



RESPECT INCLUSION TEAMWORK EFFORT

26 May 2023

DIARY DATES

Wed 31 May Sports Day, Meadows 9.30am-11.30am approx
 Tues 6 June **P2** Longniddry Beach
 Sat 10 June Parent Council Summer Fair 12pm-3pm
 Wed 14 June P6 National Museum of Flight, East Fortune
 Wed 14 June Parent Council AGM in school 6.30pm-8.00pm
 Thurs 15 June P7 Show pm
 Mon 19 June Gillespie's Games (for JGHS pupils)
 Tues 20 June **P5** Longniddry Beach
 Tues 20 – Thurs 21 June P7 Three Day Visits to CEC High Schools
 Thurs 22 June P1 Vogrie Country Park
 Mon 26 June P7 Leavers' Dance
 Tues 27 June P7 Big Day Out
 Wed 28 June Term finishes **at 1pm**

A bumper two week Round Up edition this week!

STAFFING

Andrew's Head Teacher post has been advertised and recruitment will begin in due course.

CLASS ORGANISATION 2023-24

We received confirmation of our class organisation for session 2023 / 2024. We have been allocated two Primary 1 classes and a P1 / 2 composite class. The City of Edinburgh Council provides schools with the criteria for the creation of composite classes: the youngest P2 pupils will join with the oldest P1 pupils to form the class. The maximum class size for a composite class is 25 pupils. As happens every year at Sciennes, the current P1 pupils will be re-organised into their new classes by Ms Anstruther and the P1 team. A great deal of thought and planning goes into the creation of the new classes. The children will be given the chance to play and get to know each other before the end of this term. They will also meet their new P2 teacher. We will be in touch in due course with information regarding classes and staffing for next session.

GOLD!

Sciennes first achieved a UNICEF Gold Rights Respecting Schools Award in 2018 and remains one of very few city schools to be awarded. We are absolutely delighted to announce that Sciennes has been re-accredited as a Gold Level 2 Rights Respecting School. This is a prestigious award for the school and reflects the importance we place on rights based learning. We thank Gerry McMurtie for his time in collating feedback and recommendations so clearly and comprehensively in his report, which is attached and will be posted on our website. Thank you very much to Ms Lindsay Dodds and Ms Janelle Stewart who put so much time and effort into arranging the visit, and to pupils, parents and staff who supported.

BABY NEWS!

Congratulations to Mrs Lauren Thomas and her husband on - the early but safe! - arrival of their beautiful baby boy Oliver, a brother for Harry.

PARENT COUNCIL

Thank you very much to Caroline McKellar for chairing the Parent Council meeting on Thursday 18 May. Great to have the support and input from local Councillors Steve Burgess and Pauline Flannery. Caroline is such a warm and skilful Chair and we greatly appreciate the tremendous support of the entire Parent Council. We look forward to hosting the AGM on Wednesday 15 June in school and hope to welcome many of you to the meeting. We also hope that parents/carers will consider putting themselves forward to take on Parent Council posts next session. Check the Parent Council WhatsApp for details.

There is also a plea for volunteers from the Sciennes Primary Football Club to coach current P1 Boys into P2 next session and a new Treasurer. Contact Gordon Stove for details.

The Parent Council Fundraising Group is hard at work making preparations for all the fun of the Parent Council Summer Fair and looking for volunteers to assist. P4 and P6 pupils are busy preparing enterprising projects, too! Save the date - Saturday 10 June 12.00pm-3.00pm!

P3 ART SHOW

On Friday 19 May P3 Elements of Art Exhibition (in classrooms and Hall) and it was wonderful to welcome families into school to see the children's artwork and then engage in some fantastic ballroom dancing! Thank you very much to Mx Cranston's father for teaching all the steps and to parents and carers for partnering pupils to turn the Hall into a fabulous Strictly Ballroom!

P5 SCOTTISH OPERA

What a fabulous performance on Thursday 26 May from Primary Five! They were word perfect and in fine voice for an outstanding production of 'The Curse of MacCabbra Opera House' with Scottish Opera. The team from Scottish Opera – Kris, Kirsty, Lynn, Jan and Neil – yet again wove their magic, as only they can, with high energy, focus and lots of fun to choreograph the entire show in a single day. The children thoroughly enjoyed the whole experience and rose to the occasion superbly, inspired by the enthusiastic turnout. Tip top job by Mrs Walker, Ms Sellar and Mrs Clark in preparing them so well and thank you to all the families who came along to shout "Bravo!" and "Encore!" For copyright purposes, Scottish Opera asked parents not to take videos of the production but parent James Chow very kindly filmed the show which we will share in due course.

P6 TRANSITION DAY

On Thursday 25 May our three P6 classes engaged in an early Transition event at the James Gillespie's High School (JGHS) Darroch Annexe in Upper Gilmore Place. Organised by JGHS' Modern Languages Department, pupils were able to sample taster sessions in French, Spanish, German and Mandarin. The pupils were enthusiastic and engaged and made an excellent start to their S1 transition, which will continue in P7. A great opportunity for pupils to meet Headteacher Neil McCallum, too. Thank you to JGHS staff and Miss McGrouther for arranging.

