



Pilrig Park School

To be the best we can be



October 2022

A very warm welcome to our first newsletter of this session. It has been a busy first term at Pilrig Park School. Our new S1 pupils are settling in really well and we have also welcomed new teachers and PSAs to our school community.

This newsletter will give you a wee flavour of some of the work, opportunities and events which our pupils, staff and parents/carers have had the chance to take part in. We also try to keep our Twitter page up-to-date and it would be great if you were able to follow us and help us achieve over 700 followers!

We have a newly formed Pupil Council who meet with me every Wednesday during our Pupil Voice period. One of our tasks this term has been to look at our school values. The pupils have come up with eight new values for the school. Our next task was to consult with pupils and staff to see what they think of these values. We have included the results for you to see. After the October break the pupils will be writing to all parents/carers to find out what they think!

It has been great to be welcoming parents/carers and partner services back into the school. Miss McLarty, Mr Mackay and Mrs Ferguson have been very busy organising Welcome Back Young Person's Planning Meetings for all our pupils. The school corridors have been filled with music as our friends from Pipe & Drums and Music Therapy are back in the school. Mr Mackay held a Senior Phase Information Evening for parents/carers at the end of August and just this week our new Home Economics teacher Ms Vennelle worked with our Senior Phase Hospitality Class to host a show case event for their parents/carers. We look forward to many more events in the coming months.

And of course there was our debut on BBC 2 on Wednesday 12th October at 8.00pm with none other than Dame Mary Berry herself! If you haven't watched it yet, I would encourage you to do so but please have tissues at the ready! Our pupils were just absolute STARS! I must say a huge thanks to the eight pupils who were involved, to Lesley and Miss Sawyer for all their work with our school gardening projects, and to everyone at the Royal Botanic Gardens – thank you for choosing Pilrig Park School – we love working with you.

All of the staff and myself wish our pupils and their families a very relaxing and enjoyable October holiday. Don't forget the change to the return date – it is now Wednesday 26th October.

Thanks as ever for your ongoing support.

Take care.

Ms Ann M O'Hagan

Head Teacher

Pilrig Park School Newsletter



October 2022

Pilrig Park School Values

-Be the best that you can be-



YES



NO



Be kind

80

2



Be gentle

78

4



Be honest

79

3



Be respectful

80

2



Be ready to learn

80

2



Be safe

80

2



Be happy

79

3



Be helpful

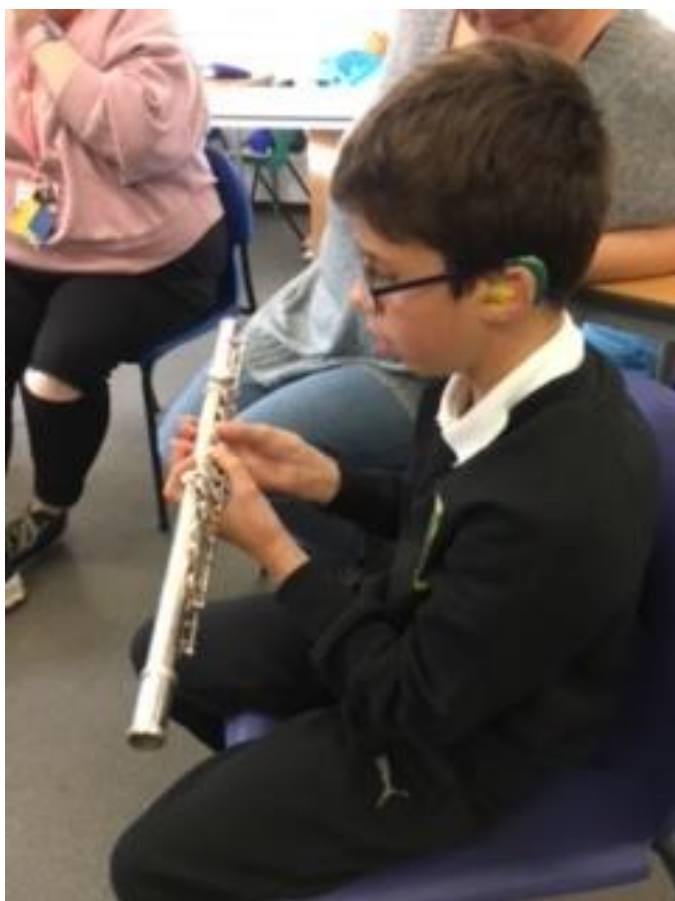
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Red Class

Red class have been enjoying weekly music Sessions with Julia from Youth Music Initiative.

She is always impressed with the class's Engagement and musical abilities.



Orange Class

For JASS, Orange class have been exploring the world around them and their place in it. Last week we went on a scavenger hunt around the school grounds, we found so many things!



A very special musical guest visited Orange class this week. We all played the ukulele, sang some songs and had a look of fun with the parachute!

We can't wait till Julia returns next week.



