



Friday 20 September 2019

Dear Parents/Carers & Friends

Key Dates:

Week Beginning:

Monday 23 September	<i>*Snapshot Journal Week*</i> - see below
Tuesday 24 September	1.00pm Mrs Kelly at Edinburgh Catholic HT Meeting
Thursday 26 September	1.30pm P3-7 Talent Show 6.30pm Edinburgh Teachers Community Mass
Friday 27 September	Mrs Kelly: Positive Relationships Conference, Glasgow P5 Bikeability; FOODBANK COLLECTION
Tuesday 1 October	P7A Parental Consultations 4.00-7.00pm
Wednesday 2 October	Parental Consultations 4.00-7.00pm
Thursday 3 October	National Poetry Day
Friday 4 October	Skills Groups Begin <i>Make a Difference</i> Sharing Assembly Parental Consultations 1.00-3.00pm
Friday 11 October	Half Term
Wednesday 23 October	Pupils Return

Weekly Round-Up

Welcome to edition 2 – no name suggestions as yet so we'll keep with 'round-up' for this week too.

- We had our first Parent Council meeting of the new session and it was lovely to see lots of new faces in the staffroom. There was a mammoth 19 item agenda – well done Jo, our Chair who managed all the items and discussion

input! Some of the main themes we covered were curriculum priorities for the session and fundraising. Class teachers have asked for support in buying playground equipment; funding for a mud kitchen for the front playground, continued funding for lego and gardening clubs and lots more. Playground behaviour was also discussed, and Mr Burgess spent time sharing the work that has been done with the playground group, over the course of last year. A draft playground policy has now been shared with staff and will come out to parents where feedback is welcomed. We were also asked to clarify what you should do if you have a playground concern- this will also be shared with all families early next week. Full Minutes of the meeting will be available too. One of the standing items on the agenda is parking and is of great concern to all. The parent council have issued the following which is completely endorsed by the school:

The parking outside the school has reached dangerous levels and we have had three near misses, reversing and nearly colliding with children in front of the nursery.

We are awaiting the council redoing the lines but please can you be considerate and not park in front of the school and park appropriately.

We'll see if we can make a difference whilst waiting for council

The PC also shared dates for one of the most sought-after events of the school year – the Hallowe'en Discos:

Sunday 2nd November

Session 1 - P1-3

Session 2 - P4-7

Look out for full info on the Parent Council Facebook Page, where details of cost/s, timings and tickets will be posted.

The date for the **Christmas Fair** was also set:

Sunday 1st December from 2-4pm

- On Wednesday I attended another Headteacher conference, this time the focus was on National Priorities set by the Scottish Government and ones closer to home, Edinburgh Council. It was a very full day, with a new setting for us, Craigroyston High School. There were two highlights, hearing their Headteacher talk about how they have raised attainment in English (whilst also discovering she is Miss McLaren's big sister!) and being entertained by the Higher Music band who played for us at lunchtime – they were amazing; two guitar pieces (theme from The Godfather & Titanic) and a solo singer who covered an Adele track – you could sense goosebumps all around the room.
- The Parent Consultation system should have gone live today, and fingers crossed it will work smoothly! (Aware of P7A name glitch – sorry!) If you cannot make either of the two dates, please do let teachers know. We will try and facilitate another appointment at a mutually convenient time. It is also important you let us know if an interpreter is required, we must book this service in advance, so do let office staff know.

- On Thursday I was privileged to accompany Isha and Milosz from P7 to the Scottish Parliament to a reception hosted by MSP Monica Lennon. The two P7's along with Carys have been part of a joint project working with the Children's Parliament and Alcohol Focus Scotland to look at the impact alcohol has on the lives of 9-11yr olds in Scotland – the children were investigators whose job it was to report on the views of over 90 children across the city. They produced a video which was shown in Parliament and it was a call to action to legislators – link to the video below. Katie from Children's Parliament had this to say: *it has been such a pleasure working with the young people on this project and it is clear that their calls to action are already having a significant impact, inviting adults to reflect on children's experiences and how alcohol impacts their everyday lives. The children are incredible ambassadors for Children's Parliament and defenders of children's human rights and we are so proud of them.* You will find out more on our twitter page @porty_stjs and the Children's Parliament page @creativevoices <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=OKdR8A6COwA#>

*SNAPSHOT JOURNALS

Next week is the first snapshot week where pupils complete work from three areas in a special jotter – all pupils across the school focus on the same 3 areas. The focus in term 1 is writing, number and measure and creative art. Teachers encourage the children to select and write up best pieces of work. This year we will send these jotters home at the end of the week to provide an opportunity to talk to your child about their work and to make a comment. These journals are precious to the children so please do return them.

St John's Got Talent

At time of writing the auditions have been organised and the auditionees honing their acts, in anticipation of Thursday's show, where the two winning acts from each P3-7 class will perform. The audience have requested a 'dress down' day so pupils may come to school on Thurs in non uniform if they wish. All costumes/props should be labelled for easy identification. We are all looking forward to the show in which the choir will perform an opening number...Thurs cant come quick enough...for some!

Some Sporting News

I accompanied the P6's to Hillend Ski Slope on Wed evening and was amazed at their confidence after 3 weeks – they ploughed higher and higher as the hour progressed and worked so hard!

In football, Jaxson was unlucky to miss out on being chosen for the final Edinburgh squad but it cannot be underestimated the achievement of all P7's across the city who make it to stage 2 so we hope he wasn't too down hearted.

Achievements

Eliot in Primary 2 is feeling very proud to have gone on holiday as a non swimmer and to have returned having completed a length of the pool unaided. Brilliant!

Rian from P4 had an exciting Fri afternoon accompanying his dad to the Hibs Training Complex at East Mains to become part of the official team photo!

Melody, also in P4 demonstrated how to audition for the talent show by dancing a high energy showstopper which left us all open mouthed as she leapt into the air and landed, full splits onto the hall floor!!

AND FINALLY...Bike to School

Next week is Sustrans Bike to school week which also includes walking and scooting. Their website has great ideas to encourage families and the link below provides an opportunity to sign up for a family guide to ideas and a competition to win a Frog Bike. It would be a great opportunity to try and follow the guidance at the start of the newsletter about leaving the car a few streets away, hopefully the sunny weather will continue too.

<https://www.sustrans.org.uk/sign-up-to-receive-your-free-family-guide/>

I would be grateful to have items for next week's round-up – if your child has an achievement, sporting or otherwise, please do let us know and we will endeavour to include.

Remember to check the website and twitter too for more updates and class blogs.

Email admin@st-johns.edin.sch.uk

Website: <https://stjohnsportobello.com>

Twitter: @porty_stjs

Jacqueline Kelly

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