



RESPECT INCLUSION TEAMWORK EFFORT

11 November 2022

DIARY DATES

Mon 14-Fri 18 Road Safety Week – ‘Safe Roads for All’
Mon 14-Fri 18 Nov Anti-Bullying Week
Mon 14 Nov Odd Socks Day
Tues 15 Nov P7 at Risk Factory
Wed 16 Nov 3.45pm P5-7 Cluster Running led by John Armstrong
Thurs 17 Nov Parent Council Meeting 7.00-8.30pm (Teams)
Fri 18 Nov Cycle to School Day – Be Bright Be Seen
Fri 18 Nov Children in Need – donation if you wish
Fri 2 Dec P3-7 Lyceum Theatre “A Christmas Carol”
Sat 3 Dec Parent Council Winter Fair
Fri 9 Dec P1 Nativity 9.30am
Term ends Tues 20 December **at noon**
Mon 6-Fri 10 February 2023 P6 Benmore Residential

Dear Families

We all warmly welcomed the return to our normal format for Parent Consultations in school and it was wonderful to experience the buzz of families back in the building! Thank you very much for your time engaging with us.

NEW HEALTH ZONE DROP IN SESSION FOR PARENTS/CARERS

Meet Sciennes’ School Nurse (Yasmin Steel)
Help and Advice **fortnightly** on **Thursdays 9-10am**
Contact admin@sciennes.edin.sch.uk

P1 CATCHMENT OPEN DAY

On Wednesday 2 November there was praise all round for our P7 Guides who gave expert tours to families whose children are due to join us in P1 in August 2023. Families are asked to complete an online form for [new P1 Registration](#) and further information can be found on our School Website>School Places:
<https://sciennesprimaryschool.com/school-places/>

S1 TRANSITION

Several of our conversations at P7 Parent Consultations centred on Transition to secondary school. All P7 pupils should have received a letter to their home address detailing their catchment school places. The letter also gives information should you wish to apply for an out of catchment S1 place, with a strong recommendation to apply before 20 December 2022. <https://sciennesprimaryschool.com/school-places/p7-to-s1-transition>

PARENT COUNCIL

Our next Parent Council meeting, chaired by Caroline McKellar, will take place via Microsoft Teams on Thursday 17 November 7.00-8.30pm.

WINTER FAIR

Exciting plans are well underway for the Parent Council Winter Fair on Saturday 3 December. Please join the Parent Council WhatsApp group for up-to-date details and notices about ways to get involved.

WINTER FAIR CHRISTMAS HAMPERS

Christmas Hampers, one per stage, will be raffled on the day and we would greatly appreciate donations of Christmassy items to fill them! These can be handed to the A classes in P1-P7. Thank you.

YOUNG PERSONS FREE BUS PASS TRAVEL SCHEME

The form to let us know you have taken up the offer of free transport on school trips will remain open until **Friday 18 November 2022**. After that, our office staff will contact families personally in our drive to provide free transport for all our pupils. (This will also significantly reduce administration time for our office staff and teachers. Thank you very much for your support with this.)

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

COMMUNITY RUNNING CLUB

P5-7 pupils taking part should register at 3:40pm on Wednesday 16 November. 1 kilometre fun run followed by a 2 kilometre race. Runners should remember appropriate shoes, running shorts/tights and a t shirt. They should also bring water and a jacket to stay warm prior to the events starting. Please ensure, if you are collecting your child, that you are available from around 4:10pm. Meet:

Primary 5 (Mr Mitchell's room – Rm 21)

Primary 6 (Games Hall – Miss Kuhlilm)

Primary 7 (Ms McGrouther's room – Rm 22)

John Armstrong Depute Headteacher

SEVEN HILLS FOR SCIENNES 2022

Thank you to P6C pupil Esme Whelan for presenting (fantastic!) prizes to pupils who have completed all seven hills. Esme reminded everyone at Assemblies that the challenge runs until **Sunday 20 November**.

The Seven Hills are:

Name	Height
Arthur's Seat	251m
Blackford Hill	164m
Braid Hills	213m
Calton Hill	103m
Castle Rock	128m
Corstorphine Hill	162m
Craiglockhart Hill	175m

Sponsorship and donations can be collected via the special Just Giving page –

<https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/FSS-Seven-Hills-For-Sciennes-2022>

Friends of Sciennes School Trust (FSS)

CHILDREN'S PARLIAMENT

Our P6 MCPs (Members of Children's Parliament) have been undertaking an online Sustainability survey and our four lead Sustainability Investigators - Maddy Bell, Toby Clements, Krithi Subr and Gordon Jones – were invited to meet with representatives of the Scottish Government at Summerhall on Friday. Great to see opportunities for young people's voices to be heard and taken into consideration. They will help lead our pupils' response to The National Discussion: Let's Talk Scottish Education.

