



# Pilrig Park School

## Sunshine in Leith



**March 2024**

A very warm welcome to another bumper newsletter from all the staff and pupils at Pilrig Park School! We have certainly kept Mr McPhillips incredibly busy putting this together for everyone to enjoy! Thank you!

One of our main features in this article is our work for World Book Day which the Pupil Council oversaw for the first time. A special thanks to Chris, PSA, for the book cover which he designed for the School Office!

There are lots of examples of partnership work in this edition. Also, for the first time ever, pupils from Orange and Green Classes were the recipients of Green Blue Peter Badges. Very well done!

Next term we are going to be undertaking a self-evaluation exercise of our curriculum in S1 – S6. Mr Mackay, Depute Head Teacher, and Mrs Ali, Principal Teacher of Curriculum will be leading this work. We will be sending out some questionnaires for our families to complete as well as holding focus groups. Further details will follow after the holidays, and we thank you in advance for your engagement with this important work.



Finally, I would like to share with you one of my favourite pictures from this term. It is of one of our S4 pupils helping an S1 pupil at break time. I'm sure you will agree with me it is a lovely example of our school values in action.

I look forward to welcoming parents/carers into the school in May for our cinematic production of The Wizard of Oz!! Never mind Taylor Swift tickets - keep your eye out for details of how to get these hotly anticipated tickets!!

Take care and keep safe.

Supergran aka Ms O'Hagan!



# PILRIG PARK NEWS

## More success for Pupil Voice at Pilrig Park School!

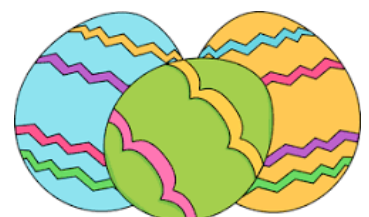
We are delighted to let everyone know that this young lady was successful in the application for her to join the Youth Voice Network with Children in Scotland. We are so proud! We look forward to hearing all about her participation in this very important group.



## JUST IN .....

As this Newsletter is being prepared, Mr Mackay is busy running our Easter Extravaganza, once again consisting of our whole school Easter Egg Hunt (fingers crossed 🍀 for a dry afternoon) and *Mr Mackay's Pilrig Bongo Bingo!*

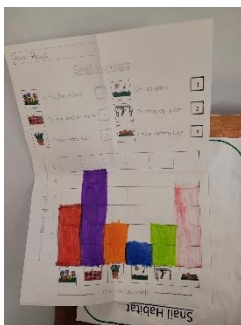
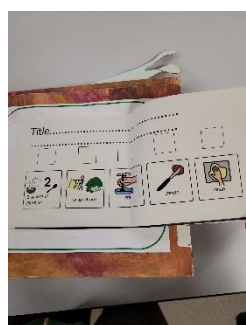
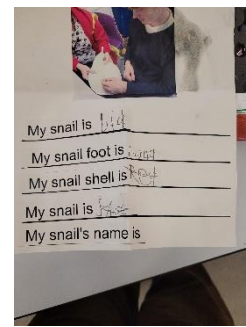
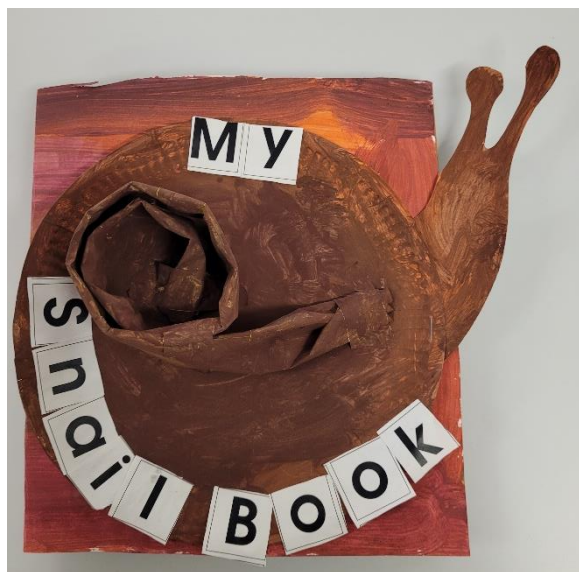
Watch out for photos in the next newsletter and on Twitter @PilrigPark





## Green Blue Peter Badges.

Orange and Green class have been working extremely hard in their outdoor learning lessons. The hard work was recognised by Blue Peter who awarded all the pupils a Green Eco Badge. Miss Morrison and Miss Sawyer applied on behalf of the pupils with the Snail Books that each pupil made.



## Important dates for your diary.

16 <sup>th</sup> April	Pupils return
19 <sup>th</sup> April	BGE and SP Targets 2/3 issued
29 <sup>th</sup> April – 3 <sup>rd</sup> May	Whole-school DYW Skills Week
6 <sup>th</sup> and 7 <sup>th</sup> May	Holiday
8 <sup>th</sup> May	Pupils return
9 <sup>th</sup> May	Report cards issued
16 <sup>th</sup> May	S1 – S6 Parents Night 4.00 – 6.00pm
20 <sup>th</sup> May	Holiday
22 <sup>nd</sup> May	S1 – S3: School Show Cinematic Extravaganza
29 <sup>th</sup> May	S4 – S6: School Show Cinematic Extravaganza
5 <sup>th</sup> June	Whole-school Sports Day
13 <sup>th</sup> June	BGE and SP Targets 3 issued
14 <sup>th</sup> June	Whole-school end of term Silent Disco
18 <sup>th</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup> June inclusive	P7/S1 transition days
18 <sup>th</sup> June	S1 “Kids Out” trip
19 <sup>th</sup> June	S5/6 Last school trip together!
20 <sup>th</sup> June	Tweed Class Highland Show trip
26 <sup>th</sup> June	Leavers’ assembly and ball, by invitation to families of leavers – details to follow
28 <sup>th</sup> June	Last day before the summer holidays
14 <sup>th</sup> August	All pupils return

Coming soon.....

Pilrig Park School Productions presents ...

# The Wizard of Oz!!!!



**Dates for your diary:**

S1 – S3 Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May, doors open 1pm

S4 – S6 Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> May, doors open 1pm

**Requests for tickets will be coming out after the Easter holidays!**



# Sign of the Month

As part of our Inclusive Communication focus in school, each month we have a 'sign of the Month' which ties in with the school value of the month. The school value and sign are the theme at our monthly assemblies.

In January, the Sign of the Month was Honest. Here is a photo of our learner signing the word 'honest'.



In February, we launched our 'Special badges' (see separate article about this!!) and so the sign for the month of February was 'Celebration'. Here is a learner doing the actions for the word.



To watch these videos of our learners signing and lots more to see, please follow us on 'X', formerly 'Twitter' @PilrigPark.

# Pupil Council

It has been another busy term for the members of our Pupil Council! In February they met with Miss Wheat to discuss the ECO Code for the school. Following consultation and feedback from the Pupil Council the ECO Code has been redesigned and improved. Each Pupil Council representative took back a copy of the new ECO Code to their class to gather their views. This work will all be part of our submission towards the Green Flag award.

Class: \_\_\_\_\_



Pilrig Park's  
ECO CODE



Do you like the ECO Code?



yes



no



I don't know

At Pilrig Park School we aim to:



Comments:



REDUCE, REUSE & RECYCLE



Early March saw the Pupil Council meet with Jeni, Jackie and Monica from the kitchens at Leith Academy to discuss our lunch provision at Pilrig Park School. On the agenda was the quality of food, quantity, selection available and food waste. We had a very useful discussion and look forward to a follow up meeting in the not-too-distant future!





There was much excitement late on in February as the Pupil Council presented at an assembly for the first time! Everyone was treated to their breaking news story and accompanying PowerPoint. We are not going to share too much at this point as we are keeping our work in school a closely guarded secret as we are hoping to enter a nationwide competition with our work, and we do not want any other schools stealing our ideas!! We will share everything in detail once our entry is submitted next term!



## Special Badges are coming to Pilrig Park School!



Next term we will be helping Mr Mackay and Mrs Ali with the review of our curriculum, and we will be busy representing our classes and their views on all the different learning opportunities we experience here at Pilrig Park School. We will keep everyone updated on our work!

Have a great holiday.

