



Pilrig Park School



Sunshine in Leith

June 2025

Where do I even begin?! The final term at Pilrig Park School has been bursting at the seams with achievements, laughter, tears, and a sprinkling of sparkle! As always, our brilliant pupils have outdone themselves. We have tried to capture some of the highlights in pages ahead. Enjoy!

Last week we welcomed our new S1 pupils for their three-day transition visits, at the same time as having HM Inspectors from Education Scotland visiting us to conduct an inspection. I would like to thank all our parents/carers and partners for their input in this process, the staff really do appreciate your support. It makes all the difference. I look forward to sharing the final report with our school community in the new session.

This week saw not one, but two, show-stopping assemblies. On Monday the whole-school Celebration of Achievement Assembly was a glittery parade of certificates (Natalie is exhausted with all the laminating of the many, many certificates that were issued!). At the start of August our pupils in S4 – S6 will receive even more certificates as their SQA results are posted out to them.

Then on Tuesday, it was our Leaver's assembly. Laughter, tears, stories, songs, gifts, Leaver's books, more certificates (!), and a goodbye that tugged at all our heartstrings. The school choir performed a heartfelt original piece for our leavers—sung *and* signed with immense pride. Not a dry eye in the house. All the staff wish our talented young adults the very very best for the exciting new adventures that they are about to embark on. We will miss them so much.

I hope you enjoy my favourite picture of this term which was taken during our DYW week in May. A massive thank you to the Police officers who visited the school. Great fun was had by all, especially this young man!!

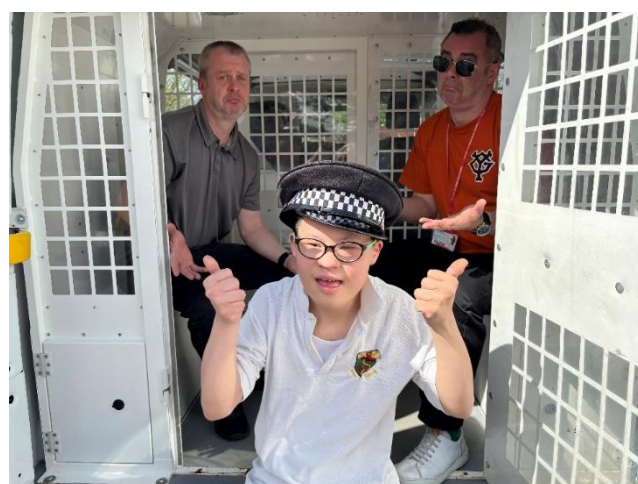
An extra special thank you goes to Mr McPhillips for all his hard work editing our newsletters this session. I know you will agree with me that he does a fabulous job putting all our achievements together for everyone to enjoy.

On behalf of the staff and myself, we would like to wish our school community a relaxing summer holiday. Take care, stay safe and we look forward to welcoming all pupils back to school on **Wednesday 13th August**.

With every best wish,

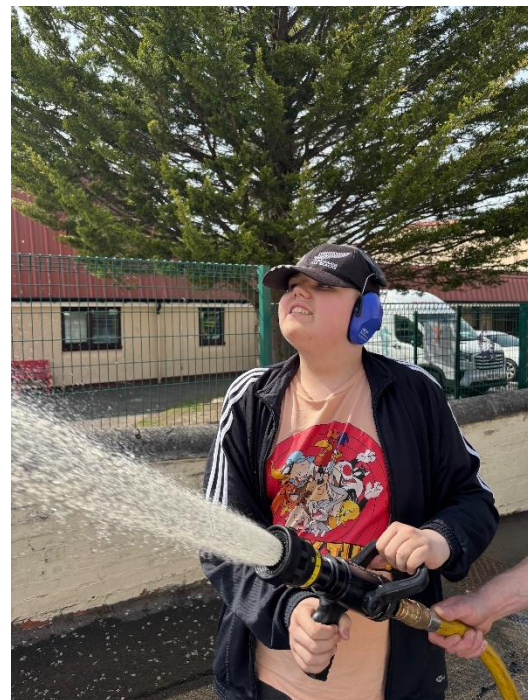
Ms Ann M. O'Hagan

Proud Head Teacher



This term I found it VERY difficult to choose my favourite picture of the term as there were so many exciting things happening in the school. I am sure you will agree that the one chosen was very funny – please enjoy the close contenders!

Ms O'H x





PILRIG PARK NEWS

Silver Level Achievement in Visual Supports Project!

