Headteacher's Newsletter Friday 29 January 2021

Dear families,

I hope your week has gone well and you have managed to balance your work, remote learning and family life as well as you can. Each week seems to bring a different challenge for us all, but many seem to be settling into a new rhythm. Please don't compare yourself to anyone else, as I know that each of us is giving of our best in challenging circumstances. It's been so nice to see many of you during the week as you walk past the school during the day or when I (slowly) run past you of an evening.

We have had another week with a wide variety of planned learning opportunities and experiential learning, both planned and unplanned, taking place. As ever, I will try and give you a flavour of our week throughout our school. In Nursery, staff have been posting two activities each day for families to access throughout the week if they are able to, as well as stories, news and activities for each of the key groups. They have also started to have Team meetings where our young learners can see each other and share time together. It's lovely being able to keep in-touch.

In Primary we continue to plan learning that brings us together; for instance all classes have had the opportunity to learn a Scottish poem or song as well as many getting involved in the Garden Birdwatch, but here is a flavour of our week: P1/2 have been making rhyming poems about super heroes and acting superhero movements; P1A have been exercising with Scotty the squirrel and being weather reporters; P2 have been making and learning about parts of the eye; P3 have been working on times tables and finding leaves etc to create multiplication sums and making symmetrical pictures with the Art teacher Miss Lamont; P4 are learning about the Rainforest this term and are enjoying learning about the animals and plants that live there; P5 are working on times tables and finding out about scots language; P6 have been researching their grandparents and the roles they played in WW2 from nursing to serving in the Navy. They even discovered that one Grandad didn't attend school for the duration of the war and finally P7 are having a focus on the BBC Big Schools' Bird Watch and have all been completing Water Creature presentations using PowerPoint, posters and video. This is by no means an exhaustive list, so please remember to follow us on Twitter to find out more and see the fruits of our labours.

In Secondary, S1 Home Economics pupils have been finding out about the benefits of eating fish in our diets and how to be a more sustainable fish consumer while S2 are continuing to learn about balanced diets and have been finding out how to use their hands to make sure they eat the right portion size for their body height. S3 Fabric pupils have been finding out about smart and technical fabrics. They were discovering T-shirts that can alert them to strong Wi-Fi signals, and clothes with insect repellent embedded in the fibres which would be great to repel midges in the Scottish summer. S4 HFT pupils have been finding out about how nutritional needs change as we travel through the lifecycle. They are now on hand to advise us all on what we should and should not be eating! The Languages Faculty want to say well done to their pupils who are interacting with the activities and tasks being posted on their Teams pages. They are communicating and interacting with pupils in a variety of ways, including audio clips, recorded videos, live lessons and live chats. They want to remind pupils that they are here to help – they know this is a very different way of learning for everyone, but asking questions is how we all learn best, so remember to tag your teacher if you are asking a question! In French, S1 have been busy learning to talk in more detail about where they live, while S2 are finding out how to describe and give their opinions on mobile phones. S3 are getting some ideas about how they can help at home as they learn to talk about what household chores they do!

In S4, the focus is on developing conversation skills and pronunciation during live lessons. Remember, extra vocabulary practice is always available on linguascope.com and languagesonline.org.uk also offers some great practise for those verbs and tenses! Well done to all involved.

Our librarians, Mrs Sherriffs and Mrs Radford, are also trying to encourage our Secondary pupils to read a "classic" story if they have the time. They aim to offer a specific link to our secondary pupils once a week that highlights a classic read online or an audio book. This can be found for pupils in their LRC year group team on a Friday. They have so far already shared links for "His Dark Materials" by Philip Pullman and "Twenty-Thousand Leagues Under the Sea" by Jules Verne. This week's Book will be "The Call of the Wild" by Jack London. Meanwhile they would also like to direct **parents** to some free classic books online. These can be found at the link below:

Free eBooks | Project Gutenberg

It can be such a good way to relax, so please follow the link and give it a go.

For our S4 families, the SQA Research, Insight and Analysis team is setting up panels of key stakeholders so they can get 'quick pictures' of what these groups think about important issues. For this to work effectively, the SQA need to get as many people to sign up as they possibly can. Colleagues at the SQA would really appreciate it if you could help them to do this. They are looking for parents and carers of school learners to take part in these surveys and the time commitment would be minimal for participants. You can get involved using the following link: https://bit.ly/2V3KNAV

I would like to draw your attention to the 10th Annual Getting it Right…Keeping Your Child Safe" Event on Thursday 4 March 2021. Perth and Kinross Council and partners are providing a free online seminar for parents, carers and professionals broadly based around online safety and the theme of 'Keeping Your Child Safe.' This year brings the 10th 'Getting it Right…Keeping Your Child Safe' event, and by moving the event online, we aim to build on the success of previous seminars which have been very positively received, each having recorded an attendance of between 450 and 550 delegates over the course of the day. The impact and importance of the events was recognised in 2016, when 'Getting it Right…Keeping Your Child Safe' was shortlisted as a finalist in the Scottish Cyber Awards. This event will be held online via Microsoft Teams Live Events and there will be three sessions available during the day. Please follow the link below.
https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/getting-it-rightkeeping-your-child-safe-2021-registration-136267903969?aff=ebdssbeac

Another date for your diary is our next Parent Council meeting on Tuesday 2 February. All our meetings are now held on Teams and are easy to access from either a phone, tablet or computer. For further information please see the Parent Council Facebook page.

Please remember to get in contact with us at school on 01796 474666 if you have any questions or queries.

Have a lovely weekend.

Take care

Elaine Liney