



Pilrig Park School

To be the best we can be



December 2022

BREAKING NEWS!

Ms O'Hagan is delighted to announce that Pilrig Park School has completed the first stage of the Rights Respecting School Award. We have achieved our Bronze certificate which demonstrates that we are Rights Committed!

Read more inside from Miss Kirkwood and Ms Karefylakis.



Well done to Blue and Clyde Classes on all their work on this. Next stage Silver award!

On behalf of all the staff, I would like to wish our pupils and their families a very peaceful and relaxing holiday. It certainly has been a busy time here in the school over the past couple of months. I hope you get a flavour of some of our achievements through this bumper Christmas newsletter which Mr McPhillips has worked very hard to put together. For your Pilrig Park School calendars (very kindly donated by the Parent Council) please find some key dates:

- Thursday 5th January – pupils resume
- Thursday 19th January – whole-school outing to the pantomime
- Thursday 19th January 4.00 – 6.00pm – S1 – S6 Parents Night
- Wednesday 8th February – Valentine's Café
- 13th – 17th February – holiday
- Wednesday 29th March – Easter Café
- Friday 31st March – end of term

We are all looking forward to another exciting year here at Pilrig Park School, filled with opportunities for all, and events for families to come in to school and be part of.

Thanks as ever for all your support, kind wishes and encouragement.

All the very best for 2023.

Ms Ann M O'Hagan
Head Teacher



Red Class

Red Class enjoyed some outdoor learning sessions in November with Margon from Green Team who works with local schools. The highlight of the 4 sessions was the final day sitting around the campfire singing and listening to stories.



Our eco endeavours continued this term as we collect the recycling bins from around school every Wednesday and take the trip to the school recycling bins to sort it correctly. This important task helps the class work towards the 'Me and My World' section of their current JASS Award level.



Orange Class

Our highlight from last term was performing at assembly.



We enjoyed having some of our parents and carers in for the Winter Festival.



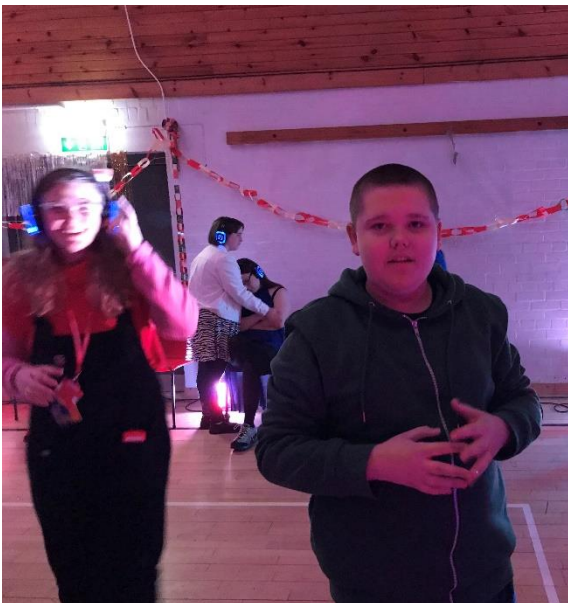
Green Class

Green Class have been learning how we can look after our school through our JASS Award on a Wednesday afternoon. We worked in pairs to clean our playground using the litter pickers.

For our Winter topic, we made a giant snowman called Frosty. Green Class brought him to life with paper mache, paint and went for a walk outside to find things to use for his buttons. We worked as a team to complete the many stages 😊 We enjoyed listening to “Frosty the Snowman” whilst we worked.



We all had a fantastic time at the Christmas disco.



Blue Class

The Blue Group really enjoyed working with Park Rangers. The highlights were definitely getting a shot on the tractors, washing them using the hose, leaf blowing and collecting leaves. We also really enjoyed feeding the birds. We learned that seed or brown whole meal bread is much better than white bread which they can't digest. We climbed up part of the hill and learned about the volcano and ice age and how it shaped the land. Very interesting.



Purple Class

This session Purple class have been doing gardening on a Wednesday afternoon as part of our Personal Development Programme.

