



# Pilrig Park School

## Sunshine in Leith



**October 2024**

Welcome to the first of four newsletters for session 2024/25. As fast as we said goodbye to the Leavers of 23/24 we welcomed our new S1 pupils into Blue and Purple Classes. Blue Class have already taken on the responsibility of the Eco Committee and are doing a fantastic job with all our recycling tasks!

We held our first ever Meet the Staff event in September. It was lovely to welcome so many parents and carers into the school. We hope you enjoyed learning about the curriculum we deliver, hearing from our post-school partners, meeting staff teams and experiencing Music, Art, Home Economics and PE. This session we are focusing on celebrating different cultures and we look forward to welcoming parents and carers back into the school on the 6<sup>th</sup> November for our Celebration of Culture event.

It is wonderful that we are able to start the year with celebrating whole-school successes and we hope you enjoy reading about our achievements in our Eco work and with inclusive communication. An enormous thanks to all the staff and pupils who have worked so hard to allow us to achieve these awards. We have now started on the final part of our journey to achieving Gold: Rights Respecting as part of the Rights Respecting Schools Award. We will need the help of all our school community to achieve this so please keep an eye out for future requests.

I am delighted to let all our parents and carers know that we now have a Parent Council. I am extremely grateful to the parents and carers who came forward to help establish this vital part of our school work. We are in the final stages of completing all the necessary administration and we will be holding our first meeting for this session on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October on TEAMS at 5.00pm. All parents and carers are invited to attend and contribute and an invite will be sent out after the holiday.

Finally, I would like to share with you my favourite photo of this term. Miss Wheat organised for the Oral Health Improvement Team to come in and work with all S1 – S3 pupils. We have launched our daily toothbrushing programme and this lovely photograph captures the enthusiasm of one of our pupils.

We hope you enjoy reading about life at Pilrig Park School since we returned in August. Thank you to all the staff for their contributions to the newsletter.

Thank you as ever for your continued support. Enjoy the October holiday and we look forward to welcoming our pupils back on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October.

Take care and keep safe.

Ms Ann M. O'Hagan

Head Teacher



## Key Dates!

**Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October** – Pupils return from October holiday

**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> November** – Family cinema event in school from 1.30pm

**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December** – Whole-school trip to the pantomime

**Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December** – Pilrig Park School Winter Show: The Pilrig Express! From 1.30pm

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December** – Whole-school silent disco

**Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December** – Last day of term

**Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January** – Pupils return after Christmas holiday

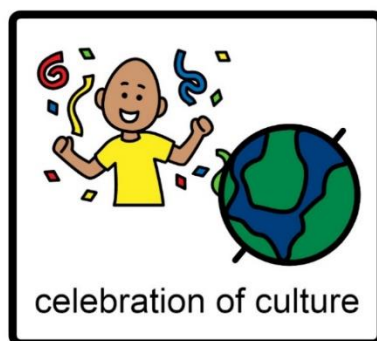
**Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> January** – S1 – S6 Parents Night 4.00 – 6.00pm

...

**Save the Date!**

Parents & carers are invited to our

# Celebration of Culture Event



Come and see what the pupils have been doing, making, creating and baking as part of our celebration of cultures across the world!

**on Wednesday 6th November 2024**

**at 1.30pm - 2.45pm**

**in Pilrig Park School**

# PILRIG PARK NEWS

## Eco-Schools Scotland Green Flag Award!

In August, we were informed that we have been awarded our first ever Green Flag!

We were commended for having a large inclusive Eco-Committee and for all our work on recycling and reducing food waste.



**Green Flag Award  
Holder 2024**



A massive **Thank You!** to Ms Wheat for all her hard work in putting this application together along with all the work of our dedicated Eco-Committee. We are so proud of what we have achieved!



# Celebrating Bronze Level Visual Support Project Award at Pilrig Park School!



At Pilrig Park School we are thrilled to announce that we have been awarded the bronze level Visual Support Program award. An achievement that recognises our commitment to creating an inclusive communication environment for all our learners. This award is testament to the dedication and hard work of our staff, who have fostered a learning ethos where every learner can thrive through using enhanced communication strategies.

Over the past year, the staff have worked tirelessly to implement a variety of visual supports all over the school. The visual supports in our school environment not only aid communication but also promote independence and boost the confidence of our learners.

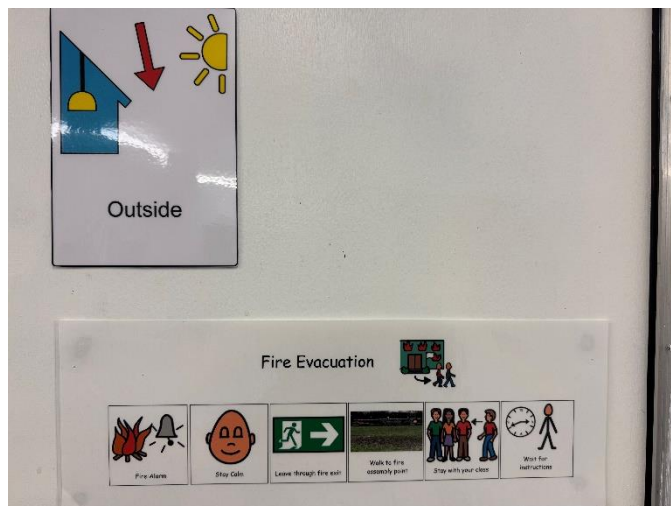
*“Visuals are now visible in all classrooms, including area labels and resource labels. It was fantastic to see some exemplary classrooms using visuals to a very high standard.”*

*Jenn Currie - CYP Speech and Language Therapist*

We are immensely proud of what our staff team have achieved, which was by no means an easy task. We must thank our colleagues in Speech and Language Therapy for their tireless support throughout this process and we look forward to working closely with them in the future as we strive for Silver!

Miss McLarty

Principal Teacher Support for Learning





# Meet the Staff Event – 26<sup>th</sup> September 2024

We were delighted to welcome many families to our very first 'Meet the Staff' event at the end of September.