We are delighted to have reached an exciting milestone in our commitment to inclusive communication by achieving Silver Level in the Visual Supports Project (VSP), in collaboration with the Speech and Language team. This accomplishment highlights our dedication to enhancing communication and learning through visual aids. Our assessor, Jenn Currie Speech and Language Therapist, states the impact of the initiative has been profound: "The implementation of visuals has been very valuable for all children and young people. Staff now have a greater understanding of visual supports and their importance." The school continues to foster creativity, finding new ways to utilise visuals, including gathering pupil's views to include them in planning for their own learning and achievement. Next goal is **GOLD!!!**

Ruth McLarty

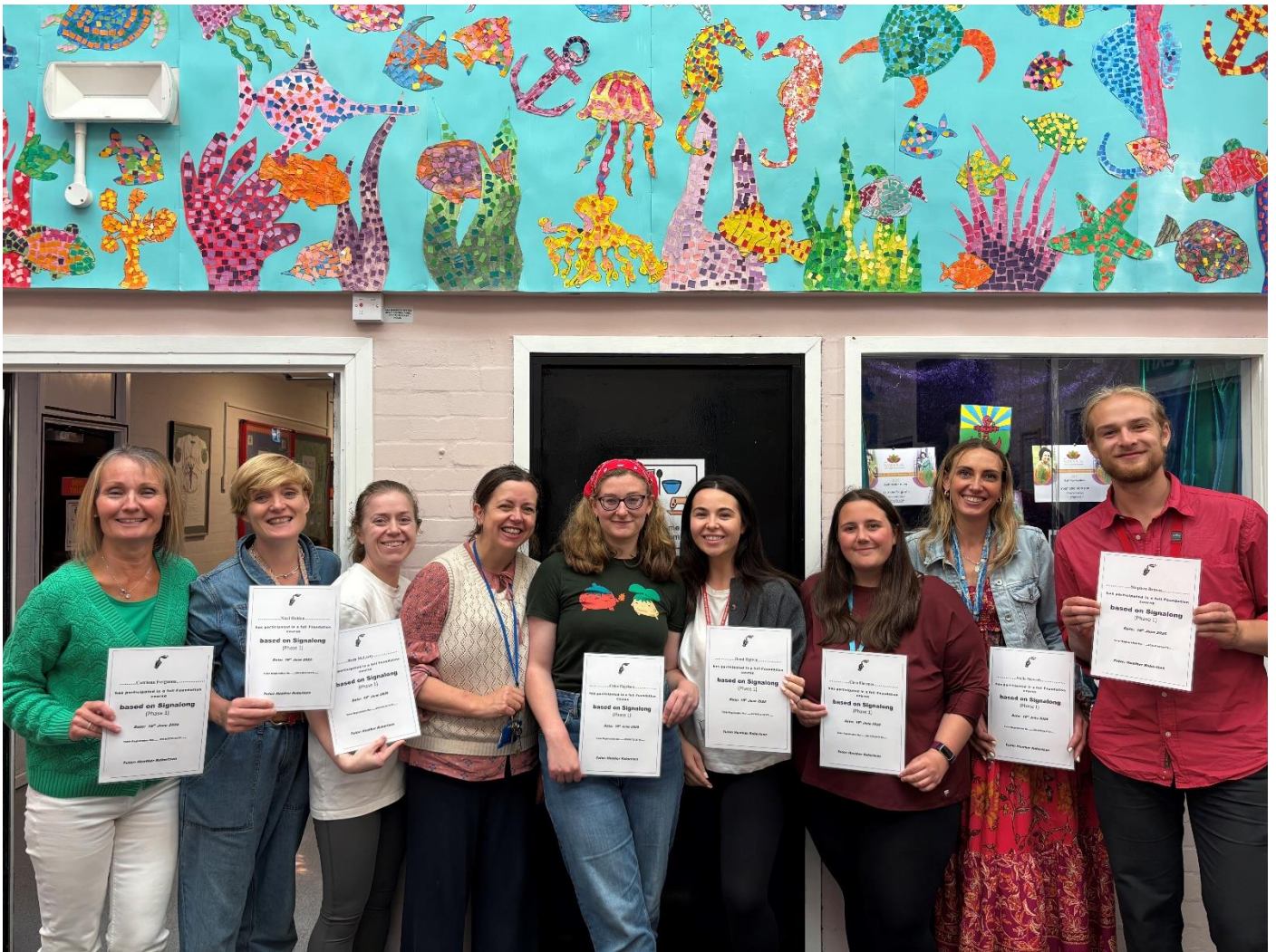
Principal Teacher of Support for Learning and Year Head for S1 & S2



Signalong Level 1!

Another eight members of staff trained in Signalong Level 1, thanks to our amazing Speech and Language Therapist Heather Robertson. There is already a waiting list for Signalong Level 1 again next session! We are also very excited as Heather will be running Signalong Level 2 in the school for the first time next session.

Congratulations to all the staff for their hard work in completing the training and passing the assessment!



Blue Class

Blue Class have had a wonderful first year at Pilrig Park School! We are incredibly proud of how our youngest learners have settled into their new environment.

This term, in Maths, we focused on developing practical skills through topics like money and measurement. We learnt to recognise different coins and thought about how to add them together to make a total. We also explored capacity and length by making predictions and comparisons using everyday objects – helping to build language and understanding through active learning.



In preparation for our school assembly on the theme *Gentle*, one of our school values, the class played games and took part in activities to help us understand what it means to be gentle - including a fun bubble game that everyone loved!