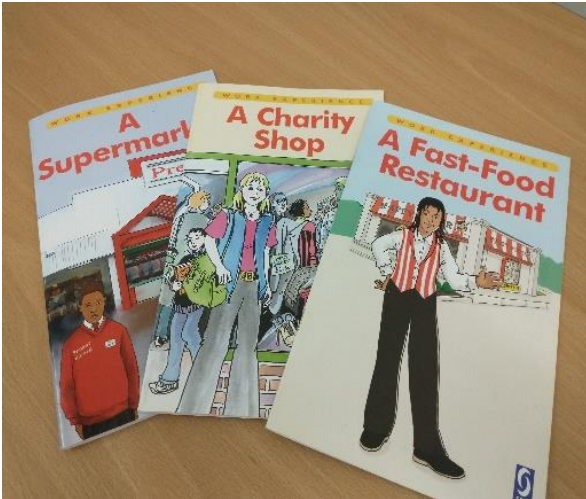
We have been lucky enough to be invited to the Botanical Gardens twice so far! The first time we went we were planting trees for the Queens Green Canopy, a memorial project for Queen Elizabeth II. The second time we went we visited the Gardeners Cottage and did some Christmas crafts, had some delicious spiced apple juice and had a tour of the garden where we will be planting in the Spring.



Barra Class

Barra have been busy this half-term.

In preparation for leaving school and as part of the S.Q.A. National 1 unit: Using Information Texts, we have been reading about work experience in a Fast-Food restaurant, a Charity Shop and in a Supermarket. After Christmas we hope to get out and about visiting the places mentioned in the books.



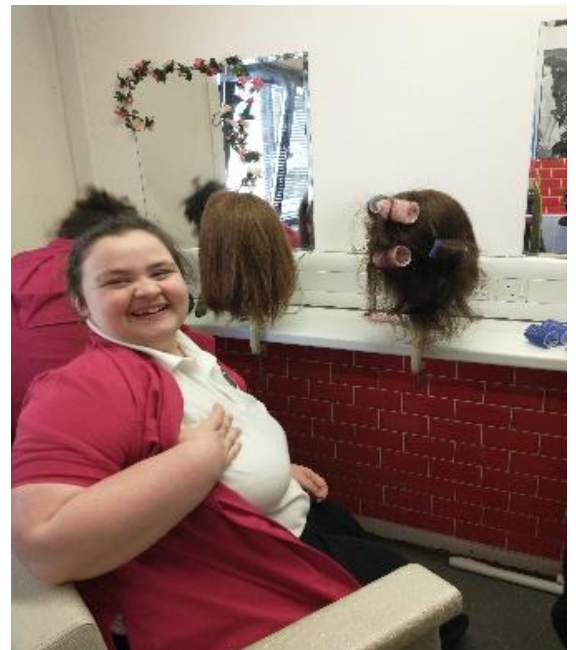
We continue to work on the S.Q.A unit: Interacting in the Workplace and have been very busy in the Salon as well as brushing up on domestic chores like hanging out the washing.



Speech and Language therapists have been to visit us, and we have really enjoyed working our way through their Signalong videos linked below. Something to practice in the Christmas holidays perhaps!

<https://vimeo.com/channels/1635003/videos>

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Barra are looking forward to their break and wish you all a happy Festive period!

Enjoy the festivities everyone!



Clyde, Forth & Tweed

Clyde



The Clyde group has been working on their ASDAN Personal Development Programme and for their latest challenge they chose to invite their Forth friends in our classroom to enjoy a Morning Social Gathering. Clyde welcomed our friends and provided refreshments and treats. Both classes enjoyed socializing! (Word on the street is they want to make this a habit 😊)

Forth & Tweed

Pupils from Forth and Tweed classes have been busy making plans for when they will leave us in the summer.



During Pupil Voice time we have been preparing a Leavers' Book and already planning many celebrations, like the Leavers' Assembly and, of course, the Leavers' Ball which we are all really looking forward to.