Staff shared with parents and carers the school's vision, values and aims, the school's improvement plan followed by information on the curriculum including PSE (Personal and Social Education) and RSHP (Relationships, Sexual Health & Parenthood). Staff also explained how we prepare our young people for life post school and gave examples of where our pupils have gone, after leaving Pilrig Park School.

We invited representatives from some of our partners with the school including DYW (Developing the Young Workforce), SDS (Skills Development Scotland), LAC (Local Area Coordination Team), YAD (Young Adult Disability Team) and Edinburgh College who gave an insight into their involvement with our pupils and how they support them throughout their transition journey.

Then came the fun part!!

Families were invited to meet their child's teacher, see their classroom and then take part in some activities: experience Art and Home Economics, sing along in Music and play along in PE!

We were delighted that families could share in the learning which is taking part in our school and join their child in some of the experiences within the curriculum. Judging by the smiles and laughter, everyone had a wonderful time!



# celebration of culture!



This session, we are having a big focus on the celebration of culture, within our school community and beyond!




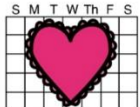











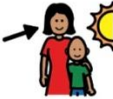


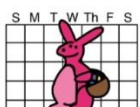



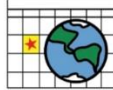

The last week of October and first week of November will be our Interdisciplinary fortnight, during which the whole school will be involved in celebrating cultures across the school and all over the world.

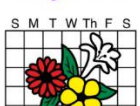







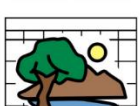











We will be inviting parents and carers to join us on the afternoon of **Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> November for a 'Celebration of Cultures' family event! Save the date!! We would love parents and carers to join in the fun!**

In school, we have created our very own Cultural Calendar. Here is the calendar for you to have at home. If you would like a paper copy of the calendar, please let school know and we'll send one home! See you on the Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> of November!

<b>Pilrig Park School Cultural Calendar 2024 25</b> 					
<b>August 2024</b> 	<b>13th Left Handed Day</b> 	<b>16th National Tell a Joke Day</b> 			
<b>September 2024</b> 	<b>1st - 5th Zero Waste Week</b> 	<b>12th National Video Games Day</b> 	<b>16th National PSA Day</b> 	<b>18th National Fitness Day</b> 	<b>23rd International Day of Sign Language</b> 
<b>October 2024</b> 	<b>Black History Month</b> 	<b>5th World Teachers Day</b> 	<b>10th World Mental Health Day</b> 	<b>20th Diwali</b> 	<b>31st Halloween</b> 
<b>November 2024</b> 	<b>1st All Saint's Day</b> 	<b>5th Bonfire Night</b> 	<b>11th - 15th Anti-bullying Week</b> 	<b>11th Remembrance Sunday</b> 	<b>30th St Andrew's Day</b> 
<b>December 2024</b> 	<b>24th Christmas Eve</b> 	<b>24th Polish Wigilia</b> 	<b>25th Christmas Day</b> 	<b>26th Boxing Day</b> 	<b>31st Hogmany</b> 



<b>January 2025</b> 	1st New Year's Day 	25th Burns Day 	29th Chinese New Year 		
<b>February 2025</b> 	14th Valentine's Day 	26th Maha Shivratri 	26th Ramadan begins 		
<b>March 2025</b> 	1st St David's Day 	4th Pancake Day 	6th World Book Day 	8th International Womens Day 	14th Holi Festival 
	17th St Patrick's Day 	21st World Downs Syndrome Day 	30th Mother's Day 	30th Ramadan ends 	30th-31st Eid al-Fitr 
<b>April 2025</b> 	Autism Awareness Month 	12th Jewish Passover begins 	20th Easter Sunday 	22nd Earth Day 	23rd St Georges Day 

<b>May 2025</b> 	Muslim History Month 	1st Labour Day 	3rd International Astronomy Day 	4th World Star Wars Day 	5th Scottish Disability Week 
	11th Deafness Awareness Week 	13th Mental Health Week 	21st Day of Cultural Diversity 		
<b>June 2025</b> 	Pride Month 	Gypsy Roma Traveller Month 	1st Dinosaur Day 	5th World Environment Day 	7th Eid al-Adha 
	8th World Oceans Day 	9th - 15th National Carers Week 	15th Father's Day 	21st International Yoga Day 	23rd International Women in Engineering 
	28th Armed Forces Day 				

## **Pulse of the Place – Samba Drumming**

We are very fortunate to welcome back Pulse of the Place, after the summer holidays! Rohan and his team meet with a small group of pupils each week in the hall – listen and you can hear the drums beating! Some of the pupils are learning how to play the samba drums for the very first time, and some are returning as experts! We are very grateful to Rohan for the work they do with pupils, which not helps to build on their self-confidence, social connections with others, and fine motor skills but also learning to appreciate music in an alternative way to their core music lessons.





# Blue Class

Blue Class have had a great start to their first term at Pilrig Park School. We've been enjoying some sensory play during relaxation time; making gloop and other weird and wonderful mixtures!



We've also been making t-shirts in JAS on Wednesday afternoons in preparation for our Disney parade and class disco at the end of term.



We really enjoyed the visit from the Oral Health Team in September and have been brushing our teeth in class every day since!



During Topic lessons we have been looking at how toys work, and recently made our own spinners.





