Headteacher's newsletter Friday 26 February 2021

Dear Families,

It has been great to have our Nursery, P1-3 and a small number of our Secondary pupils back in school. Staff, pupils and parents have adapted quickly to all our new mitigations and once again, despite the changes, we have taken everything in our stride. Thank you for your support in that. It was positive news from the First Minister on Tuesday, and I hope that we will soon see more of our young people safely back in school.

The vast majority of our staff and Senior Pupils have opted to take part in home testing twice a week and from this we have also had our first positive case in a member of staff. They will now have a PCR test to confirm the result. T**here is no evidence of transmission within Pitlochry High School**.

Please note the following –

- We treat a positive home Lateral Flow test in the same way as the more formal PCR test.
- We will inform close contacts by phone and ask them to self-isolate for 10 days, with a letter of confirmation and next steps following on later that day.
- Please understand that this his will often need to be done at short notice in the morning and we appreciate how challenging this will be for you.
- Remote learning will resume for pupils identified as close contacts.
- It is important to note that should the PCR test prove negative, Trace and Protect will phone identified close contacts and let them know that they can return to school.

We will find ourselves in these situations over the coming weeks and months and it is so important that we all adhere to the guidelines. Thank you for your support and patience.

Remote learning continues at a pace and here is a snapshot of our week. P4 have been learning about Climates around the world this week and things that grow, such as bananas and Cacao beans. They have learned about the journey the bean makes from tree to chocolate bar. They have also created Lockdown Maps to show all the things that have given us strength throughout this Pandemic. They are looking forward to getting back into the classroom so they can display their work. Primary 6 have been enjoying listening to the library ladies, Mrs Sherriffs and Mrs Radford, read our class novel Friend or Foe every Tuesday morning. This novel ties in beautifully with their WW2 topic and the subsequent written work that the children must complete after listening has ensured their literacy skills are kept sharp. The children are completing a daily times table speed test every morning on Sumdog and most have noticed a remarkable improvement in their recall skills when completing their day to day maths work. It's always great to see the extra learning that takes place at home such as learning to play a musical instrument, cooking, sewing and creating new worlds on Minecraft to name just a few. All this extra learning is shared with the class through the medium of photos or uploading videos, thus ensuring that their ICT skills are being improved continually whilst at home. This week Primary 7 have finished their trip to The Galapagos Islands with Charles Darwin and are now heading off with another explorer, Captain James Cook. Everyone is in awe of the effort and of the lengthy time these seafarers spent away from home and the challenges and difficulties they faced in their endeavour to bring new lands and new ideas back to us. They have also launched a new Maths topic on Time with a quiz on the past, present and future… Some great ideas and interesting suggestions…Will it really be 2110 when the current P7s will be 100! We have shared some interesting ideas about how life might look then! We continue to enjoy our Tokyo Olympic Challenge and inspirational art, with a diversity of interesting work from colourful collages made of everything you can think of, to cute cartoons and animal sketches. A good week everyone, well done.

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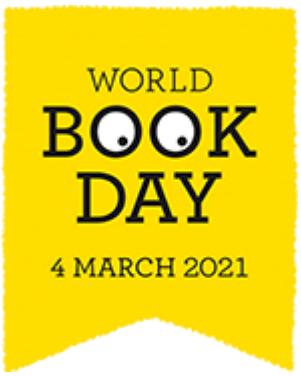
Our S3 Historians have been busy developing their source handling skills to investigate what really happened to JFK. This is forming the second part of their Heritage Hero Award and S4 Historians have been exploring Nazi persecution of minority groups as part of LGBQT+ History Month.

Please note the information below from the Library -



World Book Day 2021 takes place on **Thursday 4th March.** As always Pitlochry High School will be taking part and promoting all things "reading". Please look out for the information about the £1.00 free book voucher your child can receive and the activities we will be sending home. Much of the information will come to you via Seesaw/Teams. For Primary pupils we invite them to dress up as their favourite book character if they wish, whether they are working from school or home- it is entirely up to the individual and family. This year we have included links for *parents in Nursery, Primary and Secondary*. Our aim is to have everyone reading. Through Seesaw and Teams, pupils will have access to a variety of book related activities. Our Secondary pupils will have access to their World Book Day fun through Tutor Time, their LRC Team and other Team links. We encourage everybody to take part. So, keep watching for further information next week. **Happy Reading from the LRC.**

Remember that we have a Primary and S2 Parent Contact Evening on Tuesday 2 March 2021. This will be done remotely using our School Cloud software. Please make sure that you read the instructions, as using the correct browser to open up the software is crucial. There will probably be some teething problems on the night, so please don't worry if things don't go to plan. We will keep trying and make sure that we catch up with you.

Can I take this opportunity to remind you not to park at the back of the school unless you are a Blue Badge holder. I understand how challenging parking can be and we are always looking for creative solutions, but please consider walking from home, parking a little further away and walking the last bit or cycling to school as a family. I know the safety of our young people is always your and our priority and we cannot let anything get in the way of that. It is especially important as we now have two of our Nursery groups using the main school hall and meeting at the top of that staff and service vehicle access road.

Have a good weekend.

Take care

Elaine Liney