Pupil Council Page

The Pupil Council have been particularly busy this year, working hard to improve the day-to-day experiences for ALL the pupils in the school.

An important job that the Pupil Council have carried out this year was a whole school survey about school dinners. We have received 4 lovely new dinner tables in colours chosen by the Pupil Council and there are more on the way.

Food Survey

1. Do you take a school lunch?

Yes No Sometimes

2. Do you like school lunches?

Yes No Sometimes

3. Are the portions big enough?

Yes No

4. Do you like the desserts?

Yes No Sometimes

5. What do you think of the vegetarian food?

Good bad

What food do you like?

Please circle

Pizza Chips Soup Macaroni

Sausages Burgers Cake Chicken

Sandwiches Pasta Mexican Food

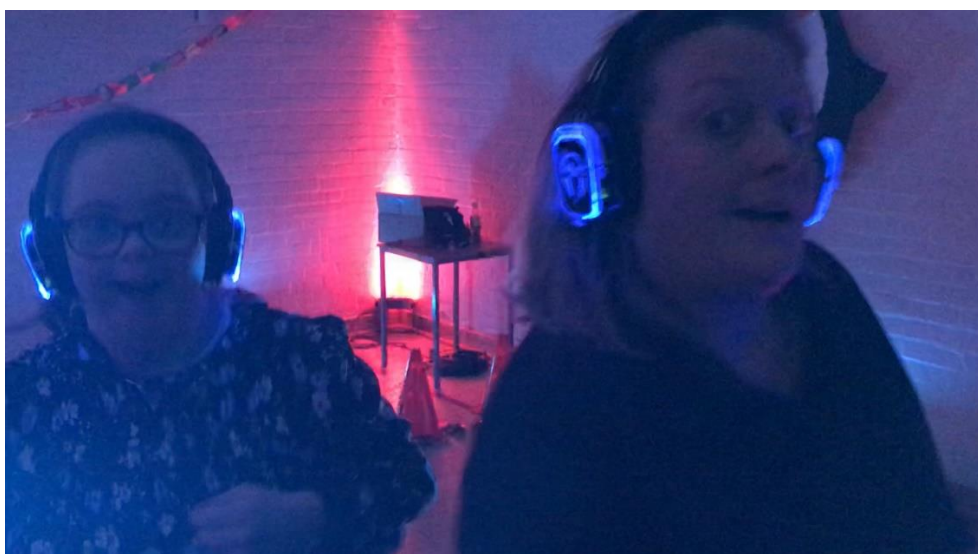
Tuna Pasta Salad Custard Pie

Vegetarian Nuggets Curry Lasagne

7. What other food do you like?



Most of the Pupil Council's time recently was spent planning the **Christmas Disco**, our first party together since before Covid. It was a great success, which these photos hopefully show.



And the prize for the best disco dancer went toMaciej!!



Rights Respecting School Awards

Rights Respecting School Award Update

Pilrig Park Achieves the BRONZE AWARD!

Pilrig Park is delighted to inform the parents and carers of our learners that the UNICEF Rights Respecting School Award on the BRONZE level has been achieved!

The Rights Respecting School Award by UNICEF uses the United Nations on the Rights of the Child as a guide to ensure that schools in the UK create safe and inspiring places to learn, where children are respected, their talents are nurtured, and they can thrive. By achieving the Bronze Award, Pilrig Park School has been recognized as being Rights Committed.

The Bronze journey began in August 2022, led by Miss Anna Kirkwood (Blue Group) and Ms. Virginia Karefylakis (Clyde Group). Since then, the steering groups have done exceptional work regarding raising awareness about the Children's Rights, their meaning and application both within and out of the school environment. Following the results from the UNICEF Bronze questionnaire, that was distributed both to staff and learners, and the submission of the Bronze plan Pilrig Park School earned the Bronze Award.

The journey continues aiming for the Silver Award: Rights Aware for 2023!