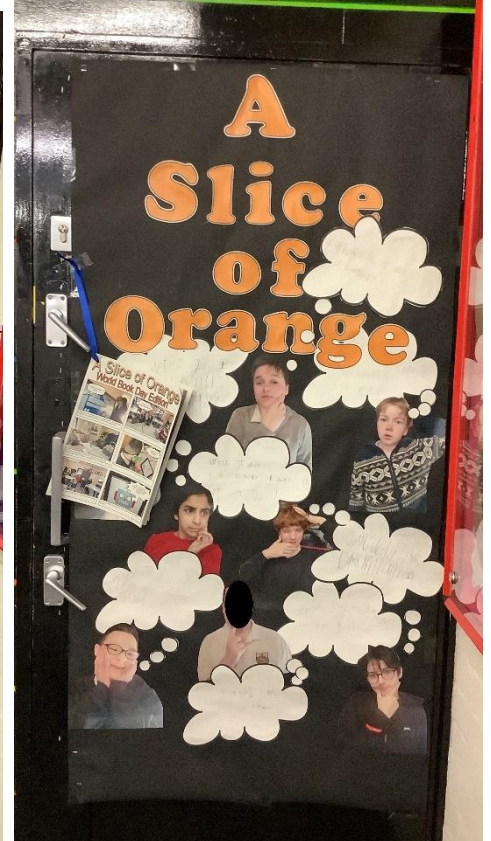
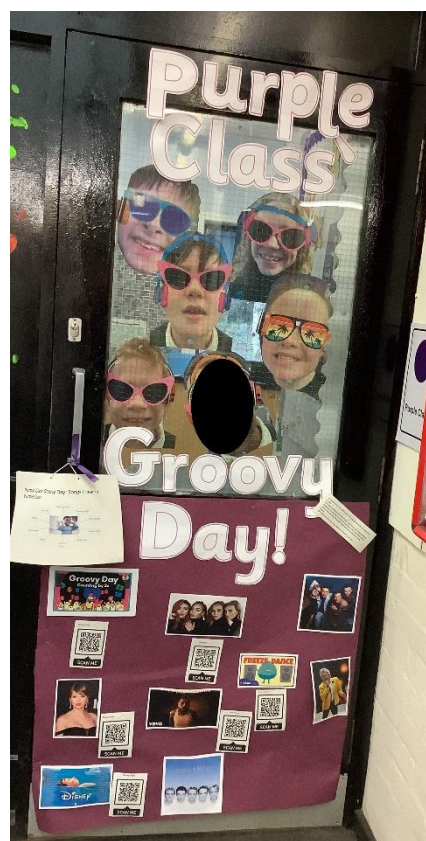
Pilrig Park School Pupil Council



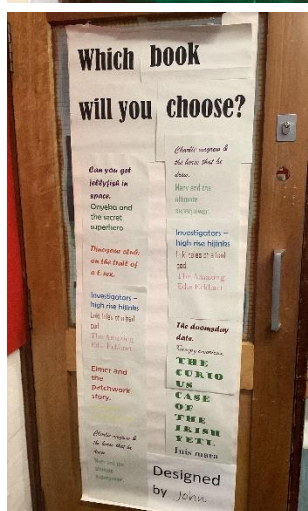
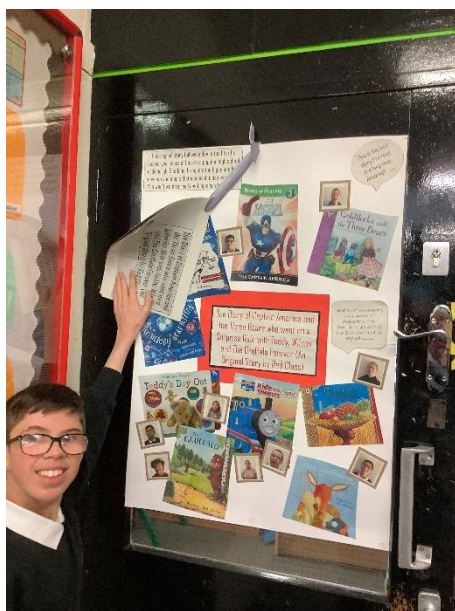
# World Book Day

We have been celebrating World Book Day, designing door covers and making class books, which was the Pupil Council's wonderful idea. Our Linked Articles for Pupil Voice UNICEF Rights Respecting Schools are: 17 Access to Information, 29 Aims of Education and 31 the Right to Relax, Play, Culture and the Arts.

As you can see, the results were excellent.







## #donutforgetus

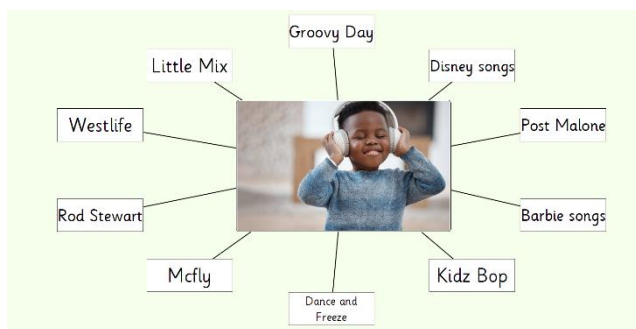
As part of World Book Day, Tweed pupils created a comic book called, 'Goodbye, Donut Forget Us!'. The book contains some funny memories of their time at Pilrig Park School – each memory created by themselves (some have been completely made up!!). The pupils illustrated their memories for the book, in addition to creating a large book cover for our classroom door!





## Groovy Day in Purple Class!

In Purple Class, we chose to create our 'Day in the Life' book based on music. We are always singing, dancing and listening to music across the week and all love to share our favourite songs with others. To start, we had a mini disco in class, with each pupil choosing their favourite song to share. Everyone loved dancing along and did a great job of respectfully turn-taking. Next, we used a communication board to help us brainstorm our favourite tunes, creating a mind map to support us with our writing.

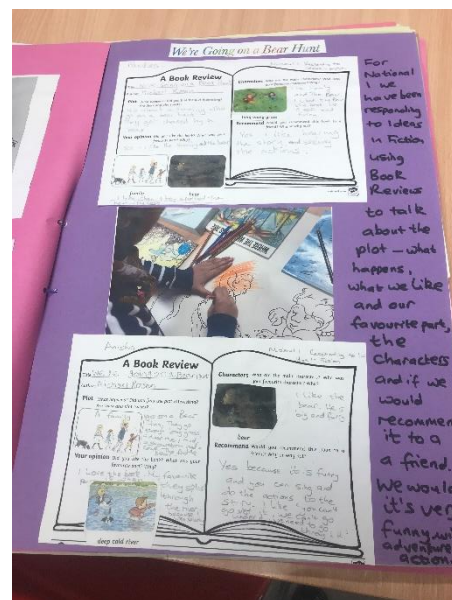
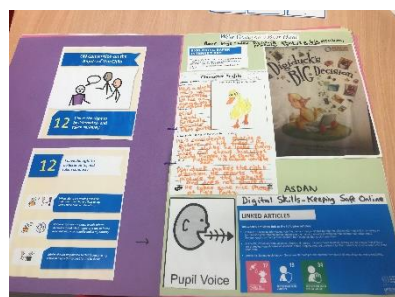
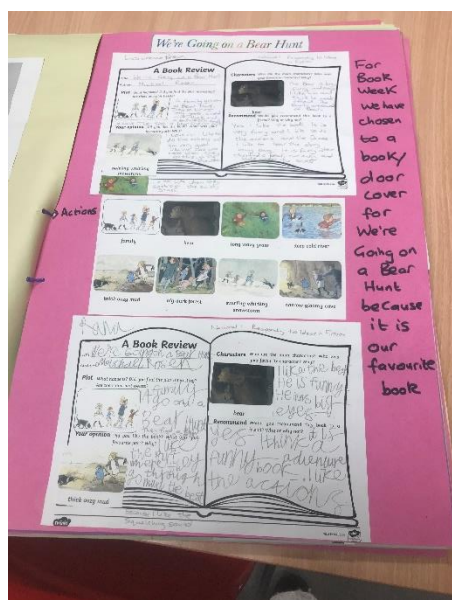


After that, we used our communication boards to build our own sentences. We enjoyed using a computer program called Clicker to hear our sentences out loud. We used a search engine to choose a picture to match our sentence.

Finally, we decorated our door to share the wonderful work we have been doing with our class book. We adorned our photos with some groovy accessories and our teacher created some QR codes for our favourite songs. This means that anyone with a device can scan the code and listen along with us!

## Clyde are Going on a Bear Hunt

Here is a sneaky preview of the first few pages of our Class Book 'Clyde are Going on a Bear Hunt' we've really enjoyed making our Class Book and Door Cover based on our favourite book 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt'. Bear loves our Learning Journey and thinks he would like to be a pupil at Pilrig Park. He gave our book a 5 star review. We linked our learning to our UNICEF Children's Rights articles. We can't wait to share our book with Pupil Council, our school and our Parents and Carers.





### A Day in Green Class

Green Class decided to make a book all about what we think about the most during the day... food! They have a look at different food, decided if they liked them and then selected their favourite. We got dressed up as chefs for the front cover of our book!



### Close Encounters of the Forth Kind

Forth Class had fun using the greenscreen to create our book. We all imagined where else we'd like to be. Some of us were on stage with Taylor Swift, in space with a Minecraft Creeper and one of the class even found themselves on Coronation Street in the Rover's Return.



Ness class designed and wrote stories for a book called DJ Ticks (That stands for - Daisy, John, Thomas, Innes, Cameron, Katie and Stephen). They all wrote their own stories - Tigger the Goldfish; Saturday Night Takeaway with Daisy and Ant & Dec; Sonic the Hedgehog; Hearts V's Midlothian; Gangs of Outlaw 2.



# Pupil Council Announcement

The Pupil Council had a special meeting to decide on the winners of our World Book Day work using this book review template which Miss Sawyer designed. They are delighted to announce the winners as:

For the best book in S1 – S3: Green Class

For the best book in S4 – S6: Clyde Class



For the best door in S1 – S3: Purple Class

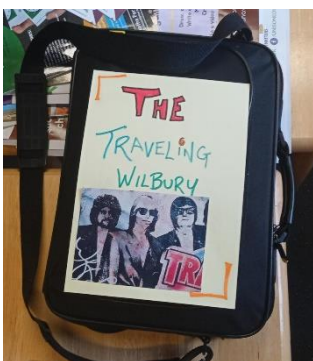


For the best door in S4 – S6: Ness Class



And the overall winner was.....Green Class

Gold badges and certificates were proudly presented to each class!



