Headteacher's newsletter Friday 20 November 2020

Dear families,

It has once again been a week of implementing further changes for the staff and young people in our school. It can be challenging to keep up with the speed of change but rest assured that we will always keep you updated with any changes that impact in school. The staff and senior pupils have adapted well to the recent changes of wearing face coverings in the Senior Phase, as have all the parents and carers to wearing face coverings in the school grounds. It is important to recognise that this can be challenging for some people and we will always look to find suitable compromises, whilst prioritising safety. Thank you for making this possible for us.

We have had a busy week throughout the school for Book Week Scotland with something for everyone. Jelly Tot families have had the opportunity to borrow a "Book Bag" for the grown-ups and the children through the LRC (our library). Nursery children aged 3 will have received their *Bookbug Bags* with a lovely array of stories and resources. If you have not read *The Lion Inside* by Rachel Bright and Jim Field, then take the time to do so. It is beautiful, for adults and children.

P1 will be given their Book Bags as a celebration of reading and for parents to enjoy with their children by the end of the week and these children will be voting on the Scottish Book Trust Picture Book Award today! P2 and P3 have had their Read, Write, Count bags including books to read and activities to go along with them. P4 we have been working on Picture Book Reviews which will be shared with our P1 classes; P5 have completed *Recommend Reads Postcards* to give away and share; P6 have been looking at a short book, The 13 story Treehouse by Andy Griffiths and Terry Denton; P7 along with all our secondary pupils and staff have reflected on a Poem and considered what they *loved*, *liked, loathed and learned* whist in lock down. These responses will be held as part of our Archiving in school for future generations. We have also promoted the current lending services for the Public Library in Pitlochry.

The outdoor area of Nursery is rapidly changing, and this week saw our new polytunnel taking shape. The staff and pupils are delighted at the thought of planning their winter and spring crops, learning what grows best in our climate and trying out a range of different recipes in the new year. Many thanks for the generous donation which allowed us to purchase this and to Cath Steward, our Play Assistant, for driving this initiative forward Monday to Friday and even at weekends.

The Primary Origami club have been busy making 3D cubes, which look fantastic decorating the corners of our display board, suitably framing the examples of our Golden Work that has been accomplished over the last week or so.

During Developing the Young Workforce week last week Primary 2 investigated careers working with Wild Animals. The Zoo Vets were very busy bandaging and operating on sick animals, our habitat designers thought about the needs of different animals and created some fantastic enclosures and the zookeepers planned exciting meals for their animals to keep them healthy. This week they have been learning more about the Hindu festival Diwali. In Maths the class are learning to spot odd and even numbers up to 100. The children enjoyed pretending the floor was lava and stepping on even numbers to make their way across the lava flow!

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P4 have been learning about Rationing during WW2 this week. They have also looked at food labels in 2020 and have been very surprised about the hidden sugars in the things we eat. They have also raised £33 so far in their painted rock poppy appeal, many thanks to those who have donated to such a worthy cause, especially under current circumstances. A special thank you to Mrs Reid who has laid some of the poppies on the war memorial in Pitlochry, please do have a look! P5 are very pleased to have been the daily winners of the Sum Dog Contest on 17th November. The class competed against 58 other classes from Perth and Kinross in the online Maths competition. They also entered the Fifty Words Fiction competition as part of their Book Week Scotland activities. There is a selection of their entries below. Primary 6 have been learning about The Eiffel Tower for their topic on France and, for their technology lesson, took part in a tower building challenge. Each group was allowed 10 art straws, 30cm of masking tape and a pair of scissors. The tower had to be tall but strong enough to take the weight of a small marble at the top. Please see photos below. They also took part in Book Week Scotland where we designed posters depicting something (real or imagined) that they had lost based on the book 'The 13 Storey Treehouse' by Andy Griffiths. Please look our school Twitter page for some examples of their work and a lovely reply from the author to P6.