During DYW (Developing the Young Workforce) skills week, Blue Class took part in a range of exciting hands-on activities to build important life and work skills. The class learned essential first aid and CPR skills. We also explored digital technology by building Lego robots and programming our own video game. A particular highlight was a visit from our local fire service – the pupils were thrilled to use the hose!



It has been a fantastic year and we are so proud of everything Blue Class have achieved.

Yellow Class

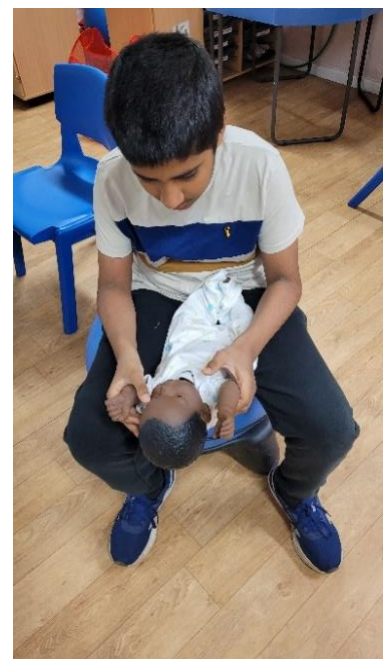
This term has been brilliant, and busy!

Yellow Class have enjoyed lots of different experiences and have really developed their communication skills over the past few months.

We started the term with planting tomato seeds. We were very gentle and made sure that the seeds were covered by soil. Then we made sure that we watered them regularly. The seeds have grown, and we have re-potted them. Hopefully by the summer we will start seeing tomatoes growing!



During our RSHP classes, we have been looking at how people grow too. We looked at what babies need to grow once they have been born, and we were very gentle looking after the babies we had in class. We changed nappies, dressed the babies and we also fed the babies. We spoke about the fact that we all need to eat and drink to be healthy and strong.



During STEM week, we had a brilliant time taking part in lots of different activities from Lego building, visits from the police and the fire service, to taking part in a first aid course. It was brilliant meeting lots of new people and trying lots of new experiences. We also got to show what brilliant skills we have been working on over the course of the year such as following instructions, turn taking and communicating what we like and dislike.



The first aid session in full swing! Chest compressions, bandages and using an inhaler. The boys loved looking through the giant first aid kit that was brought along too!



The firemen let us all have a shot of the hose. The water was very cold, and it was much stronger than we thought it would be. The visit from the Police meant we got to wear their uniforms and sit in the back of the van!

Purple Class

Purple Class have had a great last term of this school year! We particularly enjoyed a visit to the Risk Factory, learning valuable life skills in managing risks, and taking part in the exciting relay event. For the final section of our Gold JAS Award, we have been learning about trees and taking care of the environment. We have celebrated the trees in our playground and sang and played along to some tree-themed songs!

In Literacy, we have been focusing on using signs, books and other texts to find useful or interesting information. We have enjoyed identifying our school values within texts such as Newsround, story books and short films. We have continued to progress through our core words Aided Language Board, using our core words in a range of supported contexts.

In Maths, we have been working on our estimation skills by taking part in a range of Esti-mysteries! This involves guessing how many objects are in a picture and using clues to narrow down our estimations. Purple Class really enjoy making their final choice and give a loud drumroll when the answer is revealed! We have also been practising our measuring skills, looking at length, volume and weight in practical contexts.

In Health and Wellbeing, we have been developing our knowledge of life cycles, learning about chickens, frogs and oak trees. We enjoyed learning interesting facts about each of these living things and sharing our own prior knowledge with the class. Alongside this, we had a short focus on how to take care of a baby, including using gentle hands, eye contact and nutrition.

Purple Class have had a fantastic final term of S1/2 and are looking forward to a relaxing summer break!





Red Class

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

In RSHP, Red Class have really enjoyed learning how to look after babies. Using the dolls, they practised how to hold a baby, what a baby needs and getting a baby dressed.



In our topic lessons, we have been doing some gardening. Planting tomato seeds, watering and re-potting them. Red Class have also planted beetroot, broccoli and pepper plants. They have enjoyed watering and weeding the fruit trees.



Red Class really enjoyed our STEM Day: controlling robots trying to navigate them over a bridge, and using the microscopes to examine specimens.



On Tuesday the 3rd of June, some representatives from Red and Clyde Classes went through to Hampden in Glasgow to attend the finalist competition 'Show Racism the Red Card'. We were given a tour of the stadium and got to meet Kingsley (the mascot for Partick Thistle). Then, the boys got to meet, and get their photographs taken with some players in the Scotland team!! We came 3rd in the ASN category, receiving a trophy and goody bags to take back to school. A fantastic but very tiring day was had by all.





Orange Class

As we come to the end of the school year, we want to take a moment to celebrate the incredible effort and commitment shown by all of you in Orange Class. Your hard work, resilience, and positive attitude have made this year a real success, and you should be proud of everything you've achieved.

From tackling new challenges to supporting one another along the way, you've grown not just as learners, but as a team. It's been a pleasure to see your progress and enthusiasm throughout S4.