A very special prize also went to Mr Bewick – only those of a certain age would understand the joke!

The Pupil Council would like to thank all staff and pupils for taking part so enthusiastically in this year's World Book Day challenge! We hope there is a publisher out there who would like to publish our books!



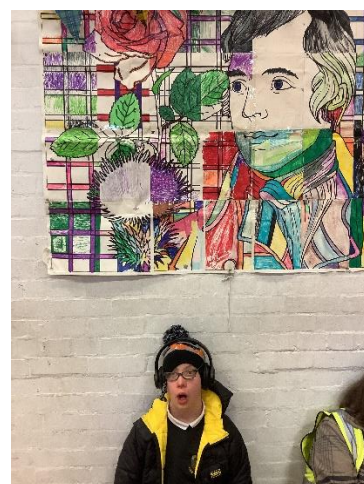
# Scottish Week

We celebrated **Scottish Week** at the end of January. Pupils enjoyed haggis, neeps and tatties on Burns Day.





We also had a Ceilidh, which was organised by our PE teacher - Mr Trzaska and the Dance Festival Group. As you can see from the photos, it was a great success.





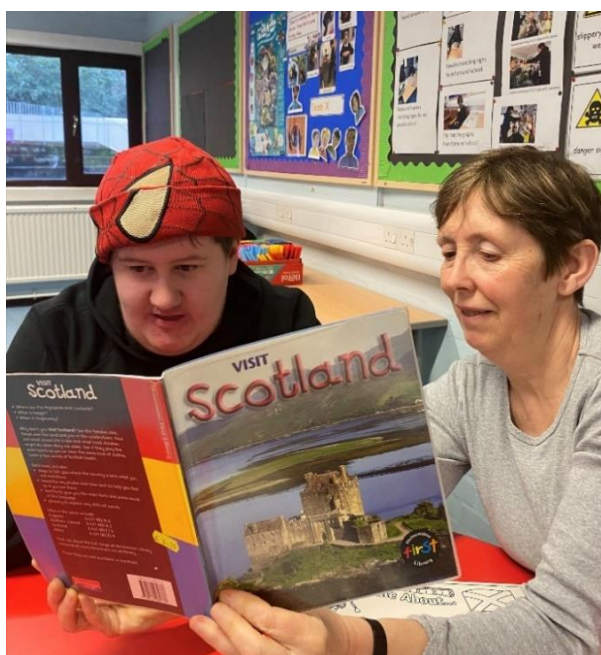
**Clyde class** enjoyed some Burns poems and Scottish songs from the *Scots Hoose Primary* Website. Their favourites are 'Ye cannae shove yer Grannie aff a bus' and 'Ally Bally Bee!' Pupils learnt all the actions and signs.

The class also enjoyed a short story about Robert Burns, did colouring activities and designed some tartan.

In the art room, classes were involved in various projects including painting a 'Robbie Burns' portrait for the Burns Lunch decorations, tissue paper thistles and some Scottish flags.

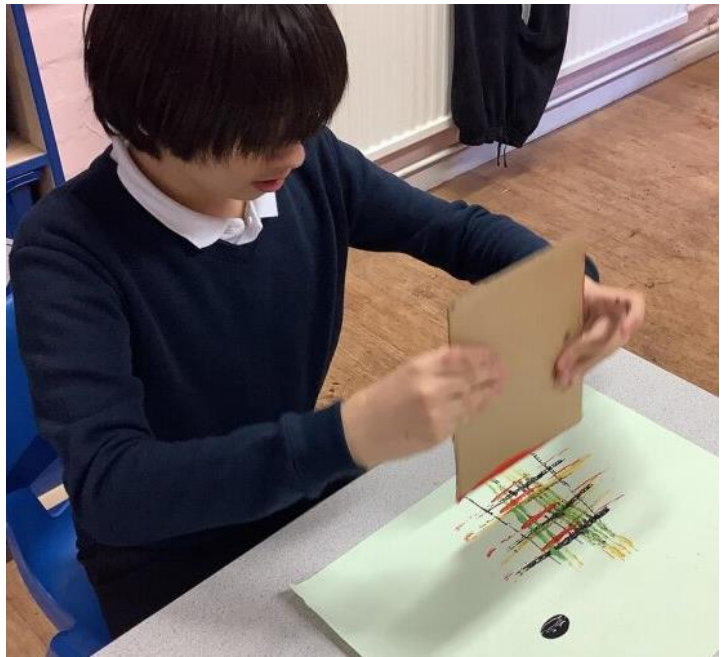


Ness class were reading about places in Scotland in English and also completing some Scottish themed wordsearches!





Yellow class pupils were using card to make tartan!



Finally, on the Friday we had a very Scottish themed assembly with some excellent singing and dancing!

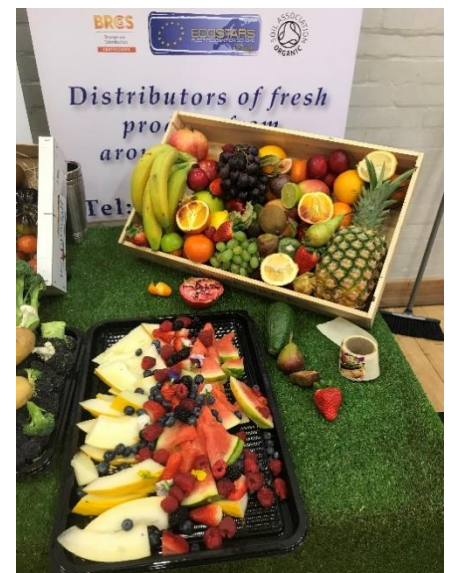
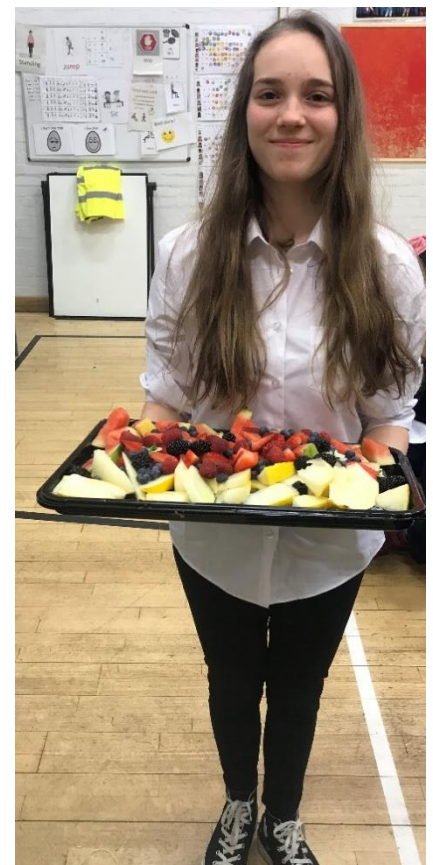


# EAT THEM TO DEFEAT THEM

## The Big Chomp



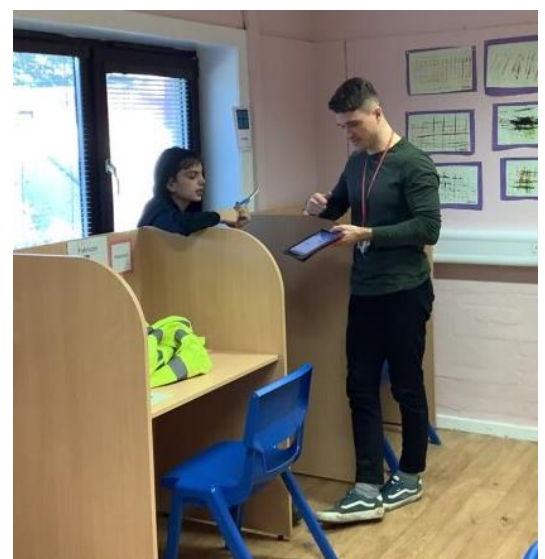
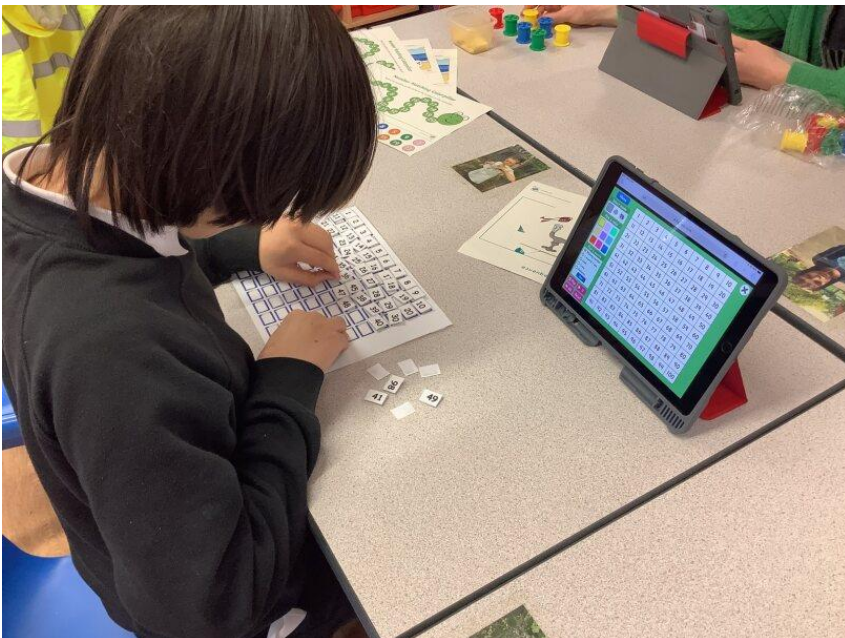
This year our pupils took part in 'The Big Chomp', part of the national Vegpower campaign to encourage consumption of vegetables. During the 6-week campaign, pupils were encouraged to try a variety of fruit and vegetables, with a 'star veg' of the week available every week. Some of our pupils tried vegetables for the first time in school, and some of them embraced 'The Big Chomp' by eating vegetables every day. We were also lucky enough to have a visit from our fruit and vegetable supplier, George Anderson & Sons, who brought with them a huge array of well-known and exotic fruit and vegetables for the pupils to touch, smell and taste.





