



Monday 9 March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers & Friends

Key Dates:

Week Beginning: **Monday 9 March**

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Swimming begins for P4, Group 2

Am: Cross Country @Meadows, P6&7

Tuesday 10 March

Mrs Kelly attending Edinburgh Primary Headteacher Conference

Mr Burgess attending Rights Respecting Schools Training – Stirling

6.45pm Parent Council Meeting – all welcome

Wednesday 11 March

1.30pm departure – Lion King (separate info sent)

Thursday 12 March

P7 Newswire Workshops

Upcoming Dates:

Wednesday 25th & Friday 27th March: PARENTAL CONSULTATIONS – look out for bookings opening this week.



LION KING/Post-Inspection WEEK

Our trip to see the Lion king takes on extra special significance, arriving the week after hosting the Education Scotland Inspection Team. My heartfelt thanks to the whole school and nursery community for their support and encouragement: to the staff of the school who worked so hard the past 3 weeks to prepare – there were many late nights and early starts; the parent body – who completed questionnaires and to those who met with the inspectors; our partners from the Parish, Active Schools, Children's Parliament, Jack Kane & Gold and Gray who also met with the team – it was a real community effort. Lastly and by **NO MEANS** least: to all our fantastic pupils who had their lessons

and lunchtimes observed, groups who were assessed and those who spoke to the inspectors we are **SO PROUD** of you all. There was a real sense of relief and pride when we were told they would not be returning. More information about the school strengths and areas for development once I receive the report.

So now, our attention turns to our outing on Wednesday afternoon. The whole school will have a week full of activities relating to the Lion King and Africa, beginning this afternoon with a viewing of the film, the arrangements for the trip on Wed are detailed below:

IMPORTANT LION KING INFORMATION:

Pupils should wear school uniform & lunch will be as normal.

1.30pm: Depart St John's

2.00-2.30pm Arrival at Playhouse and show begins. Pupils can bring with them, a small snack and a drink – please be mindful of the size of the drink (& no fizzy juice, thanks). We have been advised that due to the interactive nature of the performance, trips to the toilet are limited.

5.15pm: Depart from Playhouse

5.45pm Approx return to St John's – a text will be issued as we leave the Playhouse to advise if our return will be later.

When pupils arrive back in school they will return to their classrooms with their teacher who will then dismiss them in the usual way – out of the doors they normally leave by at the end of the school day.

Lateness/Absence

Our absence continues to rise which is unfortunate news to receive. I will be contacting families individually if you have not explained your child's absence or if your child's absence is causing concern. Please be aware that holidays in term-time are very rarely considered to be authorised and must always be accompanied by proof that these holidays are unable to be taken during the 12 weeks of authorised pupil holidays when the school is closed.

RSHP

Attached to the newsletter is a letter in relation to the Relationships, Sexual Health and Parenting resource which Edinburgh Council have adopted. As a Catholic school we teach sexual health through God's Loving Plan in P6&7 and will continue to do so. The Church and the Council have agreed that there are elements of RSHP which Catholic schools may wish to use and I have highlighted some of these below along with a link <https://rshp.scot/> should you wish to explore the materials at home.

Examples of some materials from the RSHP resource that can be used

Early level (Nursery & P1)

- People who help look after me
- Friends and Friendship helping others
- When I feel sad or upset
- Playing together being kind;
- Asking questions making choices;
- Looking after plants and animals.

First Level: (P2-4)

- Friends and Friendship
- Kindness and Empathy
- When friends fall out
- looking after plants and animals

Second level: (P5-7)

- Friends and friendship
- My Senses: things I like and don't like
- Social Media and popular culture

Achievements

Photos to accompany achievements (in the main) can be found on the school's website and twitter account. We will conduct a short survey at the upcoming parent's evenings to see if this is the best way of sharing this information.

- ❖ Congratulations to Fletcher in P5 who has recently signed for Hibernian Football Club – we look forward to hearing about his continued footballing success.
- ❖ Charlotte, also in P5 was awarded Drum Grade 3 and played songs by Lenny Kravitz, The Clash and Toploader during her exam – rock on Charlotte!!
- ❖ Mirin in P6 competed in a Cheerleading competition in Blackpool and not only received an individual award but her team were crowned European Champions. Fantastic!
- ❖ Our P4 footballers had their first game of sevens on the astro at the weekend, winning their first fixture – they all looked quite delighted with their success!
- ❖ Well done to Erica, Alessio and Luca who competed and all found success in recent karate competitions which took place in Cumbria. A real medal haul for Team Pacitti!
- ❖ As was shared in an earlier newsletter, Christina in P7 is representing her dance school in Rome. The school received an email from her dance teacher last week to let us know that Christina has also been chosen as the Scotland Team Captain. She has been selected for this role due to her "kindness towards others, her talent and also her hard work ethic." We are all delighted for Christina and echo her dance teacher's sentiments.

- ❖ Hot off the Press: 20 pupils from across P6&7 represented the school at the first cross country event of the season at the Meadows this morning. They gave their all on what was a heavy and muddy course. Fantastic effort by them all and a special mention to Noel in P6 who was 4th overall, winning a medal for his efforts.

...And Finally

Please do continue to send in details of achievements – the inspectors from Education Scotland were sharing with us how important pupil achievement in all areas, both inside and out of school are. They don't need to be in competitions it could be as simple as learning to tie your shoelaces (which is, not that simple!)

Email admin@st-johns.edin.sch.uk and check out @porty_stjs and <https://stjohnsportobello.com/> for updates.