Headteacher Newsletter

Dear All,

As you know, we are currently experiencing a very challenging time, both in our community and indeed the wider world, and all schools will shut to **most** pupils today. We do not have an exact date for re-opening. We continue to follow Perth and Kinross Council and NHS Scotland advice and will make sure that we put any up-dates onto our school website, on the Parent Council Facebook page and on Twitter.

We will be open for our current S4 pupils to complete coursework and we will also be able to support key workers in our community.

Our young people are very aware of the situation and do want to talk about and have questions about COVID 19. Here are some links which could help you to support your child / children if they are asking questions at home about coronavirus and will also help to support children who are worried. We hope you find this useful.

https://www.unicef.org/coronavirus/how-talk-your-child-about-coronavirus-covid-19

https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/coronaviruse/helping-children-cope-with-stress-print.pdf?sfvrsn=f3a063ff_2

https://www.bps.org.uk/news-and-policy/bps-highlights-importance-talking-children-about-coronavirus

As a school community, our aim is that our young people continue to access their learning at home and we have put a range of options in place from online learning to practical tasks and cross-curricular activities. This work is not prescriptive, but we understand the importance of daily routines to family life and would encourage you to work with your child and enjoy the wide variety of learning activities. We have also made sure that all pupils have had the option of borrowing extra reading books from the school library. For older pupils accessing online learning, we have two parental guides on how to use GLOW and Google classrooms on our website. These are useful and will let you see how this online system works. We have made sure that each child has plenty of work and we will continue to up-date work on our website. Please get in contact with us should you have any questions or queries.

In Nursery – children have been given a pack of practical activities that they could do with you at home, as well as there being a list of useful links on our school website and the nursery Facebook page.

In Primary - each child has been given a pack of work to complete at home, the pupils have been reminded of their passwords and these have all be written inside the jotter in their pack. We also have a range of useful links and other varied activities and challenges on the Four Capacities on our school website. There are also lots of community based learning opportunities locally, for instance Pitlochry Festival theatre are also creating activities for children on their website - https://pitlochryfestivaltheatre.com/?gclid=EAIaIQobChMIiN27r6mm6AIVxeFRCh0yxAWAEAAYASAAEgLgBvD_BwE so please visit that for further information and Balhousie Care Home are looking for people to write to their residents, so please get in contact with them for further details.

As per our message on ParentPay, if you don't have your child's pack, please contact the school office on 01796 474666 to arrange to collect it.

In Secondary S1-3 - each department has produced a range of work (online through GLOW and Google classrooms, textbook, practical activities and packs of work) for their pupils from S1-3. Please use the subject specific pages of the school website for further details, as this will be regularly up-dated. If your child forgets their password, please contact the school by email and we can sort that out.

S4 - this situation is particularly challenging for our senior pupils. Yesterday afternoon the Scottish Government and SQA announced that the exam diet has been cancelled this session. All current deadlines for coursework, estimates etc remain in place and our S4 pupils, who still have coursework to complete, will be in school at times over the next two weeks. We have spoken to all our young people and reassured them that we have robust systems in place to. Further information to follow.

We understand that this is an anxious and uncertain time for everyone. As soon as we have further information, we will share that with you. We very much appreciate your continued support and kind wishes at this difficult time and we continue to think of everyone in our community.

Kindest regards

Elaine A Liney

Headteacher

Pitlochry High School