It was a tough choice in S2 History selecting the PPT going forward from Pitlochry High to the Scottish History & Heritage Awards. This year the theme was 'Communication in History' and classes researched and presented work looking at **The role of communication in British women gaining the vote in 1918.** The best PowerPoint which has now been entered was by Toby Grant + Callum Robertson in 2Y. While our S3 Historians are unravelling the story John Alex Veitch (former pupil & WW1 soldier) using some of the amazing resources from @CPKArchives . Please see photo below.

Well done to Gavin, Robert and Jamie for making it into the Semi-final of the S4 darts tournament. Roman plays Peter in the last Quarter Final during games club on Thursday.

Thank you to McDonald butchers for providing the school with a sheep's heart and lungs for dissection for our S4 Biologists. We even got a bonus liver which will be used to investigate Enzyme Activity with Hydrogen Peroxide.

I know you only see a snapshot of the work that goes on in the school each week, but I hope it gives you a flavour of the types of learning experiences your children have throughout their time with us.

Have a lovely weekend.

Elaine Liney

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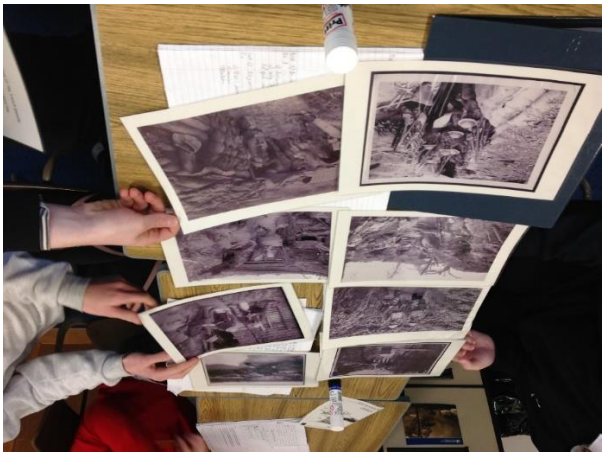
Information from PKC archives



The Mountain Walk P5

In 1928 a kid was walking between two giant mountains when he spotted a dark and endless forest. He got distracted and went in to it. When he went in to it roots covered the entrance and locked him in. He felt a scratch on his trembling and shaking back...

By Lucas Russell

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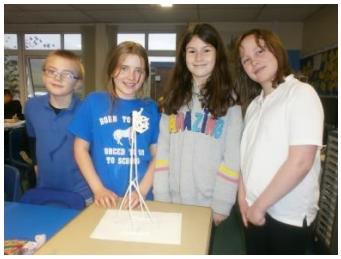
Walking up the mountain, there appeared a BIG BAD WOLF! "Aaahh.....horror it had giant teeth, it looked hungry. He was chasing me, I ran. I found a dark scary cabin "It will do" I thought. The lights started flickering, then I was caught! "What do you want?"...

By James Bruce

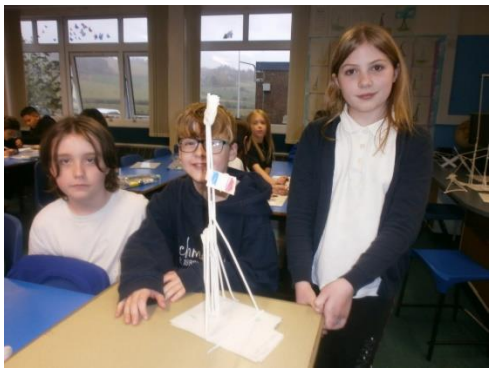
One day after school a little girl walked up a mountain. She soon saw some snow and ice then came across a very large brown bear. He was very friendly then took her towards a cabin. Inside was a man who was not well. The bear was looking after him.

By Lilly-Ann McKinnell



Primary 6 had a Tower Challenge. Which team could build a tall tower strong enough to take the weight of a marble?

The two strongest but not necessarily tallest towers.



Each tower had to be constructed from ½ metre masking tape and 10 craft straws and had to take the weight of a wee marble at the top of each tower.