Headteacher Newsletter Thursday 21 May 2020

Dear families,

I hope you have all had a productive week and are feeling happy with what you have achieved. Now is the time to be kind to ourselves and acknowledge what we have accomplished each week, under very challenging circumstances.

Our young people have been as engaged and motivated as ever in their learning in all areas of the school. In Nursery they have been experimenting with metal work to make a plaque, gone on bug hunts prompted by reading " Superworm" by Julia Donaldson and used non-fiction books to identify minibeasts and find out more about them. Mrs Hay shared videos of her tadpoles and Garden Tiger Moth caterpillars so that our Nursery families can watch them grow and change. They have learned about wax resist painting techniques, celebrated birthdays and someone even had a visit from the Tooth Fairy. In Primary we have been investigating 2D shapes and creating them with straws and playdough, as well as studying the painting "Castle and Sun" by Paul Klee. We have been looking for quadrilaterals in our environment, made the best of the weather by building dens in our back gardens and we have been using what we have learned in Science and Maths to bake and decorate cookies. We have also been learning about Mental Health Awareness Week and thinking about positive things we can say and do to help others and ourselves. In secondary we have been coming together in our online Tutor Time, an important social connection for our young people. They have been taking part in an online FIFA tournament (Xbox and PS4), trying to decipher our staff name emoji challenge and take part in our 7 Day Kindness Challenge, as well as a completing their work in a wide range of different subject areas.

We are very aware of the challenges we currently face and welcome our discussions with our young people and parents, on the phone, by email or when you meet us out for a walk, as these help us to review our practice. To that end, we are currently gathering views from our pupils about wellbeing in these challenging times and as part of that, reviewing our online learning. We would welcome your feedback too, so please follow the link below and let us know your thoughts.

Nursery:

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=oyzTzM4Wj0KVQTctawUZKYdEyNTfNMVJsct34j6nQrZURFVQMFIwTkM2WUlKTDFUV0xSNlFOTUw3Si4u

Primary:

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=oyzTzM4Wj0KVQTctawUZKYdEyNTfNMVJsct34j6nQrZUNzhIUTBJMjdYVjM1QVdTNzBIRERYU0FXNC4u

Secondary

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=oyzTzM4Wj0KVQTctawUZKYdEyNTfNMVJsct34j6nQrZUNjJFQkxIUERONkRRWEJPOUhTRlI3Uk1DSC4u

Please remember to check the website, the Parent Council Facebook and Twitter for information about events that are taking place locally, for instance the Zoom events for children of all ages being held virtually by Pitlochry Baptist Church. If you hear of events that you think would be of interest to others, please let us know and we will share them with our school community.

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Just a wee reminder that we have an Inservice Day on Friday 22 May. This is a good opportunity to switch off from school and enjoy a day together as a family. There are more Number Bugs for you to look for round the town, with a wide range of mathematical challenges. If you really feel you must do some school work, then choose to extend an activity that you have enjoyed or use the time to catch up on a piece of work that has not yet been fully completed.

Have a lovely long weekend.

Take care and stay safe.

Elaine Liney

Orla C, P7

Orla F, P7