# Yellow Class

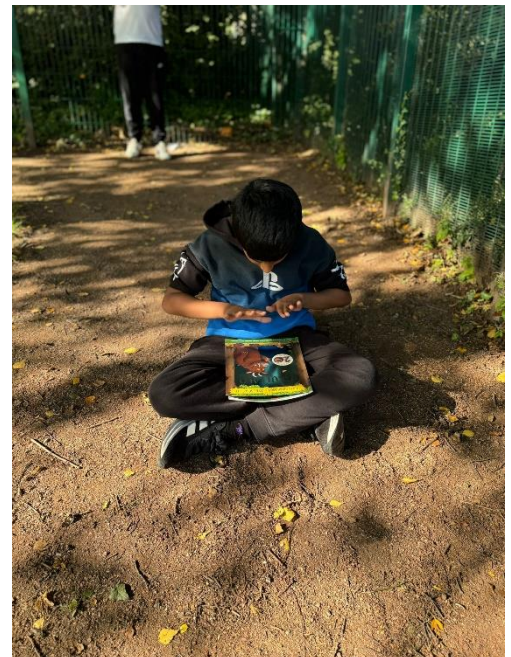
This term has flown by! We have settled back into school routines and are enjoying the wide range of classes that we have.

We have been practicing our signing and symbol recognition with a core word focus for each week. So far we have covered name, who and want. Activities for these have included stories, short video clips, songs and games.



We really enjoyed the visit that we had from the Dental Health Nurses. They showed us all the different tools and equipment they use when they check our teeth. We had great fun trying things on, practicing brushing our teeth and using the tiny mirrors to look in our mouths!

We had lots of fun doing a magnetic treasure hunt around the school, finding out what stuck to our magnets!



We are enjoying our outdoor learning and have teamed up with Purple Class to make tree decorations for the trees in our playground and we are also looking at what wildlife lives in the school grounds. We are very hopeful that we have hedgehogs as we have been learning all about them as well.



# Purple Class

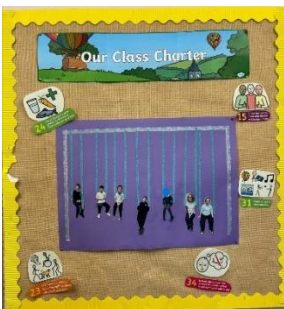
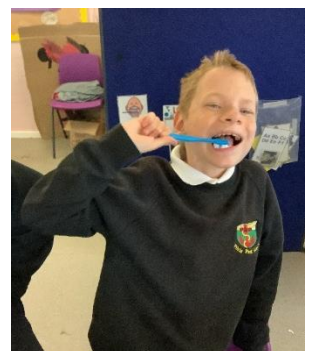
Purple Class have had a great start to the year. We have enjoyed building new friendships with a new addition to our class and have worked hard to be good role models for the S1 pupils. We have begun to take a lead in routines as each pupil takes a turn to direct our morning circle. We have also introduced class jobs and have undertaken different responsibilities, such as leading the line and taking the register to the office.

In Literacy, we have been exploring enjoyment and choice. We have used a book cover and blurb to make choices about which story we would like to listen to. We have also shared our opinions about texts, and some pupils have given reasons for their choices. As a class, we particularly liked reading 'The Snail and the Whale' and used this text to explore rhyming words.

In Maths, we have focused on counting and data handling. We have used technology to support us to count different quantities. We have started to make an estimate before we count, developing subitizing skills and number sense. We have developed our matching and data handling skills by choosing two of our favourite things and finding out which is the most popular out of the two.

In Health and Wellbeing, we have been learning about citizenship as we continue to work towards our ASDAN award. We created our class charter by thinking about the importance of children's rights in the classroom. We proudly display our charter in the classroom to remind us of our rights. We also chose to take part in a litter pick around the school, ensuring that our environment is taken care of.

Purple Class have really enjoyed the first term of this year and are looking forward to a well-earned October break!





# Red Class

The Red Class have had a very busy and amazing term 1, with lots of learning. We have been learning about our rights and made our class charter. We have learned about living and non-living things and have linked our Maths work to this also. We have learned about the forces of push and pull, how toys work, and how they move. In Health and Wellbeing, we have learned about safe/unsafe and acceptable and unacceptable behaviour. We all know what we want in a friend, and it is not a huffy bear. We like to share and work as a team and have done some amazing Lego building together. We have written a book review and our learning to share our likes and dislikes and what is important to us.





# Orange Class

Orange Class have had a fabulous start to S4. They have been very busy working on different qualifications and wider school activities this term. Everyone in Orange Class is developing a good school routine while adjusting to a new timetable, settling in well with their peers and friends in school. Looks like all of Orange Class seem very happy to be back in school.

Learning about world religions in RME:



We are enjoying doing various class activities throughout our timetable:



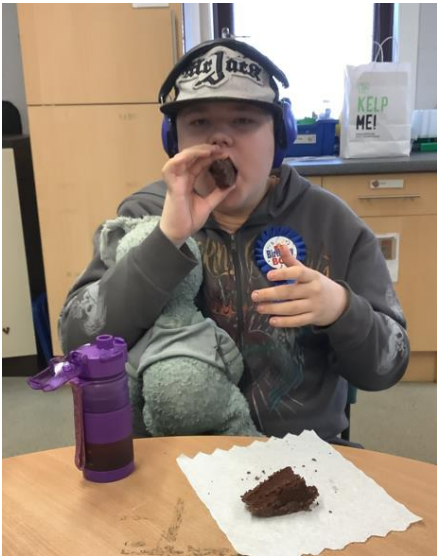
Orange Class showing how active they are in P.E and enjoying centre stage in Music. Well done Orange Class!





# Green Class

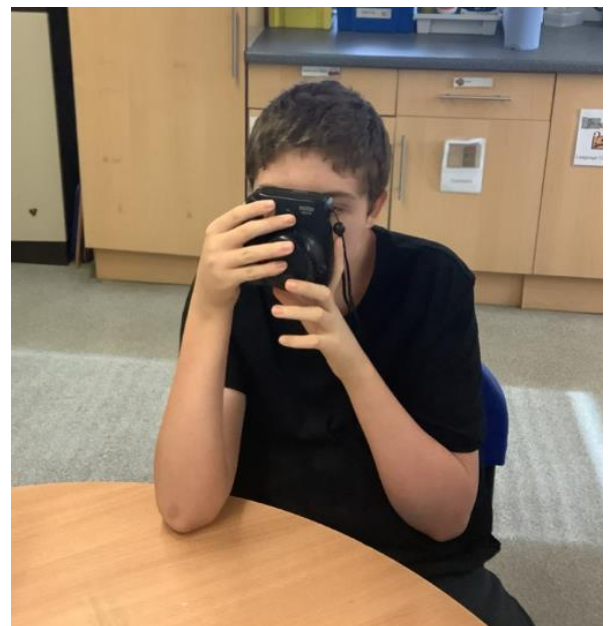
We started the school year by celebrating a pupil in Green Class's birthday! The pupil planned his party for the class, he decided he would like to play Musical Chairs and made a playlist for the party. Afterwards, we enjoyed some cake!



