

Humari Pehchan Project

Over the course of the last two years, we have been on a journey as a community. We have actively and consciously navigated a move from a passive ethos of inclusivity to a vocal, anti-racist stance. We have reviewed our policies and ensured our learners voice is truly heard.

The opportunity to run the Humari Pehchan project in our school has been an exciting facet of this work. A chance for learners to celebrate their family heritage, the journeys their families have been on and the special things that make them unique. As a school we are committed to exploring this,

to celebrating this and to ensuring we learn from the experiences of others. This committed group of learners met weekly over the course of the year, sharing stories, memories, commonalities, and differences. The pride of our learners was evident, the empathy from their peers was clear and importantly the cultural understanding grew.

Moving forward, thanks to the funding from SAMEE – we now have the family stories of our learners in print. Ready to be shared further and wider. Ensuring we don't just acknowledge the culture and background of our learners, we learn from it, we celebrate it and we ensure we use it to further enrich our school, our community, our curriculum and our learning and teaching.

**Jenny Hennessy, Head Teacher
Prestonfield Primary School**

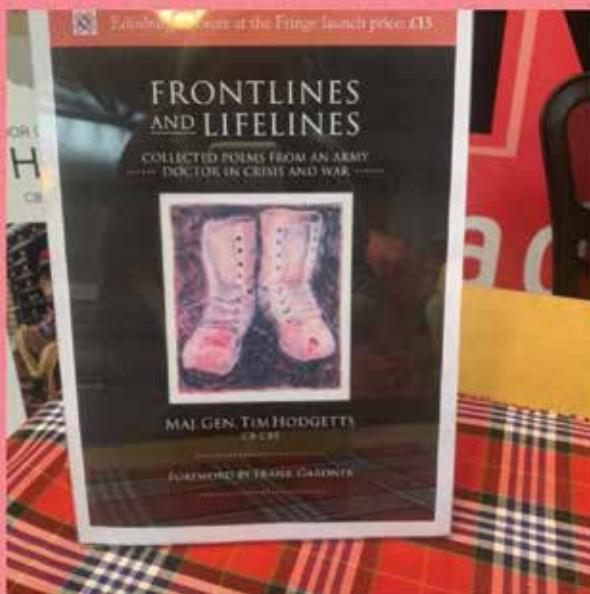


Colinton Primary School Choir

We were honoured and delighted to be invited to perform at an event at Edinburgh Napier University to celebrate the launch of Major General Tim Hodgetts CBE's new poetry book. The book features a collection of poems, reflecting on his experiences as a military doctor offering readers a glimpse into the realities of military life and medicine.

On Monday, 26 August, a choir consisting of P6/7 pupils from Colinton Primary School, sang two songs 'Solifugit' and 'Death of a Clock', both originally written as poems by Hodgetts, showcasing their talent and bringing his words to life. This was the choir's first performance, and it was understandably daunting, as they performed for an international audience made up of collegiate guests from around the world. The children sang beautifully, and the event was an outstanding success. We are grateful for the invitation to sing and for the recognition of the families in our school and their connections to military life.

**Lucy Bruce, Teacher
Colinton Primary School**



PIC-COLLAGE

Bronze Level Award

This certifies that

Pilrig Park School

have taken part in the Visual Support Project and have worked hard to achieve
Bronze Level Award

Signed: *Heather Robertson*

Date: 10th September 2024



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 Project 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!

Ruth McLarty, Principal Teacher Support for Learning, Pilrig Park School

Pilrig Park School Achieves the Eco- Schools Scotland Green Flag Award

We are thrilled to announce that we have been awarded the prestigious Eco-Schools Scotland Green Flag! This incredible achievement reflects the hard work, dedication, and commitment of our school community towards caring for the environment over the last two years.

The Green Flag Award marks a significant milestone in our journey towards becoming an eco-friendlier school. Since August 2022, our school community has been actively involved in a variety of eco-focused projects aimed at making our school more sustainable and raising awareness about important environmental issues.

We focused on several key initiatives, including litter and waste reduction, composting, and improving the school grounds. Red Class ran the ECO Committee and supported the whole-school recycling initiative, Green Class are our composting champions, and Orange Class and some senior pupils were involved in our efforts to improve the school grounds through various gardening initiatives. All classes in the school were involved in either a litter pick or encouraged to

grow plants or vegetables to support biodiversity and improve our school grounds.

Our new action plan is ready to be submitted for the coming year. Our new ECO Committee, Blue Class, will lead an energy-saving drive, educating the school community on how to reduce energy consumption. By turning off lights, computers, and other devices when not in use, we are hoping to decrease our carbon footprint even further.