This year has been filled with exciting experiences and opportunities. Orange Class took part in a brilliant STEM workshop, where you explored problem-solving and innovation in action. You proudly represented your class with enthusiasm for Sports Day, by designing your very own sports day flag to show off your team spirit.

We performed in the whole school show with great confidence and excitement as many parents and carers attended the school show. Orange Class were brilliant in performing the "Eye of the Tiger" to pupils, staff and parents/carers.

Orange Class also participated in the Wild Walk in the park as part of our Wider Achievement curriculum. Miss Morrison organised a wild walk adventure around Pilrig Park.

In RSHP, you learned about the important topic of what babies need to grow and thrive, showing great maturity and thoughtfulness in your discussions. You also explored the importance of e-safety, learning how to stay safe and responsible online—a vital skill for the digital world. And let's not forget your green thumbs during the class activity of planting tomato seeds, watching them grow with care and patience.

From tackling new challenges to supporting one another, you've grown not just as learners, but as individuals. It's been a pleasure to see your progress and enthusiasm throughout S4.



As you move into S5, I wish you all the very best. Keep striving, stay focused, and believe in your potential—you've already proven what you're capable of. Have a well-deserved summer break, and we look forward to seeing all you accomplish in the year ahead!

Well done, Orange Class – and good luck in S5!

Here are some moments to cherish from your journey this term.



Green Class

This term, Green Class have been completing their SQA in Fundraising. We were raising money for the “The Friends of Pilrig Park Charity” by walking the equivalent steps of a journey up and down Ben Nevis! This challenge was 10 miles altogether, but the pupils walked one extra mile on top of their challenge! We raised £1219 for the charity – thank you to everyone that supported us. This includes the local business’s that managed collection tins for us – Festival Theatre, Storries, Krema Bakery, Urban Jungle Brunch Room, San Ciro’s and Artisan Coffee.

We invited the school out to walk/run/moon walk/pretend skateboard our final steps of the challenge with us!



Green Class have been enjoying our new school library, using the skills that we learnt last term through our McDonald Road Library 6-week project. We have made a step-by-step guide as part of our SQA unit “Creating Text” to help other pupils when visiting the library.



Clyde Class

Clyde Class have been busy this term making great strides in their National 1 SQA Life Skills course, focusing on basic first aid skills. Pupils have been learning how to treat very minor injuries with confidence and care. A real highlight of the lessons was taking part in role play activities, which allowed everyone to practise their new knowledge in a fun and interactive way. The enthusiasm was clear to see, with each student taking pride in developing these important, real-life skills.

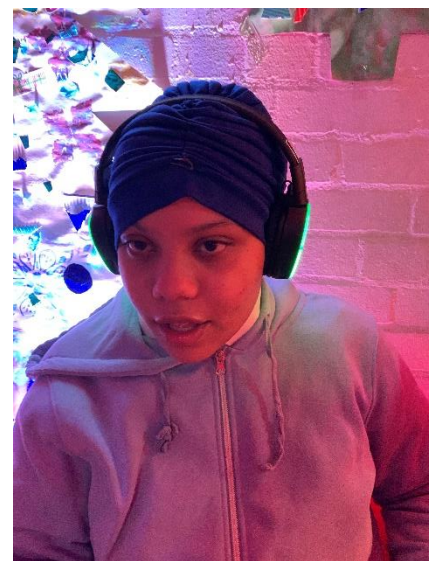
Alongside this, Clyde Class have been exploring how to care for a baby during their RSHP (Relationships, Sexual Health and Parenthood) lessons. They particularly enjoyed some sensory play with baby dolls, which gave them a hands-on opportunity to understand what nurturing a baby involves. These activities not only supported their learning but also built empathy and understanding in a creative and meaningful way.

Well done, Clyde Class, for your fantastic efforts and engagement across both topics — I'm so proud of your progress!



Some of Clyde Class are leaving us in the summer.

Good luck and best wishes to them as they take the next steps in their lives.



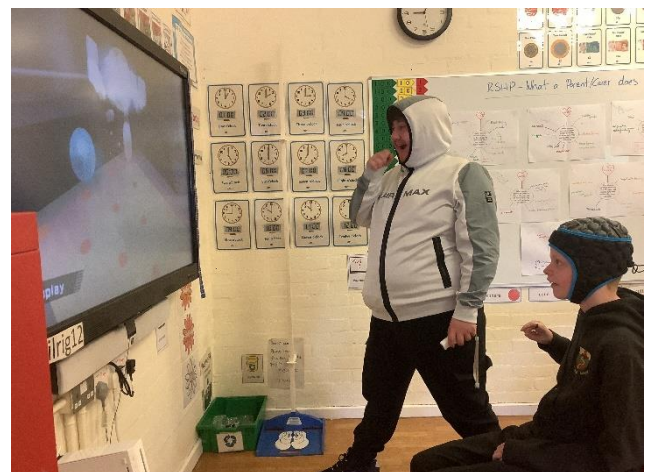
Ness Class

Ness Class have had a busy term finishing SQA courses and gaining ASDAN awards in lots of different subjects. Everyone has achieved some qualifications this year at various levels.

