Headteacher's newsletter Friday 14 May 2021

Dear Families

It has been another challenging week for us weather wise, but we've made it and are none the worse for the rain. It is surely one of the positives to come out of the last 14 months, that we are able to continue working, learning and playing outside no matter the weather. Nursery are continuing their theme of "Looking Up" which permeates their play and learning both in and outdoors each day. I was delighted to see two of our young learners experimenting with drawing on paper stuck underneath their tables. They assured me that the change in perspective was liberating, so watch this space! In Rural Skills the focus has been planting with our lettuces, spring onions and tatties in, raspberries planted and supported, strawberries being laid out and French and runner beans in – it is all go in Rural Skills. We'd like to say thank you to The Hardware Store for donating strawberry and lettuce plants to the Rural Skills class and to the local residents who have given us their spare heritage strawberries and bean plants. You are all really kind! The picture above shows the swift box at the front of the school and two weeks ago Rural Skills created a looped audio of swift calls to play at the start and end of each day to try and attract birds into the box. Fingers crossed that we soon have swifts in residence.

As ever, our school has been a hive of learning activity from transient Art to insects and from traditional playground games to evidence gathering for SQA. Through all these activities, the staff and pupils plan and work together for the best outcomes. I am immensely proud of all they achieve, and they make a great team. I was just hearing from staff this morning about how much fun it was to be playing games outside together and it is moments like this that you remember as a member of staff and as a pupil.

It is our Parent Council meeting on Tuesday 8 June. This will be done using Zoom so that everyone can join in. Further details to come.

I also have our weekly update from The Den - ***The Den at Heartland Kids' Club*** *offers Breakfast Club and After School Club for children P1 to 14 years - and our kids absolutely love it! Due to Covid we have two separate bubbles for our children: one for lower primary and one for upper primary. This doesn't stop us having fun. The Den is designed to help develop social skills and problem-solving abilities, improve self-esteem, and nurture emotional wellbeing. Our team are fun, friendly and fair - just ask the kids.*
All adults must continue to wear a face covering when dropping off and collecting children. Staff will welcome your child at the door for Breakfast Club and we will bring your child to you when you arrive to collect from the After School sessions.
Bookings are essential. Please email bookings@thedenatheartland.com Check out our website for more details www.thedenatheartland.com

The Den Needs Storage! *Do you rent out or have free storage within the area? We are seeking storage within the locality, 10ft x 12ft ideally but all sizes would be considered. Please get in touch via Facebook or email bookings@thedenatheartland.com*

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Our annual events are important to us as a school, as they punctuate and give a structure to our school year and provide opportunities to come together. Prize Giving is one of those events, bringing our school and wider community together and giving us the opportunity to celebrate our achievements throughout the year. Once again, we will need to have a virtual Prize Giving event but circumstances this year have been such that we have opted for a more radical change to reflect our year, our community and our young people. Please see information to follow for further details.

Please remember that Monday 17 May is an exceptional ACM (Alternative Curriculum Model) Moderation day for Secondary staff. The Secondary school will be closed, but online learning on Literacy and Health and Wellbeing has been provided on Teams for S1-3 pupils. I have also attached copies of the PPTs for you with this newsletter. This work is for Monday 17 May and Thursday 1 June 2021. Our S4 pupils should use the time for personal study and revision.

It is welcome news that we are moving into Level 2 on Monday, but I would still urge everyone to follow FACTS and approach all changes with caution. We have been relatively safe so far in our school and that is thanks to the mitigations we have in place in school and in our community.

Have a good weekend.

Take care

Elaine Liney