

P7 Enterprise Project – The Bee Buddies

Our P7 learners decided to combine their Enterprise Project with their efforts to raise funds towards their residential visit to Benmore.

Following on from learning last session about the importance of pollinating insects to our lives on Planet Earth and their genuine interest in trying to build a sustainable future for the Planet, they decided to make and sell beeswax wraps and firelighters.

During the project, all 23 learners grated the beeswax and ironed it onto cotton material to make the wraps. Each learner also created: an advertising poster;

project logo and information leaflet. The class then voted on these and chose which ones to use to represent their project. The logo chosen was a combination of two designs.

So far, learners have sold their beeswax wraps and firelighters at our school fair and at Portobello Makers Market, making a profit of £353.47. They have one more fair booked and Portobello have asked them to go back again in the new year.

Learners have gained many skills during this project including how to: create and read a profit and loss account; develop and market a product, follow a project management plan and explain the process to members of the public.

**Sophia Field – Primary Teacher
Newcraighall Primary School**



Dean Park Primary Harvest Lunch

At Dean Park we have refreshed our curriculum in consultation with children, parents and staff. Our curriculum rationale has a focus on place-based learning and every year group has an entitlement to participate in a village-based project.

Our school grounds include very well-established vegetable planters, vegetable patches and an orchard. As part of our curriculum journey, all children have an opportunity to plant, nurture,

harvest and use fruit and vegetables in cooking. In P2, all pupils are involved in planting and growing ingredients which they harvest and use in cooking in P3. The children celebrate this important work by inviting their families in for a Harvest Lunch of soup and other produce from our gardens. The children prepare floral decorations using wildflowers from our gardens and make invitations for the event. You can feel the joy and delight in the room as we welcome families! This year over 100 P3 family members joined us.

There are many deep learning opportunities in this place-based context for learning. We aim to spark a love of growing and using food sustainably for every child at Dean Park through our motivating, real-life contexts for learning.

**Nicola Kurth – Head Teacher
Dean Park Primary School**



Dean Park Harvest Lunch



Period Dignity at Drummond CHS

We were pleased to recently present the work of our Period Dignity Leaders to Claire McGeary, Wider Achievement & Lifelong Learning Development Officer. In November 2021, our approaches to Learner Participation led to requests to improve the provision of free sanitary products for all.

Within a month, two pupils, Rachel Barlow (then S5) and Megan Wright (then S4) organised a range of products in every inclusive toilet and toilet block, as well as advertising in the bulletin and creating a rota of volunteers to restock supplies.

Since then, the Period Dignity volunteers have led assemblies (in line with addressing toilet vandalism) and the provision of sanitary products has extended to every tutor classroom, in 'take-what-you-need trollies'. An early spate of misuse of products has tailed off as pupils have become used to seeing them across the school and the leaders are now a small group of committed prefects, supported by S1–3 class reps.

We are extending our range of products to include menstrual cups and period proof underwear at the request of pupils. The volunteers record these hours in a variety of different ways, eg towards SQA Volunteering Skills Award, or The Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

**Rachel Robertson – Head Teacher
Drummond High School**

Moulinburn Partnership

Over the past few years we have had requests from members of staff to join our mental health first aiders but have struggled to find a provider. Through our networks we found the Moulinburn Partnership who were able to deliver a variety of workshops in raising awareness and leading on mental health at SCQF levels 4, 5 and 6.

We chose the 12-hour Award in leading on mental health. Staff chose to engage in this through their personal CLPL hours on 4 Friday afternoons over a 6-week period. This opportunity took colleagues on a journey from understanding what First Aid for Mental Health was, the different conditions associated with mental health, coping mechanisms like self-harm and how best to provide support to young people and in the workplace.

All participants needed to pass the assessment before becoming certified. Thankfully all 16 received their SCQF level 6 qualification in 'Leading on mental health'. We now have 32 mental health first aiders trained.

Our next steps with Moulinburn are to discuss the student qualification and plan on how the newly certified mental health first aiders can use their qualification to support the mental health of young people and colleagues at Craigmount.

**David Sansom – Pupil support leader – S4
Craigmount High School**



Junior Road Safety Officers

Like many schools across the city there is a lot of traffic around James Gillespie's Primary School at the start and end of the school day.

Our Junior Road Safety Officers have been proactive in getting the message across to parents, grandparents & carers that this is creating an unsafe environment for children to get to and

from school. They are hoping to persuade more people to walk, scoot or cycle to school instead or if they need to drive to park-and-stride.

Our Junior Road Safety Officer Freida said, 'we want to make it a safer place outside our school'.