All of the pupils in the class contributed towards making a Ness Class flag, which was on display recently in the hall and was proudly carried during Sports Day. As you can see from these photos, it wasn't just the flag that got painted.



This term has been particularly busy, but we have all worked together and have still managed to find time to have fun and enjoy time with each other.



We have spent a lot of this term reflecting on the year and discussing our favourite moments from the year. These highlights included Festivision, where we really work well as a team and created what should have been a winning video!



As well as that amazing video, we also created videos for our assembly on Kindness, way back in 2024. We filmed everyone in the school smiling (even Ms O'Hagan!) and we showed different ways to show how to be kind.



This year has been great. Unfortunately, one of our class has chosen to leave, and we will all miss her, and we wish her all the very best for the next stage of life. Good luck!



Here is a last-minute addition. Our flag in use at Sports Day.

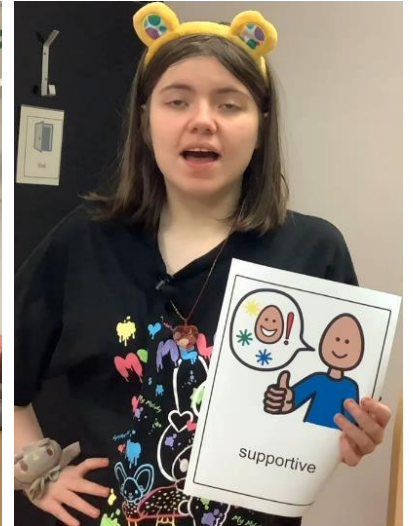


Forth Class

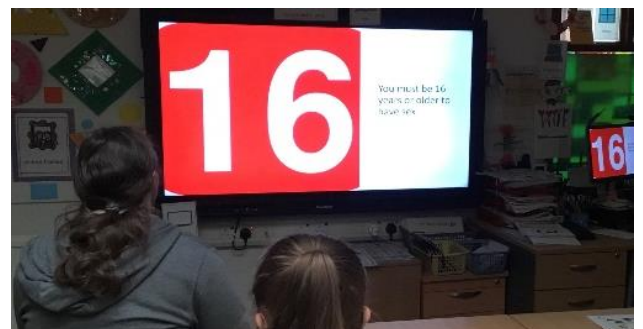
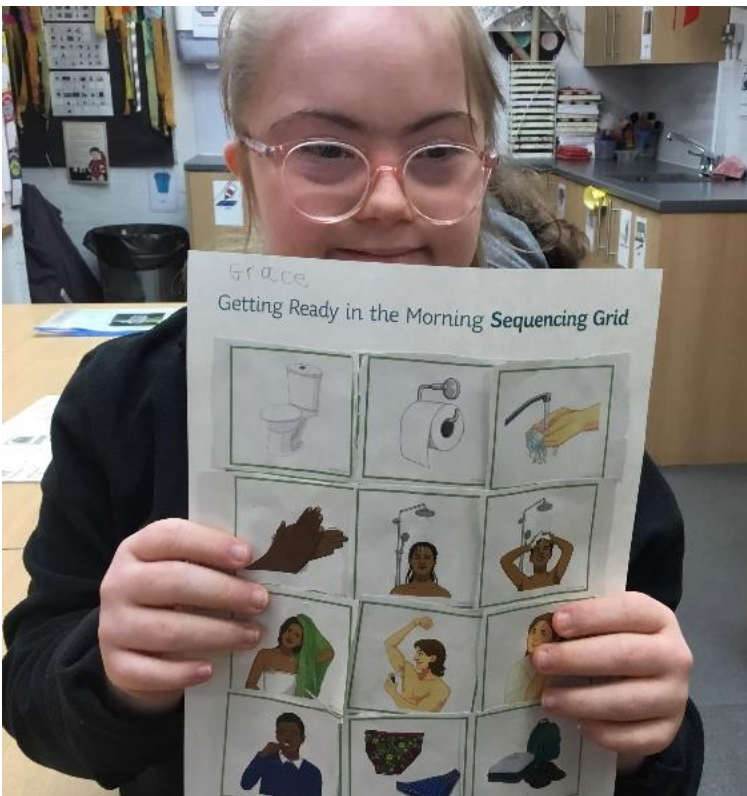


The pupils in Forth Class have now completed their buddying program, and enjoyed being pupil supports in several of the younger classes on Friday mornings. To complete their SQA qualification, pupils recently carried out several questionnaires amongst staff and pupils to find out what went well and what improvements they could make for future buddying!

The buddies have built up friendly relationships with the younger pupils, and really developed their responsibility, patience, and caring roles. Well done to you all!



Forth Class were very proud to receive their fifth **Special Badge** in April!! They were awarded the 'Learning' badge for doing excellent work throughout the RSHP program. They focussed well on each of the topics, and have grown in confidence when discussing more sensitive subjects.



Sports Day was an opportunity for Forth Class to come together as a team and prepare for the event by creating a class banner. We chose to draw and paint the 'Forth Rail Bridge' on our banner and look forward to displaying it on the day!



