Headteacher's newsletter Friday 22 January 2021

Dear families,

The week has flown by here at school and I can only hope that you feel the same at home. We cannot thank you enough for all you are doing to support us and your children in their learning. The staff continue to provide a wide range of learning activities each day and please remember that it's important to have time planned in for other learning opportunities too, like going for a walk and looking for different birds or making soup together for lunch. Please remember to share your learning with us and keep in touch. I have really enjoyed watching the children do their Scotty the Squirrel workouts and have no doubt that Scotty is giving Joe Wicks a run for his money!

I am not able to share all the work, or my newsletter would run to several pages each week, but here is a flavour of our week. The Nursery have had a Science focus this week. The children have been learning about ice, adding food colouring, glitter, wool and lollipop sticks, then playing with the ice and watching it melt. They continued this activity outside breaking ice puddles and making snow balls. Primary 2 are learning how to make their writing more interesting by including adjectives. The children created amazing monsters covered in fur, scales or skin with different shaped horns, tusks, wings, spiky tails and lots of eyes and legs. Once they had decided on the best adjectives, they wrote their descriptions. They did a fantastic job! Primary 3 have been learning about multiplication this week. They have been learning to group items and use their knowledge of addition to help to solve multiplication sums. They have also been learning to use Teams and managed to play multiplication bingo with their friends over a Teams meeting. There are some pictures of the multiplication dominoes and quiz below. P5 have started their new topic about Scotland. They have been having a go at reading a poem written in Scots called "Fireworks Aff the Castle" by Matthew Fitt. They have also been doing research into Scottish landmarks and Scottish wildlife. Primary 6 have worked on a variety of activities including Art, PE and Music lessons which have continued to be delivered by their specialist teachers. The children are still able to work together too using their own platforms when completing their maths and literacy work, just like they do in class. On Tuesday, we were joined by Mrs Radford and the children listened to her as she read from their class novel, Friend or Foe, which is linked to their World War Two project. They have also enjoyed playing in the snow (pictures below). P7 have been studying the plight of the North Atlantic Salmon and doing some fantastic detailed research into other creatures of water. They are now hard at work making posters, science reports and PowerPoints on a variety of interesting creatures from coral to sea otters. Their "Money Maths Topic" is nearing completion with some valuable work this term on budgets, credit cards, bank statements and discounts, all very practical and useful for the future. They have been enjoying their new class novel "The Hobbit" which is mysteriously linked with their new topic…to be revealed next week! As it is Burns' Night on Monday, they are sharing recipes for Scottish delicacies and learning to recite Willie Wastle, with more songs and poetry set for the week ahead.

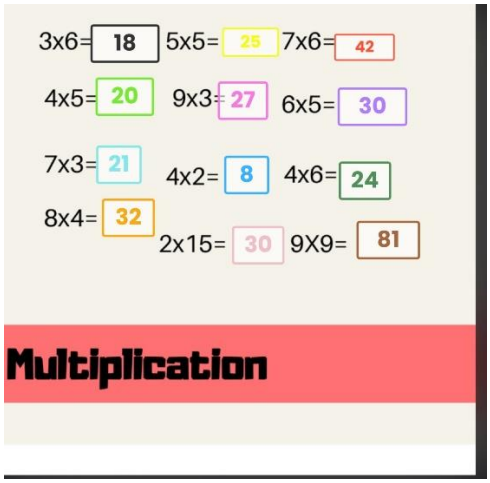
In Secondary, pupils are doing a fantastic job engaging with remote learning in Art and Design. S1 pupils are looking at artworks by the Scottish Colourists and have been learning about their chosen paintings by creating artist studies. In S2 pupils have been developing their observational drawing skills through a "Sweet Treats" drawing project. They have been focussing on refining detail and tone in their work this week, take a look at the photos below for some examples of their brilliant work-in-progress! S3 and 4 pupils are working on their design skills with S3 taking part in the City of Glasgow College Schools Jewellery Design Challenge and S4 pupils developing ideas for their design portfolios. In Home Economics S2 have been learning about the number of calories in a chocolate digestive amongst other things and how much exercise you would need to do to work that off (30 minutes of Volleyball they tell me!). We have also started on a series of virtual transition meetings for our S4 with our colleagues at Breadalbane Academy. This allowed S4 to meet and speak to Breadalbane staff and is just the start of a range of planned virtual events.

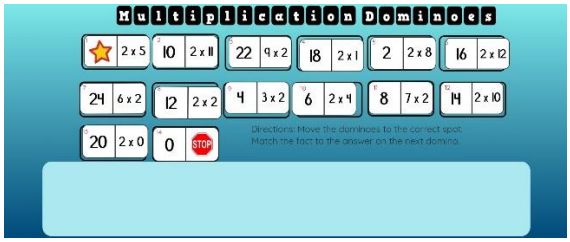
I know it is really challenging at times, but it is very important to login and engage with our learning opportunities online, not just for your child's ongoing education but also for their social and emotional wellbeing and to keep a sense of connection as a class, as a school and community. We do not want our young people and families to feel isolated and are working hard to avoid this. We do monitor engagement every day and get in contact with families by phone or email if we don't see your children online or handing in work. Please understand that this is because we are often able to offer immediate help and support in range of situations and remove potential barriers to learning for young people and families. We are here to help, so please get in contact and let us know if you are experiencing any difficulties.

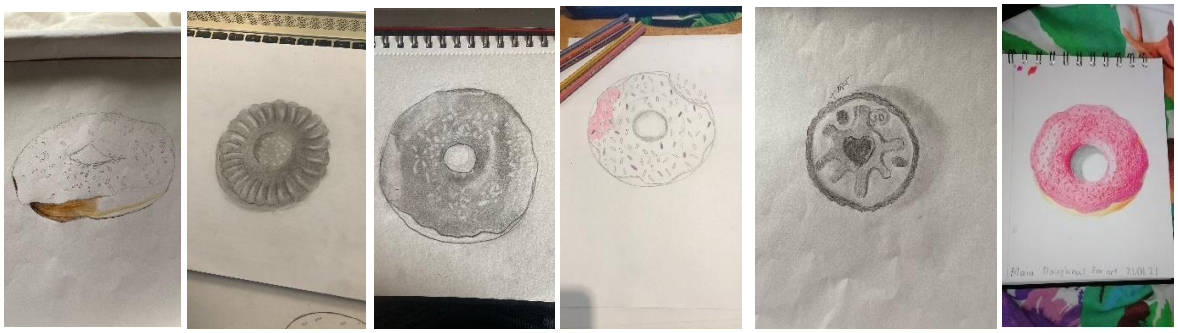
Have a lovely weekend.

Take care

Elaine Liney







PE News

This week classes in primary have been developing their muscle endurance with Scotty. Class of the week goes to PRIMARY 2, who had the most pupils taking part in the workout. Well done!

It is great to hear families working out together too, with many pupils encouraging their siblings to join in.
Scotty asked the pupils in P1 – 3 for their music suggestions for next week's warm up. Find out next week whose music has been chosen!

'I did the workout 3 times with my Mum'!' said Jenna, P7

Alesia Maria, P6 said, '..my little brother loves the Scotty warm up, he always laughs and we do it together'

Laila, P5 said, 'I really enjoyed doing gym today..and really liked 'juicy wiggle' which Leo played when I was doing gym with him'