This award would not have been possible without the support of our entire school community – all contributed to making our eco-schools goals a reality. We are incredibly proud of our achievements and are excited to continue our sustainability journey.

Red Class and Miss Donna Wheat, Class Teacher, Pilrig Park School



Edinburgh Teachers Celebrated at Apple Event

Teaching staff from across Edinburgh were welcomed to Waverley Court to celebrate achieving their Apple Learning Coach certification. It is great to have 62 staff across the city having achieved this certification.

Educators from a range of primary and secondary settings shared their experiences of the programme, exploring the positive difference that this has brought to their schools in allowing their colleagues and learners to feel more confident in using digital technology in the

classroom. Attendees shared examples of some of the learning materials created as a result of the Apple Learning Coach programme and had the opportunity to discuss their experiences with colleagues from across the city.

Apple Learning Coach is a professional learning programme that trains teachers to become instructional coaches to support their colleagues and learners to get more out of using digital technology in the classroom. The programme is made up of online learning modules, self-paced lessons, and two full days of virtual workshops where practitioners have the chance to connect and collaborate with educators across the UK and Ireland. The course results in the creation of a Coaching Portfolio including an action plan to support teachers who seek to take learning deeper with embedding the use of technology in the classroom. We can't wait to see where staff go next with what they have learned and the positive impact it will have on their pupils.

Apple Learning Coach will be running throughout 2024 and 2025 with a number of the city's teachers already signed up to take part. We look forward to celebrating their success next year!

Andrew McArthur, Edinburgh Learns Development Officer – Digital



James Gillespie's Primary School Have Leapt into Improving Their Teaching of Expressive Arts & Dance

This session, our school is improving our teaching of Expressive Arts & Dance. After an initial teacher survey, it was noted that teacher confidence and knowledge was a barrier to expressive arts. Teachers felt they needed help when planning and facilitating dance in their classrooms.

As a result of these findings, we made a strong link with the Royal Conservatoire in Glasgow. We participated in a movement based in-service day training which sparked creativity and imagination across the teaching team. It was also a great opportunity to get staff moving and enjoying time together. We are going to continue our working

partnership with the Royal Conservatoire, and we are looking forward to learning more from our expert peers.

Following on from our professional learning, teachers are now including dance in lessons and showing their class clips of dance making links with literacy and numeracy.

As we continue our journey, we have many opportunities lined up for our learners including: P6 pupils working with Imagine an Edinburgh based theatre company, P1–3 pupils participating in Nutcracker Workshops from the Scottish Ballet and YDance will work with our teachers to learn more ways of including dance in their classrooms.

Julie Somerville
Lead Expressive Arts Teacher

How Voice Gives Confidence

At first, I was apprehensive. I was invited to participate in the interview youth panel for the new director of education of Edinburgh due to my involvement in my school. This being the opportune BRO-UP programme, allowing young, anxiously aspiring individuals such as myself become more familiar with the university path, as well as the eagerness I presented and partaking in the supported DofE programme. Before the briefing, I knew little of what to expect, but the patience and positivity of the adults who introduced us to the process eased any worry. By the end, I felt honoured. Being asked to provide an opinion on a person deciding the future of my education as well as my younger

sister's empowered me. I always dedicate myself to growth, and throughout my educational life I was told about my pupil voice but never felt its presence. Rather, I treated it as a advertisement of something that does not exist. This opportunity allowed me to connect with people from other schools who are ambitious and kind, step out of my comfort zone and feel a sense of making a difference. I thought I had no conceptions about the topics involved, but when it came to the day, I felt myself having valid insight and observations. I will stand strongly by the opinion that this should become frequent practice; something that is generously shared across young people. With this pleasant experience, I would never underestimate how much feeling the speckle of influence opens a young person's mind and makes us feel capable and competent.

Abigail Kerner, S5 Pupil
Broughton High School

Pirniehall Primary School Pupils Sing with the Edinburgh Junior Choir, Usher Hall

Five pupils from in P5–P7 at Pirniehall Primary School (West Pilton) have been attending the Edinburgh Junior Choir, at the Usher Hall, every Monday evening after school for the whole of Term 1.

Each week they have joined other pupils from across Edinburgh to form a Junior Choir, learning songs together and learning to work alongside new peers.

This has been building up to a fantastic performance this week live on stage at the Usher Hall, alongside the community choir.

Songs included 'Hejo Span den Wagen an' and

'Count on Me'. The school were given 20 tickets, meaning that all families were invited to watch their child in the performance this week and enjoyed this experience.

One of the pupils described the whole experience as 'magical' and they all agreed they have had a 'really special time'.

A big thanks to Love Music and the Usher Hall for providing this fantastic opportunity to our pupils and to our pupil support assistant who supported the pupils each Monday evening, to and from choir practice.