Blue Class

The Blue Group have had a fantastic first term in S3 at Pilrig Park. In Science we have been learning about Living and Non Living things. We learned a trick to know if It is Living? Remember MRS GREN! Ask yourself these questions - Does it: Move? Respire? Sensitive to its environment? Grow? Reproduce? Excrete? need Nutrients? We used our ipads to photograph living and non living things in our playground/garden area and in our classroom. We have also learned that all living things have a Life Cycle. We have looked at the Life Cycles of a Butterfly, Frog and Hen and have been able to sequence and label these correctly. We have also enjoyed using Google as a Search Engine to find out about an animal of our choice such as Cat, Dog, Fish, Snake etc. We also learned about The Big Bang Theory which is what many Scientists believe about how the world was created.

In RME so far we have learned about Christianity including The Creation Story and the Story of Noah's Ark. We have had an introduction to Buddhism and learned about the story of Buddha and The Four Noble Truths. We have had an introduction to Judaism and heard their Creation Story. We have learned that each religion has a different place of Worship. We learned that Christians visit Churches or Cathedrals, Jewish people visit Synagogues, Buddhists visit a Vihara also referred to as a Temple, and Muslims visit a Mosque. We will be learning about all World Religions during the course of the year.

In Maths we have been focussing on Money and Time. We are learning to pay for items and select the correct coins and notes. We have also been learning to give change and this is about subtraction or finding the difference between the cost of the item and the money we pay and what change to expect. We are recognising coins and notes and understand that money is an exchange. In Time we have been learning about analogue and digital time.

In Health and Wellbeing we have been learning about puberty and changes that happen to boys and girls. The changes are physical and hormonal/emotional. We have been using resources from Living and Growing, RSHP and BBC Sex and Relationship Education. We have also been learning about different families and about friendships and about how to be a good friend. We are learning to share and take turns and to listen and connect with each other. We have also been learning about our Mental Health, Internet Safety and Growth Mindset.

In Pupil Voice we have been learning about our Rights. We have learned that we have the Right to be heard and express our opinions through Pupil Voice. We have learned about non-discrimination and Black History Month. We know we have the right to an Education, to play and to participate and be included in groups. We know our teachers and PSAs and all staff at school are Duty Bearers and we are Rights Holders. We are working towards our Bronze Award.

For JASS we have been researching our own interests on Significant people we are interested in for example famous Footballers for My Interests. We have also been selecting songs and games of our choice. For Me and My World we are learning about our Rights and are part of a Steering Group on RRSA and Pupil Voice. We have also used our Ipads to create games using the apps Minecraft and SCRATCH.

In English we have been reading and writing. Currently we are using Research Maps to take notes on significant people we have chosen to research. We have also been researching an animal of choice and taking notes using a mindmap. We share our news. We have discussions about various topics and are learning to listen to and appreciate different points of view. We discuss stories, films and books and talk about characters and the message in the book or film. We recently enjoyed watching The Book Thief and linked this to work in Rights as it is a film about Jewish and Communist people being discriminated against in Germany during the Holocaust of World War II.

Miss Kirkwood

Purple Class

This term the purple class have been working on our Personal Development Programme Bronze Award from ASDAN.

One of the modules we have been looking at is “Our Environment”. There are lots of activities for us to do including making a display about an endangered animal, we chose Red Squirrels, and maintaining an out door space.

We are really enjoying our project so far!



Barra Class

Barra have had a great start to the year with lots of hands-on practical experiences to get them ready for leaving school.

The ASDAN Foodwise course has involved trying out different baking techniques and we have made blackberry muffins (using the school's blackberries), cheesy biscuits (in the shapes we were learning about in Maths) and flatbread pizzas.



Getting ready for the world of work has taken us to the salon where in the last few weeks we have welcomed our first, very satisfied customers.



We have also been working very hard collecting fruit peelings from other classes in order to improve the soil in the school grounds. This is part of our Eco school work with our friends in Red group.

A big thank you goes to our P.S.A.s Niki and Leanne. We could not have managed without you! We are all ready for our October break and looking forward to being together in the second half of the term.

Home Economics

In Home Economics this term, we have been learning new skills and about different parts of the cooker. This week we are making colourful biscuits for Diwali, the week after the October holidays will be Halloween Biscuits and the following week will be Apple Crumble.



This week we had our 1st event with the hospitality classes, which saw all senior classes invited for a drink and treat. The young people did a **FANTASTIC JOB**.

It was great seeing how some changed from being terrified and stuck on the spot to walking up to others and serving them.



Music Department

We have been having fun and learning how to play with a variety of instruments in music!

We have been singing using the microphones, we have been using Figurenotes to learn how to play tunes on the piano, ukulele and guitars and we have been exploring weird and wonderful instruments such as HAPI drum, singing bowls, ocean drums and many more!

Our music technology group is learning how to record audio and import it on GarageBand.