This term, the class have been working every week with Sarah, our **Enable Works** coordinator. Sarah has been leading a community impact project which has involved painting some plant pots in which we will sow flower seeds. The next step is to donate the pots as gifts to the local community. We had great fun painting all sorts of designs onto the pots!



As part of their learning about the workplace environment, some of Forth Class went on a visit to Meadowbank Sports Centre. They learned about the different jobs and enjoyed a tour of the whole place – it's huge! (We also learned that there are over 130 toilets in the facility! That's a lot of toilets!).



The Music Department

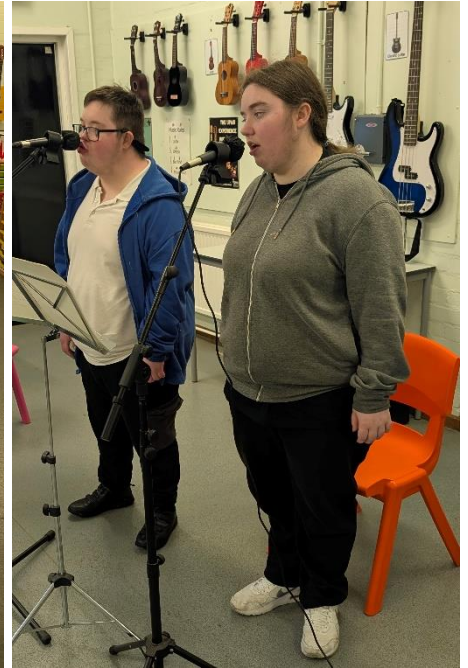
At our wonderful 'Jungle Book' Summer Show, we had many live performances!

Orange class performed 'Eye of the Tiger', Clyde Class performed 'Sweet Child of Mine', and the Pilrig Park School Choir performed three songs, 'Roar', 'The Bare Necessities' and 'I Wanna Be Like You'.



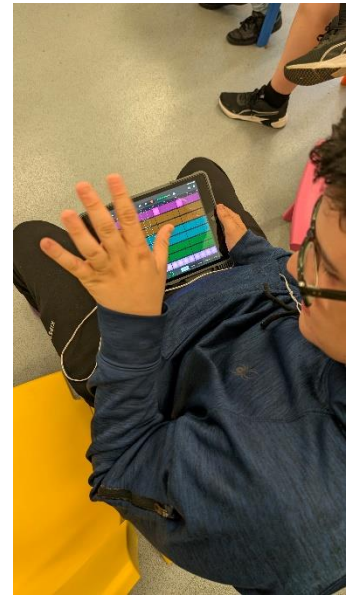
Pilrig Park Senior Band

The senior band performed 'Cold Cold Heart' for our special summer music showcase! One of the pupils created a backing track on GarageBand and another played the drums, while two of our Leavers sang. Amazing performance and fantastic work. We were all so impressed!



Red Class

This term, Red Class has been exploring music technology! They've been learning about rock music, what instruments make up a rock band and have all made their own rock band track in GarageBand. Amazing work, Red Class!



Yellow Class

Yellow Class have loved exploring performance directions through the song 'The Grand Ole Duke of York' this term! Using the parachute, we've been practising following directions to shake, lift and lower the parachute as a team.



Blue Class

Blue Class gave an amazing performance at our summer showcase this term! They performed 'My Bestie' on ukulele and voice. Well done, Blue Class.



In the Art Room!



The focus for the BGE classes in the art room this term has included making costumes for the school show, 'The Jungle Book', in addition to learning new skills and techniques!

Blue Class made a selection of animal masks for the show, including a crocodile, a monkey and a leopard. They have also been looking at the work of the artist, Gustav Klimt and created their own 'Tree of Life' using lots of shiny gold paper and sparkles!



Purple Class were the 'snakes' in the school show, and we had great fun painting these socks and adding eyes and a tongue!



Yellow Class had fun sticking bits of furry fabric onto their monkey masks! We also made some monkey tails using tights. The class have been learning how to make colourful bubbles with paint and fairy liquid!



Red Class brought some Spring sunshine into the art room with their wreaths made of tissue paper, pom-poms and paint! The class have also been learning about block printing, having made their own string blocks using wool.



The **Senior** pupils have been starting new projects.

Clyde Class made a selection of puppets for their puppet show performance, as part of their SQA Performing Arts qualification. We made sock puppet characters from the 'Gruffalo' and then hand puppets of 'Room on the Broom' characters. The puppet show was fantastic and our audience (Blue Class) certainly enjoyed themselves!



Green Class created some very fetching elephant ears and trunk masks for the school show! Then they learnt about a collage technique, using magazines and coloured paper to make a landscape picture.



Orange Class have been doing a project on polystyrene printing, as part of their Creative Arts unit. We chose to design a fish onto the polystyrene and then used a roller to print a variety of colours and backgrounds!



The **National 3 Art & Design Class** have been finishing their various painting and drawings, on their chosen topics. They have enjoyed learning about a variety of art techniques, showing fabulous talent and skills. Well done to you all!



P.E.