They all enjoyed a celebratory meal together on the night of the performance at Bread Meets Bread, recognising the pupils' personal achievement, passion and consistent participation.

**Natalie Tracey, Head Teacher
Pirniehall Primary School**





Pirniehall Primary School Pupils



Pirniehall Primary School Pupils

Women and girls' participation in sport and physical activity is traditionally lower when compared to men and boys.

This week is about...

- Understanding the barriers women and girls face in sport
- Celebrate women and girls' achievements in sport
- Encouraging more women and girls to be physically active



Scottish Women and Girls in Sport Week

From 30 September to 6 October the PE staff along with our Active Schools Coordinator put on a weeks' worth of events to celebrate Scotland's Women and Girls in Sport Week! Queensferry High School is on a mission to increase our number of girls who participate in sport. During the celebration week there were on average 90 pupils each lunchtime coming along to listen to our guest speakers.

- * Eilish Robertson (S5) – Leadership Opportunities
- Susan Deacon – Ex GB sprinter

- * Alisa Wilson – Nutritionist
- * Jemma Swinburne – World Champion in TaeKwon-Do

The speakers provided an overview of their understanding of barriers women and girls face in sport, they celebrated women and girls' achievements and encouraged more women and girls to be physically active by sharing their own experiences and how they have overcome challenges they have faced. An inspirational series of events!

**Kenny Manson, Depute Head Teacher
Queensferry High School**



Sir Sean Connery Foundation

Dyslexia Initiative

Two years ago, Leith Academy was very fortunate to become involved with the Sir Sean Connery Foundation Dyslexia Initiative. During this we had 2 members of staff from the ASL service who not only supported some of our Dyslexic learners in school but also worked with the learning support staff including PSA's in order to build and develop our capacity for supporting young learners with their literacy.

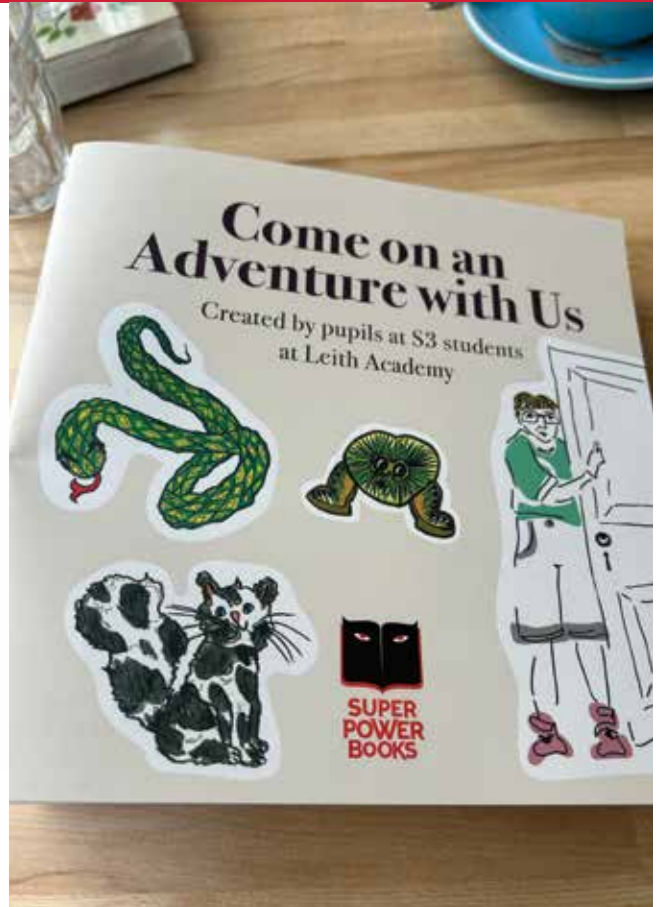
When this programme completed, we were keen to further raise the profile of dyslexia in the wider school so a whole school improvement group began to take forward various initiatives. Initially staff were given an opportunity via a survey to highlight their needs and what supports they required. This framed our vision for the group and we created a plan. Throughout the year we offered staff online training via Dyslexia Scotland. We also offered in person

training via lunchtime drop-in sessions which were very successful. We made a film of staff and students with dyslexia talking about their achievements which was shared across the school. We celebrated dyslexia week with blue ribbons worn proudly by most students and staff. We began working with the Super Power Agency and this enabled some of our Dyslexic learners to write their first children's book, a great achievement for them! Many staff in the school are now using the pupil voice document which is really helping them to support dyslexic learners in their class more effectively. In June, Leith Academy was awarded a Dyslexia Inclusive Quality Mark, which will undoubtedly ensure that our dyslexic learners will feel supported throughout their time here at Leith Academy.