Green Class were visited by NHS Dental Nurses as part of their SQA "Finding Out About the World of Work". We used different tools to show of our amazing tooth brushing skills!



As part of Green Class's SQA in Photography, we learnt how to take portraits of our classmates using a polaroid camera.





# Clyde Class

In September we had a very successful and fun visit from the Child Smile Team and pupils in Clyde Class loved having the chance to interact and play with toy versions of dental equipment. Everyone had smiles on their faces!



As part of their People and Society SQA National 1, Clyde Class pupils hosted a fun and engaging event focused on Pokémon Go. After learning about the creator of Pokémon, the pair decided to host a special Pokémon Go event for other pupils in the school. The event took place on Friday, October 4th, with Blue Class and some members of Yellow Class invited to participate.

Pupils had a great time exploring and catching Pokémon hiding in the school playground. There were prizes for fastest finder, best catch, best photo and best team player. The event was a wonderful example of how learning can be interactive and exciting, bringing together different groups to share in the fun. Well done to the pupils for hosting.





# Ness Class

Ness Class have had a busy term.

In PSE we are working on the ASDAN course – Living Independently. The module we have been working on is Making Financial Choices. As part of a unit where we had to look up the cost of a holiday to a chosen country, we had some Geography lessons to learn more about countries, continents and the world and our place in it. We also looked at the **cultures** of our chosen holiday destinations.



The task that has kept us busiest this term was preparing an assembly presentation on **Kindness**. Some of the class got up and spoke at assembly, and we made two videos, which we had a lot of fun preparing.



One of our videos was photos of every pupil and every member of staff at Pilrig Park School smiling, because smiling at someone is the easiest way to show **kindness**.





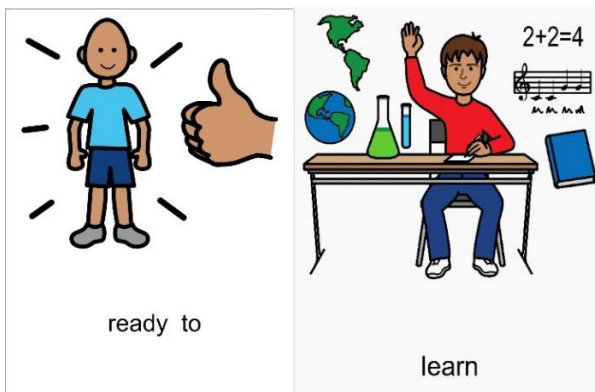
# Forth Class

Forth Class have had a busy start to the year with the first of their Post School Destination Planning meetings taking place. It has been very exciting to hear their views and start making decisions about where and what they would like to do when they leave Pilrig Park School!



Some of the pupils in Forth Class have been attending the Schools College Partnership taster course, held at Sighthill campus. This is giving them an insight as to what College would be like, should they choose to go there in September 2025. Exciting adventure planning ahead!

Forth Class took the lead in presenting at the first assembly of the session. Each assembly has a theme which is one of the school values. Our value for September was 'Ready to Learn'. Each pupil contributed to the presentation by taking part in the short video, speaking, or holding up a visual symbol of the key messages.



Forth Class have also been working on their 'Yearbook' which will be printed in June, in time for them leaving school. At time of writing this article, we are waiting on their Leavers Hoodies to arrive any day...look out for a very smart group of young people proudly wearing their chosen colour of hoodie!

## English

Forth Class have been following Kidnapped by Robert Louis Stevenson. Each week the class have acted out the story as it has progressed. They have done so well with completing tasks on the story plot, the main characters and predicting what might happen next that the National 2 unit on Responding to Fiction Texts has been achieved already!



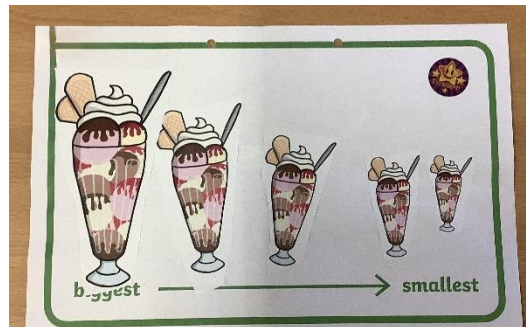
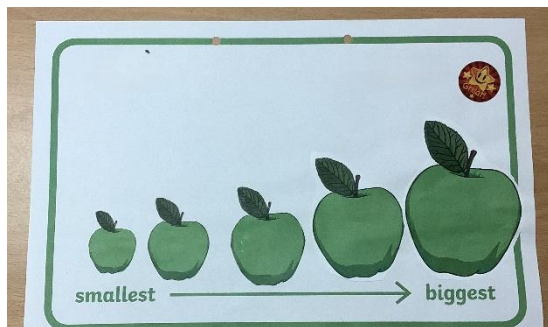
Orange Class enjoyed dressing up as pirates for their story.





