



Pilrig Park School

Sunshine in Leith



April 2025

Welcome to our end of term newsletter! Mr McPhillips has been really busy putting it together as we have so much to share with you from this term, including some fabulous news about awards which we have won!!

You will see lots of examples throughout the newsletter of pupils taking part in cycling practice and Bikeability. In fact, this session, for the first time, one of our Senior classes is undertaking two SQA qualifications for all their work in this area: Cycling Safely and Cycle Safety Checks both at SCQF level 1. We also received the most amazing gift to the school of a brand new state of the art trike. Natalie and Lesley were so excited at its arrival that they just had to have a wee go!!!!

We have a new chair for our Parent Council, Mr Hugh Mooney and I am delighted that Mr Craig McInnes has consequently taken up the place of Secretary. Please read more about the work of the Parent Council later on in the newsletter.

Along with our Speech and Language therapist Heather Robertson, we are busy preparing our application for Silver Level in the Visual Supports Project. Part of our work has been the launch of our 14 Core Signalong signs and we hope you enjoy scanning our QR code which will take you to videos of staff members signing each sign.



We have a number of parental engagement events coming up in the summer term which we hope you will be able to come along to. First is parents night, then we have our school show cinematic extravaganza and finally we have sports day. All the dates for your calendar are on the next page and I hope you will be able to join us at some, if not all, of them. There is also a possibility that we will be involved in something very exciting on the 5th June which I would LOVE our parents / carers to be involved with but my lips will remain sealed for now until all the final arrangements are in place!!!

Enough from me, I know you are itching to read about all the news at the school.

Thank you as always for all the support you give us.

The staff and myself would like to wish all our families a very restful holiday.

Take care of yourselves and keep safe.

We look forward to welcoming our pupils back to school on Tuesday 22nd April.

Ms Ann M. O'Hagan

Head Teacher



KEY DATES!

Tuesday 22nd April – pupils and staff return

Monday 6th and Tuesday 7th May – pupils on holiday

Thursday 15th May – end of year report cards issued to all pupils

Monday 19th May – pupils on holiday

Thursday 22nd May – S1 – S6 Parents Night 4.00 – 6.00pm

Wednesday 28th May (approximately 1.15pm) – School Show Cinematic Extravaganza for all pupils and parents/carers

Wednesday 4th June – Sports day!

Friday 13th June – whole-school silent disco and end of term party

Tuesday 17th, Wednesday 18th and Thursday 19th June – P7/S1 transition visits; approximately 1pm on Wednesday 18th June welcome café for new S1 parents/carers which all current S1 parents/carers are also invited to.

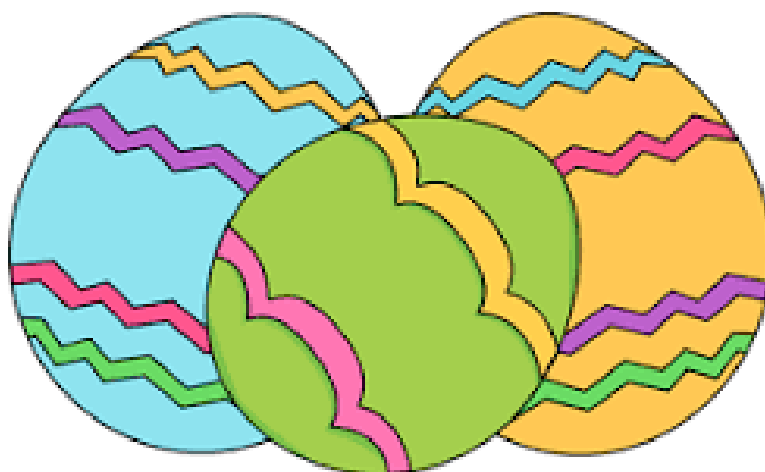
Wednesday 25th June – Leaver's assembly and party – more information to follow!

Thursday 26th June – end of term – school closes at 1.00pm

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 morning) and *Mr Mackay's Pilrig Bongo Bingo!*

Watch out for photos in the next newsletter!



PILRIG PARK NEWS



SAROJ LAL

Saroj Lal Award winners 2025!

This year, the school decided to highlight and celebrate all the amazing cultures and identities that create our Pilrig Park School community. Our aim has been to create a multi-sensory learning experience that embraced the cultural diversity of our school and beyond. Hence our theme, 'Celebration of Culture'!

We held a two-week cross circular programme in November for the pupils to engage in. We wanted the pupil's experiences to explore how culturally rich identity can be, so activities were planned within different contexts such as art, home economics, music and outdoor learning, dancing and some learners learnt phrases in new languages. Our pupils gained confidence in expressing themselves, whilst exploring equalities themes such as cultural diversity, identity and respect. We invited friends and families to enjoy a journey of photographs and videos to commemorate the amazing work our Celebration of Culture!

In December, the school decided to enter the Saroj Lal Award, following our work on Celebration of Culture. The Saroj Lal Award was established in 2022 for young people and schools, to create work inspired by the award themes of equality, inclusion and diversity.

On Thursday 6th March, we were invited to attend the Saroj Lal Award for Schools ceremony, held in the very grand City Chambers! Imagine our excitement when we learnt they announced that Pilrig Park School were the winners in the category, 'Proud to be Me'!!



You can see from our smiles, that we were absolutely delighted and honoured to be recipients of this prestigious award. The whole school is very proud to be acknowledged for their creative work on issues linked to equality, diversity and inclusion. Our award is now sitting in the display cabinet in the school foyer, for all to admire,



May 2025 	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 		
June 2025 	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 				

New School Library Opens

Our Sunshine Library is officially open!

We were delighted that Ani Lawrence, Quality Improvement Education Officer was able to join us for the grand opening.

A massive thank you to everyone who supported in bringing the library together.



Pilrig Park Breaking News!

I am absolutely delighted to announce that we have been successful in achieving **Level 4** of the RHS School Gardening Awards! Ms Sawyer has been so busy coordinating the gardening work in Pupil Voice time and in the Senior Phase Gardening class. It is great to see all the hard work of staff and pupils being rewarded. Ms Sawyer is looking forward to going shopping with the vouchers we were awarded! I know she is already planning how she spend the money getting resources to help us achieve Level 5! Well done to everyone!

Ms O'Hagan

P.S. Look out for Level 4 digital logo appearing on our communications next term!





RHS Schools Gardening Award Level 4.

The focus for this was gardening for wildlife and using gardening to support the curriculum. It is also about inspiring others beyond your school by sharing plants and seeds.

We used Purple and Yellow Class evidence on their learning about hedgehogs, Red Class on their painting bird boxes and Blue Class on their bird feeders, to show that we were gardening for wildlife. We also used the sharing of the tomato plants last year as evidence for sharing seeds and plants.

