Headteacher's newsletter Friday 18 September 2020

Dear families,

We have had a glorious end to the week weather wise with all our young people, from aged 2-16, enjoying the sunshine outside for socialising, for outdoor learning and of course for PE.

Today we said goodbye to Mr Callum Turnbull, our Physics teacher. He has been at Pitlochry for seven years and has been an integral part of the school – leading learning, helping on school trips, running Games Club both face-to-face and virtually and most recently supporting his colleagues with Teams. He will be sadly missed, but we wish him every success and happiness in this next chapter of his life. We have also made two new appointments to our staff this week with Mrs Susan Boyd joining us in Primary as the new P7 teacher and Mr John Wrightson in Secondary teaching Physics and Maths. We are delighted to welcome them both to the school after the October holidays, both starting on Monday 19 October.

Nursery have been learning outdoors and trying new foods, as well as re-designing their garden area, complete with pond, bug hotel and a variety of pretty shells. Primary 3 have been reading and doing their sight words outdoors, P4 have been communicating ideas, using problem solving strategies and creative skills whilst building Teddy Tepees and P6 have been writing stories based around the concept of flying to school. They took advantage of the dry weather on Monday morning and planned stories up in the playing field, combining this with the Daily Mile, before coming together to share stories with the rest of the class. They've been learning about the tradition of oral story telling as part of their Myths and Legends topic so this lesson tied in beautifully with the theme. They then spent the week planning ideas on paper, typing up on the computers, illustrating and designing a cover as they decided they would like to make books. Every child, without exception, enjoyed writing their stories and felt a sense of achievement after completing the task. Primary 7 are absolutely focused on still life drawing, with amazing concentration and attention to detail and their sunflowers are looking fantastic. Secondary have been electing their Pupil Council for this session as part of their pupil leadership roles, developing their research skills with our librarians and continuing on their Maths Ninjas, as well as planning to defeat the Secondary staff in a penalty shootout at the end of term.

We are very aware of how important reading is for our children at school and at home. All pupils, from P1-S4 have access to books for *reading for pleasure*. Our current stock includes many new books and titles from a variety of authors. Classes in primary have their own "bubble boxes" of books to choose from at any time, as well as the weekly opportunity to talk about their books with Learning Resource Centre staff as they select their next read.

Pupils in secondary can select their book of choice through English periods or at break and lunchtime. All pupils in S3 and S4 are able to have class subject study materials loaned to them in the usual way through the LRC. Each type of lending is planned and carried out in such a way as to ensure that all necessary quarantine and cleaning procedures are followed.

Finally, can I apologise to anyone who phoned us yesterday morning and got the message that we were shut. We are wiping down all our equipment at the start and end of our working day and someone very enthusiastically cleaned the night service button, which set the message as a default. Someone kindly emailed us and this was quickly rectified. We certainly didn't intend to spread alarm.

Have a great weekend.
Take care

Elaine Liney

P3 and P4 learning outdoors

A small selection of sunflowers from P7