Headteacher's Newsletter Friday 15 January 2021

Dear families,

It's the end of our first week of remote teaching and learning with a wide range of activities including yoga, songs, stories and making New Year's Resolutions in Nursery, from learning to form letters to chimney sums and star jump challenges in Primary to drawing biscuits and creating data sheets on their chosen planets in Secondary. The S2 Science Cahoots podium was tightly contested this week with 1st Isla, 2nd Ruby and 3rd Josiah. Well done to all. We were all united in our tasks and challenges by the snow on Thursday, with children young and old enjoying building Snowmen and playing outside. It is worth noting that S4 Biology have been learning about animal and plant reproduction, a lesson that Mr Leck and the class assure me that they were happy to do remotely! The variety of learning opportunities, even in just one week, is incredible. Thank you for supporting learning at home, as this really is a team effort.

Negotiating the online world can be daunting and online safety is very important issue for young people, families and schools alike. Please use this link **Simple 15 minute activities families** for activities you can do to support your child's online safety at home.

Many of our classes use Teams or meet in Seesaw using the Teams app. Please be aware that the function to have your camera on is now available. Last time, it was only possible to see the staff member and hear the children, but now this means that the teacher can see the children and they can see each other should they choose to turn their cameras on. Please be aware of this and consider where your child works in the house. You can add a virtual background and that might be something you would want to do. It is a real benefit to be able to be together as a virtual class and see each other, but please take this into consideration when facilitating your child's learning each day.

Our staff are expecting to see your child and have them attend virtual classes, so should your child be unwell and unable to learn online please remember to phone the school and let us know. You can do that by phoning the office on 01796 474666.

If your child / children require any resources for learning such as pencils, paper, jotters etc, there are some available at the school office. Just pop in, please sanitise your hands and take what you need. If you need anything which is not there then please ask at the office and we will see what we can do. The school office is open every day from 8.30am until 4.00pm.

Can I take this opportunity to alert you to the fact that you can apply online for 2021/22 places in our nursery setting at http://my.pkc.gov.uk/service/ELC_apply. The application will be open from 12pm 18 January 2021 until 12 February 2021. Please note: if your child already attends our nursery, you must complete an application form to confirm their place from August 2021. New applicants will need to upload a photo / scan of their child's birth certificate and may need a photo / scan / screenshot of their current council tax bill and a recent utility bill. Returning children will not need to provide these documents unless you wish to change your placement. For more information on childcare provision in the Perth and Kinross area, visit www.pkc.gov.uk/families.

Headteacher's Newsletter Friday 15 January 2021

I have also received the following up-date from Skills Development Scotland letting us know that careers advisers will continue to provide careers information and advice by phone and digitally.

If your child is choosing their subjects, you'll find lots of helpful tools and information to help with subject choices, on the careers service website, My World of Work. Visit www.myworldofwork.co.uk/subjectchoices

Please be aware that career information and advice is available online for anyone (all ages) who needs it at My World of Work. You can also contact your local centre to speak to an adviser or call the SDS helpline on 0800 917 8000.

Although I hope that you will not need this service, please be aware of the self-isolation grants (one-off payment of £500) are available to a parent/carer of a child that is required to self-isolate. Further information is available here: www.pkc.gov.uk/selfisolationsupportgrants

Remember that in Nursery and Primary daily schedule are posted on Seesaw and that the overview weekly schedule of work for all subjects in Secondary can be found in the following Team on their child's glow login:

These are challenging times for us all. I know that our whole school community, staff, pupils and parents alike, want the best for us all and a secure future for our young people. Thank you for the part you play in this.

Please get in touch if you have any questions or queries at any point. I would welcome your feedback at all times.

Take care and stay safe.

Elaine Liney