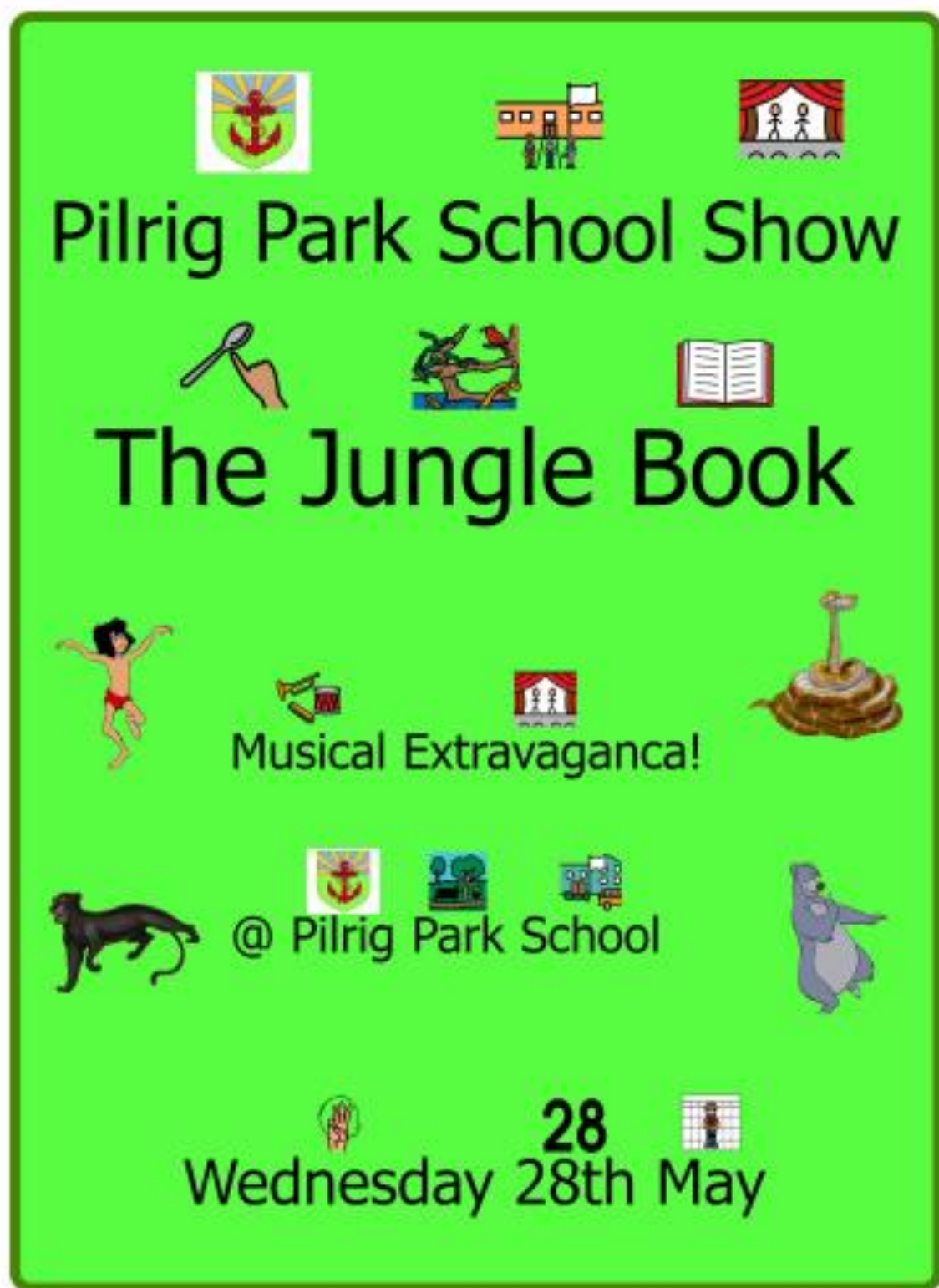


In older News.....

Red Class worked extremely hard back in December to plan and create their Festivision entry. We included wigs, costumes and some homemade props. We were over the moon to be voted the winners of Festivision 2024. A massive well done to all of the boys in Red Class, who's version of "Sleigh Ride" might be even better than the original.



Coming soon....



Pilrig Park School Show

The Jungle Book

Musical Extravaganca!

@ Pilrig Park School

Wednesday 28th May

The poster features a green background with a dark green border. It includes several icons: a shield with an anchor, a school building, a stage with curtains, a hand holding a spoon, a person climbing a tree, an open book, a person dancing, a trumpet and drum, a school building, a stack of coins, a tiger, a hand holding a shield, a person climbing a tree, a school building, a bear, and a person in a grid.

Blue Class

Blue Class have had a very busy and exciting term! We have been learning about the people who help us in our communities and had a special visit from our local police officers. We asked them lots of questions and even got to look inside a real police car!



As part of our JASS Award, we have taken part in a variety of physical activities. Our dance lessons with Chloe and Sarah from Active Schools have been great fun as we prepare for an upcoming dance festival. Our young people have also enjoyed swimming and Bikeability sessions. Cycling was a particular highlight, with many of the young people growing in confidence on two wheels.



Another highlight of our term was our fantastic trip to Dynamic Earth. We explored space, learned all about our planet, and took part in a workshop about local wildlife and habitats. One of the biggest attractions for the class was the iceberg – we loved getting to touch it and feel how cold it was!



Well done Blue Class!

Yellow Class

In Numeracy, we have been focusing on fractions and money. We have been learning about exchanging tokens for items. In order to bring this to life, we have set up a shop. We have made shopping lists, looked at coins, practised using purses and wallets to carry the money, and we used the till to total up in the shop!



In our topic lessons we have continued to look at 'People who help us'. We had a visit from two community Police officers who talked about their uniform and their car! It was brilliant to see the flashing lights, hear the siren and get to try on their hats! We were a little sad we had to give the hats back!



We have also been looking at the World around us, in particular buildings and structures. We have really enjoyed creating our own models with Lego, bricks, sticklebricks and shapes. This is one lesson when we are all very quiet and focused on the task in hand.



Our final topic theme this term has been Sound. We have explored a range of toys that make sounds, how we can make our voices louder and quieter and making our own shakers to make as much noise as possible! These photos are of the 'string telephones' we made in class. It took a bit of practise to get them to work...or not!



In Outdoor Learning we were looking for, and listening out for, birds in the playground. We are lucky to have a lot of trees and bushes where birds like to build their nests. To help the birds out when it was very cold and frosty we made bird feeders out of pipe cleaners and cereal.



Purple Class

Purple Class have had a brilliant third term, particularly enjoying a trip out to Dynamic Earth along with Blue Class. We enjoyed exploring Scottish wildlife around the Water of Leith in our workshop and loved sitting back in the Planetarium and gazing up at the stars. We also experienced a 4D 'Flight to the Rainforest' with added smells and snow falling from the ceiling!

In Literacy, we have been further developing our knowledge of core words, using Signalong and Aided Language Boards to support us. We have used technology, played games and read lots of stories to explore our core words in different contexts. We have also practised writing about our own experiences in our diaries, using a photo and communication board to help us.



In Maths, we have been using a range of concrete materials to explore fractions. We have practised sharing items out amongst a group and making simple fractions using play-doh. We have also looked at money, considering how young people and adults get money and what it can be used for. We have had lots of fun roleplaying in our play shop, exchanging money for different groceries or using a debit card to tap.



In Health and Well-being, we have been reviewing our knowledge of the body parts, including private parts. We have also been learning about puberty and what happens to our bodies during this time. Alongside this, we have been identifying the different stages of life, ranging from young babies to elderly people, and making connections to familiar people in our own lives.



Purple Class have had a great term 3 and are looking forward to the summer term, hoping for lots of sunshine!

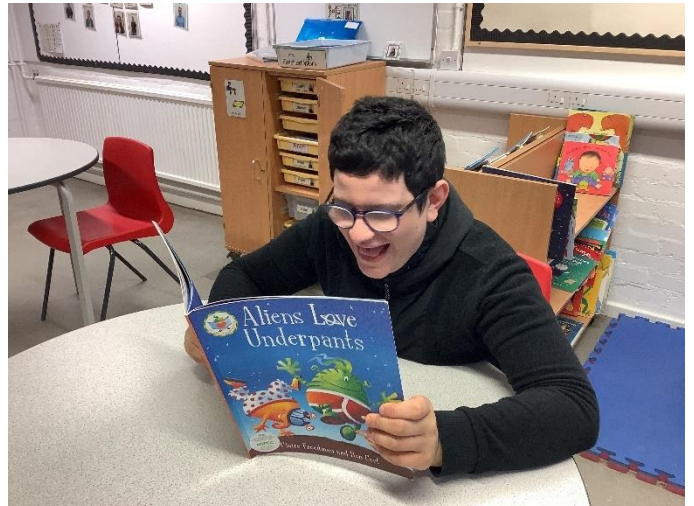


Red Class

This term in Red Class has been very busy with lots of different activities and learning taking place.

Language and Communication

Red Class have been learning a new core word and sign every week. We have been enjoying lots of stories and songs. We are currently reading “Aliens Love Underpants” and have been creating our own aliens and turning them into animations using the iPads. There has been lots of cross curricular learning which has been lots of fun.



Show Racism the Red Card

As part of our pupil voice lessons and rights respecting school award, Red Class entered Scotland's "Show Racism the Red Card" competition. The theme for the 24/25 submissions was "The Power of Our Voices". Alongside Clyde class, pupils helped to plan and film their video submission. Finalists are then invited to Hampden Park for an award show.

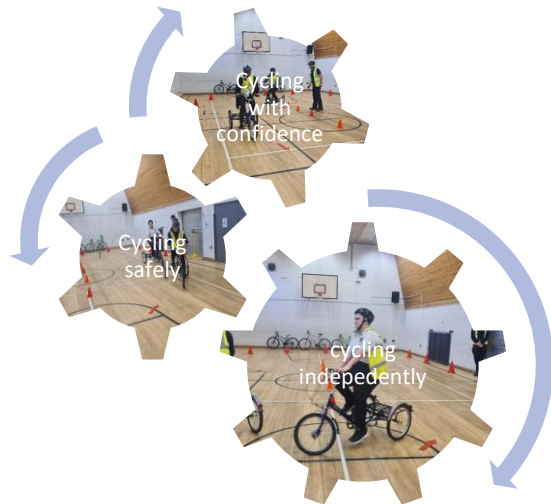
The finalists have not yet been announced, but after all their hard work, we are hoping to be there. Entries closed on the 4th of March, so we are keeping everything crossed!



Orange Class

Orange Class participated in many different activities this term. They have been very busy completing classwork for their qualifications and engaging in extra curricular activities in school.