Ms. Kirkwood and Ms. Karefylakis would like to thank their learners for their effort and hard work, and share their pride about their drive and passion, and fiery conversations held during Pupil Voice!



Look what Purple Class got up to on the 30th November!

Stunning blossom will honour Queen Elizabeth in Edinburgh

Heritage and horticulture through the generations are the key partners in marking National Tree Week today (November 30). Pupil gardeners from Pilrig Park School are contributing to the Queen's Green Canopy initiative by helping the experts plant an avenue of cherry trees at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh (RBGE).

Commemorating Queen Elizabeth's 70 years as sovereign and underscoring the importance of school gardening projects, the planting was presided over by the research institute's Regius Keeper Simon Milne MBE, who was appointed to RBGE by the late Queen in 2014.

The creation of an avenue of attractive cherry trees during the Platinum Jubilee was instigated by RBGE's Arboriculture Supervisor William Hinchliffe. He explained: "The species of flowering cherry we have selected is *Prunus x yedoensis*, the Yoshino cherry, which – with slightly fragrant white or pink flowers - is not only one of the most beautiful Japanese cherries but also one of the most reliably floriferous in Edinburgh."

Simon Milne noted: "When the decision was made to undertake a series of plantings across all four of our Gardens during the jubilee year, we did not foresee that this avenue would become our memorial to the Queen.

"What we can clearly predict is that it will become an amazing focus of attention when the trees flower each spring. Already, a single *Prunus x yedoensis*, planted near the East Gate in 1938, is a real crowd puller. An avenue of 10 in the heart of the Garden cannot fail to attract attention and direct visitors towards the conservation plantings from Japan, highlighting our international plant science and conservation horticulture partnerships.



"It is entirely appropriate we should be joined in this special undertaking by young gardeners from Pilrig Park School whose commitment to gardening and environmental awareness is to be commended. In the engagement of future generations with plants, we must trust."

Miss Sawyer, ASN teacher at Pilrig Park School noted: "Over the years we, staff and learners, have developed a strong relationship with the staff at the Royal Botanical Garden Edinburgh. Our aim is to provide our learners with as many valuable learning experiences as possible and gardening at the Botanics has played an important role in this. The learners get to experience the joy of being out in nature, learning about the seasons, plants and wildlife, and of course the seed to table project where we get to eat what we have grown. When we are not at the Botanics we are developing our gardening skills in our school garden and we recently began offering a gardening qualification to some of our senior pupils."

Sakura is the Japanese word for cherry blossom and the new avenue has been named Sakura Brae. The path is only the third in the Garden to receive a name, the other two being named Stove Brae and Gallery Brae.

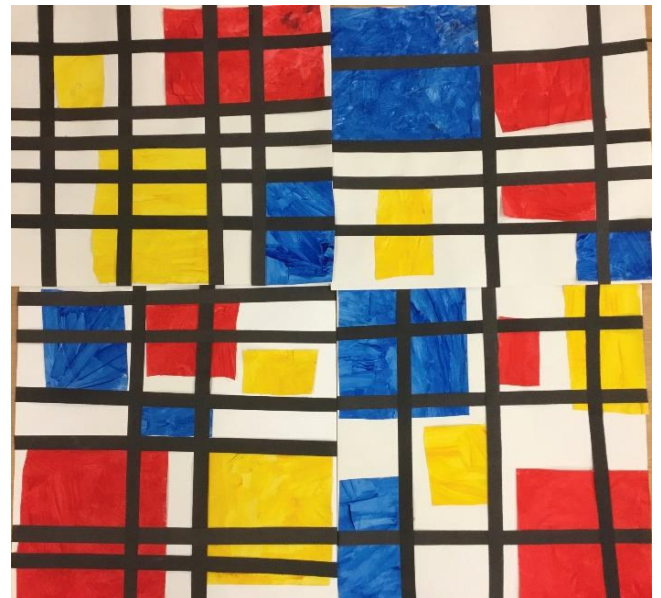
Initially due to end in December – at the completion of the Platinum Jubilee year - the Queen's Green Canopy initiative has been rescheduled to conclude in March, providing further opportunities for other individuals and organisations to honour Her Majesty by continuing through the recognised UK tree planting season from October to March.