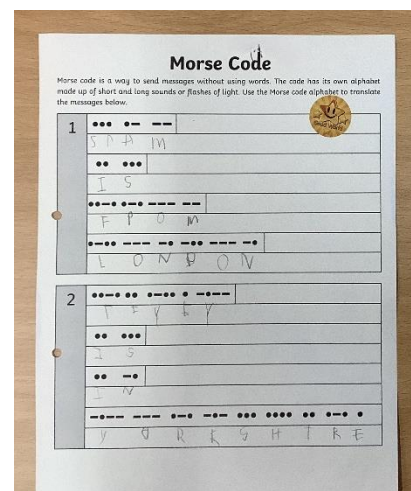
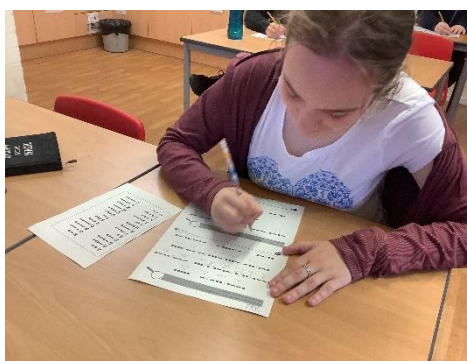
# Maths

The BGE classes have been working really hard in Maths, showing us all the skills that they have and learning new things all the time. Recently they have been learning about size.

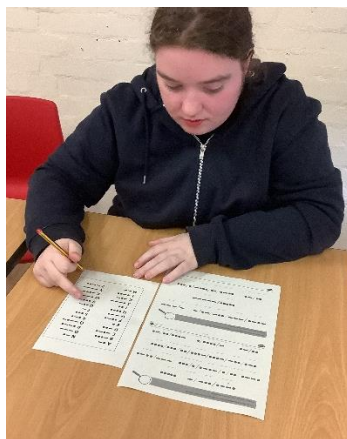


Senior classes are working towards National 1, 2 and 3 awards this year. All of the pupils in Forth Class, Ness Class and Orange Class have already achieved something towards these, and they should be proud of their hard work.

Recently the Seniors have been learning about Morse Code, which is an old method of communication, which is still used today.



MORSE CODE			
A --	J .----	S ...	0 ----
B ----	K ---	T -	1 ----
C ----	L ....	U ...	2 ----
D ---	M --	V ....	3 ----
E .	N --	W ---	4 ----
F ....	O ---	X ----	5 ....
G ---	P ....	Y ----	6 ----
H ...	Q ----	Z ----	7 ----
I ..	R ---		8 ----
			9 ----

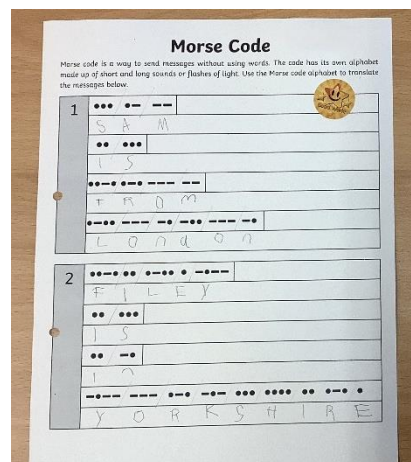


See if you can work out what this Morse Code message says:-

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# The Music Department

Orange Class gave a spectacular performance at assembly this month on their iPads for 'Lean on Me'! They played the chords along to the song using Garageband's smart piano.



Blue Class have been exploring different instrument sounds in music!





# In the Art Room!



The focus for the BGE classes this term has been line and pattern!

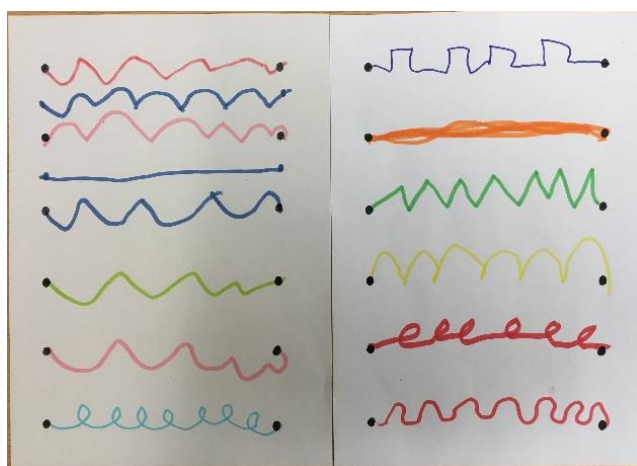
**Blue Class** started off their first week in the art room by decorating folders for all the artwork they will produce in the years to come! They have recently been working on a competition for the council to create designs for the bus shelters in the city centre in December – fingers crossed! They painted Christmas trees using forks instead of brushes and then designed baubles with flags from all over the world, to decorate their trees.



**Purple** and **Yellow** Classes have been practising their cutting skills in a variety of ways. As part of our focus on culture this year, the pupils recently made colourful 3D fringed feathers to add to Native American Indian headdresses!



**Red** Class have been brushing up on their cutting and gluing skills and creating wonderful hairstyles, using coloured paper strips! They have also been practising their wavy, straight, and zig zag lines to create patterns.





The senior pupils have been starting new projects.

**Clyde and Green** Classes have been creating a decorated picture frame as part of their Personal Achievement Award. They had to choose what shape, colour and if they wanted a photo or a mirror in the frame. Most pupils chose to have a photo of themselves in the frame – and don't they look good?!!



**Orange** Class have started 'Developing Skills in Creative Arts' and created some fantastic collages as their first piece of artwork in their SQA qualification.



The **National 3 Art & Design** class have been researching topic ideas for their chosen piece of artwork. Each pupil has chosen a topic which they very keen on – topics range from Ryan Air planes to flowers! Pupils are now creating mini sketches, drawings and paintings and using many different art techniques and materials.



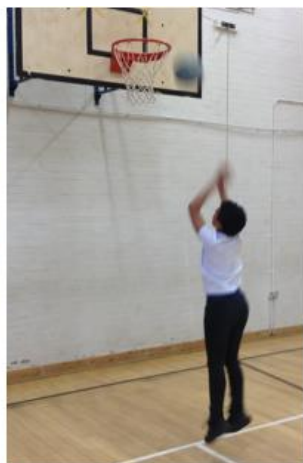
Finally, someone was busy in the summer holidays and painted the school fence....! A much needed 'DIY' mural has brightened up the park side of the school perimeter fence and provided the locals with something to enjoy as they walk through the public park! 😊 Huge thanks to Craig and Rose who donated the paint!