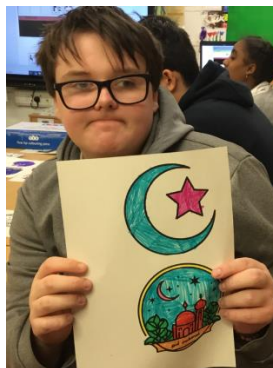
Orange Class are dedicated to do their best in everything they take part in.



Orange Class went around the school to see how many people recognised the Fairtrade symbol. They are planning their next campaigning to achieve the Fairactive Award. Orange Class are planning to do a campaign to raise awareness about Fairtrade products to our pupils and staff at Pilrig Park School. Their campaign is called "Be The Change".



Orange Class have been working hard to complete their SQA in RME. They are looking at festivals and celebrations, including Eid and Ramadan. Here are some examples of work they have been completing towards their assembly presentation about Eid.



Putting the biscuits into the bags ready for giving out at assembly!



Putting the stickers on the bags ready for the special gifts!



Eid Mubarak Happy Eid

Orange class would like to say thank you to Miss Vennelle for helping to make the special Eid gifts.

Orange class will hand out Eid gifts to everyone!



Green Class

Pupils in Green Class completed their National 1 “Capturing Digital Images”. The pupils planned their personal photography project and then shared the photographs we took at our photography exhibition which was part of the “Culture Café”.



Green Class were working in partners to complete their Outdoor Learning SQA unit, “Taking Part in Outdoor Activities”. The class helped to identify the jobs we had to organise before, during and after these included: bag packer, time checker, photographer and hand wash monitor.



As part of our SQA unit, “Personal Achievement: Travel in the Community”, Green Class took part in a partnership with McDonald Library. This partnership gave the pupils the experience of learning and using the skills that are associated with visiting a Library. Some pupils used the online catalogue to find books from their list, whilst others used an aided language board to ask the librarian to help find the books they would like. The pupils explored their books through different tasks back at school with a member of the Green Class team.

Green Class visited a record shop called “Thorne Records”. We had learned about records shops last term during our SQA unit, “Finding out About the World of Work”, and this term we got to visit, use aided language boards to say hello to the shop owner and show him using our symbols what we had been learning about. We helped to scan records and pick music to listen to. Through this experience, Green Class have completed their SQA “Personal Achievement: Exploring a Local Area”.

We gave Thorne Records a copy of the communication boards we were using during our project and the owner of the shop posted about using them in his shop.



Green Class presented at assembly this term. We wrote our own books, called “The Helpful Snake” which tells The Year of the Snake, as part of Lunar New Year. We invited pupils from Ness Class to come read our books with us and shared the experience in a video at assembly. We also learnt a traditional piece of music that is played during Lunar New Year celebrations. Julia from Youth Music Initiative helped us learn this, we got to choose different instruments to explore the song with. We also played our video of us performing this song at assembly. We made videos of us signing “snake” to help other pupils learn new signs.



Clyde Class

Clyde Class went shopping.

Clyde Class completed their SQA National 1 - Going Shopping unit this term.

The final assessment was to go to ASDA and buying pancake mix and eggs to take to Home Economics.

We made our pancakes, and everyone enjoyed eating them, yum!

Wish every test was as yummy as this one.



For Scottish IDL week, Clyde Class decided to make a picture version of the Robert Burns poem - *Tam O'Shanter*. We really enjoyed getting dressed up and acting out the scenes of the poem. The whole class loved learning about Tam O'Shanter and they now know not to creep up on witches and ghosts in a dark church yard.



For the Café of culture event Clyde Class learnt about Australia. We enjoyed watching videos for inspiration for our tablecloth design and Keith Allen brought in his didgeridoo for us to have a go at playing.



Ness Class

Ness Class have been using their knowledge and creativity to investigate the effect friction has on forces during their SQA Science in the Environment!



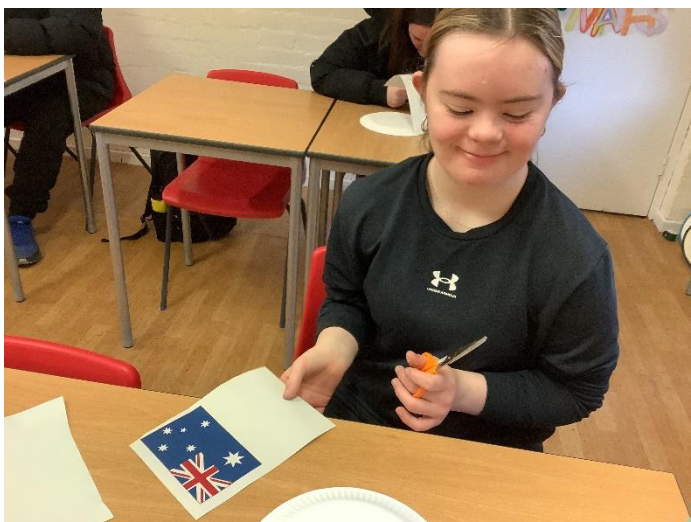
Look out for the second edition of a comic book produced by one of our class. It's called *Super Steve 2*.
COMING SOON!!



We have been working hard towards collecting our Special Badges and have now managed to achieve 4 of them – Assembly, Learning, Music and School Service. We are currently working towards our Kindness badge, and we hope to complete the set before the end of the year.



Ness Class were investigating Australia and Australian culture as part of the Celebration of culture. We coloured Aboriginal flags and completed fact files.



We really enjoyed waving the flags that we made and eating all of the tasty snacks from around the world.



Forth Class

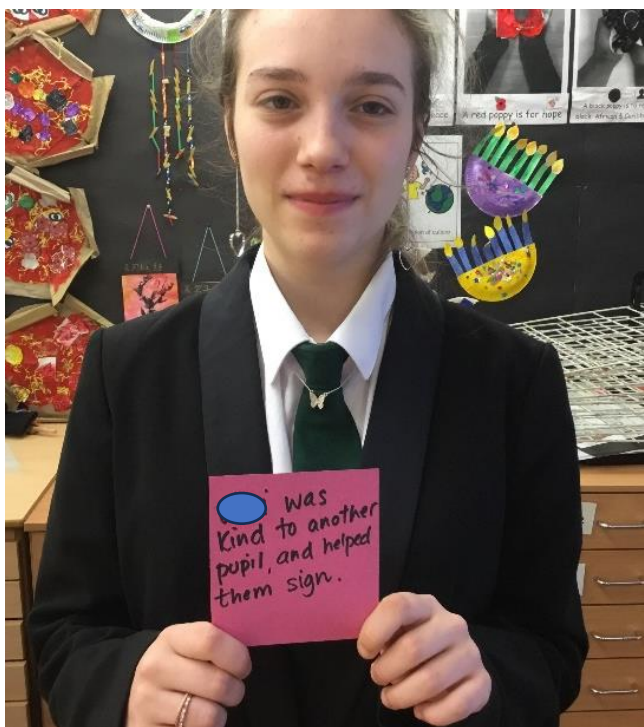
Forth Buddies have been buddying in BGE classes!

All the pupils in Forth Class have been putting their skills and qualities into practice this past term, and have carried out their buddying skills with enthusiasm and confidence! Pupils have been supporting the younger ones in a variety of ways, including reading, sports skills, numeracy work and cooking expertise! The buddies have built up friendly relationships with the younger pupils, and developed their responsibility, patience, and how to be a positive role model.



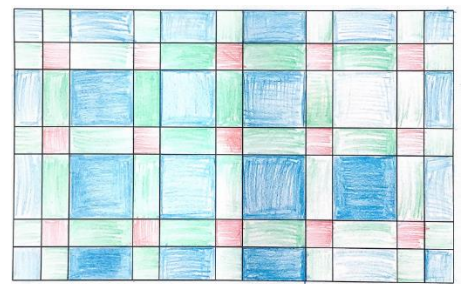
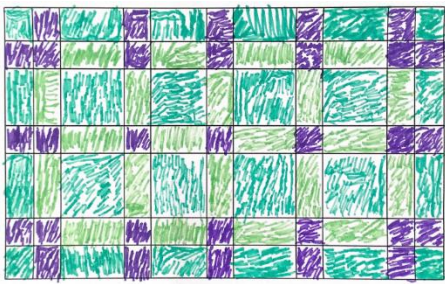
Forth Class were very proud to receive their third and fourth **Special Badges** in March!! They were awarded the 'School Service' badge for their 'Forth Buddies' program. They have worked hard at being excellent role models and were delighted that this has been recognised!

The next Special badge they received was 'Kind'. The pupils had decided to do a 'Kindness Challenge' for a fortnight. We made a 'kindness' box, and cut up plenty pieces of paper, ready to write down all their kind acts, carried out across the fortnight. The aim was to fill the box! Staff were asked to note down any acts of kindness seen in class, the dining hall or outside during break time – and I'm pleased to report, there were loads! Although the challenge is now over, we have kept the box as a reminder to be kind to each other 😊.

