



**Bulletin 26.3.21**



**It continues to be wonderful to see all children settling back into school life**, so approaching a break feels strange, but the Easter holidays are almost upon us and the re-opening of some services. A few children have told me they are booked in for hair-cuts – I have to say I am almost more excited about my own hair cut than I am to eat some chocolate after what feels like a very long Lent! On our return from the Easter break teachers will begin to widen the curriculum for pupils. Across the summer term, we will be working hard to give the children a broad and balanced experience in the lead up to the summer holidays. Whilst we may not be able to offer the same range of experiences, such as whole school sports day, we hope to have class-based activities and experiences.

School will close at normal time on **Thursday 1st April** and will re-open on **Tuesday 20th April** for the Easter holiday. There is no school on Friday 2nd and Monday 19th April. The school office is closed during this period and we will not be checking emails/phone messages. Urgent messages can be called in to the City of Edinburgh Council 0131 200 2000

Thank you to everyone who supported the full return to school, to the hard work of our staff team in settling children back in. We hope everyone has an enjoyable school holiday and we look forward to the summer term.

**Easter Treasure Hunt** The parent council had hoped to organise a family treasure hunt in the local community but this has not been possible due to the 'stay at home' guidance, so each class will take part in an Easter/Spring themed orienteering style treasure hunt in school organised by our own Mrs Morrison.



**Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April is a non uniform day**

and pupils can bring in a donation to SCIAF via the wee box scheme, each class has their own wee box and all donations will go towards supporting children with disabilities in South Soudan.

<https://www.sciaf.org.uk/get-involved/appeals/557-wee-box-2021>

**Key Dates:**

- **Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April** school closes normal time for Easter holiday
- **Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> April** children and staff return to school after the Easter holiday
- **Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> May**- school closed for May Day holiday
- **Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> May**- staff only day. School closed for children
- **Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> May**- school and nursery is closed for Scottish Parliament elections (school used as a polling place) We will deliver digital free remote learning on this day whilst our school is used as a Polling Place.
- **Monday 24<sup>th</sup> May** Victoria Day – school closed to all

**Health & Safety Update**

A reminder to contact the school if your child has a positive Covid test result so that we can communicate with close contacts and ask them to self-isolate. Please email us with this information at any time: [admin@st-johns.edin.sch.uk](mailto:admin@st-johns.edin.sch.uk) to enable us to start the contact process immediately.

**NHS Scotland message:**

**Remember FACTS for a safer Scotland** The text is followed by five blue square icons: a person wearing a face mask, a group of people with a red 'X' over them indicating social distancing, hands being washed under a faucet, the letters '2M' indicating a 2-meter distance, and a person with a red fever icon on their forehead and a test tube.

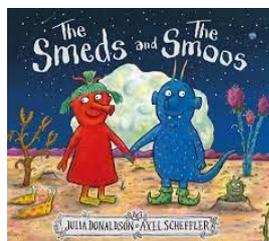
- Anyone who is identified as a close contact should now book a COVID-19 PCR test as soon as they are able to, even if they do not have symptoms. However, please note that a negative test **does not** shorten the length of your isolation period. You can book a test by following this link: [www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test](http://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test)
- If the test result is negative, you should continue to isolate for the whole period. You should do this as a precaution, because as a contact, you may have been exposed to the virus and so, may still develop coronavirus within the remaining days.
- If the test is positive you should continue to self-isolate and someone from Test and Protect will contact you with more information. The rest of your household should also stay at home for the 10-day self-isolation period.

## Nursery to P1 Transition



of this book for all our new P1 pupils.

Families usually hear about P1 school places during the Easter break – you will be contacted by letter from City of Edinburgh Council, informing you of your child's place and the process for appeal. The transition programme will be straight after the holidays. once again support journey from nursery to P1 key text is *The Smeds and the Smoos* by Julia Donaldson. We have



virtual and will begin Edinburgh Bear will children make the and this year, the the Smoos by Julia purchased a copy

Further information will be issued when we return. We can also confirm that from August 2021, our Nursery will provide 1140 hours per year (30 hours per week) of free early learning and childcare.

## P7 to S1 Transition

Like last year the 'three-day visit' will also be virtual, with joint input from the Holy Rood High and St John's staff team. This process has already begun with Mr Michael Scott (new S1 Year Head) and Ms Claire Duffy (Support for Learning) contacting our P7 teachers to find out as much information as possible regarding our P7 learners.