The Art Room

The art room has been busy this term with various projects on the go!

In the Broad and General Classes, the focus has been on colour. Green class have been experimenting with winter colours and different techniques; Red class created their name using coloured mosaic squares; Blue class are learning more about mixing colours and did a painting of trees from the ground looking up – a worm’s eye view; and Orange class learnt about the artist Mondrian and made their own Mondrian-style piece of art using paper strips and painted shapes.



The Senior classes have been working hard towards their SQA units and courses. Purple class have been using collage techniques, photography, and paint to create artwork; Barra class made a range of puppets including wooden spoon and sock puppets ahead of their in-house puppet show and finally the National 3 class have produced their Research sheets on their chosen topic and have almost finished their Development of Ideas for their final piece of artwork.



English

The Senior Phase has been working on the "Wonder" movie.

The learners have found the resource to be insightful and challenging!



Maths

The Senior Phase have been very busy this year completing SQA courses.

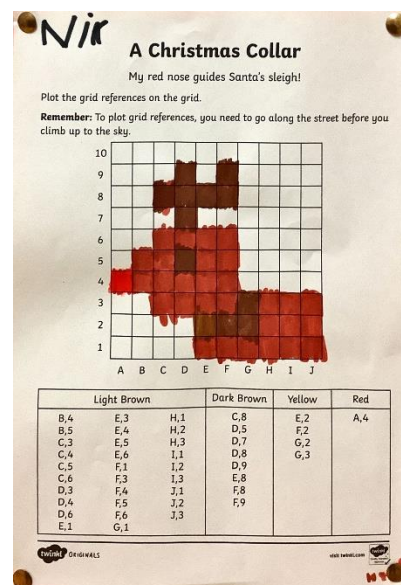
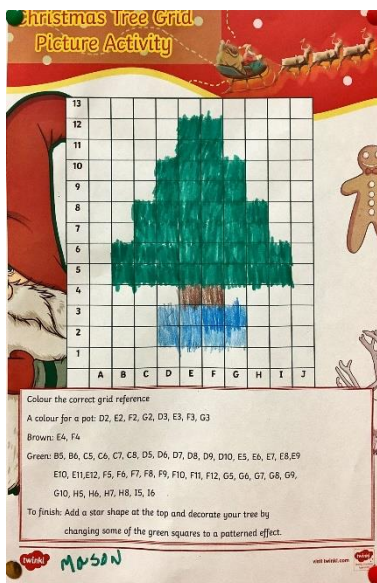
Most of the pupils in Clyde and Forth have now completed National 1 Number Skills and are on track to complete National 2 Lifeskills Mathematics by the summer. We have worked very hard and ALL pupils have done their best.

The Tweed class are trying to complete some National 3 Lifeskills Mathematics units and have mostly passed all the assessments so far this year.

The Purple class are on track to complete all units at National 1 level and a couple at National 2.

Well done everyone.

Recently we have been using our skills to make Christmas pictures.



P.E.

Pupils participating in PE have been developing and improving skills and techniques through practice and play in following activities: Gymnastics, Tennis, Volleyball.

In cooperation with Active Schools we had coaches coming to do Karate, Cycling and Dance sessions.

Our football team continued to take part in football training at Spartans Football Club and all pupils have worked very hard to excel their skills.

Clyde class took part in Boccia Festival along with 8 other schools.



Christmas Curling Festival



Developing the Young Workforce

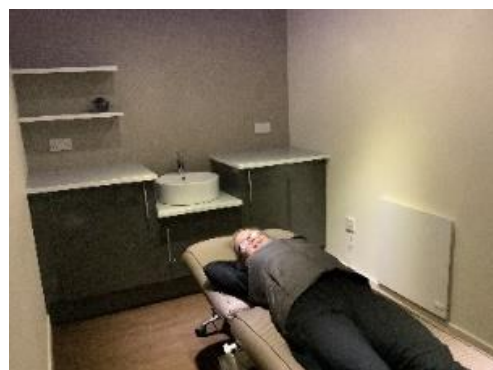


Some amazing trips for our senior classes to learn about different career opportunities after leaving school.