EDINBURGH LEARNS DIGITAL CONFERENCE

On Wednesday 24 May Mr Armstrong attended the Edinburgh Learns Digital Conference which provided a range of digital practice workshops, with sessions led by Edinburgh schools, Apple, Education Scotland and ClickView including topics on augmented reality, accessibility, Apple's Everyone can Create, computing science, cyber resilience and Lego League. The conference provided opportunities for schools from all sectors in the city to focus on best practice in implementing digital strategies.

P2 SEASHORE SHOW

On Friday 26 May the Hall was again filled to the rafters with families! And what a tremendous treat of a show for them! P2 pupils delighted the audience with their singing and staging and their confidence and delight in performing shone through! Great global citizens too, clearly putting across their message that we all have to take better care of our planet.

CYCLE TO SCHOOL DAY

Thank you to Ms McGrouther and our P6 Junior Road Safety Officers – Murray, Mary Katherine and Kasper - for organising the Cycle to School Day on Friday 26 May.

P7 ART OF LISTENING

Our three P7 classes had the exciting opportunity to attend an 'Art of Listening' event; a free two-hour workshop- including free private coach transport- that introduced pupils to classical music and the role that they play as listeners. The workshops were at The Hub on Castlehill and featured live music from a pianist and singer. Pupils were presented with an exploration of what we can hear when we listen to music and how we can engage our imaginations and develop stronger listening skills. Thanks very much to the Edinburgh International Festival for funding this excellent event - a welcome return to the calendar!

YOUTH MUSIC INITIATIVE

P1, P2, P4 and P5 pupils continue to benefit from free music workshops provided in school by the Youth Music Initiative. YMI was set up to 'put music at the heart of young people's lives and learning', with particular emphasis on widening access and participation. Our pupils are thoroughly enjoying the six-week block of music making sessions and it's great to see and hear our set of ukuleles back in use! Thank you to Creative Scotland for funding.

BUILDING WORKS

Maxi Construction is currently on track to complete delivery of the new £2.7m two storey classroom block at the rear of the school by the end of term. The Site Management team has been working closely with Ms Anstruther and the school's pupil 'Building Reps' whilst on site and recently asked the children to get creative through a Safety Poster Competition and STEM activity. Children were informed about the possible dangers on construction sites and were asked to participate in creating a site safety poster that would help towards keeping people safe. The entries were exceptionally creative with the use of vibrant colours, excellent illustrations and valuable information relating to health and safety in construction. The winners (Maria P2b, Neo P2c, Ben P3a, and Rhona P3a) were awarded with a gift voucher and Maxi water bottle and notebook. The winning designs are now displayed on a banner attached to railings at the front of the school.

SCHOOL NURSE

Our School Nurse, Yasmin Steel, will be in school again on Thursday morning 8 June for our School Nurse-led Parent drop-in session (9-10am). You can also contact admin@sciennes.edin.sch.uk to arrange to speak with Yasmin. Drop in dates are: 08/06, 22/06. Yasmin, who also works with James Gillespie's High School, will provide a health talk for our P7 classes next week as part of our Transition procedures.

P7 EPSSA BASKETBALL

Huge congratulations to our P7 Basketball team who reached the Final of the EPSSA Basketball Hope Trust Cup competition at Meadowbank on Thursday 18 May and came Second. A tremendous achievement! Thank you to Fraser's dad for coaching and to Ms McGrouther for organising. Congratulations to our cluster buddies James Gillespie's Primary on their win and well done to all pupils who took part.

SCHOOL BOARD CUP

On Wednesday 17 May P7 players from Sciennes Football Club took part in the first round of the School Board Cup at Wardie Playing Fields and were a credit to the club and to the school. Although they did not progress to the next round, there were some genuine 'could have been' moments in the games and the coaches can be justly proud of the inclusive, sporting ethos they have built, with everyone able to participate in competitive games. We wish the other teams well in the Final and thank our fantastic coaches for all their time, efforts and support.

SASCS PART-TIME ADMINISTRATOR VACANCY

Sciennes After School Care Scheme (SASCS) is a charitable, not for profit organisation, which provides breakfast, after school and holiday services to children attending Sciennes Primary School. SASCS is looking for a part-time administrator to support the charity's financial and administrative activities. For further details, please see here:

[Administrator - | Sciennes After School Care Scheme | myjobscotland](#)

This role offers flexibility in respect of working hours and location so may be of interest to parents and caregivers from the Sciennes community.

STAFF CAT SESSIONS

We held a Collegiate Activity (CAT) Session on Wednesday 19 May to review our Assessment and Moderation of Writing practice as a staff. Thank you to the Literacy Improvement Group for leading the session.

On Wednesday 24 May staff met together again to review our progress on Improvement Priorities this year and we hope many of you will feed into our self-evaluation process by completing the Microsoft survey Form which will be emailed separately to all families this week. Pupils will also have opportunities to reflect on progress and impact to help identify our future priorities for next session.

The weather is set to be glorious and we wish you a happy, sunny weekend!

Andrew, Lucy, Carolyn, John, Jenni and Steve

Andrew Hunter | Head Teacher | **Sciennes Primary School**
10 Sciennes Road, Edinburgh EH9 1LG | Tel +44 (0)131 667 1243 admin@sciennes.edin.sch.uk

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