# Yellow Class

Yellow Class have been enjoying developing their iPad skills in creative ways to further their learning! We've been doing photography hunts, making posters on Freeform and using our iPads to develop our fine motor skills.





Yellow class enjoyed going on a bus tour of Edinburgh as part of their recent transportation project and to develop their transport skills!

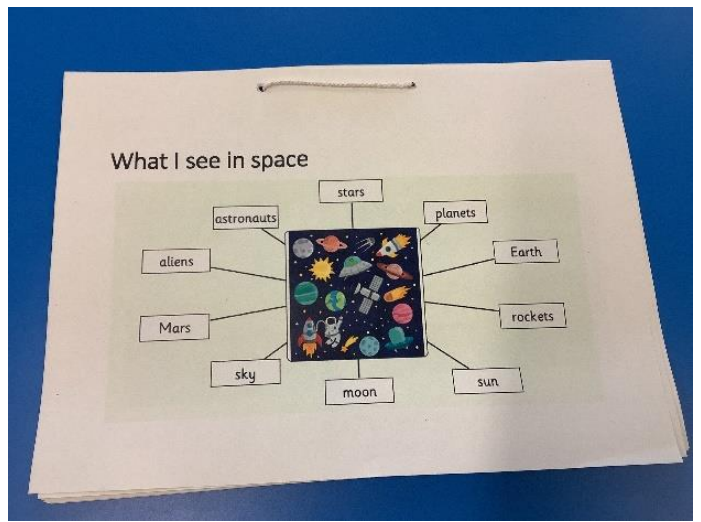




# Purple Class

Purple Class have had a busy term with trips to Meadowbank, preparing for the dance festival and our Space topic! We have been really enjoying pushing ourselves to take on new challenges with our gym visits and dancing.

In Literacy, we have explored a range of texts based on our Space topic. We have practised sharing our opinions of a text and voting to listen to our favourites again. We have learned the signs for some key words and are particularly good at signing 'moon' and 'stars'. We have also started using communication boards to build sentences, writing a class book each week based on a different topic.



In Maths, we have been learning about time. We started with lots of songs about the days of the week, months of the year and seasons. After that, we made our own moving clocks and started to learn how to tell the time! We have also continued our work on number, practising our estimating and counting skills.

As part of our ASDAN award, we each invited a pupil from another class to play with us. We created an invitation stating who we were inviting and which activity we would do. We demonstrated how to play gently and be a kind friend.





Throughout our Space topic, we took part in lots of different experiences, including: rocket launches, designing our own planet, creating clay moons and going on a hunt to find stars in our school playground. We loved using stories as a way of making the topic more accessible for everyone and taking part in lots of hands-on activities! We looked up at the sky and safely identified the sun, moon and stars. Alongside this, we also enjoyed celebrating some yearly events, such as Burns' Night and Lunar New Year.

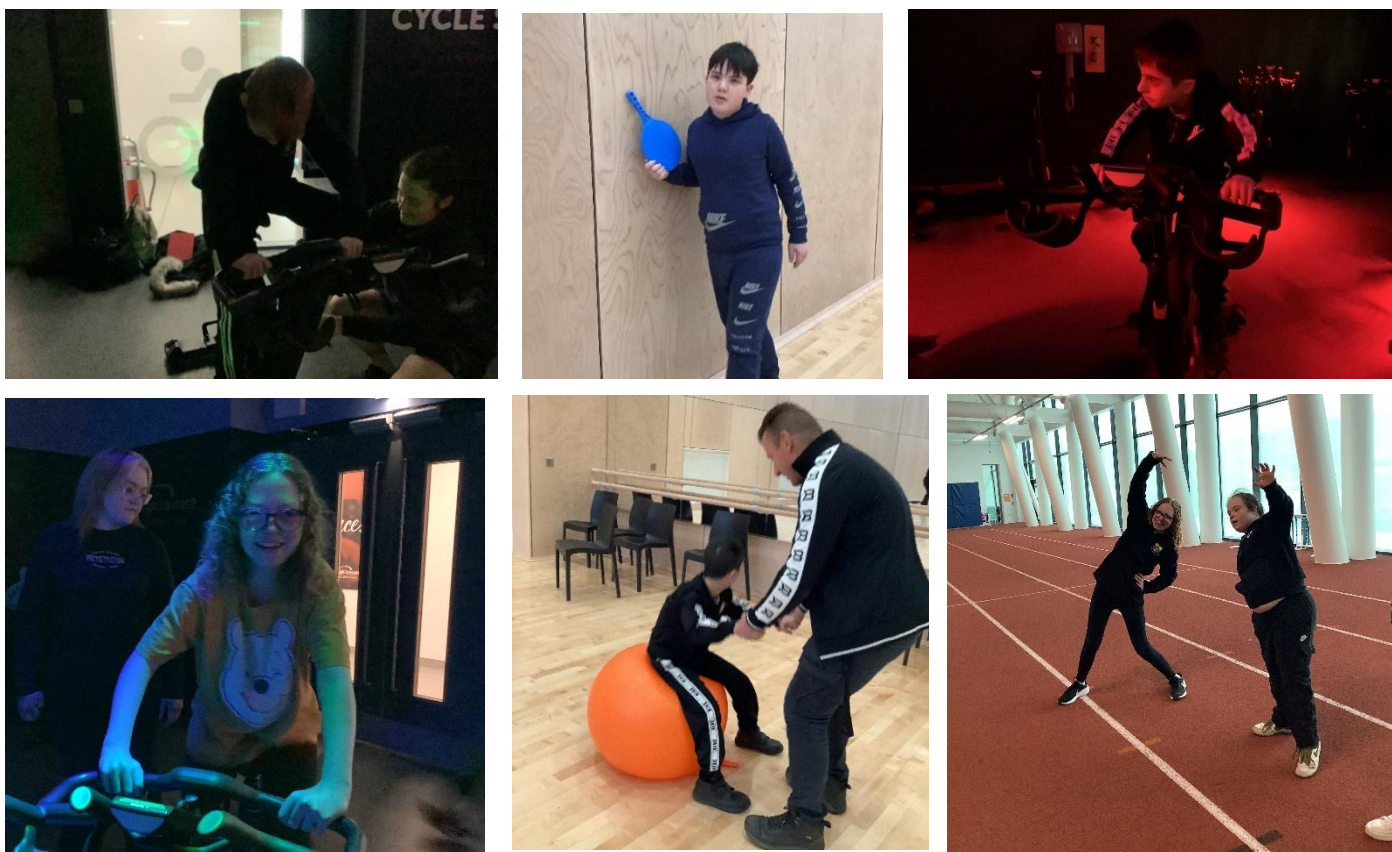


Purple Class have been going on weekly trips to Meadowbank Sports Centre to try out different fitness activities.

On our first visit, we went on a tour of the centre and looked at all of the facilities they have available. We particularly liked the outdoor running track and the cycling zone!

Since then, we have tried out a range of different activities, including bouncing on the giant space-hoppers, boccia, developing ball skills and playing with the parachute. We have also enjoyed several visits to the cycling studio which has beautifully coloured lights and plays some of our favourite songs through the speakers!

Purple class have really pushed themselves out of their comfort zones on this trip, trying lots of new things in a different environment. We are really proud of them!





# Red Class

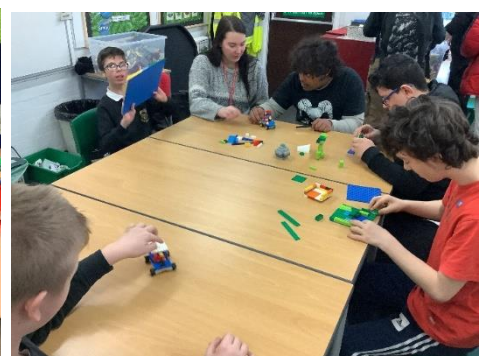
## Chinese New Year

In February, we focused our learning across the curriculum on Chinese New Year celebrations, stories, and traditions. We enjoyed role play, learning about the story of how the signs of the zodiac came to be, crafts, and lots of active learning in maths and literacy.



