Headteacher's Newsletter Friday 9 November 2020

Dear families,

Each week seems to go so quickly and it's hard to believe that we are at the end of week 3 already. Nursery and Early Years have been enjoying learning about Autumn, planting for Spring and continue to enjoy outdoor learning. Primary 4 have started a new topic studying WW2. They have been learning about the Evacuees and how they felt about leaving home, what they took with them, what they ate and how they were educated. Primary 5 have been doing computer coding on Scratch. The children have been following the tutorials and learning how to code animations, make their own games and add effects. They have also enjoyed being creative and experimenting with the different blocks of code to design their own programmes. Primary 6 have been following, with great interest, the election in America. They have been watching Newsround and have been very interested in hearing the opinions of children across the pond in the daily reports. They also seized the learning opportunity to try and name all fifty states in America which is proving to be a difficult but enjoyable challenge!

S1 were out collecting sweet pea pods for drying and storing so they can get more plants growing next year. The aim is to increase the number of pollinators to help our apple trees. This is part of the John Muir Award and History department planning as the activity links well with our History unit looking at early farmers. As ever, learning continues at a pace in all areas of the school. Last year S1 pupils entered the V&A Schools Design Challenge, their task was to design a product which helps to tackle loneliness and isolation in school. One team of young designers from Pitlochry High School was selected to take part in a day long design jam at the V&A. They worked with a designer to develop their idea and create a prototype which they then presented to a very large audience! The V&A has created a film of their presentation which can be seen here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9BZN08-F6Lk&feature=youtu.be

A filming team from the V&A also came to school to interview pupils about their experience. The film can be seen here: https://vimeo.com/450826246/5d66326dc5

These films featuring our young designers from Pitlochry High School can now be seen as part of an exhibition at the V&A over the winter months. Congratulations to all who took part!

The staff and pupils were delighted to see the Christmas lights being put up outside the school. The lights are beautiful, and I would like to take this opportunity to say 'Thank You' to the Pitlochry Lighting Committee for brightening up our evenings.

As you know, there have been changes this week to the regulations around face coverings being worn in the school grounds and you have all adapted quickly to this new regime. Thank you for wearing face coverings, as you are keeping the school and the wider community safe by your actions. Remember to keep your distance, cover your face and wash your hands regularly. It is so important never to be complacent.

Just a wee reminder that we have Inset days next week on Thursday 12 and Friday 13 November. Although the school will not be open for pupils, The Den are offering childcare on both these days.

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Given that it is a short week, I will not send out a Headteacher's newsletter next week but will be back to it on November 20.

Have a lovely weekend.

Take care

Elaine Liney