Headteacher's Newsletter Thursday 7 May 2020

Dear families,

We have had another sunny week and it has been lovely to meet some of you out and about around the town. It is quite disconcerting to imagine potential wintry showers this weekend and I have my fingers crossed that we avoid the worst of the weather.

It has been another busy learning week with a tower building challenge in Nursery, all very creatively approached with towers that dwarfed their architects! Storytime is proving very successful and I suspect there will be lots of Stickmen created over the next few days. Primary are learning to be together virtually and use their virtual breaktime to re-connect with each other as they continue to develop their online skills. Secondary are using Tutor Time on Teams to take part in quizzes, for instance May the 4th be with you, as they worked out what character they would be, their Chilli plant competition and posting photos of what they are doing. Our connections and social engagement is an essential part of learning.

Working online remotely brings real challenges and the one that I would like to highlight with you today is the intensity. It is exhausting for your children, and for you, to be working at a screen in your own home, feeling under pressure to complete tasks and unable to get away from work / school. Everything feels so immediate and many of us are worried about not doing enough. I would like to reassure you that you are doing more than enough. Please take time to have regular breaks and encourage your child to do so too, as being rested, relaxed and happy makes learning and work time more productive.

This week pupils have been asked to complete a short questionnaire to evaluate their experience of our Virtual School. This can be found on their Year Group's Health and Wellbeing Team page and will only take a few moments to complete. The survey can also be found here:

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=oyzTzM4Wj0KVQTctawUZKWPgX7uwgrVAvujqN-A87yJUMVBYNUJRNkVVQVZaWUpZTlVQR1g1NzVCTy4u

We also have a Primary version, which is a well-being wheel and this can be found on the class Seesaw or Teams site. Your support in encouraging you child to complete this by Wednesday 13th May would be greatly appreciated. We will use the results to do all we can to provide the best experience and support possible during this period of lockdown.

We are living through very challenging and stressful circumstances and this shows itself in a range of ways in our families. The link below shares some information and tips that I thought you might find useful.

https://www.acamh.org/blog/helping-parents-manage-challenging-behaviour-during-the-covid19-lockdown-some-pointers-for-practitioners/?utm_source=Subscriber&utm_campaign=87f3cbd390-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2019_12_02_03_10_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_f59ca1eb20-87f3cbd390-119225905

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We know that supplies of jotters, pencils etc might be running low at home, so we have boxes of essentials for you at the Co-op in Pitlochry, Tilt Stores in Blair Atholl and The Post Office in Logierait. Please help yourself to whatever you need. Just remember to wash your hands. Many thanks to those retailers for hosting our boxes and to Mr Mackenzie for organising and replenishing.

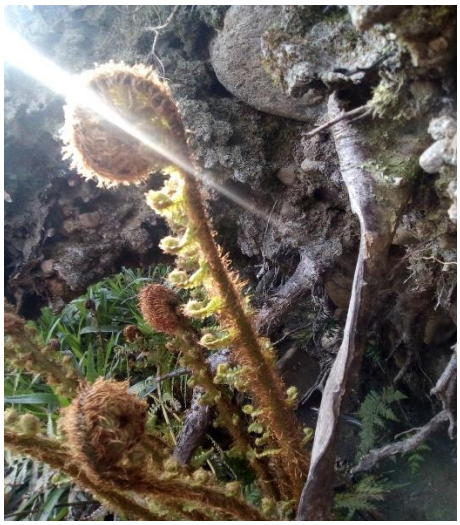
Although we are off school tomorrow, please remember that Friday 8 May 2020 is the 75th anniversary of VE (Victory in Europe) Day, a crucial moment in World War II. The Council will be marking this major anniversary with a two-minute silence, starting at 11.00 am tomorrow and they invite us all to join them in remembering all those who fought, and gave their lives, during the global conflict.

I'd like to say Thank You for everything that you are doing to support each other and the wider community. A good example are the painted stones, as they make people smile. One homeowner came to speak to me as I passed on my walk, just to tell me how it had made her day to have found one at the bottom of her driveway. She wanted me to thank whoever it was. I don't know who painted it, but I feel so proud of everyone involved and privileged to be the Headteacher in such a special community.

Have a lovely long weekend.

Take care.

Elaine Liney



By Easson, winning photo in S2x for the John Muir Award photo competition.