## Building with Lego and Duplo

Following on from our visit from Kevin (Gorgie Mills HS) last term, we have taken part in a series of collaborative Lego sessions with some pupils from Gorgie Mills every Friday for the last 5 weeks. We have used our imaginations to develop our own creations, followed instructions to create impressive builds using iPads and worked in pairs/small groups to develop teamwork and cooperation skills.





## Museum Of Scotland Trip

At the end of term, Red class enjoyed a trip to the Museum of Scotland to visit the Wildlife Photographer of the Year and the Rising Tide exhibitions. Both exhibitions shine a light on the effects of climate change and plastic pollution which is of great interest to our class in our roles as ECO Committee members.





# Orange Class

We have had quite the action-packed time this term. We have celebrated different cultures, continued our work with the Botany, learnt new skills on our ipads and created our own magazine! Life in Orange class is never dull.

We started the year with a Scottish focus, looking at Scottish vocabulary, traditions and ending in a Burns Lunch which was a celebration of poetry, music and most importantly food! We even managed to create our own tartans!

In February we celebrated Lunar New Year. We enjoyed learning about traditional celebrations. We wrote stories about 'The Great Race' and learnt how the years in the Chinese zodiac are named after the animals that took part. We created our own lantern and dragons too.

It was a brilliant celebration of culture.



Our outdoor learning sessions with Green class continued throughout the term, with visits to the Botany in preparation for our regular visits that will be happening after Easter. We focused on what clothing we should wear in the garden and what tools we may use when working in the garden.



Before the February holidays some of the class were lucky enough to visit the Kimpton hotel to have a look around and learn about the different jobs that there are in the hotel industry.

The standout parts of the trip were definitely: getting a tour of a suite and a visit to the kitchens where the pupils were able to ask the chef about the food he likes to cook.





Possibly the highlight of our term though was the trip we went on to visit Pizza Express at Ocean Terminal. We took the tram, which was great fun, spotting the different types of transport along the route, from diggers to boats! Once we arrived Charlie talked us through how to make a pizza and about all the different ingredients used to make a margeritta pizza, then we got the chance to make our own. Once they were cooked, we got to take them back to school. The best bit of the whole trip was getting to taste the delicious pizzas we made!





# Green Class

As part of our Outdoor Learning curriculum, Green and Orange class started our visits to The Botanics. We were given a tour of the Gardeners Cottage, the herb garden, and the vegetable plots. We used tools such as spades, wheelbarrows, and forks to start preparing the soil for planting season! We will be visiting weekly throughout next term to plant and look about our vegetable plots 😊



New friendships have been forming and developing in Green Class. One pupil decided to join in and help another pupil finish a jigsaw puzzle together.



One of the Green Class pupils helps a first year to class after break time in the playground.



Green Class made Year of the Dragon calendars to celebrate Chinese New Year.



Green Class have started brushing their teeth after lunch. They are becoming more independent following the steps that are involved!



Green Class went to visit Camera Obscura to explore the sensory illusions. They had fun trying out the Floating Head and the Vortex Tunnel. They used their sense of sight and sound to make their way through the museum. We reached the top and enjoyed the view over Edinburgh.





# Clyde Class

This Term Clyde have had some amazing learning experiences which we have captured in our class book 'Going on a Bear Hunt with Clyde'. We really enjoyed making our book and door cover for World Book Day.



Thank you to Ness Group and Mrs Tupper for joining with Clyde today in English for a paired reading session. They did an excellent job of paired reading with our group and brought their chosen books for World Book Day. We had great fun and enjoyed all the books. Thank you Mrs Tupper for getting these for our class. Wonderful leadership of learning and mentoring Ness, Miss Kirkwood is very proud of you. Top job! We are all learners, doers and teachers.



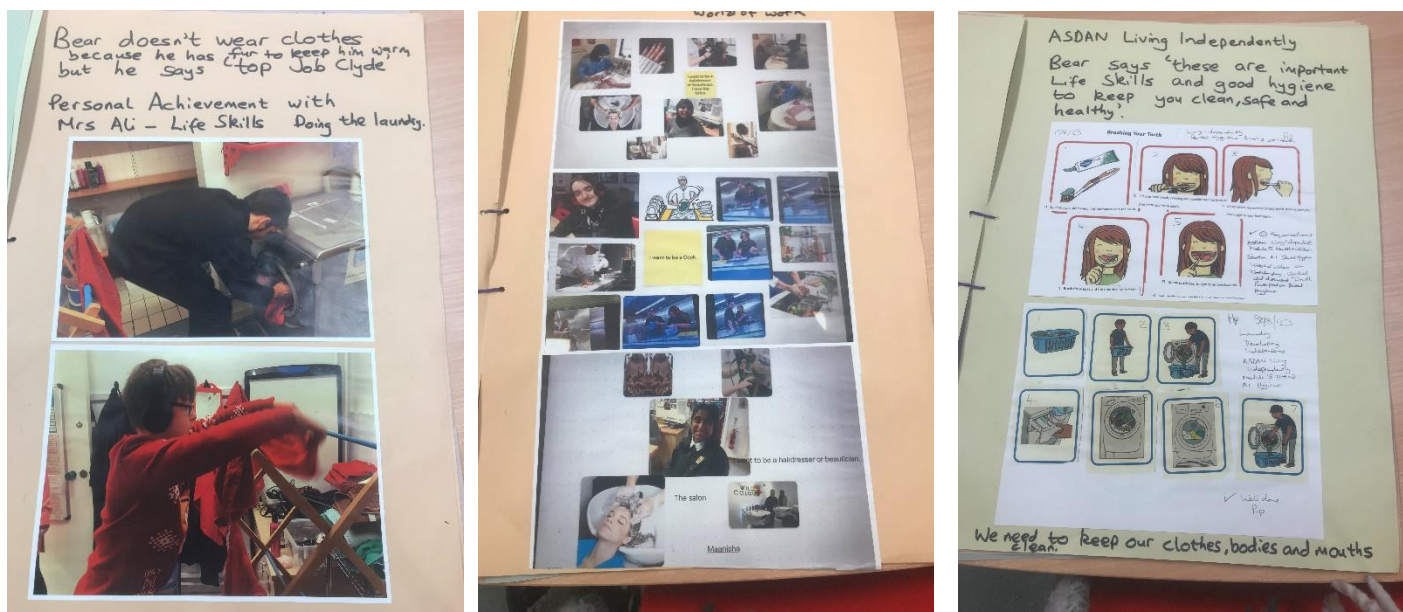


In PHSE and ASDAN we have been learning about Healty and Unhealthy Relationships, Public and Private Personal Space, Puberty and emotional and physical changes and My Body Belongs to Me.



In Developing the Young Workforce we have been Finding Out About the World of Work and People Who Help Us. We develop skills in our chosen options such as The Salon, Gardening, Foodwise, Spartans and Animal Care.

We have been learning about developing independence, life skills and keeping ourselves safe in the home. We have learned about personal hygiene.





# Ness Class

Pupils in Ness class have been working very hard in the salon. They have developed some great skills for washing, drying, and styling hair. We are due to visit the Hairdressing, Beauty, and Complimentary therapy department at Edinburgh college after the Easter holidays to learn more about hair and beauty courses.



Ness class are learning all about Fairtrade. They are looking at where all our food comes from, particularly chocolate. We have been researching about how food travels across the world and how this impacts people who grow and produce the food we eat. We made Fairtrade hot chocolate which was delicious.





Ness class visited Kimpton Hotel part of DWY and employability skills.

They really enjoyed the tour of the hotel and a discussion about job roles in hospitality.



Some more photos from World Book Day.





# Forth Class

It has been a very busy term for Forth class.

In January we presented an Assembly on Honesty. We showed our video that we made using a greenscreen and told everyone about some famous quotes about being honest, and who had said them. For example,

- ‘Honesty is the best policy.’ – this was first said by Benjamin Franklin, who lived from 1706 until 1790. He was a very important figure in American history.
- ‘I think honesty is the most heroic quality one can aspire to.’ – this was said by Daniel Radcliffe, who played Harry Potter in 8 movies.



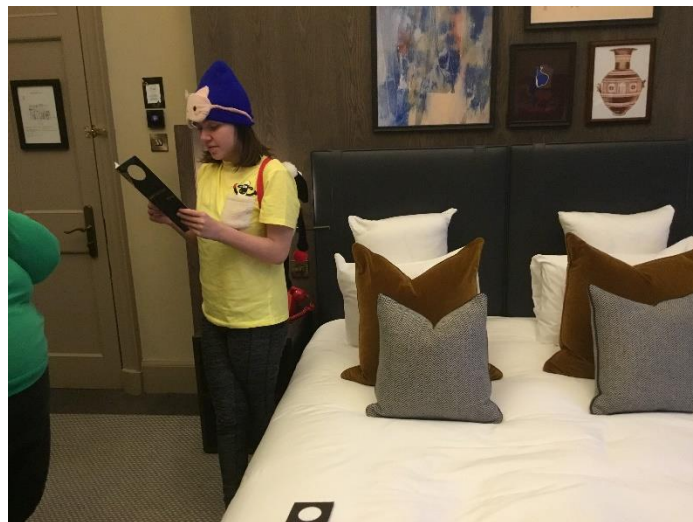
We have spent a lot of time this term discussing feelings, both our own and other peoples. As part of this we have made a ‘How are you feeling today?’ board in our classroom. Each of us picked a picture to represent ourselves, and every morning we come in and start the day by showing everyone how we are feeling by moving our picture to the appropriate ‘zone’. These zones are ‘Happy’, ‘OK’, ‘Sad’ and ‘Angry’, and I’m pleased to report that all pupils report in ‘happy’ most days and the ‘sad’ and ‘angry’ zones have not yet been used by pupils, (Mr McPhillips was in the ‘angry’ zone, once).





