Headteacher's newsletter Friday 4 December 2020

Dear Families

The last week as flown by and I can't believe we only have two and a half weeks of term left and with so much still to do! We are already in the festive spirit in school, with our beautiful Christmas tree is in the main foyer. Thank you to the Ferguson family for annually donating our tree. We enjoy decorating it and it makes all staff and pupils smile when they see it.

Another big Thank You to everyone who had a wee clear out and supported our Ragbag collection. We managed to collect 163kg of recycling and the school earned £65.20 in the process. Thank you.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone about coming to school prepared for the colder weather as we move further into the winter months. A variety of layers is the answer, rather than one heavy jumper. Our increased ventilation is essential, but this can cause the temperature to be lower at times.

As ever, we have a variety of learning experiences, successes and achievements to share with you.

Primary 3 were our PE class of the week in primary. They showed great listening skills and were able to demonstrate good understanding of balance in gymnastics. Well done P3!

P5 have been finding out about prime numbers in Maths this week and learning how to plot co-ordinates on a grid with four quadrants using negative numbers. They also practised sending emails to each other using our Glow email addresses. They have been getting in a festive mood by learning some Christmas vocabulary in Gaidhlig and French.

P7 have been working on a real-life employment issue involving the basic wages and overtime rates of Santa's elves and his reindeer! They completed a "Teaser" and discovered that although Rudolph is the best paid reindeer in the world…it is still better to be an Elf! We have also been working on a variety of calculations involving money – credit cards, bills and VAT. All very important life skills. In their novel study groups, they have been summarising the story so far, focussing on "reading between the lines" and working out what their character's traits and motivations are. They have also started planning a mysterious Christmas virtual activity which we hope to share later this month, so watch this space.

I hope you have been following us on Twitter, as in Secondary Atholl House Tutor Group 1 took over Twitter this week – check things out @PitlochrySchool.

In Science, S2 Pupils have been making electromagnets and have begun to look at electronic systems.

This week our S3 BGE PE classes have been engaging in the Educating Through Cashback module, which has seen 16 of our pupils being supported by our Active School's Coordinator, Daria Wall. Pupils have looked at the impact that Physical, Mental and Emotional factors have on our daily lives as well as going through a learning cycle to plan, do and review a short physical activity to their peers. They will be awarded with a certificate from Glasgow Kelvin College on its completion.

Well done to Michael Thomson who won the Table Football tournament this week. Our sports commentator tells me that Michael was managing Dunfermline and played Robert who was managing Saints in the final. There were angry protests and calls for Jamie to be sacked after another defeat for his Celtic team in the early stages. It's been quite a week!

I have recently been asked about pupils bringing in Christmas cards to distribute to their friends in school this year and unfortunately, we won't be able to manage this. This has not been an easy decision to make, but safety and infection control are of paramount importance to us all. Many thanks in advance for your understanding in this matter.

Take care and stay safe, Elaine Liney.