## P.E.

Pupils participating in PE have been developing and improving skills and techniques through practice and play in following activities: Football, Hockey and Basketball.



Pupils from Clyde Class have been taking part in Bikeability 1 sessions on Wednesday afternoons.





# Home Economics

This term in Home Economics we have been building some new skills, from measuring and mixing to whisking and folding.

Our targets are to learn and develop our cookery skills by following different recipes, working individually, in pairs or as groups.

We have been making croissants, noodles, shortbread and Swiss rolls to name a few but also learning skills such as using a knife and fork and identifying healthy and unhealthy foods.





## DYW – Developing the Young Workforce

Ness Class and Orange Class went to the DYW Roadshow to see many employers, colleges, and training providers to help them discover their next steps after they leave school.





## **Scran Van Returns!**

We are delighted to welcome back Dave and the SCRAN Van!

A few senior pupils are involved in the opportunity to take part in SCRAN Van sessions this term and next.

Dave provides confidence-boosting, skill-building cooking slots on the van, proving that classrooms come in all shapes and sizes! Our young people are also learning team work as well as culinary tips whilst making pastry and ganache chocolate tarts! It's a very practical way to teach pupils the transferrable skills they need for life and work.



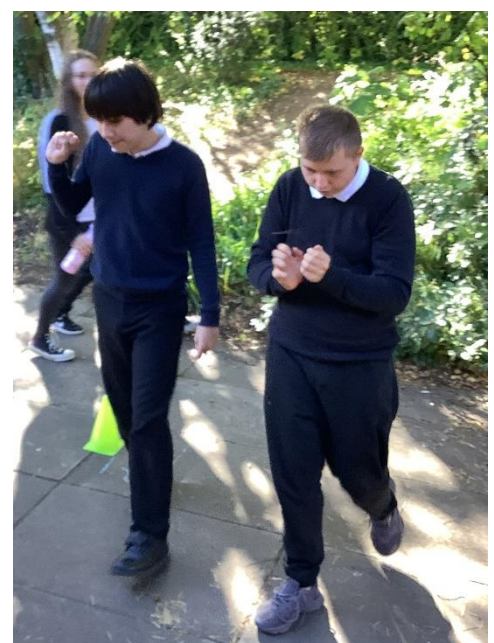
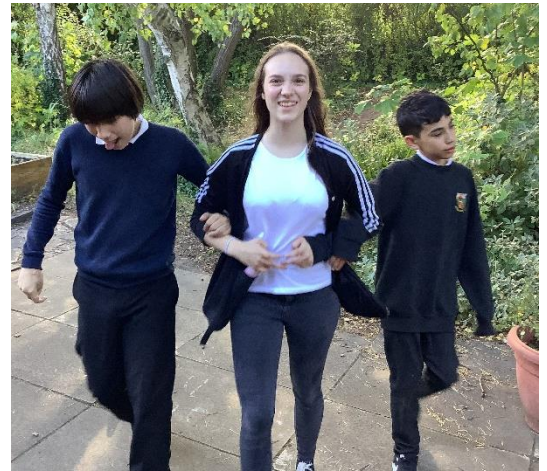


# Daily Mile

Forth and Yellow Classes have been completing the daily mile every week together!

The seniors have been amazing role models for the younger pupils.

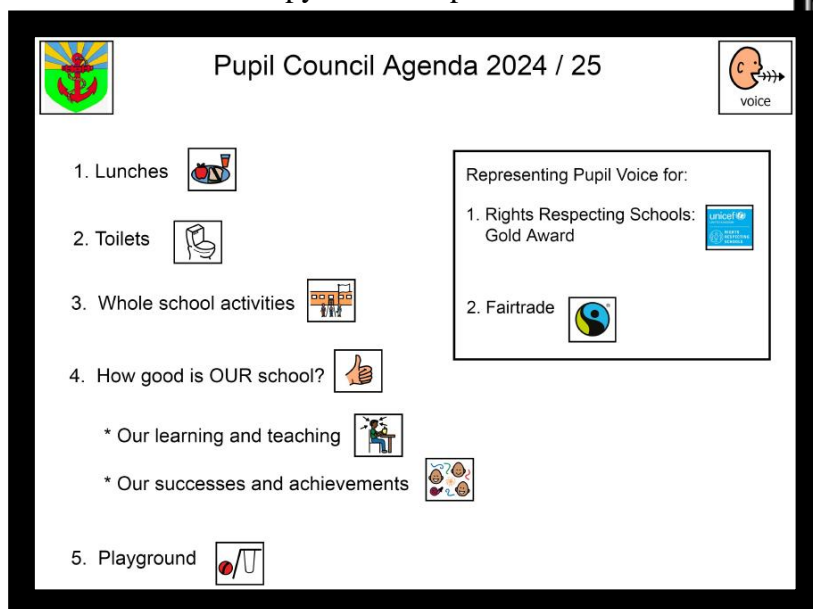
Well done to both classes.





## Pupil Council

The Pupil Council has another busy year ahead! We have representation from each year group and meet with Ms O'Hagan every Wednesday during Period 1 as part of our Pupil Voice work across the school. Together we have made this agenda for our work for this year. We have each signed it and every class has a copy displayed in their room as well as a copy on our Pupil Council noticeboard.



Together with Ms O'Hagan, this year we are also going to look at how good is OUR school at Learning & Teaching and Successes & Achievements. Each month we also accept applications from all the classes for the Special Badges Awards which we launched last year. We are very excited that this work is continuing this year and look forward to presenting many more Special Badges at future assemblies. We hope a class achieves the very special **GOLD** badge this session!

We look forward to keeping you updated on the work of the Pupil Council and our Pupil Voice groups.