Pupils participating in PE have been developing and improving skills and techniques through practice and play in following activities: Tag rugby, Handball, Athletics and Rounders.



At the start of June, our Sports Leaders participated in Prospect Bank School Sports Day 2025. They practiced their leadership skills by helping and supporting pupils from Prospect Bank School.



Following six weeks of dance sessions at Pilrig Park School, led by an Edinburgh Dance Academy instructor, Blue Class took part in SPECIAL SCHOOLS DANCE FESTIVAL 2025 at Oakland School in April.



CONNOR BRIAN - Disability Cricket Development Officer has delivered 6 cricket taster sessions for the following classes: Purple, Red and Orange



Near the end of April, Orange Class and our Young Ambassador participated in Big Sports Day for Special Schools organised by Active Schools. The event took place at Saughton Athletics Track. This was a fun sports event which allowed our pupils to try out and play different skills & games (tennis, cycling, football, archery). Everybody did very well and had lots of fun.



Our Young Leaders organised a Staff versus Pupils football game. It took place in the playground in May. The game was very competitive but fair and ended with a draw 9:9.

One of the Sports Ambassadors did a great job refereeing the game.



Pilrig Park School basketball players participated in the Basketball Festival at Craggs Centre in June.



Young Leaders helped with sports activities for P7 pupils, next year's S1s, when they visited for 3 days.



Relay Your Way 2025

Earlier this month, a group of pupils and staff from Pilrig Park School were delighted to be involved with *Relay Your Way* as part of its nationwide inclusive relay. Starting in Glasgow on June 3rd, the event is making its way across the country — by foot, bike, wheelchair, or however people want to move — all the way to Windsor by July 6th.

The event is run by Cerebra, a charity supporting children with brain conditions, and is designed to be fully inclusive, encouraging everyone to take part in their own way. Along the route, the team is visiting dozens of schools and communities to spark important conversations around inclusivity. To find out more visit www.relayyourway.org.

We had great fun taking part in races with the MSPs at the Scottish Parliament before making our way down Easter Road with the baton held high all the way to the school. Back at school we had a whole-school relay race with the baton before we passed it back so that it could continue on the next stage of its journey.

We wish Cerebra well with this very important race.





The relay back at school....



Home Economics

Futurechef

For the last few years, Pilrig Park School has been taking part in a competition between Special Schools in Edinburgh and the Lothians called Futurechef.

For the senior round this year, we had six people in the school heat where the pupils were to make a fruit tart. They identified their favourite fruits and worked very hard to create a masterpiece. Learning new skills along the way such as making shortcrust pastry and blind baking. Josh in S4 was the winner of our in-school heat, and we travelled to Kaimes for the Senior Final where he was declared the WINNER!! They commented that his had the best flavour!



For the junior competition, we saw ten pupils try out with cupcakes, this year's new flavour was toffee. Luke from S3 was our winner and he joined Ms Vennelle at Woodlands for the junior heat. He took it all in his stride as he baked his cakes and chose his favourite one to go up against the others. Unfortunately, he was not the overall winner, but he is a superstar to us and did so well.



I am so proud of both these boys who came out of their comfort zones and worked to the best of their abilities! Well done boys!

DYW – Developing the Young Workforce

DYW | Developing the
Young Workforce

At the beginning of May, we held our DYW Skills Week! The whole week was devoted to skills for life, work and learning with several partnerships leading on workshops and activities throughout the week.

The whole school took part in workshops given by the Hearts Innovation Centre, whereby pupils learnt how to make a robotic turtle, using Lego and motors! St Andrew's First Aid delivered very useful workshops on how to do basic first aid skills.



On the Wednesday, the whole school enjoyed a STEM morning (science, technology, engineering and maths) with activities led by various organisations including Edinburgh College, Heriot Watt and Edinburgh Universities, and colleagues from Gorgie Mills School. Pupils enjoyed various activities including LEGO (Duplo), looking through a microscope at organisms in water samples, lollipop stick catapults and remote-controlled robots!



Later in the week, we enjoyed visits from two of the emergency services. Firefighters from McDonald Road Fire service came round to see us, with not one but TWO fire engines and lots of water to blast all over the car park! The following afternoon, Police Scotland paid us a visit and allowed pupils to experience life as a police officer, trying on hats and climbing into the back of the van!



On the last day of our Skills Week, David from Skills Development Scotland showed several classes some amazing digital skills, by creating a coding game on the iPad.



Enable Works – Workplace visit to the Festival Theatre



As part of the S6 program, we offer where appropriate, work tasters. This term, one of our senior pupils went on a workplace visit to the Festival Theatre, led by Sarah, our Enable Works coordinator. She met Izzy at the theatre who talked about some of the different jobs there such as box office ticket sales, working in the café/bars, advertising, actors, tech guys, and finance team.

Our senior pupil saw the dress circle, the stage set up for a show, wigs, costumes, dressing rooms, events rooms, green room, and the Capital Theatre.



The Royal Highland Show



Orange class had a great time visiting the Royal Highland Show





Pupil Council

The Pupil Council

We have had another busy term meeting school inspectors and representatives from Leith kitchen about our school lunches, however we would like our final message for this term to be simple: “Goodbye and Thank you!”

