Headteacher's Newsletter Friday 12 March 2021

Dear Families

It has been a busy week in school planning for the full and partial return of our young people. We are looking forward to welcoming our P4-7 and S1-4 back to school next Monday. You will have received letters and detailed, sector specific information through Parent Pay on Wednesday 10 March. To maintain the integrity of our Primary class bubbles and senior year groups, we have had to make some short-term changes to start and finish times, as well as entrances and exits for some classes. These changes will be in place until Easter and we will review at this point. I am hopeful that we, as a country and as a community, will continue to see infection rates falling and at that point, we will be able to consider relaxing some of the measures we have put in place. Thank you for your patience and understanding, as I know how challenging some of the changes are to manage for families.

Although I know our young people are looking forward to coming back to school, there is a certain amount of anxiety around this transition especially for our senior pupils who have concerns around their qualifications. I have attached an information leaflet from SQA that I hope will help. Any gathering of evidence for the alternative certification model will take place after Easter and you will receive further detailed information about this in due course. Please let me reassure you that our focus will be on their health and wellbeing, relationships and on helping them to reintegrate with classmates and friends. Our staff are skilled at this and prepared to support each and every young person in our care. Please do not hesitate to contact me directly if you have any concerns or queries.

Learning and teaching has continued at pace this week, whether at home or in school. I'd like to take this opportunity to say thank you to all the school staff for their Herculean efforts over these last few weeks to support in school and remote learning. Here is a really quick snapshot of some of the work that has been taking place.

P1 and P3 have been reading Supertato books this week and creating their own superhero potatos (please see pictures below). In P3 while the children were at lunch the 'Evil Pea' caused chaos in the classroom. The children designed and made their own 'Supertatos' to save the school from the 'Evil Pea'. They also were able to retell the story and create their own versions of the story outside at playtime. Primary 4 have created healthy fruit salads and designed fruit bowls in school. Primary 7 celebrated British Science Week with experiments, inventions and creations! Each day they have become "Pitlochry Science Reporters", sharing the up and coming news from around the world in Science and Technology - from updates on the re-introduction of Beavers in Scotland, to the Russian and Chinese plans for a Moon Station, wolves saving Yellowstone Park, changes in the Muir Glacier that could have an impact on world oceans, robots taking over the world and much much more. On a practical level it has been great to see families turn scientists together as we have explored "Kitchen Chemistry", the amazing "Dancing Raisins", creating Lava Lamps and designing CD Hovercraft. Mrs Boyd is not too sure who has had the most fun - parents or children. The class have also been enjoying Mrs Leck's Dance Workouts and music composition with Mrs Dailly. It's has been a great week to round off their home learning as they have reflected on the positives and negatives of "Lockdown" through poetry and completed their "Virtual Adventure" projects around the world. Next week they plan to be having adventures in learning in our Primary 7 classroom.

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In Secondary, our S4 Art classes have been in school creating with clay as part of their Art folios and the Practical Craft Skills class have been making vanity units amongst other things. It has been a positive step to be able to work on our practical skills and we look forward to doing more over the next few weeks.

Even though we are back at school next week, I am going to continue to write a newsletter each week until the Easter holidays and will review after that.

Have a lovely weekend.

Take care
Elaine Liney