We have had some other great opportunities and experiences this term.

We were lucky enough to go along to the Kimpton Hotel as part of our Developing the Young Workforce course. You can read more about this trip later in the Newsletter but here are pictures of some of our class on the trip.



We had the greenscreen out again to work on our World Book Day book, which you'll have read about earlier in the Newsletter. Here is the image we used for the front cover of – *Close Encounters of the Forth Kind*.



We had great fun interviewing Miss Reid and Kath. The pupils done really well and the staff that were interviewed were very impressed.

You can read how these went later on in this Newsletter.



# Tweed Class

The pupils in Tweed class have been busy preparing pages for their very own Yearbook. This term, the focus has been on writing a profile page about themselves and compiling their memories over the last six years! They have also included a joke page, complete with illustrations drawn by them!

In January, some of Tweed class went to visit the Edinburgh Remakery in the Newkirkgate, Leith. This was a chance for the pupils to visit a workplace and find out about the jobs there as well as take part in a workshop on rag rug making! We thoroughly enjoyed our visit but next time we will need a bit longer to finish off *all* the cakes and juice the staff so kindly provided!

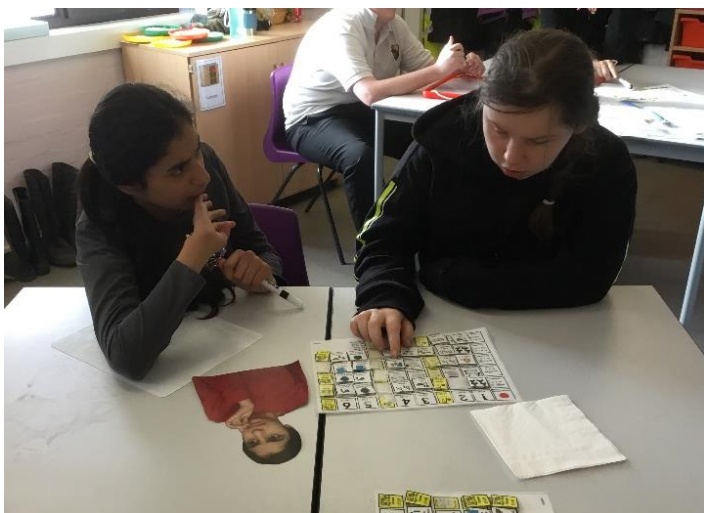


Stephanie from the British Red Cross came to visit Tweed class in January to give them a First Aid lesson and demonstration. We all learnt how to give CPR and how to put someone in the recovery position. We are looking forward to Stephanie coming back to Pilrig Park in April, when she will deliver First Aid workshops across the school, as part of our DYW (Developing the Young Workforce) Skills Week.





Tweed pupils have been working towards their mentoring qualification this year, and in February they each started in their positions as a mentor to a younger class. They have each enjoyed this supporting role, and it has been a very rewarding experience for them.





# The Art Room

## BGE classes

In January, Green class celebrated the start of 2024 by creating some wonderful artwork using forks to paint with and then using a collage technique for the numbers. Quite a dramatic effect!

Yellow, Purple, Orange Red classes have been creating a variety of artwork on the theme of winter. Techniques have included watercolour, painting on salt and collage.



Preparations for our Scottish week in January included creating a selection of art work on the theme. Red class enjoyed making some giant thistles and Green class each made a Scottish stag with decorated antlers!



To mark the Lunar New Year in February, Orange, Yellow and Purple classes made a variety of artwork including paper collage dragons!





## Senior classes

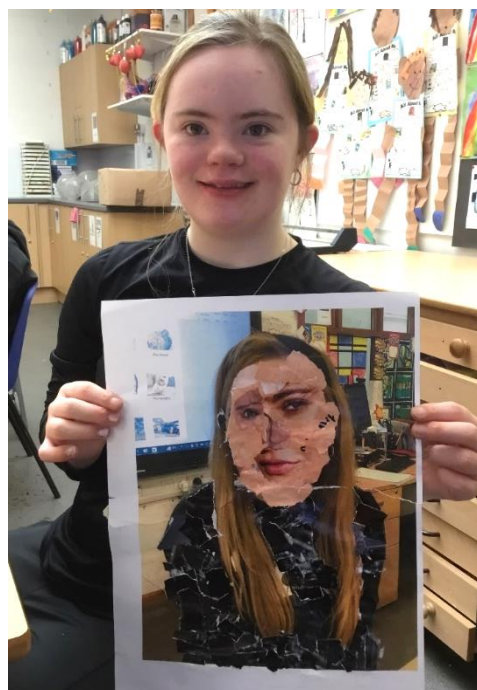
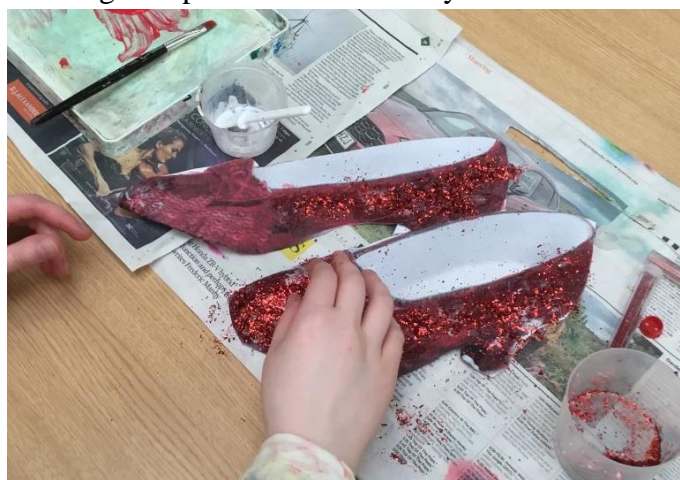
Clyde class have been working hard on their Enterprise Unit. They started off this term by making bookmarks to give to each pupil in the school, to mark World Book Day. They made the bookmarks by spraying water onto tissue paper to make the colours run – the effect is beautiful! To finish them off, pupils threaded on a ribbon tassel to make the bookmarks look special. The next project is to make a desk tidy to give to every teacher to keep their pencils in the proper place!



Ness class are working on the second unit in their Creative Arts course and are busy producing a selection of art techniques in their chosen theme. Here is one learner with her fabulous collage she is working on – it's a self portrait!!

The National 3 Senior Choice class have been using their art skills to create a very large poster for the school show, 'Wizard of Oz'.

The show is currently in the production stages and we look forward to showing it to parents/carers in May!





# The Music Department

We have been busy in the music department!

BGE classes and Senior Choice Music groups have been using African drums to play rhythms from Kenya and performed "Jambo Bwana" in our school assembly!

We have been learning new songs on the ukulele, such as the "Coconut" and "Good to be Alive" and we have been using *figure notes* to improve our piano skills. Since we have seen a bit of sun, we felt like practicing "Watermelon Sugar" on the ukulele, piano and drums! Refreshing!

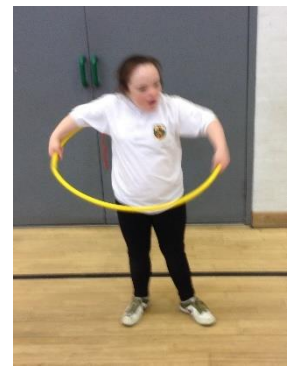
Well done to all our young musicians in Pilrig Park!





# P.E.

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





Five pupils from Pilrig Park School represented our school at **SDS National Cross- Country Championships** on Thursday 14th March 2024 at Alexandra Park in Glasgow. They competed on a distance of 1 or 2 kilometres amongst over hundred other athletes from all over Scotland. Our runners did very well, finishing in second, third (silver and bronze medal), seventh, ninth and nineteenth places in their age categories.



Our footballers continue to improve their football skills at Spartans FC.

Pupils from Yellow, Red, Purple, Green and Clyde class had cycling sessions led by Bikeability Scotland instructors. Everybody did very well, showing different bike skills either on a bike or trike.





# DYW – Developing the Young Workforce

A few classes went on a visit to the Kimpton Hotel in Charlotte Square. We learned all about the various jobs in the hotel and were given a tour. We were shown some very luxurious bedrooms, the function suite and the kitchen where we got to stir the soup!



Next term, the school will be having a DYW Skills week when we will be focussing on the skills required in a workplace as well as workshops by various partnerships. Watch this space for photos and how we got on, in the next newsletter!



## Young Leaders Award

A few of our senior pupils have recently completed a Young Leaders Award, through work with DYW. This short course of sessions which took place at Meadowbank Stadium, gave our young people an introduction to leadership, helped them build their confidence and learn new skills, all done through a variety of games and activities. They really enjoyed the sessions and worked well as part of a team, making new friends along the way!



