shared during lockdown but ask that you only use email rather than send personal messages please.

Perhaps a particularly helpful solution for everyone in our community, whether between staff or between families and staff is to make use of the 'Send Later' facility available in all email applications so we can all try to avoid out of hours and weekend communications. Remembering to schedule emails has certainly helped us as a staff avoid waking each other up in the wee small hours with a ping!

We look forward to gathering your views later in the term and hearing your suggestions for ways we can improve communications – in both directions. We hope that together, considering your perspective, we can find joint solutions that will benefit all.

### **FRIENDS OF SCIENNES SCHOOL TRUST (FSS)**

We are very conscious of the current economic climate and its pressures, so a reminder that we encourage families to contact to discuss ways we can offer financial assistance.

Please email [lucy.gallagher@sciennes.edin.sch.uk](mailto:lucy.gallagher@sciennes.edin.sch.uk) to discuss in confidence. The Friends of Sciennes school Trust is the charitable body of the Parent Council and the group would gladly welcome new members.

Please contact [john.armstrong@sciennes.edin.sch.uk](mailto:john.armstrong@sciennes.edin.sch.uk) if you would be willing to volunteer some of your time by joining. It would be greatly appreciated. The trust also has a Just Giving page for personal charitable donations to the school: <https://www.justgiving.com/friendsofsciennesschool>

### **P3 FOODBANK APPEAL**

*P3 are doing a foodbank collection with The Edinburgh Food Project. We are doing this because people sometimes need to go to a food bank when they do not have money or have just come to Scotland as a refugee. We need donations of canned and long-life food. Please hand it in to school before Friday 14th of October. Thank you.*

At the moment, we're in need of the items below and in particular those listed in **bold**:

**Rice**

**Pulses**

**Ready Meals (e.g. stew, meatballs, Fray Bentos pies)**

**Biscuits/Sweets**

**Jam**

**Sugar**

UHT (Long Life) Milk

Long Life Fruit Juice

Tinned Spaghetti

Tinned Cold Meat

Shampoo

Deodorant

Household Cleaning Products

**P3 Pupils Communications Team**

### **P2 BAKE SALE**

Please note that P2 raised £317 at their Bake Sale last Friday for school funds. The donation of £100 to the [Save the Wildcats](#) charity was in addition to that and was organised by a group of P7 pupils who ran their own stall at the same time. Fantastic!

## YOUNG PERSONS FREE BUS PASS TRAVEL SCHEME

The form emailed to all families indicating that your child already has acquired a bus pass has re-opened if you still wish to complete. Thank you.

**N.B.** Your child will need a National Entitlement Card (NEC) or Young Scot NEC with the valid free travel entitlement with you **whenever you want to take the bus – otherwise you will have to pay for your child's trip.**

Please note: this means that each pupil will have **to bring and show a personal card with them when we use public transport for trips.** If your child does not own and bring a card on the day, you will have to pay bus fare.

[Homepage - YPTS \(freebus.scot\)](http://freebus.scot)

## ADHD AWARENESS MONTH

Pupils have been raising awareness of ADHD with posters around school and will give a presentation at Assembly after the October break. Thank you to Ms Kennedy, Support for Learning Specialist, for organising.

## ASSEMBLY

This week's Assembly focused on SHANARRI which we use in all schools in Scotland as a method of discussing and indicating wellbeing. It forms part of the GIRFEC model for Getting It Right for Every Child and stands for Safe, Healthy, Achieving, Nurtured, Active, Respected, Responsible and Included. We use this language to help children understand how to communicate their wellbeing with us and with you. You may be aware that the GIRFEC model and indeed the Scottish Curriculum for Excellence both have Children's Rights at their foundation, so are based on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). Sciennes achieved a UNICEF Gold award as a Rights Respecting School and we will be applying for re-accreditation this session. Ms Daryl Gladstone is leading this for us, working closely with Mr Jamie Gilchrist who is our Equalities lead.

At Assembly we also heard from our P5 ECO Warriors about new Recycling arrangements and from P6 pupils Zoey, Kathleen and Emily about the re-opening of our Playground Reading Shed. P6B pupils Amaya, Merdjane and Zeynab told everyone about their idea for a Playground Friendship Squad which will start after the October break. Ian, Leo, ChenChen and Jin shared that they had raised a fantastic £50.02 from their origami stall. Mrs Ellis has stored this safely until they decide which charity to support.

Wonderful to hear again from P6C pupil Stanley Grant who set up a fossil stall before school toward the end of last year. He decided to donate some of the money he raised to RZSS Edinburgh Zoo for invertebrate conservation. He also bought a huge megalodon tooth which he brought to Assembly. Stanley had a great afternoon at Edinburgh Zoo with a behind the scenes chat with a keeper and he met the rare snails that his money will help to keep alive. They were very grateful as people usually want to sponsor the cute fluffy animals rather than invertebrates! Great project, Stanley, from conception to conclusion!

Three more sleeps, P7! Pack plenty of socks and label absolutely everything! We are really looking forward to spending time with you at [Lagganlia](#).

*Lucy, Carolyn, John, Jenni and Steve*

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