DYW Roadshow careers fair



Edinburgh College – Visiting the Hair and Beauty Department



Edinburgh college Skills Event



Edinburgh Airport – STEAM Activities



Kimpton Hotel – Hospitality visit



ASDAN Awards

Animal Care

A new course being offered this year in school is the ASDAN Award for Animal Care. The pupils have been thoroughly enjoying the course so far. We have been learning about the 6 different types of animals that exist – Mammals, Birds, Fish, Reptiles, Amphibians and Insects(Invertibrates).

Recently we have been looking at caring for pets. This has included a whole school survey to find out the most common type of pet. Last week we had a short trip to Dofos on Leith Walk to learn about what costs are involved in keeping a pet. In January we will go to Pets At Home to see some animals and find out more.

Don't worry Miss O'Hagan. No plans for a school hamster.....yet!!



Drama

The Drama group has been working on "The Little Star" short play! The group will perform during the final assembly of the year.

They have enjoyed collaborating with each other, acting out their roles and helping each other!



Pilrig Park Partnerships

We are very fortunate to have such fantastic Partnerships working with us in Pilrig Park School.

Earlier in this Newsletter you'll have read about when the Royal Botanic Gardens invited a group of our gardeners to contribute to the Queen's Green Canopy initiative. All the pupils and staff had a great time.



Margon from The Green Team has been working with our Broad and General classes in the school garden planting daffodils, looking for bugs and worms, relaxing in the hammock and enjoying marshmallows around the firepit. We look forward to Margon returning to give us more outdoor fun in the Spring!



The Blue Group have had some sessions with Lily at Holyrood Park Rangers, learning about conservation and the local wildlife in the park. The group endured during some very wet weather but smiled the whole time! Well done Blue Class!



Music Therapy has started again this term as well as drum and chanter tuition. Julia from Youth Music Initiative kindly gave us a block of sessions. She brought in her saxophone which created a lot of interest among pupils! In addition, Leah from Drake Music has just started working alongside the music department and is supporting the senior choice group.

We welcomed the return of Inspire Drama to school, just very recently. Fiona has been working with a group once a week, focussing on self-esteem and confidence.



Inspire Drama

Cutting Edge Theatre was formed in 1995 by Suzanne Lofthus with the aim of making a difference in people's lives through transformational theatre. At the heart of our work is a desire to make a positive change in society, to leave a creative legacy and to enable those we connect with to access, create and participate in the creative industries.

INSPIRE Drama is Cutting Edge Theatre's drama education strand, delivering classes and workshops to groups who identify as Disabled, Learning Disabled and/or Autistic. We take this work into schools, day & social services and run our own drama groups for young people and adults. These include our informal Drop-In Drama classes for kids and adults, Online Drama classes, Youth Theatre for high school students and Young Company for emerging artists aged 18-25 years old.

In our work around disability, we have adopted a cohesive strategy with a clear journey into professional opportunities within the Theatre Sector.

With Pilrig Park School, we are not only working with groups to develop their drama and performance experience, but we are in the process helping to develop confidence, self-esteem and communication skills.

We love seeing smiles, hearing communal laughter and watching those we have mentored go on to achieve so much more.



Cutting Edge Theatre

Drop-In Drama Classes for Kids!

For those aged 8 to 12 who identify as Disabled, Learning Disabled and/or Autistic

Starting 6th May 2022

Every Friday, 2.15pm-3.15pm (1 hour)

GDS Diadem, 537-539 Gorgie Road, Edinburgh, EH14 1TA

Contact us now to find out more!

inspire@cuttingedgetheatreproductions.co.uk
0131-652-0968
www.cuttingedgetheatre.co.uk

Sessions are FREE!

