Headteacher's Newsletter Friday 15 May 2020

Dear families,

I hope you all enjoyed the long weekend and that you managed to accomplish a couple of items from your "to do" lists. I was delighted that the weather was better than forecast, which allowed me to continue to enjoy my daily walk in relative sunshine. I am sure you are all still very much enjoying looking out for the painted stones and we now have Number Bugs to look out for too. You'll spot them around the town in a variety of unusual places. Good luck!

We have had another super week in Nursery sharing stories, thoughts and ideas with our families. They have been thinking about inspiring curiosity to promote learning and the children have been looking more closely at the world around them, collecting objects and using great descriptive language to tell others about them; trying some transient art with stones and filling some shapes with leaves and flowers. Not to forget the letter writing, dressing up and some serious gardening. Primary have been learning about Scottish Wildlife, making notes and creating texts, as well as creating habitat collages with a variety of media. They have been learning to stay in character and interview people in Drama lessons. They have learned about the Russian artist Kandinsky, critiquing and re-creating their own versions of his Circles, as well as developing their knowledge about shapes that tile, bird watching and painting pictures of their gardens. In Secondary our Health and Food Technology pupils have been finding out about food supplies and availability, as well as how shopping has changed during lockdown and the great job our local shops are doing to keep the community well supplied. This week they have also been finding out about rationing to coincide with the VE commemorations. Mrs Wilkie continues to be inundated with pictures of home baking, so it is just as well the Scottish Government has said we can exercise as many times as we want in a day!

Due to the concerns of pupils increased internet use, Mrs Rae has put together some Internet Safety information. Secondary pupils will find this in assignments in the Health and Wellbeing folders in Teams. All pupils and parents can also access information via our school website. There are clips to watch, a little reading and prompts to get everyone thinking. You may have come across this information before, but during these unusual times a wee reminder is always useful.

I have attached the new Wellbeing Guides for pupils and parents onto this newsletter, as well as putting them onto our school website. These were created by Perth and Kinross Council and have useful strategies, hints and tips to help us all through these challenging times. I hope you will find these useful.

I have also included information and links below from our librarians, Mrs Sherriffs and Mrs Radford.

Pitlochry High School supports first aid learning in our community. Why not download a First Aid app on your phone which advises on how to deal with everyday first aid situations? Follow the link below on how to do this.

https://www.redcross.org.uk/first-aid/first-aid-apps

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National Book Tokens are running a new competition for children working at home to create and design a book token and then to submit it directly to them. This competition runs from 6th May-28th June. For details and conditions of entry please see the link below.

https://www.nationalbooktokens.com/create-a-national-book-token-for-your-class?utm_source=nbt&utm_medium=email&utm_content=create&utm_campaign=schools-c

Remember the school Twitter account can be found at https://twitter.com/PitlochrySchool and you don't need to sign up to Twitter to see it. Every day, a range of home learning activities and ideas can be found. The school Twitter account also posts photographs taken in our catchment area. If you spot a nice view or interesting sight during your walk, why not send it in to be posted? Photos taken on a mobile phone are perfect. Please mention who you would like to be credited and send your photo to GMacKenzie@pkc.gov.uk .

Thank you for your continued support, encouragement and enthusiasm for learning, as our school community adapts and refines our learning and teaching.

Have a lovely weekend.

Take care.

Elaine Liney