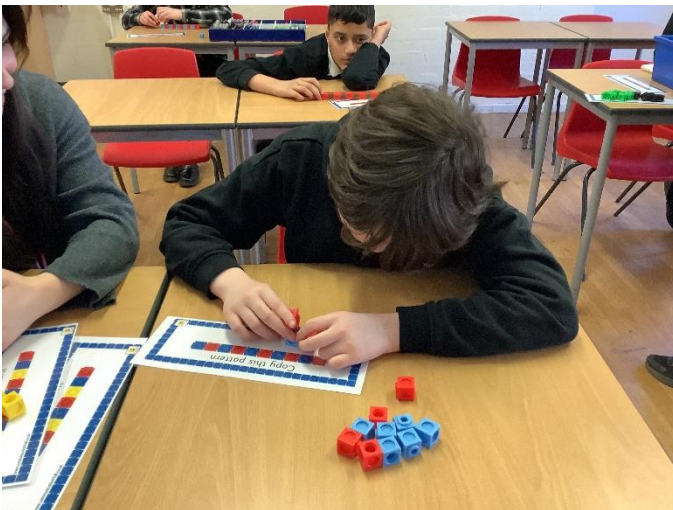
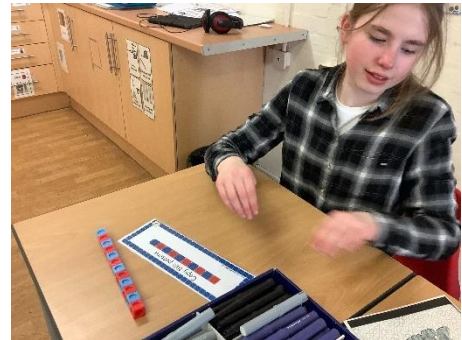


Maths

During Scottish Week, pupils were discussing and then designing their own Tartan patterns.



BGE classes have been working on Patterns and Sequences.



Senior classes are continuing to collect SQA awards at National 1, 2 or 3 level.

Some of the pupils from Ness Class and Forth Class are working very hard towards achieving National 3 Applications of Mathematics. We are currently completing the Manage Money and Data unit, which has involved learning about earning money, budgeting, saving and best value deals, all of which is very useful for these pupils as they prepare for life after Pilrig Park School.



English

The Yellow Class boys did group work related to the Chinese New Year.

Special thanks to one of our senior pupils for being the best buddy to them all!

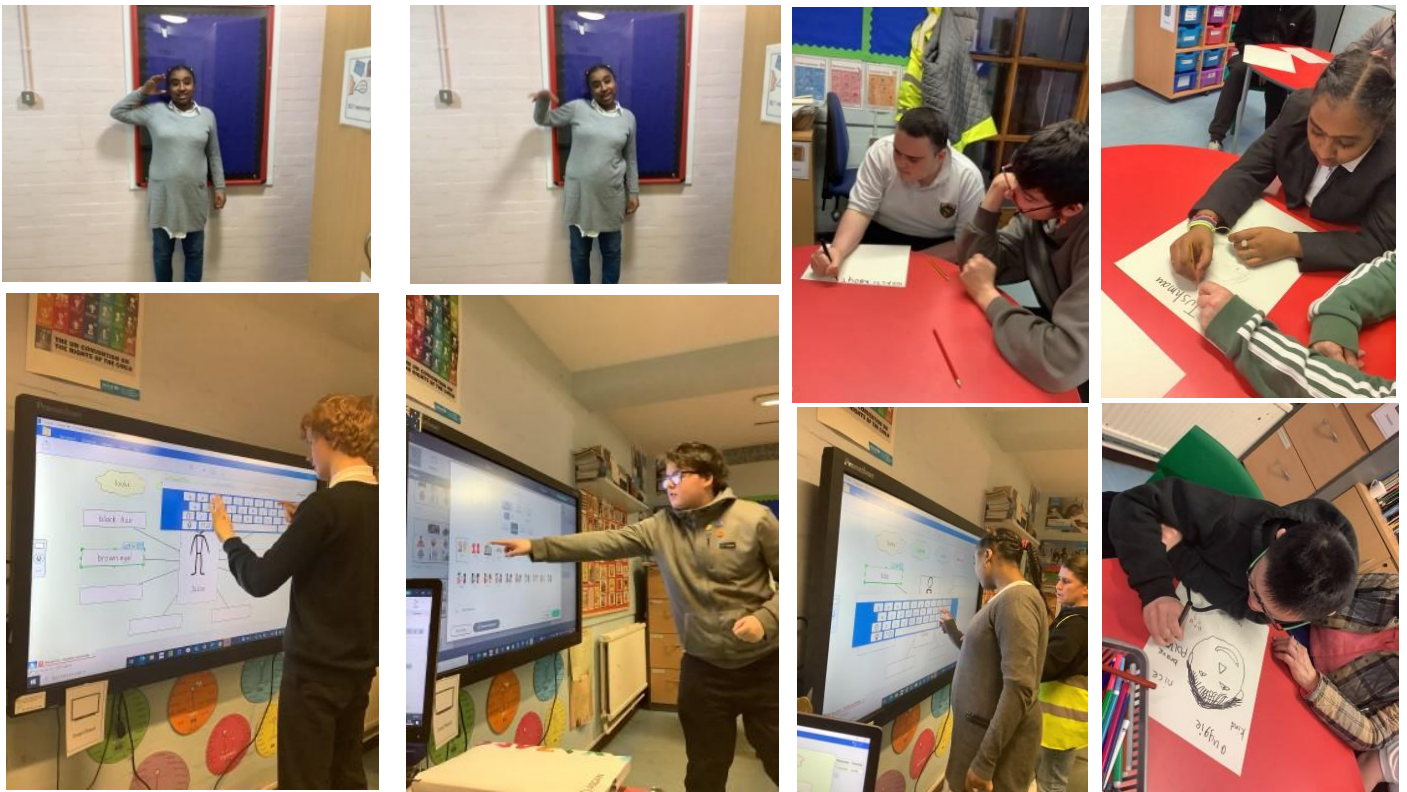


The Red Class boys have been doing work related to Football and decided to make two teams out of staff members for their mini football pitch!



Orange Class did characters' analysis on the film "Wonder", work on "The Weaving Contest" as well as learning about spiders! We learned the sign for spider!

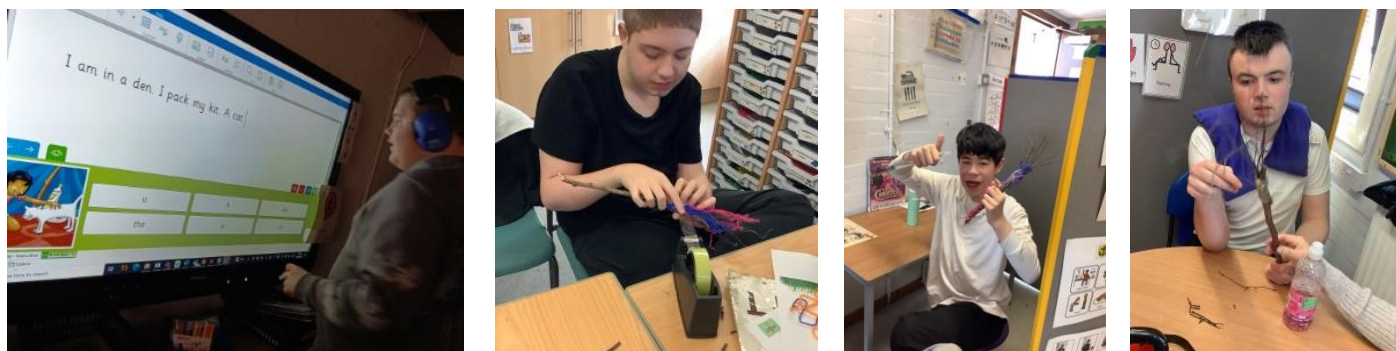
The learners used Boardmaker, Clicker, pen and paper to complete their work!



Blue Class has been doing work on “The Tortoise and the Hare” fable as well as working their digital literacy learning and skills!