## Work experience and work tasters

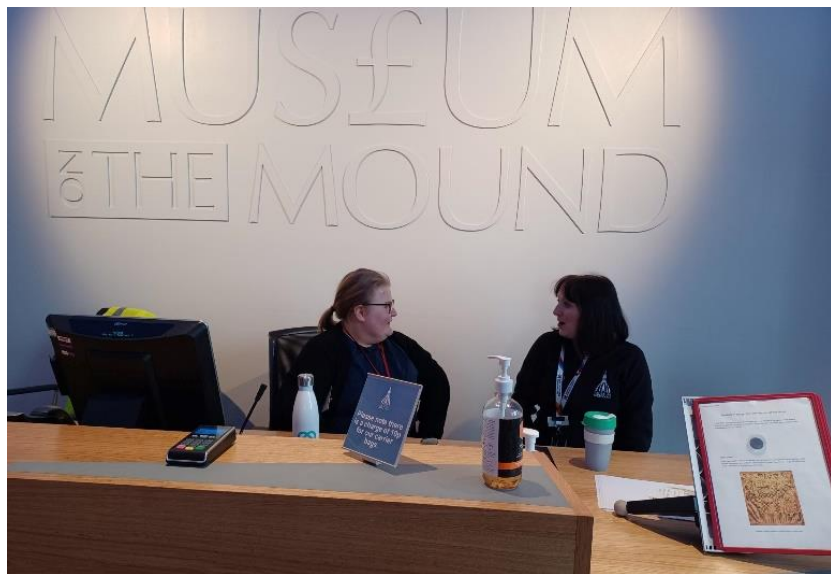
Several pupils in the senior school have had the opportunity to undertake some work experience or have a taste of what life is like in a workplace.

One of our S4 pupils is doing some work experience at The Bike Station, which takes in donated bikes and strips them for parts. These parts are then either recycled or used to make refurbished bikes that are then used in their community programmes or sold in their shops. Our young learner has been stripping the bikes for parts under the supervision of a designated mechanic. He already has experience of maintaining bikes outside of school so has picked up how to do this in the workshop very fast and the mechanics are impressed with his work!





An S5 pupil recently had a very successful work taster day at the Money Museum on the Mound. She observed a primary school visit and helped tidy up after, then was up front of house for a while where she helped give visitors directions and even did a till transaction! After that she was a 'tester' for a sensory booklet which the museum has recently created. She also helped by taking pictures which they are going to use for their social media!



In S6, several of the year group went to see the Edinburgh Remakery which is based in Leith (see article under 'Tweed class'). They learnt about the jobs there and how the business operates. In addition, one pupil is preparing for a work experience in a local hairdresser, another to the British Red Cross charity shop and a few to Spartans for an after school club. They will all learn so much about the skills required for work and life!

Next term, the school will be having a DYW Skills week when we will be focussing on the skills required in a workplace as well as workshops by various partnerships. Watch this space for photos and how we got on, in the next newsletter!



# Relationship, Sexual Health, and Parenthood (RSHP)



## Parents and Carers information evening

Thank you to all the parents and carers who attended the Relationships, Sexual Health, and Parenthood information evening on the 10<sup>th</sup> of January 2024. It was lovely to meet all of you.

The purpose of the information evening was to allow parents and carers to understand the content of the lessons their child will receive so they are able to reinforce and consolidate learning at home. Parents and carers are children's primary educator and RSHP education is best taught in partnership with parents/carers and the school. Pilrig Park School is committed to the provision of quality RSHP education in accordance with Local and National Guidelines and are using teaching resources available on the online national toolkit [www.rshp.scot](http://www.rshp.scot).

We are in the process of completing the RSHP curriculum and will be reviewing the content and delivery in due course. If you would like further information about the RSHP curriculum at Pilrig Park School, you will find all the handouts and the PowerPoint presentation on our school website.

Farida Ali - Principal Teacher of Curriculum, Year Head S3 and S4

## Relationships, Sexual Health, and Parenthood

### Relationships, Sexual Health, and Parenthood Parents/Carers Information Session

This is the PowerPoint and handouts from our **Relationships, Sexual Health, and Parenthood Parents/Carers Information Session** which was held on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January from 3.30 – 5.00pm.

[rshp-parent-information-night-ppt-jan-2024](#)

[rshp-curriculum-plan-v2](#)

[rshp-curriculum-map-v3](#)

Share this:



You can access all the information regarding Relationships, Sexual Health and Parenthood (RSHP) curriculum on our school website





# ASDAN Animal Care – Short Course

This term, the Animal Care groups have been out to visit Pets at Home, at Fort Kinnaird. We are learning about pets, and what you need if you are planning on getting a pet.





# School clubs

Fiona, one of our amazing PSA's, is still running breaktime clubs for girls.

Recently they have been using the Wii for their 'Just Dance' Club.



In craft, the girls have been making Easter decoupage jars.





# Meadowbank



This term we have been proud to have continued our partnership with Edinburgh Leisure and the amazing staff at Meadowbank Sports Centre. Our S1 Purple class and our senior class Clyde have enjoyed participating in multi-sports, spin classes and track activities. Our pupils have gained experience and confidence in the world of fitness as well as developing their health and wellbeing. We look forward to continuing our partnership with the Meadowbank staff in the summer term where more pupils will have the opportunity to participate in the various activities on offer.

Until next term – well done, Mr Mackay (DHT)

---

Many thanks to Mia and Emily at Edinburgh Leisure for our block of Multi Sports at Meadowbank. We loved it and were sad to say goodbye. Here are some photos of our final session where we enjoyed Parachute games, Boccia and our Spinning Class. So much fun. Thanks again to all the staff. Article 31 the Right to relax and play and Article 24 the Right to Health.

Miss Kirkwood (Clyde Class Teacher)





# Special Schools Dance Festival

Alongside two fantastic senior helpers, Purple Class took part in the Special Schools Dance Festival at Oaklands School. We enjoyed 7 weeks of dance classes leading up to our performance with Kirsty, our wonderful dance teacher. It was so much fun meeting pupils from other schools and seeing all of their performances.

We loved the dance classes, especially as Kirsty asked us to choose our favourite songs and based the lessons around those. It was great to dance to favourites from the Barbie Movie, Elton John, One Direction and our maths counting songs all in one session!

We are so proud of our performance on the day. Well done everyone!





# Valentines Biscuits

Sadly, due to unforeseen circumstances we weren't able to run our annual Valentines Café this year. Though our pupils did take delight in baking heart shaped biscuits to take home and share with their loved ones. I'm hoping that the majority of the biscuits made it home for taste testing. All the pupils loved the finishing touch of taking them away in the seasonal wrapping.

Miss McLarty (Principal Teacher of Support for Learning and Year Head for S1 & S2)



The staff have been buying raffle tickets to raise money for St Columba's Hospice.

The prizes include a chocolate egg made by students at Edinburgh College, a lovely Easter cake, made by our own PSA April, and a hamper of goodies.



During the holidays, many of the staff plan to meet up and have a walk in memory of our dear friend Alice, who we miss every day at Pilrig Park School. We will add to the money raised from the raffle and donate it all to St Columba's.

Thanks to Chris(PSA) for organising.





# Staff Interviews

## Interview with Miss Reid by Isla and Kayleigh.

Isla – ‘Hello Mrs Reid.’

Miss Reid – ‘Hello Isla.’

Kayleigh – ‘Hello Miss Reid. We have some questions that you want to answer.’

Miss Reid – ‘Sounds good.’

Kayleigh – ‘You go first Isla.’

Isla – ‘How long have you been working at Pilrig Park?’

Miss Reid – ‘I’ve been working at Pilrig Park since August, so I think that’ll be about 6 months.’

Kayleigh – ‘What was your favourite subject when you were at school?’

Miss Reid – ‘My favourite subject when I was at school was Music. I used to love playing the saxophone.’

Kayleigh – ‘I never knew you played the saxophone. Maybe one day you’ll show us how?’

Miss Reid – ‘Yeah. Maybe I’ll bring it in one day.’

Isla – ‘Who inspires you?’

Miss Reid – ‘I am always inspired by all the wonderful pupils and staff at Pilrig Park.’

Kayleigh – ‘What is your favourite food, and why?’

Miss Reid – ‘Oh! That’s a really good question. My favourite food is all types of pasta because it’s delicious.’

Kayleigh – ‘Pasta! Pasta! Baby! Baby!’

Miss Reid – ‘That’s it!’

Isla – ‘Do you support a football team?’

Miss Reid – ‘I do, and controversially, I support the English football team, the women’s Lionesses and the England men as well.’

Kayleigh – ‘What about Celtic?’

Miss Reid – ‘Eh? Aargh!’

Kayleigh – ‘Go Celtic.’

Mason – ‘Go Hibs!’

Kayleigh – ‘What is your favourite movie ever?’

Miss Reid – ‘I really, really like Disney movies, so probably *The Lion King*.’

Kayleigh – *singing* – ‘I just can’t wait to be king!’

Kayleigh + Isla together – ‘Thank you for answering our questions.’

Miss Reid – ‘No problem at all.’

Isla – ‘And thank you for having us.’