Pilrig Park School Pupil Council





## Young Ambassadors

In August, Sarah, our Active Schools Coordinator, did a presentation about the Young Ambassadors Programme and had a chat with our Senior pupils. Some of them showed interest in becoming Sports Ambassadors.



Along with one of our Young Ambassadors from last year, Sarah interviewed 4 pupils for a Young Ambassador position at Pilrig Park School for this year.



Our new Young Ambassador showed fabulous leadership skills at the Young Ambassador Conference at Heriot Watt University in September.

Pilrig Park Sports Committee is planning to organise sports clubs, events, and activities for other pupils.



## Eco Committee

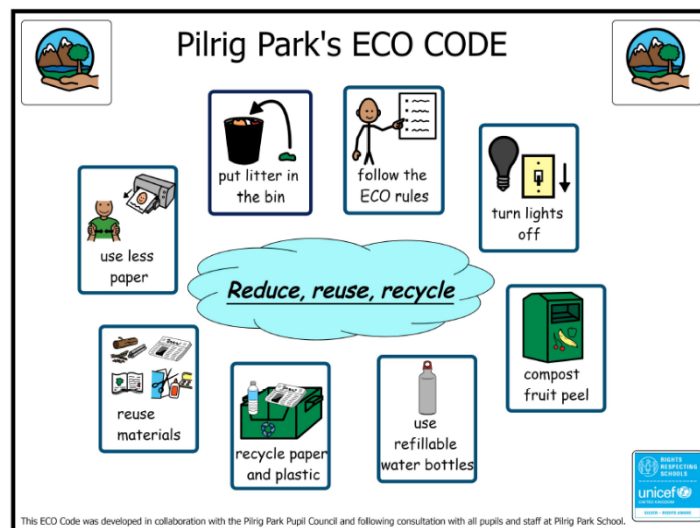
Blue Class have taken on the role of ECO Committee members with gusto and have been making their way around school reminding staff and pupils about the Pilrig Park School ECO CODE. They are encouraging staff to stop using so much paper and remember to turn the lights off!



They have also been carrying out weekly recycling and litter picking duties as ECO Committee members.



Recently, they presented at assembly to remind everyone about the ECO CODE.



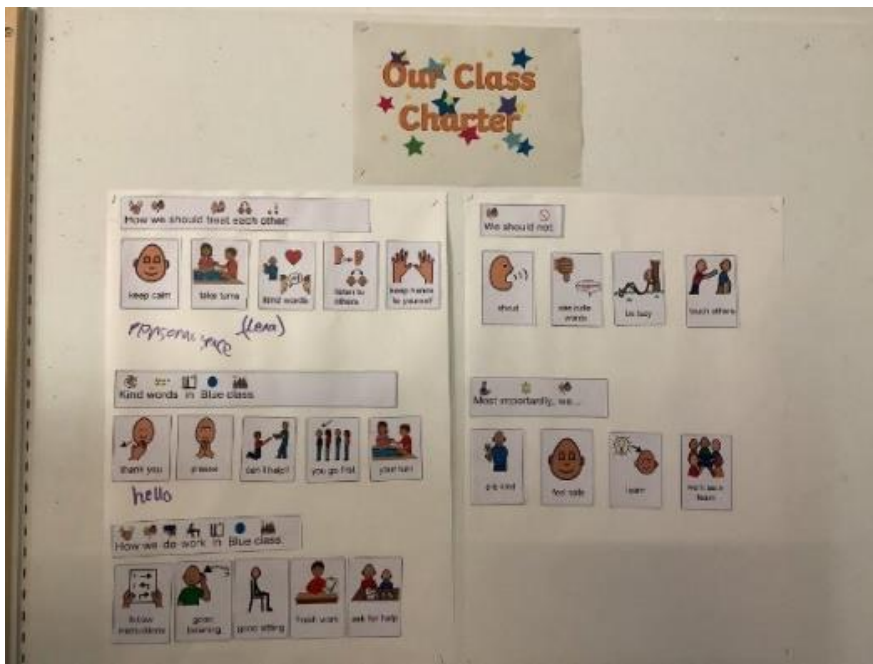


## Rights Respecting School

This year, Red and Clyde Classes will be heading up our Rights Respecting School Steering Group on our journey to gold!



So far, we have been encouraging classes to review or create new class charters. Here are some examples.



On our journey to gold, we will be looking to get the whole school community involved so watch out on the school website, X feed or future newsletters for how you can support us in achieving the top level of the Rights Respecting School Award.



## Fairtrade

Orange Class are working hard to promote Fairtrade in Pilrig Park School. They are working towards achieving Fairactive Award for Pilrig Park School. To achieve this award, Orange Class need to do the following:

1. Set up a Fairtrade group
2. Hold an assembly
3. Hold an event
4. Take one of our Fairtrade challenges.



Orange Class have already completed step 1. They are working on Step 2 where they are holding an assembly. Here are some photos to show how we are preparing for our assembly presentation in October.





## Gardening

### **RHS School Gardening Awards - Yellow Class and Purple Class**

This term the Yellow and Purple Classes have been working hard on one section of the RHS (Royal Horticultural Society) Schools Gardening Award Level 4.

This involves looking at wildlife and what we can do to encourage more wildlife into the garden. We have been focusing on hedgehogs and so far, have looked at what hedgehogs look like, what they need to survive and a little about their homes. We are hoping to set up an experiment to see if we have any hedgehogs already living in the grounds, and then create a safe place for them to hibernate over the winter.

The two classes have been working really well together, following instructions and completing tasks in small groups. It has been great for both classes to create new friendships and build on old ones.



