Headteacher's newsletter Friday 29 May 2020

Dear families,

I hope you have all had a productive week and managed to balance the challenges of family life, school and work. Some days seem more difficult than others in our house, but the nice weather definitely helps and allows us all to enjoy a walk, cycle or run in the sunshine. It has been liberating to be able to be outdoors more often and the measures announced today should further enhance our everyday lives allowing us to meet up with friends and family. At school, the Senior Management Team are in the process of initial planning for August. We are expecting further information from the Scottish Government and from Perth and Kinross Council over the next few days and weeks. I will make sure that we get information out to you about what that will look like for Pitlochry High School as soon as we can. You can get further information at the moment on www.parentclub.scot and in the attached letter.

In Nursery the children and families continue to impress us all with their resilience and creativity and it's lovely to see their photos and videos. Lots of families have already tried out the 'bubble sock' activity, so definitely something for the weekend if you are looking for an activity. Our youngest learners have been making obstacle courses, baking, gardening, sewing, writing numbers, making daisy chains and learning to read, as well as hunting dragons with a shield and sword! They are enjoying exploring the natural world, learning about caterpillars and swans, paddling in the river and going on nature hunts.

In Primary, we have been taking part in Maths competitions and I am delighted to share with you that P4 have represented the school in the Sumdog National Contest coming 180th out of 5963 UK classes entered. In the Perth and Kinross contest P4 came 7th out of 92 classes entered with 10,195 questions answered. Well done P4! They have also been learning about Healthy Eating and this week they have been inventing their own fruits with some interesting and creative suggestions, for instance a Piki fruit which tastes like rainbow sweets, but if you eat one you will grow a peacock tail and fly, the Blippy berry tastes like chocolate, but makes you run really fast and the Pygmy fruit tastes like a mix of apple and banana, but you will turn into a pygmy goat if you eat it! P3 have been learning all about the senses and have done some tasting experiments and some touch experiments, so far. They have been finding out where our fruit comes from in the world and have made some fabulous French fruit posters, as well as learning about place value, angles and equivalent fractions. Just a quick reminder to return your section of the Primary reports by Monday 1 June.

In Secondary, Mrs Rae has started our P7 Transition Team, which involves all the pupils moving into S1. This is a good way for them to connect with each other, meet their new teachers and ask any questions that they might have. Please make sure that your child has completed the Transition Questionnaire on Teams. Each department will introduce themselves over the next week or so and set a small task or organise a meeting with P7. This is a welcome "virtual" addition to our well established transition process. We also have a leadership opportunity for our new S4, as Peer Supporters for the new S1. If your child is interested in a this, please complete the application form on the S4 Health and Wellbeing Team. We recognise how important the social side and sharing of learning is, and to that end, Mr Turnbull has The Games Club up and running online, meeting for the

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first time this week. They played Magic the Gathering, a card game, and used Teams to chat. As they are online, they have been able to open that to ex-game club members who are now in S5/6 at

Breadalbane. Miss Lamont has also created an Art Department Instagram account, to have a gallery to share pupils' artwork made during lockdown. It's @pitlochry_hs_art or https://www.instagram.com/pitlochry_hs_art/ and I would recommend you have a look, as the thoughtfulness and creativity of our young people is amazing. I have attached a sample below.

Earlier this year, our S2s had the opportunity to take part in Big Data Workshops. These looked at all aspects of internet safety and tested how cyber savvy our young people are. They were due to attend a live theatre production in the summer term, but this has of course been cancelled. Not to be defeated the Big Data team are aiming to provide this virtually. They are looking for some willing helpers from S2 to test out various aspects of this before it goes live next session and will arrange for the tech needed to do this to be delivered. If your son or daughter would like to take part in this please email the school at Pitlochry@pkc.gov.uk marked 'For the Attention of Miss Mitchell.'

There is no doubt that the lockdown, including the closure of businesses and schools, has had a detrimental financial impact on many in our community and throughout the country. It is important that we fully understand the problems faced in each community, what's working well and what we need to improve in order to properly address and mitigate against these issues. To that end, the Child Poverty Action Group have launched two new surveys. We have already put this survey out to our young people during the week in class (I have also attached it below for information) and would be grateful if you could complete parent/carer survey.

- **The first survey is aimed at parents and carers**: https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/3R66RMC seeking to hear experiences of help with food costs, support and resources available for children's learning, help with changes in financial circumstances and support for children's wellbeing.
- **The second survey is aimed at children and young people**: https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/3XDY6MN which seeks to hear experiences of learning at home, support and resources available and help with wellbeing.

Could I also take this opportunity to remind you about last week's Health and Wellbeing survey. Please take the time to complete this if you can, as it allows us to plan how best to support our school community as we move forward.

Well done to all who have found Scotty the Squirrel's treasure, by spotting where he is in each photo and heading to that destination. We love seeing your pictures and the delighted little faces. I wonder where Scotty might go next? Please see Twitter and Parent Council Facebook page for further details.

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As I write this, the sun is shining, and the forecast looks great for the weekend. Enjoy the weekend and your time together as a family, make the best of our new freedoms by going for a walk with family and friends or enjoying a picnic together outdoors. This experience has made me appreciate

just how important some things in life are, such as connections to others, love, family and friendship. I hope we never take these things for granted again.

Take care of yourselves and each other.

Elaine Liney

Eilidh

Robbie

Rowena

Natasha