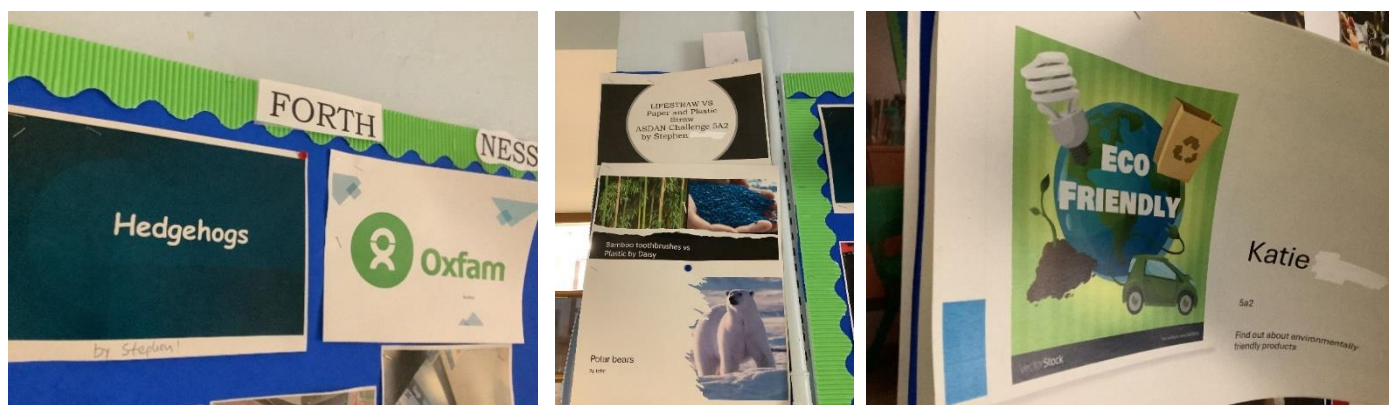


Green Class have been working on their brooms and wands after watching the *Room on the Broom* story, as well as doing digital literacy work!



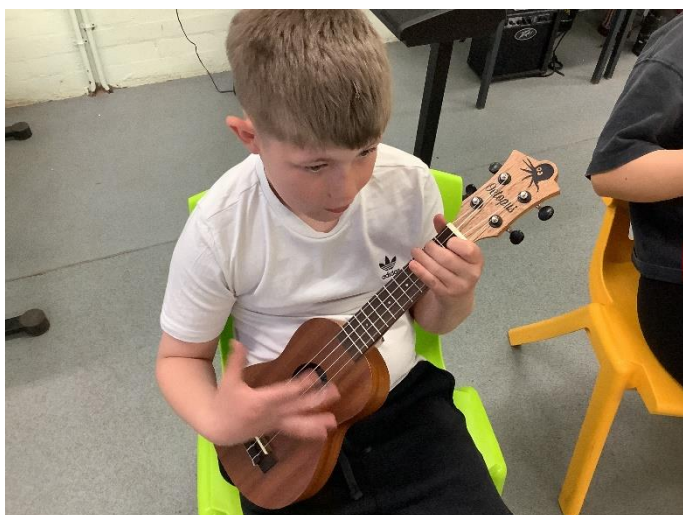
Forth & Ness have been working hard to complete their ASDAN assessments!

They have completed work related to and have interviewed staff about Islam, and have created PPTs on aspects of British heritage, and charitable organizations!



The Music Department

Blue & Yellow Class have been learning how to produce a sound on the ukulele and how to play the song 'My Bestie' by using the chords C Major and F Major. Well done Blue & Yellow!



Purple & Red Class have been learning how to read Figure Notes notation and have learnt to play three pieces using their right hands. Some pupils have now progressed onto playing with both hands. Keep up the fantastic work!



School Show - Lead roles!

After our school show auditions, eight pupils have been chosen for lead roles in our upcoming 'The Jungle Book' show! Can't wait for the 28th May.



Choir

Our choir has been working very hard learning songs for 'The Jungle Book' and have just performed 'Happy' at assembly for our special guests! Amazing work choir.



In the Art Room!



The focus for the BGE classes in the art room this term has included the school focus, [celebration of culture](#) in addition to learning new skills and techniques!

Blue Class started the year by recreating their very own *Robert Burns* portrait with a 'Pop Art' twist!

They also created tartan designs, using a wide brush and watercolour paint.



Purple Class celebrated our Scottish Week by making some very colourful kilts, complete with sporran and belt!

Yellow Class have been having fun using foil and paint – and making prints with a cotton bud to draw the patterns.



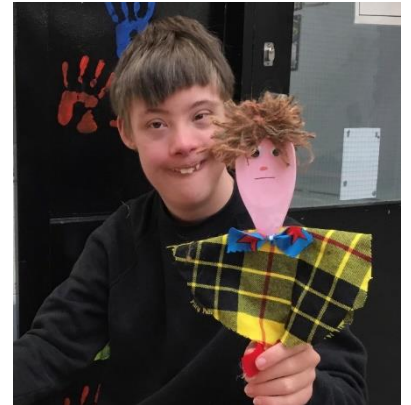
Red Class have been doing some papier mâché and learning about 3D form, to make a Scottish stag, complete with twig antlers. They all loved painting the bright colours and decorating their stags with anything from ribbons to sequins!



The senior pupils have been starting new projects.



Clyde Class began the year with some fun making a 'Nessie' and a highland 'coo' as part of Scottish week! They have also started a new unit called Performing Arts, in which they will put on a puppet show, with a range of puppets made by them! We started with animal finger puppets and then made some rather creative wooden spoon puppets!



(spot the very good impression of the Incredible Hulk, by one pupil!)

Green Class started the term by learning about Chinese cultures and made some beautiful fans, using gold paint. They are now in the middle of learning about 3D form and papier mâché technique, to create some bowls in the shape of their favourite fruit! We did some planning first to choose what fruits we liked and select the colours.





Orange Class have started a new unit as part of their SQA Award in Creative Arts. We have been using a variety of art techniques including photography, sketching and collage.



The **National 3 Art & Design class** have been producing a range of art work for their 'development of ideas' as part of the Expressive Unit. There are many popular themes being chosen including Justin Beiber and Disney's Darkwing Duck!



P.E.

Blue Class took part in few swimming sessions at Broughton Primary School. Everybody did great and had lots of fun.



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



Eden and Peter - Blaze Basketball coaches are running basketball sessions with Red and Blue Class.



Chloe – dance instructor from EDA is running 6 dance sessions for Blue Class as a preparation for SPECIAL SCHOOL DANCE FESTIVAL 2025 which will take place on Thursday 3rd April.

As a Part of Scottish Week we had Ceilidh dances for all the pupils and parents.

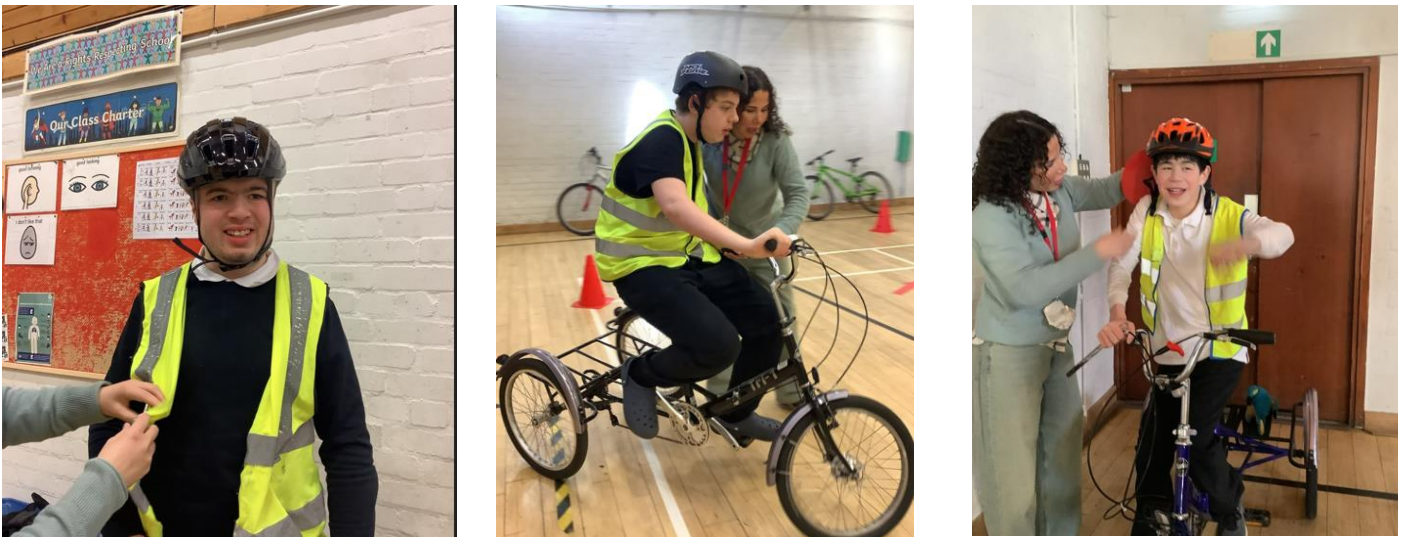


Bikeability

Every single pupil in Red Class had a go on the trikes and bikes and it was great to see them enjoy themselves whilst building their confidence and learning new skills.



Green Class took part in a Bikeability course during their PE lessons. The pupils had lots of fun developing their confidence on different types of bikes. The class learnt about bike safety before by using helmets and high vis vests.



Other classes also got to enjoy this.



