

Education News October 2021

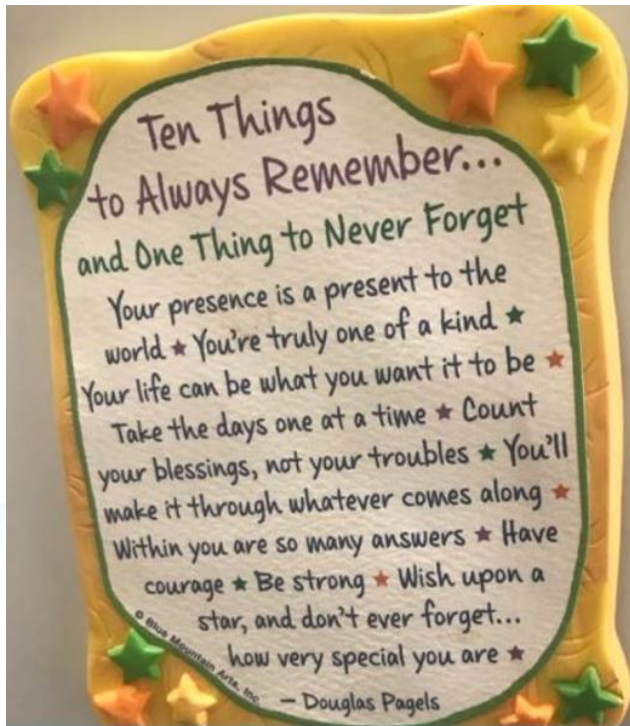
Dear Parents and Carers

This has been a lovely first half term as we have been able to enjoy a full school curriculum with the easing of Covid restrictions. We are still conscious of the safety of our students and staff and we encourage the highest standards of hygiene but its so nice to be back in the community and meeting together.

The highlight this half term has been our Monday swimming sessions. As some of you may know, for years we have tried to arrange a weekly session at a local pool and it is only now under new management at the pool that we have been genuinely welcomed. We have a two hour private session with life guards and the manager has done all she can to make it as accessible to all our students, for example we use the fire exit to facilitate the anxieties of one student and the lifeguards have asked about music to ensure that it is the correct environment for our students. It is wonderful that our students can feel so comfortable and relaxed swimming. Our teachers have all shared some beautiful anecdotes of how our students are accessing swimming, participation is very high and there are no Monday morning blues at PVS!

We have been continuing with our special themed events. This half term we celebrated poetry day. Classes studied different poems through sensory play, rhyming words and a mix of old and modern poems whilst staff were all asked to contribute a poem which was special to them. It was interesting to note that so many featured the need to appreciate the moment and simple pleasures, this is something we always try to do at PVS.

Here are a couple of the Education Team's favourite poems....



Living in the Now by Vanessa Hughes

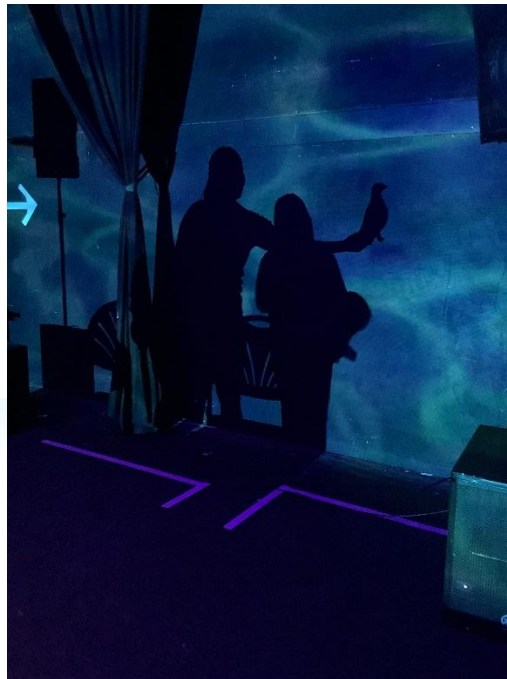
What's gone has made you what you are
So don't fear what's ahead
Put trust in what will be, will be
And choose to live instead
Don't live in the now worrying
What may or may not be
Take this moment in your time
And live it totally
There's no time like the present
Breathe deep and feel alive
Living in the here and now
Will help you rise and thrive
Now is all there ever is
It's the only time that's real
Let the future take its course
And leave the past to heal

We finished the half term with our harvest festival. Every class had a seasonal fruit or vegetable and the challenge was to create a fantastic dish using the fresh produce. There was a fantastic array of dishes which we all enjoyed. There was an additional challenge for staff as we were asked to create a dish with a potato as an ingredient, the competition was so high that Co-op ran out of sweet potatoes! The class champions were Discovery for their soup and we still await the staff result.



This term we also worked on a project with the University of Reading funded by the Arts Council at our local theatre the Mowlem. Students were invited in to experience a multi-sensory exhibition where they were able to make choices on what they wished to see and hear. The researchers leading the project created communication tools using a range of switches and symbols for students to select their chosen environment to explore on

screen. The underwater option was a favourite. It was a lovely collaborative project led at PVS by Suzie and Sam (SaLT) and one we hope to repeat again in the future.



This term Nicola attended training for the SoSAFE! Project on social safety. This is a program we will be developing next half term with a launch in Jan 2022 but you as families will be key players in the work we do. It is a fantastic project which we hope will benefit all our young people in developing rules for keeping safe.

Enjoy half term and we look forward to the next half term.

Kind regards

Suzie and Nicola

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