Miss Reid – ‘Thank you for having me.’

Kayleigh – ‘I hope you enjoyed our questions, and I hope you’ll come back next time.’

Miss Reid – ‘Me too.’

Isla – ‘If you come back, you’ll maybe get some chocolate.’

Miss Reid – ‘Mmmmm!’





## Interview with Kath by Mason and CJ

Mason – ‘Bon-jour Kath! Thanks for coming.’

Kath – ‘Oooh! Bon-jour! Ca va bien.’

Mason – ‘Ca va bien, merci. How long have you been working at Pilrig Park?’

Kath – ‘I have been at Pilrig Park for 19 years.’

Mason – ‘19 years?’

Kath – ‘Yes. A long time, isn’t it? Longer than you’ve been born.’

Mason – ‘Is it 2000’s?’

Kath – ‘Is it 2000’s?’ *(pauses while she tries to do the Maths)*

Mr McPhillips – ‘That would be 2005.’

Mason – ‘2005?’

Kath – ‘Yes. I’ve been here a looooong time.’

Mason – ‘Your turn CJ.’

CJ – ‘What was your favourite subject at school?’

Kath – ‘What was my favourite subject at school? My favourite subject at school was probably English. I always liked reading, and language, but if you maybe ask other people, it probably would have been talking.’

Mason – ‘Who inspires you?’

Kath – ‘Who inspires me? Do you know who inspires me? My mum.’

Mason – ‘Your mum?’

Kath – ‘Yeah. She’s the best person.’

Mason – ‘Now it’s your turn CJ.’

CJ – ‘What’s your favourite food?’

Kath – ‘My favourite food is anything with chicken in it. You can put chicken in anything, I love chicken?’

Mason – ‘Roast chicken?’

Kath – ‘Roast chicken,’

Mason – ‘Chicken curry?’

Kath – ‘Chicken curry, chicken pasta.’

Mason – ‘Chicken pie?’

Kath – ‘Chicken pie, a chicken sandwich. I love chicken can go on anything.’

Mason – ‘A chicken burger?’

Kath – ‘A chicken burger. Yeah.’

Mason – ‘From fast-food take-aways? KFC?’

Kath – ‘I don’t think I have many KFCs, but..’

Mason – ‘Do you support a football team?’

Kath – ‘I’m not really a football supporter but if I was to say anything, I’d have to say a Jambo. A Hearts fan because the rest of my house are Hearts fans.’

Mason – ‘I’m a Hibs fan.’

Kath – ‘Oh! What are you doing interviewing me?’

Mason – ‘CJ, it’s your turn. It’s ‘What’s your favourite movie ever?’’

CJ – ‘What’s your favourite movie ever?’

Kath – ‘My favourite movie ever is a film called *Calamity Jane*.’

Mason – ‘Calamity Jane?’

Kath – ‘Yes. Which I love. It’s a musical. There’s singing and dancing in it, which is right up my street.’

Mason – ‘Yep.’

Kath – ‘Anything else?’

Mason – ‘Thank you for answering our questions.’

Kath – ‘You are very welcome. Thank you for asking them so well.’





# Parent Council

The Parent Council represent the views of the parents and carers to ensure that the parental perspective is taken into account.

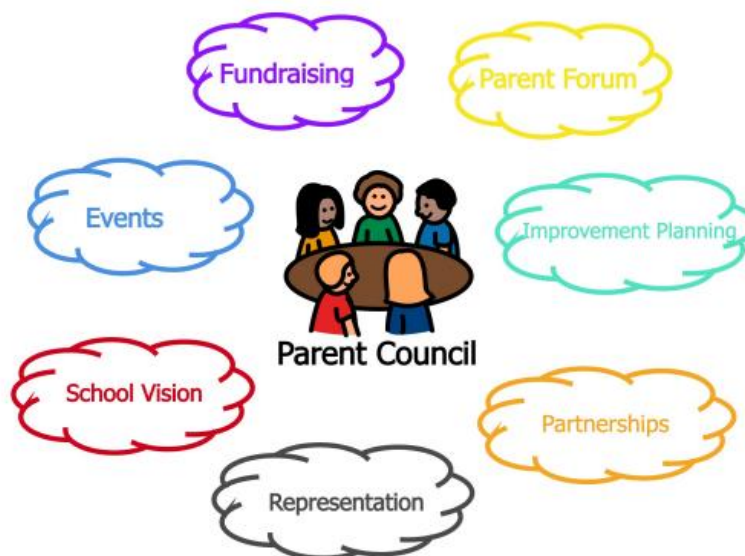
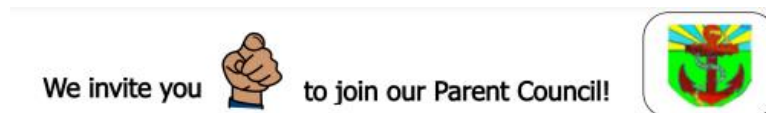
Parent Council business may include:

- partnerships between home, school and the community
- communication with other parents
- improvement planning for parental involvement
- events such as assemblies, school fairs, and discos
- growing school and community finances through fundraising and grant applications
- representing the school parent forum locally and nationally



Typically, Parent Council consists of:

- Chairperson - who run parent's meetings.
- Secretary - to take minutes and handle all communication.
- Treasurer - to keep a good record of all money related matters,
- Parent Council members



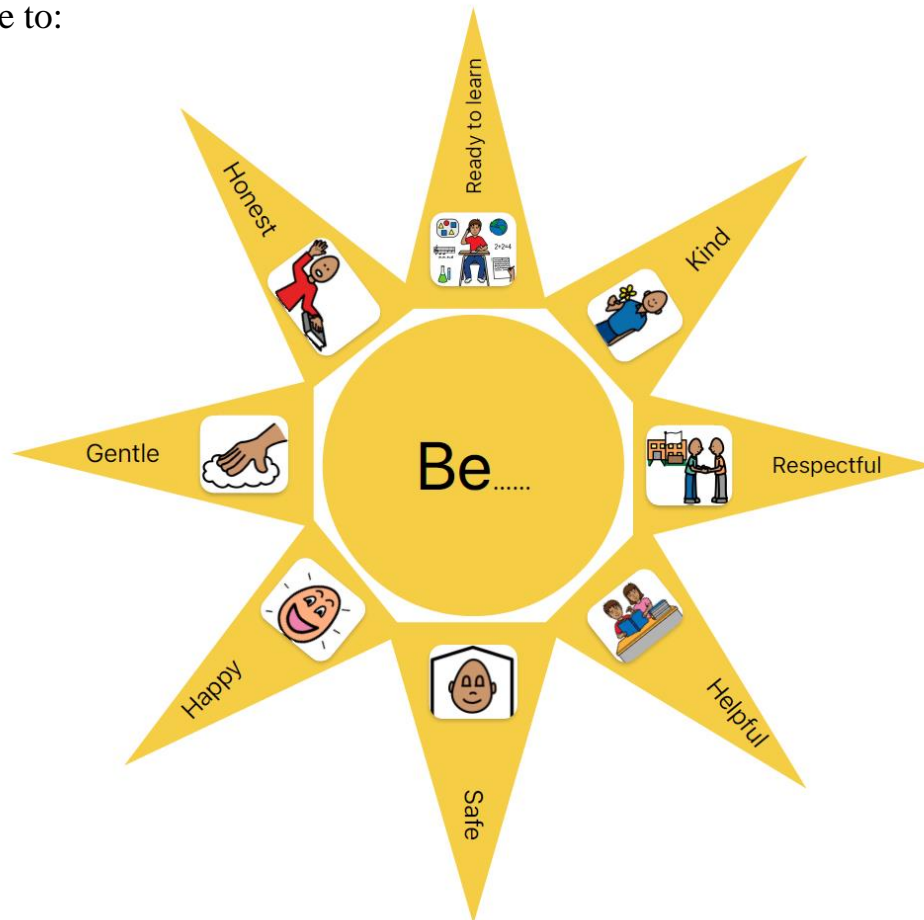
**We would like to invite parents and carers willing to be part of The Parent Council this school year to contact our school office.**



# Sunshine in Leith!

**Vision:** As a dedicated school community, we are committed to maintaining a caring and supportive working environment, acting with integrity, motivation, and flexibility at all times. Our vision is to provide safe, effective, holistic education ensuring equity and inclusion for all our pupils through seamless, compassionate, and dignified specialised provision.

**Values:** Our Pupil Council, after extensive consultation, identified that the values of Pilrig Park School are to:



## **Aims:**

**Partnerships** which provide us with opportunities to develop relationships within our community to inspire an....

**Inclusive** learning environment;

**Life Skills** to prepare our pupils for their futures beyond Pilrig Park School which sparks and embeds the values of a....

**Rights** respecting cultural ethos;

**Independence** engrained, through learning and teaching, to enable our pupils to be....

**Gallus!**



Wishing all our families a very relaxing and enjoyable Easter holiday. We look forward to welcoming all pupils back to school on **Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> April**.

Ps We thought you would enjoy this picture of one of our PSAs – the lovely Kath! Unfortunately after 19 years at Pilrig Park School Kath has decided to retire (we agree, she doesn't look old enough!). Thankfully she has one more term with us and will not be hanging up her bunny ears until the end of June.