Home Economics

This term in Home Economics we have been looking at foods from around the world. We have made Chicken Noodle Soup, Pasta, Polvorones de Canele (Cinnamon cookies), Nigerian Pound Cake, Portokalopita, Anzac biscuits, Mochi Muffins, Canadian Nanaimo bars. We had great fun trying these foods from around the world. Along with these we have been having fun cookery sessions like making pancakes and also some fabric work by designing our own bags.



DYW – Developing the Young Workforce

DYW Developing the Young Workforce

This term, pupils have been involved in a range of activities, organised by the school's DYW coordinator, Camilla Laidlaw.

Blue Class and Purple Class enjoyed a trip to Dynamic Earth to learn more about Scottish wildlife, experience a planetarium show and have a tour around the centre.



Red Class enjoyed a visit from Kimberley and a team from McAleer and Rushe, a design and build construction company. The project was bird boxes, and the class had great fun painting some pre-built ones which were brought into school.



The pupils learnt all about the purpose of bird boxes and the best position to place them to encourage birds to visit and nest in the box. Red Class are now looking forward to seeing the bird boxes being attached to some trees in Pilrig Park – and hopefully some birds nesting there in the Spring!



Enable Works

Our Enable coordinator, Sarah Forsyth has been working with some of our senior pupils doing work related activities, training and providing resources to help plan for the future.

Some of Forth Class went with Sarah on a visit to the National Library of Scotland to find out about the jobs people do in there. Comments on the visit included, “I had a lot of fun today” and “I would go back again”.

The group had a look around the library with Andrew, the Development Partner. They saw lots and lots of books and learnt that there are in fact 25 million books in the library! The group started the tour on the eleventh floor, (there are 15 floors altogether!). The whole building is as tall as a skyscraper, going underground.

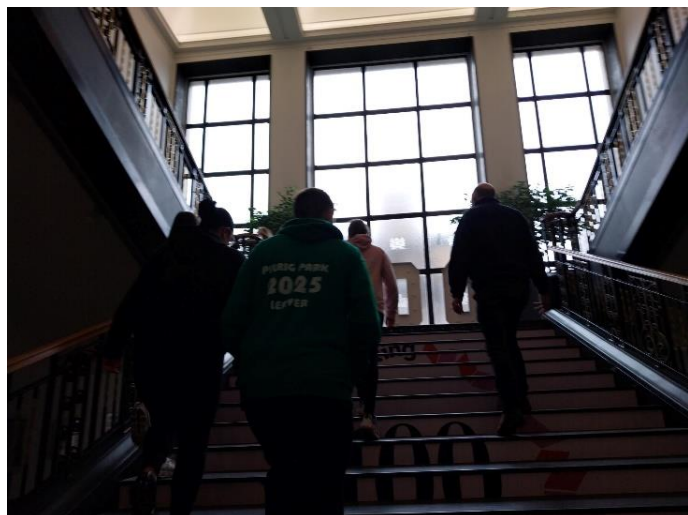
The group learnt that if the library flooded, the books would have to go into a freezer. Some books were colour coordinated or sorted by size; book fetchers use numbers to help them to find the right books.

People order the books they want to read using a computer, it could take up to an hour for staff to go and fetch the book. Staff can get lost easily and some think that the library is haunted!

We looked around the reading room, and one pupil said, “the people were studying, so we had to be very quiet”. We found it easy to be quiet.

We saw one of the first books published in Scotland and a book worth £20million!





Police Visit

As already reported by some classes, we had a visit from Lothian and Borders Police. Don't worry though, nobody was in trouble. Some of the BGE classes have been learning about 'People that help us' and they were here as part of that learning.

Here are some photos of Red Class enjoying the experience.

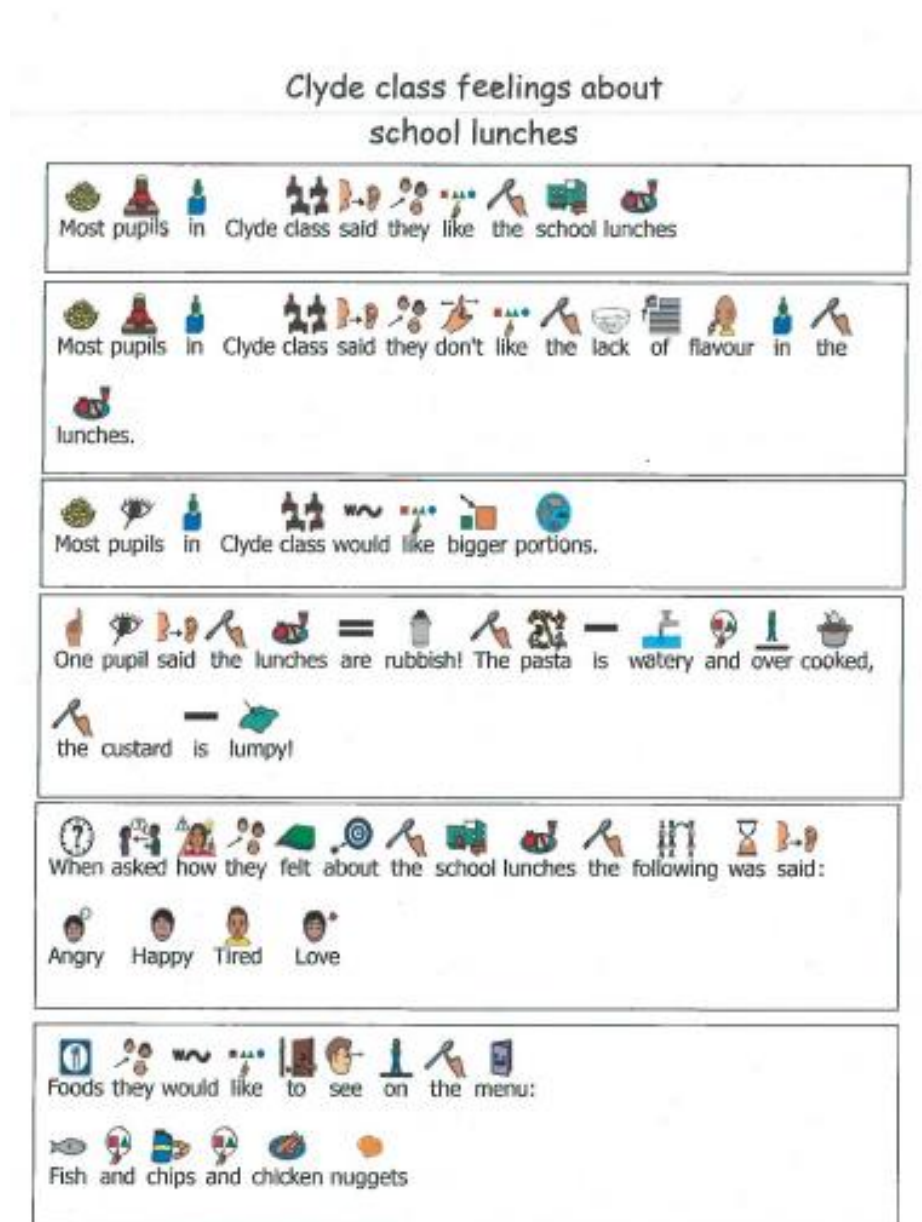


Pupil Council



The Pupil Council have had another busy term. Whether it is approving (or rejecting!!) applications for Special Badges or continuing our campaign to improve our school lunches – there is always something to be discussed on a Wednesday period one when we meet with Ms O’Hagan.

We are really pleased that we have (finally!) got a meeting arranged with senior kitchen staff about our lunches. This takes place in April once we return from the holidays, and we look forward to reporting back to everyone on what was discussed and (hopefully) on some positive next steps. Here is an example of the views of one class that we will be sharing:



PUPIL VOICE

At our meetings this session we have been discussing with Ms O'Hagan the document "How Good is OUR School". We have focused on Theme 2, Learning and Teaching, and we decided to undertake Learning Walks of all the spaces we use in the school. We made a questionnaire based on the information in the document. This is the front cover for our questionnaire:

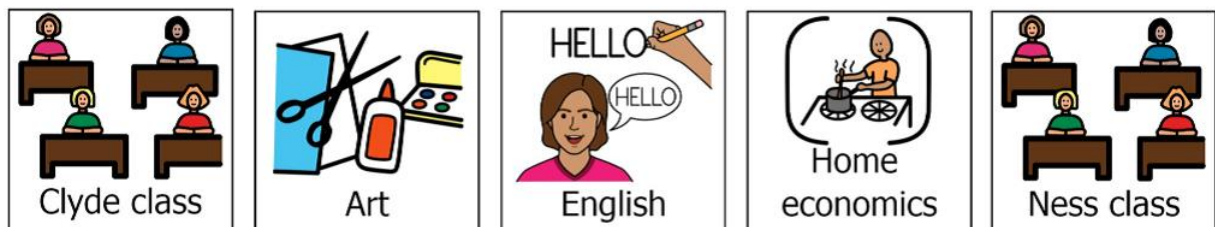
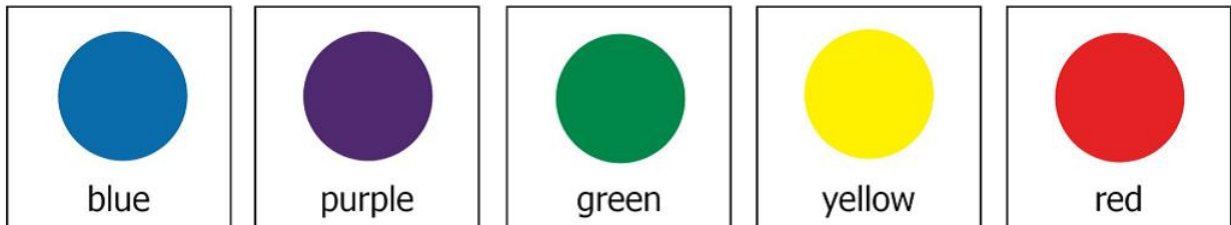


Our Learning and Teaching Session 2024/25

How well is everyone helped to learn and achieve?