Cutting Edge Theatre Ltd
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CREATIVES LAND SCOT

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Cutting Edge Theatre

FREE CLASSES

Inspire Youth Theatre

For those aged 13 to 17 who identify as Disabled, Learning Disabled and/or Autistic

Starting September 2022

Every Tuesday Evening, 6.30pm-8.30pm (2 hours)

Diadem, 537-539 Gorgie Road, Edinburgh, EH14 1TA

Contact us now to find out more!

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Parental Engagement

The school is focussing on Parental Engagement this session and recently sent out a questionnaire to all parents and carers to gauge how we can engage families in the life and work of the school, in a meaningful way. We would greatly appreciate your time to complete and return the questionnaire to school. Thank you to all those that have already completed and returned them.



Family Engagement Questionnaire

December 2022

1. How often do you currently meet with other parents and carers at Pilrig Park School?

Daily Weekly Monthly Seasonally Yearly Never

2. How involved have you been in social aspects of the school in the past? For example, Winter Festival Event or School Show.

Extremely involved Somewhat involved Neutral
Somewhat not involved Extremely not involved

3. Would you like to be involved in / attend social aspects of the school in the future?

Yes No Maybe

4. Would you like to get to know other parents and carers of young people at Pilrig Park School?

Yes No Maybe

5. Would your young person benefit from socialising with his/her school peers out of school hours?

Yes No Maybe

6. Do you think that your young person and your family would like to attend a social event organised by school, out with school hours?

Yes No Maybe

7. Do family circumstances such as transport, English as an additional language or childcare, impact on you engaging with school as fully as you would like to?

Yes No

8. If the answer is 'yes' to the question above, can you give details?

9. Can you give any suggestions on how the school can engage families to become involved in the school community?

10. Would you like to be part of a group of staff and parent/carers that looks at Family Engagement within Pilrig Park School?

Yes No Maybe

Thank you for your time!



We have held a few Parental Engagement Events so far this term which have been very successful.

The **BGE and Senior Home Economics Showcase Events** brought several parents and carers to see the pupils show off their hospitality skills. Both groups of pupils had baked the biscuits in advance then served refreshments to the delight of their 'customers'. Definitely the best café in Leith!



Winter Festival Event

Over the past 2 weeks we have held our very first **Winter Festival Events**.

Pupils and their parents and carers enjoyed an afternoon of craft activities, musical entertainment and festive refreshments. Parents and carers had the opportunity to meet their child's class whilst have fun making crafts. They also enjoyed meeting other parents and carers over a cup of coffee and a mince pie!

There were some excellent musical performances by our pupils, led by Ms Vogiatzaki our Music teacher.



Pilrig Park School Festivision 2022

On Monday the 19th of December we held our third Festivision event, where all classes create a Christmasy video and we all score the videos, like Eurovision. These are always really popular with the pupils and the videos created are fun and really creative. Well done to all pupils and especially to the staff for their ever improving editing skills.

And the winner is(drum roll)..... **Red Class**



FESTIVISION 22	
RED	9 8 9 8 8 1 6 7 7 (63)
ORANGE	7 9 8 7 8 3 4 5 5 9 (57)
GREEN	4 5 5 9 4 3 3 1 5 (39)
BLUE	5 3 4 5 9 6 7 6 4 (49)
PURPLE	6 6 7 4 1 5 1 2 8 (40)
CLYDE	1 1 6 1 2 9 2 3 5 (28)
FORTH	2 2 2 3 5 7 9 9 1 (40)
TWEED	8 7 1 6 7 8 8 8 6 (59)
BARRA	3 4 3 2 6 2 4 4 2 (30)



Other Christmas Celebrations

We were delighted to be able to get together in the hall for Christmas lunch this week.

There was added excitement when the walking Christmas tree popped in for lunch.



The Christmas Assembly saw us celebrate the many successes that we have shared over the past year. Miss O'Hagan was very busy writing Headteacher Awards for this.

We also said goodbye to our friends and colleagues that will be leaving us. Thanks to them all.



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 22nd February 2023 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.