Ian Murray MP came to meet the team. He was impressed with the actions they are taking and wished them luck in their goal commenting, 'they are doing a fantastic job, hopefully drivers will realise what they are doing is dangerous and change their behaviour'.

JRSOs have been completing traffic counts before and after school to capture what the current situation is and to see just how many cars are creating problems near the school. Artem, another JRSO told Ian Murray MP 'we have been seeing loads of cars doing 3 point turns and double parking, the problem is bad'.

**Ben Horsburgh – Head Teacher
James Gillespie's High School**



National Gaelic Debate

Pupils from James Gillespie's High School recently took part in the National Gaelic Debate. The competition, which hosted teams from 14 secondary schools across the country, held its preliminary rounds in Stornoway, Lewis.

Following on from their success in the Western Isles, S6 pupils Matthew Wright and Finlay Penman were also victorious in their semi-final debate against Portree High School on Wednesday 29 November. Both pupils had the opportunity to share the story of their success with Jenny Gilruth (Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills) when

she visited the Darroch Annexe of James Gillespie's High School the following day.

The final of the competition, which was held at the Scottish Parliament, saw the pupils narrowly miss out to the team from Sir E Scott High School (Isle of Harris). This was a tremendous effort from both pupils, whose flair in the language, kind and positive attitude, and ability to engage in meaningful debate, was commended by both the judges and the watching public. The event was also broadcast live from the Parliament on BBC Radio nan Gàidheal.

Matthew Wright was awarded the prestigious honour of 'Oraidiche an Deasbaid' – the most skilful debater of the entire competition.

Mealaibh ur naidheachd dha rìribh!

Cailean Methven – Curriculum Leader Gaelic James Gillespie's High School



Matthew Wright and Finlay Penman

Whole-school Interdisciplinary Learning Project at Pilrig Park School

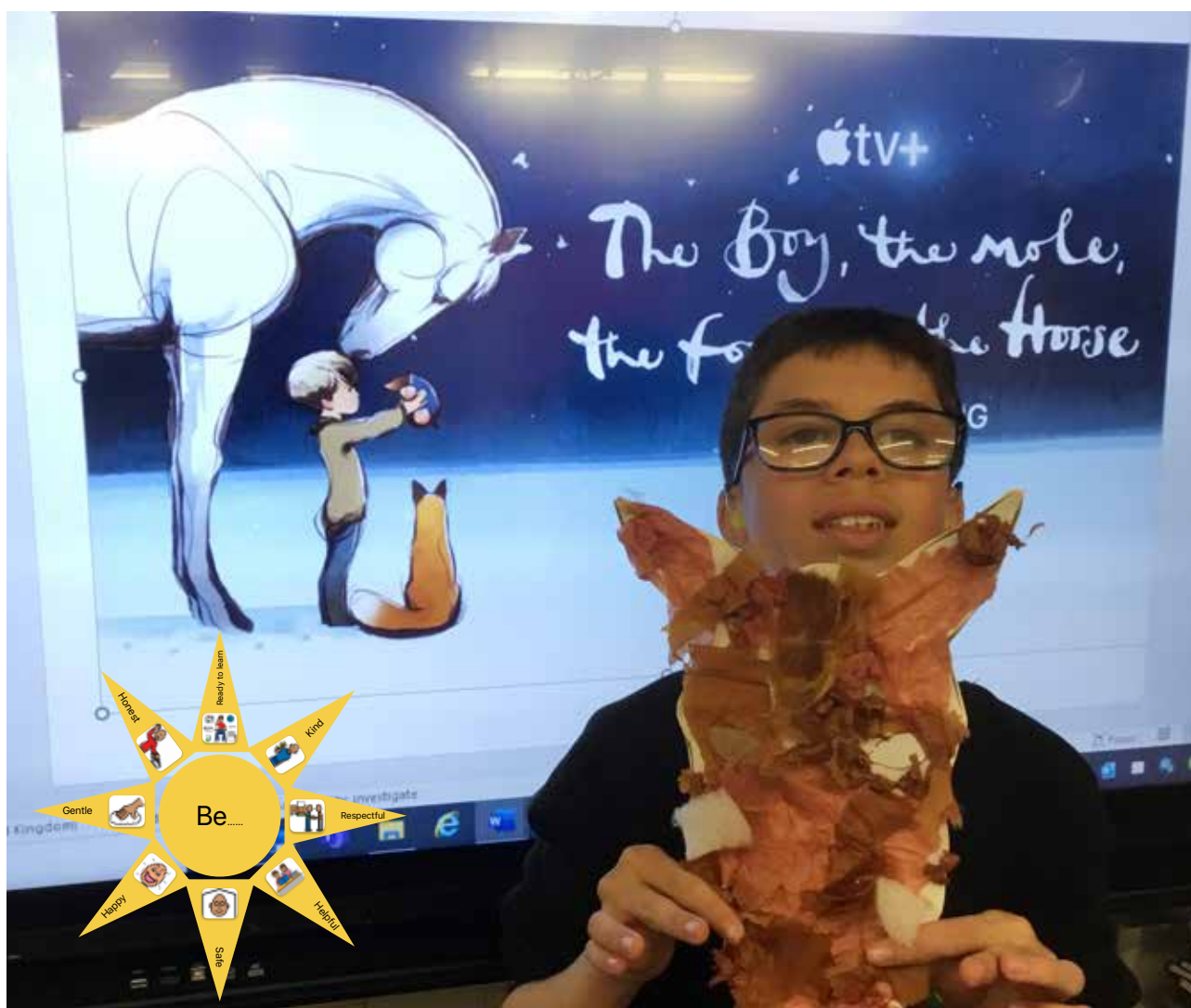
During a fortnight in October, Pilrig Park School showcased our IDL project, 'The Festival of Kindness'. Every pupil in the school was involved in the project, which culminated in a cinema event for parents/carers in the last week of term!