Pupil Council will do a learning walk to look at the school.

Which class are we visiting?

































PUPIL VOICE

We had four sections of the questionnaire to complete, looking at:

- Classroom space
- Outdoor space
- Classroom equipment
- School space

Here is an example of what one set of questions looked like:

Classroom space

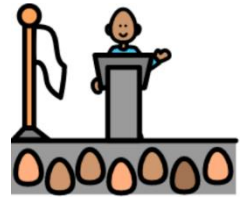
 Is	 the	 classroom	 tidy	 and	 clean ?	 great	 ok	 bad		
 Is	 the	 classroom	 a	 good	 place	 to	 learn ?	 great	 ok	 bad
 Do	 the	 wall	 displays	 show	 pupils	 learning?	 great	 ok	 bad	

We are now summarising our results and look forward to presenting them to all staff at the next assembly. Our next piece of work is focus groups involving pupils from all classes, again based on Theme 2. More information in the next newsletter!

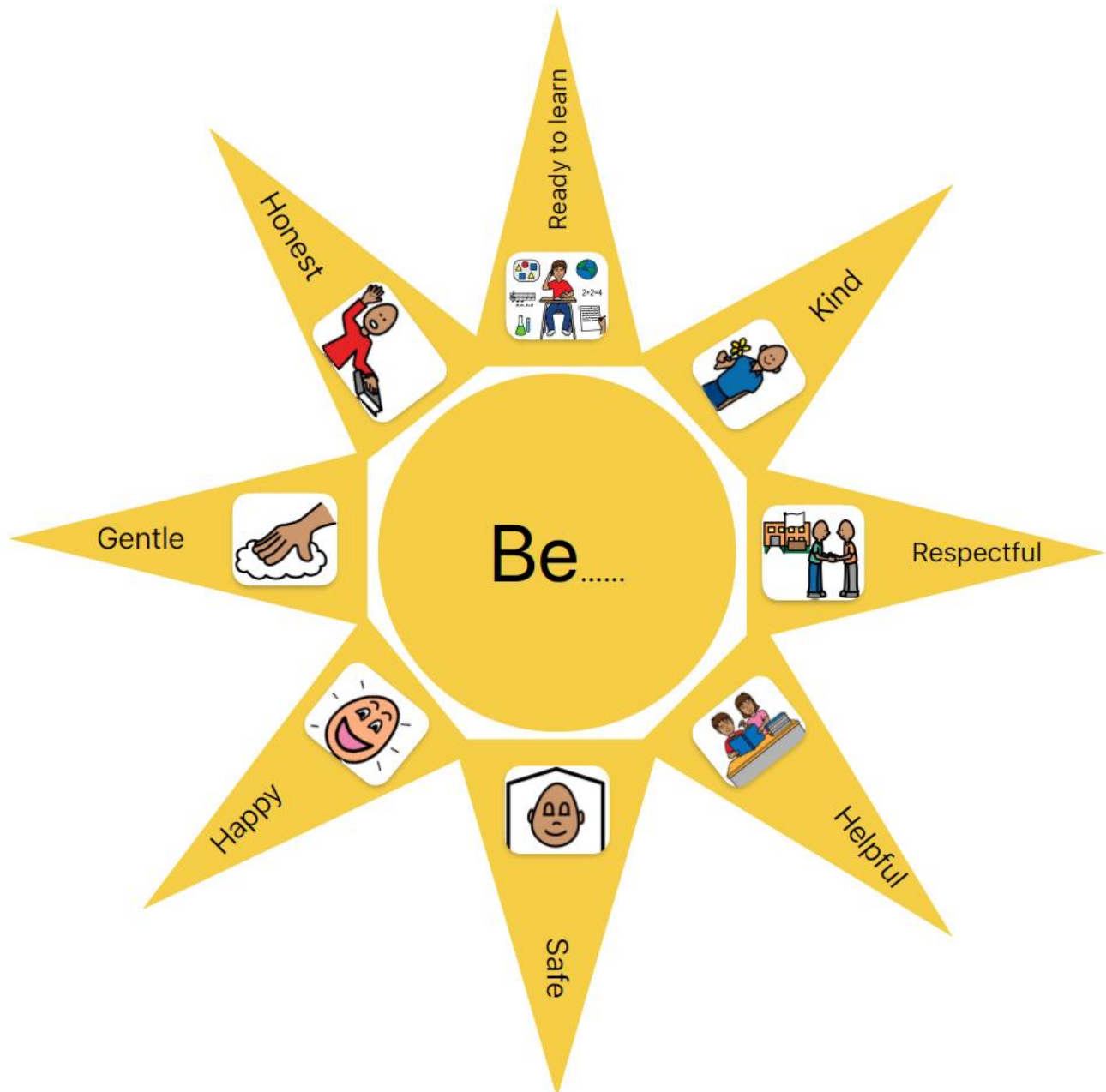
Thank you for reading our report for this term.

The Pupil Council

Assemblies this term!

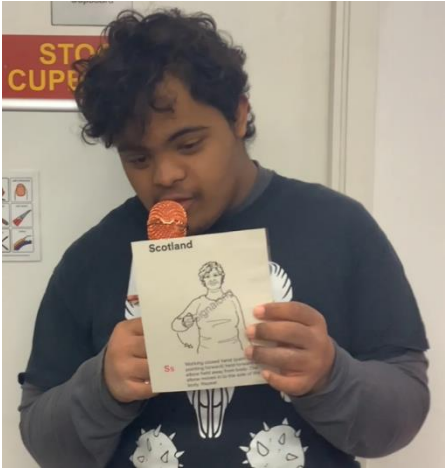


One of the highlights in the school calendar is when the whole school comes together in the hall for our monthly assembly! Each assembly is based on one of the school values, and a different class presents each month, on this theme.



PUPIL VOICE

2025 started off with the Red Class presenting in January on the school value, **Happy**! The pupils told us all about Burns Night, including the dancing and eating haggis! We watched a film of Red Class pupils practising their Scottish dancing for the whole school ceilidh, taking place that week! They certainly looked very **happy** when dancing!



Next item in January's assembly was a presentation by the Gardening Pupil Voice Group. We were treated to a lovely video and song all about hedgehogs! Despite searching high and low in the school grounds, no hedgehogs were to be found, however we are still looking!



PUPIL VOICE

At each assembly, we love to celebrate all the successes that go on across the school. Each class shares their 'huge wins'. Then we celebrate **Head Teacher awards** which are presented by Ms O'Hagan!

Sometimes, there are even **gold** badges presented to staff and pupils for an outstanding success!

Huge wins!



Headteacher's Awards



Special Badges at Pilrig Park School!



The final section of celebrating success at assembly comes in the form of **Special Badges**! Each class can work towards gaining each of the special badges. Once all eight special badges are collected on the class pennant, the class will receive a special treat with the Head Teacher! Special badges are given out at month at assembly by members of our Pupil Council.

Music is a regular feature at assembly and in January, Purple class sang in front of the whole school, a wonderful rendition of 'My Bonnie Lies Over the Ocean'. We joined in with the singing and signing the words.

Purple Class

—
My Bonnie
Performance



Our January assembly was however, tinged with sadness as we said goodbye to two long standing members of staff. Our PSAs Lauren and Isabel are off to pastures new and retirement respectively. We wished them all the best in the future but reminded them both to visit us as often as they can!