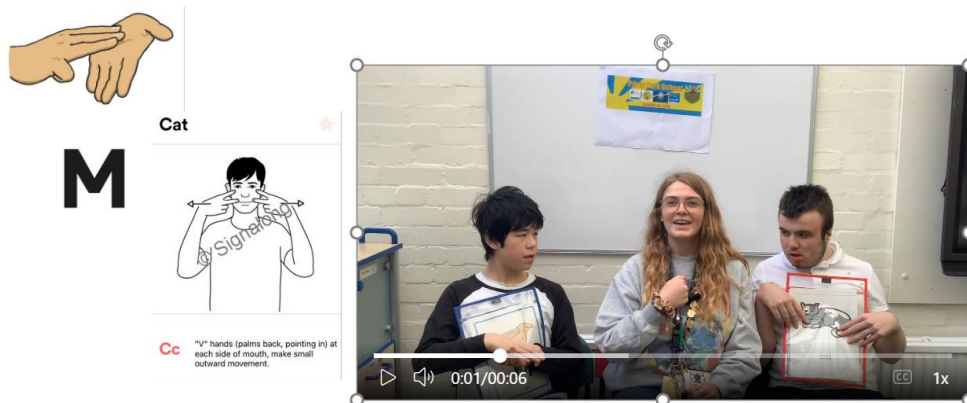
**Our leaf hedgehogs!**



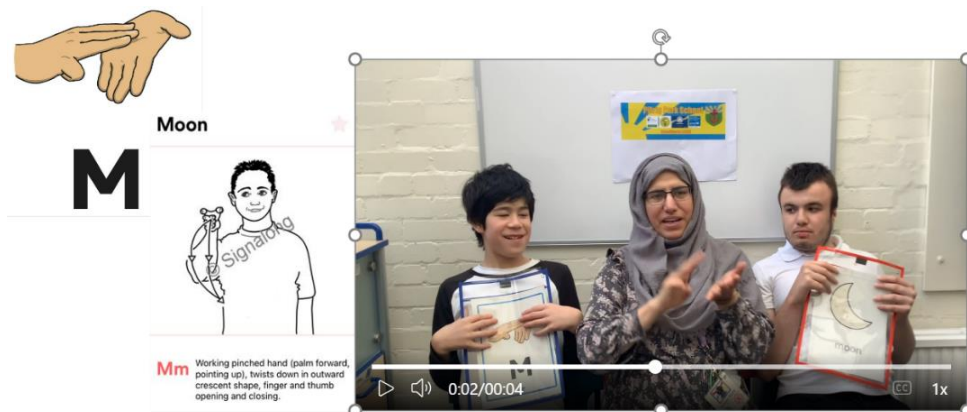
## Signalong

Green Class decided they would like to make Singalong name videos as part of their “Have Your Say” SQA Award. We are making a name video for every staff member at Pilrig Park School to help us all learn new ways to communicate. We presented the videos we have made so far assembly. Here are Green Class staff Singalong names. These will be added to a Signalong Resource area on the website so families can learn them too.

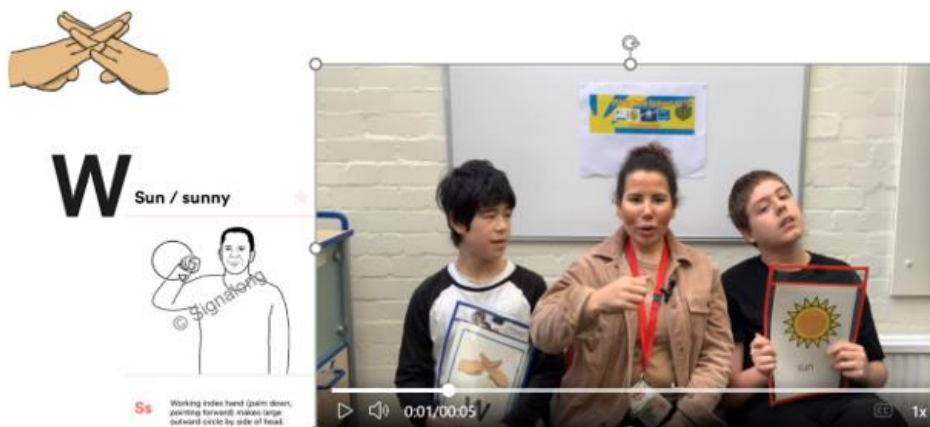
Miss Morrison



Mahnaz



Wassila



# Parent Council

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

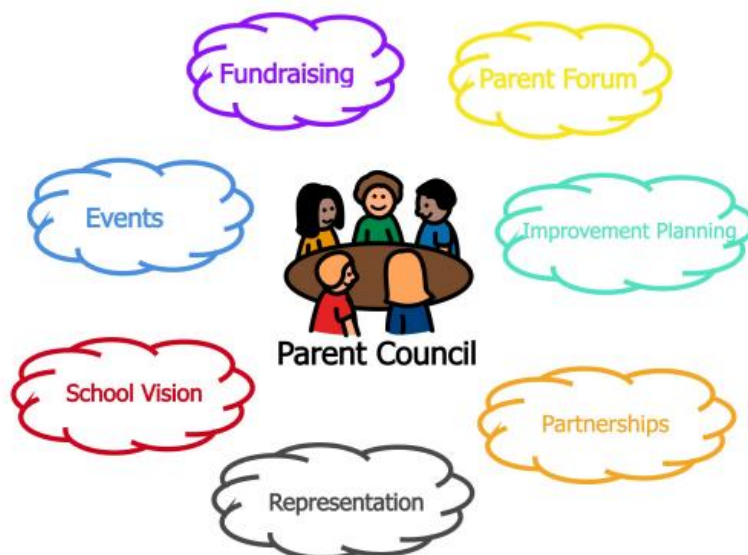
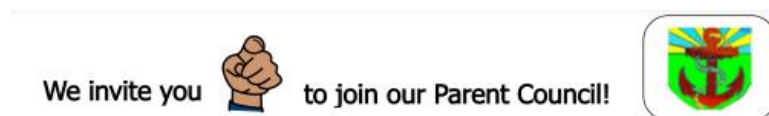
Parent Council business may include:

- 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



**After the October holidays all parents and carers will receive an invite by email to join the first Parent Council meeting of this session on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October on TEAMS at 5.00pm. We hope you will be able to join us.**