The project was inspired by the book *The Boy, the Mole, The Fox and The Horse* by Charlie Mackesy. The story focuses on themes of love, friendship, resilience, braveness, kindness and hope which link in perfectly with our school values. Staff were supported in producing a plan for the fortnight which involved a wide range of learning activities.

Staff delivered lessons through Expressive Arts, Home Economics, Numeracy, Literacy and Outdoor Education. Pupils engaged in collative learning through farm visits, creating a giant winter tree, data collection of leaves, making woodland animals using salt dough and producing short animation movies created using the Stop Motion app.

The cinema event at the end of the IDL fortnight, was a tremendous success. We welcomed a record number of parents/carers into our school. Everyone enjoyed seeing photos and videos of pupils and the work which had been going on during the project. Throughout the fortnight, pupils collected 'kindness tokens'. There was great excitement when each class was awarded with a kindness certificate linked to our school values. We ended our showcase afternoon by watching the film adaptation of the book, whilst enjoying some homemade woodland animals biscuits!

Steph Morrison – Class Teacher
Catriona Ferguson – Principal Teacher



Whole-school Interdisciplinary Learning Project at Pilrig Park School



LEAF Award

The LEAF award promotes outdoor learning in any outside spaces. The LEAF award involves children having a hands-on approach to their outdoor learning. Our LEAF journey started in February 2023. The LEAF award also contributes to a third of the Eco-Schools Green Flag.

Our parents helped prepare our forest by removing rubbish and fallen tree branches to make a path. Our children built a log pile as a habitat, a bug hotel in the nursery garden, we encouraged pollinators by spreading wild flower seeds, we used spotter sheets to identify trees and invertebrates then used technology to research our findings. Lastly, we used our senses to identify changes in the forest over the months. The children loved watching the rain water pooling on the tarpaulin above their heads. Trying to catch falling leaves, exploring water that had frozen and discovering the many trees we have once the leaves grew back.

It's been a lovely journey to be part of, and we are excited to begin our new LEAF award in August.

The LEAF Award is now opening up to other establishments across Scotland. If you are interested in LEAF, please contact

nicola.davidson@keepsotlandbeautiful.org.

There is more information regarding LEAF on <http://www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org/>

LEAF Award

**Donna Piechniczek – Early Years Practitioner
Calderglen EYC**



Learning Together Celebrating Success Event

On 2 June 2023, the first ever Learning Together event was organised to celebrate the practice taking place across Edinburgh in early years settings and primary schools. The in-person event also provided participants of this session's Learning Together CLPL with the opportunity to share their practice with invited partners from Wider Achievement & Lifelong Learning, Connect, Skills Scotland and Scottish Book Trust. The event was open to practitioners working in early years settings and schools.

CLPL participants as part of their course work undertook self-evaluation activities to create an action plan focused on improving either parental engagement, parental involvement, family learning or learning at home. The Celebrating Success event enabled these participants to discuss their plans, it's progress and impact in developing their current practice.

Feedback from practitioners who attended the event enjoyed the informal opportunity to learn and network with experienced practitioners and how they plan on utilising this learning in their own settings.

Marie Lyon – Quality Improvement Education Officer