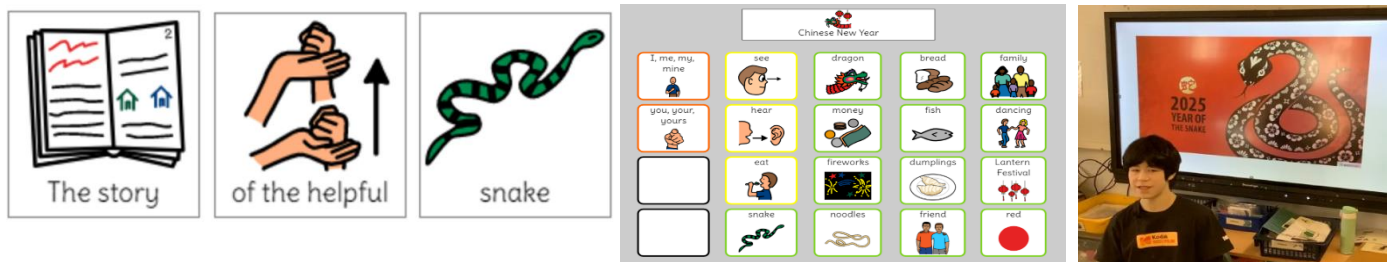


We'll miss you both,
Isabel and Lauren



PUPIL VOICE

February's assembly was based on the school value, '**Helpful**'. Green Class presented on what being **helpful** is, and with some senior helpers, read us the story of the 'The Helpful Snake'. The pupils showed us all about the Lunar New Year and told us that 2025 is the Year of the Snake!



Green Class present each month on the Sign of the Month, which is a school value each month. We learnt how to sign '**helpful**' by watching one of Green Class pupils showing us what to do. Here it is, if you want to practice it at home!

Sign of the month



The February Pupil Voice group to present in February was the ECO Group (Blue Class). They reminded us of Pilrig Park School's ECO code, and then showed us the new recycling bins which are now in the playground. We then had good fun playing a game of sorting the rubbish into green or red bins! Everyone in Pilrig Park School is very good at knowing what goes in which bin!



PUPIL VOICE

Next, Red Class showed us their fantastic video clip they have made as their entry into a competition on 'Showing Racism the Red Card'. We are keeping our fingers crossed for the result! Good luck Red Class – your video is very special!



The following **Special badges** were awarded to classes, at February's assembly!

Green Class and Red Class – [Assembly special badge](#)

Clyde Class – [Creative special badge](#)

Forth Class – Kindness special badge and [School Service special badge](#)

Ness Class – [Learning special badge](#)

Yellow Class – [Environment special badge](#)

Blue Class – [Music special badge](#)

My Big Achievement badges – 5 pupils won this badge!

Well done to everyone this month!



Eco Committee

As the school's Eco group, Blue Class presented in assembly and introduced a new recycling bin to the playground.

We made sure everyone knows what goes where, helping to make our school a greener place!



Please can
you **recycle**



in the
green bin...



Rights Respecting School

We are on our journey towards Rights Respecting Gold Award and we have 3 classes as steering groups working hard on achieving this.

As one of these groups, Clyde Class have been developing our community campaign. We want to bring our voice to the local community in Leith.

We will be offering local shops and cafes a communication pack with symbols, aided language boards (like the ones shown below), and instructions on how to do Pilrig Park School's 14 core signalong signs.

We have made a logo sticker which businesses can display in their windows to show they are supporting us.

Keep an eye out for the symbol in the next few months.



Language aided board

Cafe



Language aided board

Shopping



Signalong

This term we have launched our new 14 Core signalong signs, which all pupils and staff will be learning and using in our day-to-day routines of school.

April, one of our PSAs, has even made some very useful videos of staff signing to help everyone improve their signalong vocabulary.

Scan the QR code opposite to see these videos.



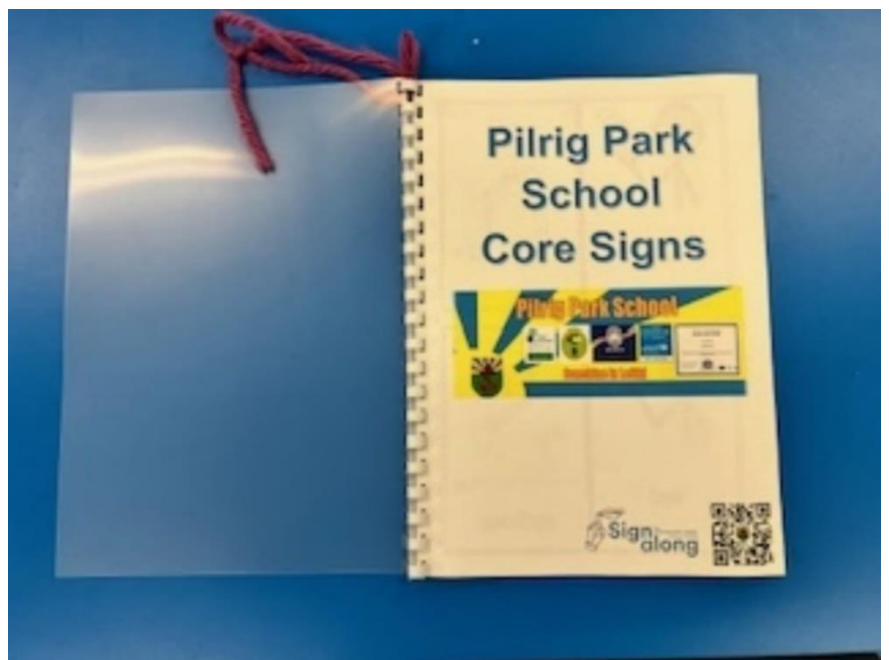
Signalong is a very important part of our inclusive communication strategy at Pilrig Park School, and we would love for all our families to try their hand at learning our 14 Core Signs.

The videos are accessible on our school website.

If you are interested in learning even more about signalong please get in touch with your young person's Year Head or contact Heather Robertson our Speech and Language Therapist directly.

Happy signing!

Ruth McLarty



celebration of culture!



Our celebration of culture continues and in February this term, we held our very first ‘Cultural Café’ event for parents and carers.

We were delighted to welcome many families to school on the afternoon of 26th February and had lots of fun playing the ‘Taste the Country’ game and some ‘Cultural Bingo’! Pupils in Home Economics classes had made an amazing range of biscuits and cakes from all over the world, including tasty Anzac biscuits (from Australia) and scrumptious chocolate Nanaimo bars from Canada!

Classes were asked to decorate their tables for the event and produced some stunning designs! We also created designs for our paper plates, on which to eat all the tasty treats! There was even cultural music and dancing from Blue Class and Orange Class who entertained us with some Nigerian drumming and an Indian dance routine.

In addition, the school approached some local businesses to support the event, but more importantly get our name known in the community! We are extremely grateful to Tesco, Kilted Donuts, Artisan Café, Seabreeze Cafe and PCY Oriental Food (all on Leith Walk) for providing us with delicious cakes and snacks.

Thank you to all the parents and carers who were able to join us for the Cultural Cafe event.



More photos from the Cultural Café event.



IDL Scottish Week – January 2025

Our annual Scottish Week was a great success and throughout the week there was plenty of tartan, bagpipes and Scottish dancing going on! This year for the first time, we invited our parents and carers to join us for the ceilidh, and everyone had a wonderful time learning new dances, and burling their partner up and down the hall!

During the week, classes learnt about all things Scottish! Purple Class learnt how the Forth Bridge was built, before having a go at building their own bridges, using blocks. Budding engineers in Purple Class!

They also created some tartan, using paper strips.



On the Wednesday afternoon, the whole school was in the hall for a fabulous ceilidh with lots of our parents and carers! One member of staff described the afternoon, as a ‘very good example of the Pilrig Park School community in action’!! There were plenty of circle dances and reels, to keep everyone active for over an hour! Thank goodness for the homemade shortbread biscuits at half time, which gave us all energy to dance some more!



On Thursday during Scottish Week, the entire school gathered in the hall for the Burns Lunch. We tucked into a traditional meal of haggis, neeps, and tatties before enjoying performances from some of our senior pupils, who recited Burns poetry. To round off the celebration, we were treated to a fantastic medley of tunes played outside by pupils from George Watson's College Pipe Band. The sound carried so well, I'm sure everyone in the public park next door, could hear them too!



Parent Council

Hello! We are the Pilrig Park Parent Council!

We have been established as a Parent Council for a good few years, although all existing members of the Parent Council are new to their respective roles. We meet (usually on TEAMS) with the school staff three or four times each year, to discuss anything and everything to do with Pilrig Park School. We are always on the lookout for new members, and parents/carers are more than welcome to drop into our TEAMS meetings.

Whether you'd like to become part of the Parent Council and want to see how things are run, or simply want to know a little more about the school and the Parent Council, everyone is more than welcome!

If you have anything at all you'd like to share/discuss with us, please don't hesitate to contact us at Pilrigparkpc@gmail.com.

Come and say hello!!

Office Bearers:

Mr Hugh Mooney - Chairperson
Ms Clare Armstrong - Treasurer
Mr Craig McInnes - Secretary