Watch this space, more fun stuff to follow!! 😊



DYW | Developing the Young Workforce

- **Army STEAM ACTIVITIES in school**
- **DYW Roadshow trip**
- **College skills – Edinburgh college**
- **Kimton Visit – Hospitality**
- **Airport- STEAM CHALLENGE**
- **Drones in construction**
- **Hair and beauty trip – Edinburgh college**



Mrs Ali & Ms Sawyer

Art Department

The Blue class have been looking at the artist, Picasso and his very unusual portraits.

We made our own portraits and experimented with the placing the eyes at funny angles, the nose in an odd place and so on...



We think you'll agree, the Blue Class are budding Picasso artists now!

Rights Respecting School Awards

We have had a very successful term working with the Blue and Clyde Groups who are the Steering Group for Rights Respecting School Awards led by Miss Kirkwood and Ms Karefylakis. We have been working hard towards achieving our Bronze Award. We have formed a Steering Group, given a short Assembly to the school on what RRSA is and talked about the ABCDE of Rights and why our Rights are important. We have written to parents/carers telling them about our journey towards being a Rights Respecting School and giving them information about what the RRSA is. We have worked on at least one Article every week during our Pupil Voice period. This is tweeted under Pilrig Park School to parents/carers. We also have the powerpoints for all the Rights we have worked on in the RRSA section of our school website. We send this weekly to all staff so they can talk about the Right of the Week during Tutor Time or the Pupil Voice period.

For the last two weeks we have been working hard on Article 2: Non-discrimination and celebrating Black History Month which is October in the UK. We listened to the story of Rosa Parks. We have worked on Article 28: Right to an Education. Even though Unicef is global we learned that not all children in all countries have this right met and in particular in some parts of the world boys education is prioritised over girls and some girls don't get to go to school as they need to help the family carry water, prepare meals, wash clothes etc. We were very sad about this and felt it was unfair. Pupils and staff were given questionnaires to fill out regarding how they feel about their rights and if they felt heard at school. Ms Karefylakis inputted the data and analysed this and we discussed the findings with our Steering Group. Overall our young people did feel heard but there is still work to be done around pupils feeling they can influence decisions made in the school. Ms Karefylakis and Miss Kirkwood will be meeting with Ms O'Hagan to look at the data so we can fill in the RAG for the Silver Award which has to be completed in order to achieve Bronze. It is a very exciting journey and one we all feel passionate about. We will be working closely with the Pupil Council Group. They are currently trying to address the quality and quantity of school dinners and are working hard to ensure Pilrig Park School pupils can enjoy a secondary school menu. This is in fact the Article of this week. Article 24 says: Every child has the right to the best possible health. Governments must provide good quality healthcare, clean water, nutritious food, and a clean environment and education on health and well-being so that children can stay healthy. Richer countries must help poorer countries achieve this. We have also worked on Article 12 Respect for the Views of the Child and the Right to be heard. This is at the heart of all our Pupil Voice groups and all that we do here at Pilrig Park School. We have worked on Article 15 Freedom of Association which is about children's rights to meet with other children and be part of a group. We had a discussion about Covid and how difficult it was not to be able to see each other because the rule of safety to keep us safe from the virus had to overrule our need to meet each other. We are very happy about the fact that we can meet up with friends from all parts of the school in our playground as we are no longer in bubbles. We have also spoken about our hope to get lunch clubs back up and running now that we are allowed to mix with pupils from across the school.

Senior Groups Tweed, Clyde and Forth are working on SQA Awards with Miss Kirkwood to improve their wellbeing. They have been doing some brilliant work on the five steps to mental health. The Purple Group are also working on promoting health and we are also looking at mental health and identifying what is good for our mental health. The five steps are: Taking Notice (switch off your phone/ipad), Connect (with friends, family, carers, support workers, teachers, PSAs etc), Give (helping others, younger people in the playground, doing something nice for a friend, thanking someone etc), Keep Learning (follow your passions and interests) and Be Active (playing football, running around, dancing our socks off, bikeability, Spartans etc).

Blue and Clyde Groups, Miss Kirkwood and Ms Karefylakis

Leavers Group

The Leavers Planning group have been planning lots of ideas for their last year of school.

They have come up with wonderful suggestions including a summer BBQ, a staff versus leavers football match and 'Leavers 23' hoodies.

In addition, the group have been planning a date for their Leavers Ball and Leavers Lunch – very important events in the calendar!

To date, the order for the hoodies has just been accepted and we are very grateful to the Parents Council for covering the cost of these items.

Mrs Ferguson

College Links

As always, we have several pupils attending Edinburgh College.



Pilrig Park on TV!

How good was our slot on BBC2 with Mary Berry??!

A huge thanks to everyone who supported us taking part in this opportunity – to the pupils for being such stars – and to Lesley and Ms Sawyer for forming the links with the Botantics that meant they chose us out of all the schools they work with.

A lovely way to end the term!



Pilrig Park School

Parent Council

would like to meet you!



Would you like to meet other parents and carers?

All parents and carers are invited to attend the next Pilrig Park
School Parent Council Meeting on

Wednesday 26th October 2022 at 6pm

The meeting will take place on Microsoft Teams. A Teams invite will be sent out
to all parents & carers, in advance of the meeting.