THE NATIONAL DISCUSSION: LET'S TALK SCOTTISH EDUCATION

A National Discussion is currently taking place to develop a vision for the future of education in Scotland.

Background

Twenty years ago, Scotland held a national debate on the future of education and this led to the development of Curriculum for Excellence. The recent Muir Review (2022) recommended holding a national discussion to agree a clear vision for the future of Scottish education. Scottish government is inviting everyone who has an interest in the future of our education system to join 'Let's Talk Education' – Our National Discussion. This includes children and young people, parents and carers, adults, practitioners, and those in the community.

The key principles underpinning the national discussion are that:

- *it is inclusive*
- *it is in line with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) which states that children and young people should be at the heart of the process.*
- *parents and carers are involved and meaningfully engaged in the process as outlined in the Scottish Schools (Parental Involvement) Act 2006.*

<https://consult.gov.scot/national-discussion-scottish-education/>

We're inviting everyone who has an interest in the future of our education system to join the National Discussion.

The National Discussion Team, Scottish Government

ASSEMBLY

At last week's Assembly P6C pupils Emma Dummer and Beth Deighton gave an outstanding and powerful presentation to promote ADHD Awareness. We also introduced Anti-Bullying Week which will be led by our Pupil Equalities Advisers. The themes are '[Listen Up – Respect Our Rights](#)' and '[Reach Out](#)'.

This week the focus was on Armistice Day. P5C pupils gave a presentation that linked past and present wars and showed a short animation which underlined their messages perfectly. Thank you to P7 pupils who sold poppies throughout the week. Fantastic to introduce our new P7 House and Sports Captains who will serve as members of the Sciennes Junior Leadership Team.

Our three P6 Junior Road Safety Officers Murray Stewart, Mary Katherine Knowlton and Kasper Ross launched Road Safety Week with a 'catwalk' torchlit demonstration of bright and reflective clothing. The theme for Road Safety Week this year is 'Safe Roads for All.' Ms McGrouther, our Active Travel lead, has arranged with them a special **Be Bright Be Seen** Cycle to School Day on Friday 18 November, which will be the last one this term. Our JRSOs will be leading activities next week and encouraging everyone in active, safe travel to and from school. Equality Advisers will lead Anti-bullying Week and we invite everyone to wear odd socks for [Odd Socks Day](#) on Monday 14 November to promote diversity and inclusion. Next week's Assembly will be in classrooms live on Teams, hosted by UNICEF to mark UN Children's Day.

PUPIL LED FUNDRAISING

Very well done to P3 pupils Ben, Munro, Mohanned and Ossian who took the initiative to set up their own fundraising stall last Friday and raised almost £30 selling their artwork to give to charities supporting those affected by flooding in Pakistan. Thank you very much to everyone who supported and donated.

PUPIL LED PACKAGING SUSTAINABILITY PETITION

At Assembly, P6C pupils Amy Harrison and Isla Noble launched their petition to Muller Dairies. Muller has replaced plastic straws on our milk cartons with paper ones, but these are wrapped in cellophane. Cartons of water we use in school have a tab, with no straw at all, so Amy and Isla want us all to back their petition to request Muller to do the same with their milk cartons.

CHILDREN IN NEED

Pupils can wear a Pudsey Bear accessory or dress in dots next Friday 18 November and bring a donation for Children in Need, if you wish. P4A pupils will be selling loom bands on the day, priced 50p and £1.00.

PUPIL LED LUNCHTIME CLUB

Great initiative from P4 pupils Eric, Archie, Sam, Nikan and Alex who have been running a lunchtime Rubik's Cube Club on Tuesdays, with demonstrations and coaching! Thank you very much to families supporting for providing Rubik's cubes to loan and worksheets.

PUPIL ACHIEVEMENT

Congratulations to P4A pupil Aiisha Smith-Meer who won Bronze in the Judo Scotland Cherry Blossom tournament, held in Livingston, for Juniors (coming 3rd out of 8). Well done, Aiisha!

We love to hear about pupil achievements outside of school! Please feel welcome to contact to let us know about these.

Lucy, Carolyn, John, Jenni and Steve

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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