Carol Mordaunt, Support for Learning Teacher, Leith Academy



Sir Sean Connery Foundation Dyslexia Initiative



The Power of Walking at St Ninian's

With the cost of the school day ever on our mind, St Ninian's RC Primary 7 group decided to let their feet do the talking!

Pupils set themselves a challenge of raising funds via a sponsored walk to support their residential trip to Lagganlia.

With goal set much training was needed and this came in the form of different length tours along the streets of Edinburgh. What started as a fund raiser soon turned into an appreciation of our place in Edinburgh and what role we play as its future inhabitants.

Primary 7 walked from Leith to Musselburgh, they walked up Arthur's Seat and Calton Hill and they walked past many historic landmarks such as the Castle, the Royal Mile and Britannia. For weeks they have been training hard covering a total distance of 56km using 80,000+ steps and burning over 8,000 calories on the way!

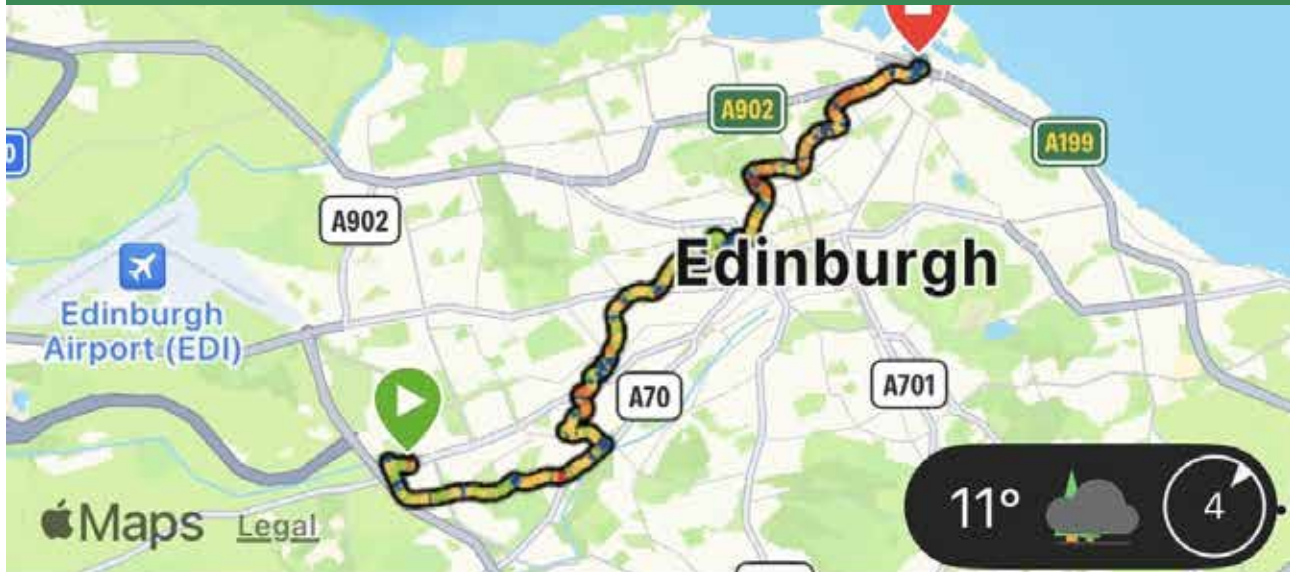
The sponsored walk itself meandered from Wester Hailes to Leith along the Union Canal and the Water of Leith taking in all aspects of Edinburgh's deep history, stunning architecture, and ever-changing scenery.

17.7km later and St Ninian's Primary 7 group had raised a whopping £1464 which will help reduce barriers and make the trip more accessible for all.

**Martin McCann, Depute Head Teacher
St Ninian's RC Primary School**



The Power of Walking at St Ninian's

Slower  Faster

6 Nov @ 09:35

City of Edinburgh Walking 


How did it go?

17.70 km


Distance

**5:04:48**

Total Time

17:13 /km 

Avg Pace

89 bpm 

Avg Heart Rate

1,335

Total Calories



Redhall Rights Café

At Redhall School we are holding regular café sessions for our children and their parents to come and celebrate our Children's Rights as part of the Rights Respecting School award. On the last Thursday of each month, we invite parents along to the school hall to take part and see photos and evidence of how we are learning about each right. We have fun

activities out on the tables for parents and children to enjoy. We have treats to eat made by the children and staff and enjoy singing some songs together. So far we have celebrated the 'right to have a name' and the 'right to play'. It is also a chance for our children to practice their social skills and skills for independence by serving the food and drinks.

**Charlotte Chiswick, Head Teacher
Redhall School**