We were also delighted to hear that P7 have secured an **Epic Day Out**. This programme has been developed for current P7 pupils who have missed their residential experience this year due to the pandemic. They will spend the day in the Pentlands to experience a mini Benmore and return home in the evening



The programme is designed to provide a flavour of the full residential experience in one extended Epic Day.

Subject to pandemic restrictions; visit <https://www.experienceoutdoors.org.uk> Our Epic Day will take place on Wednesday 9 June for our P7 children

**Playground DROP and GO Update!** At the parent council meeting we discussed ways in which to improve the drop off and collection process, we agreed that arrangements seem to work best in the morning. Mr Burgess is looking at how we can best use our spaces at the end of day collection points and any changes will be communicated next week. The changes will try and address overcrowding which limit opportunities to remain 2m distant from other families.

**Ramadan** Ramadan is predicted to start around Tuesday April 13th and the last day of fasting will be around Tuesday 11th /Wednesday 12th May. Eid al Fitr 2021 will be around Wednesday 12th / Thursday 13th May 2020. If you would like to discuss any adjustments for your child during this period, please ask to speak to Mrs Kelly.

We are used to making adjustments during Ramadan, such as:

- Providing prayer space and prayer times We will have to maintain class bubbles when making alternate space available.
- Helping pupils share their family experience of Ramadan and Eid so that we can all learn.
- Adjusting PE activities, late evening meetings and energetic activities.

### **!!Parental Consultations Update!!**

Dates for school and nursery are bring set now for early May when teachers and the nursery team look forward to updating you on the progress of our learners. These meetings will again be virtual, and we will notify families when bookings open.

## **[parksmart]**

We are delighted to be joining forces with Duddingston Primary to try and proactively tackle inappropriate parking around both schools. The Park Smart campaign will run for five weeks, with P6 Junior Road Safety Officers from both schools working to try and educate families on the benefits of active travel and safe routes to school. Kate Orton-Johnson is our parent rep for this, if you would also like to become involved, please do let us know and we will put you in touch with Kate.

### **Equalities Update**

Along with all other schools in Edinburgh we are working hard to improve all equalities issues. Our School Renewal Plan sets out the actions we expect to achieve this session. They include better ways of tackling racist incidents and reviewing our curriculum. One of the most important actions for us is to improve pupil voice in this area. Our Pupil Equalities Coordinators will be leading this work. They, and our staff Equalities Coordinator, Mrs Kelly will be in touch soon to ask for your support. Our P5-7 pupil equalities team is also supported by Mrs Mitchell, Support for Learning teacher.

If you are interested in getting more involved, a city-wide Staff Reference Group for Equalities has been formed and you would be very welcome to join. Please contact [Annemarie.Procter@ea.edin.sch.uk](mailto:Annemarie.Procter@ea.edin.sch.uk) to find out more."

### **Free School Meals payments and the Spring Hardship Payment- message from City of Edinburgh Council**

If you meet the conditions for free school meals you may be entitled to other payments to help with meals during school holidays, closures or if your child has to self-isolate.

You don't need to apply separately. We will pay these to the bank account we hold for your clothing grant.

Holiday payments

A payment of £2.25 was made for every day during school holidays, closures or where remote or learning is in place up to 29 January 2021.

From 01 February 2021, the payment increased to £2.50 per day.

Free School Meals payments have been made for all pupils up to 12 March 2021.

Free School Meals payments will be made to all pupils for the Easter holidays.

Spring Hardship Payment

### **The Scottish Government's Spring Hardship Payment**

<https://www.gov.scot/news/funding-to-tackle-poverty-and-inequality/>

includes a one-off payment of £100 per child for all children in receipt of Free School Meals before the Easter holiday.

This payment will be included with the Easter holiday Free School Meal payment.

The date for the Spring Hardship Payment and the Easter holidays Free School Meal payment has not yet been confirmed but the payment will be made in advance of the Easter holiday. Once the date is confirmed we will update our web page.

Parents of children already in receipt of Free School Meals DO NOT need to complete an application to receive the Spring Hardship Payment, it will be paid automatically using the bank/payment details we already hold.

<https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/schoolgrants>



**And Finally...** Fr Jock is coming to visit all the classes on Wednesday to share an Easter blessing, we look forward to seeing him in school and wish all our families a blessed, happy and peaceful Easter.

Happy New Year to all our families who will also celebrate Vaisakhi when we are on holiday.



**Phone:** 0131 669 1363

**Email:** [admin@st-johns.edin.sch.uk](mailto:admin@st-johns.edin.sch.uk)