We send this message to Katie and Nik who have been part of the Pupil Council for a long time and are now leaving the school for new adventures.

Thank you for everything you have done for the school over the years and thank you for all the guidance you have given us all on the Pupil Council. We will really miss you.

Colt, Damien, Garion, and Rosa



School Values Awards

At our end of year Celebration of Achievement assembly, we issue certificates to those pupils who we believe have gone above and beyond in demonstrating our school values.

This year the certificates were issued to:

Jarred for demonstrating the school value – Ready to Learn



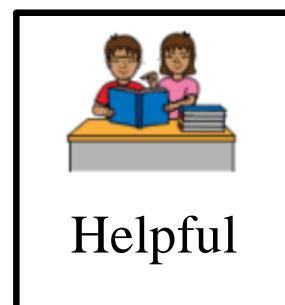
Innes for demonstrating the school value - Honest

Garion for demonstrating the school value - Kindness



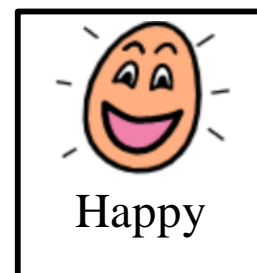
Victor for demonstrating the school value - Respectful

Stephen for demonstrating the school value - Helpful



Salvo for demonstrating the school value - Safe

Zakir for demonstrating the school value – Happy

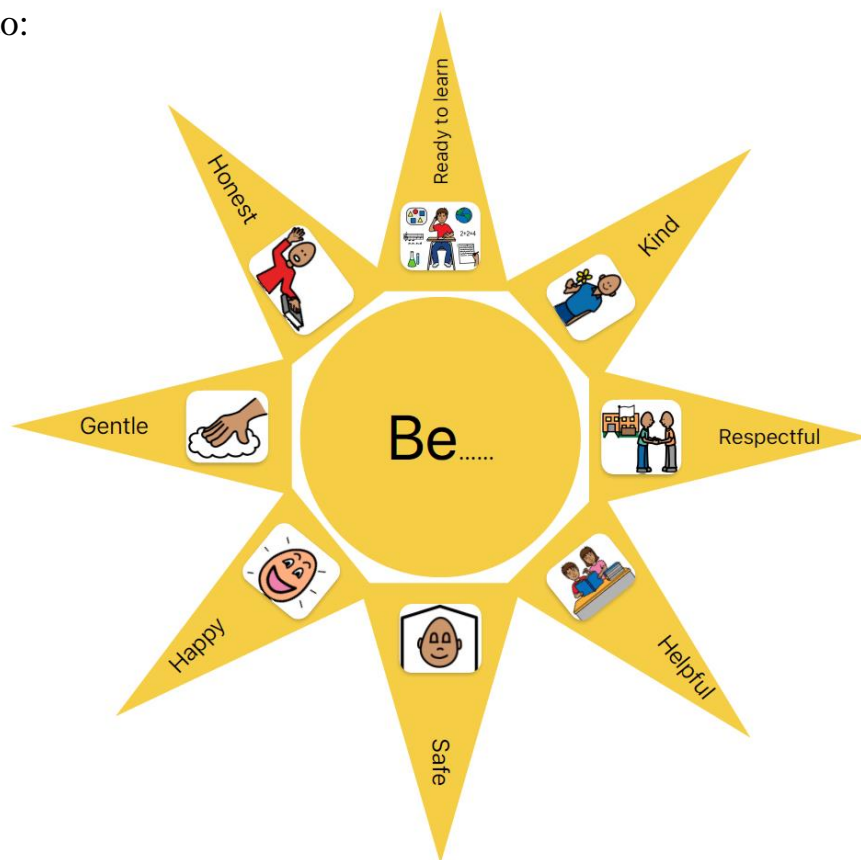


Sheriff for demonstrating the school value - Gentle

Sunshine in Leith!

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

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



Aims:

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

Inclusive learning environment;

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

Rights respecting cultural ethos;

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

Gallus!

School Values Awards



Orange Class have successfully completed various tasks to achieve the Fairactive Award from the Fairtrade school awards. They participated in activities involving learning about the Fairtrade symbol to starting a Fairtrade campaign. This also involved whole school assembly presentation and producing a QR code to be sent home to make people aware about Fairtrade.



Orange Class are very proud to be part of Fairtrade schools. They have enjoyed learning about Fairtrade and hope everyone is more aware about Fairtrade products.

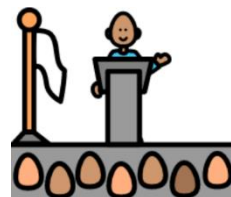
Here are some photos to show their involvement in various activities to raise awareness about Fairtrade.



PUPIL VOICE



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.

Our assembly just before the Easter holidays (and therefore missed the last newsletter- deadline!) was a very busy one with lots of celebrations. We were joined by some special visitors, who were seen tapping their feet to the music!

The theme for our March / April assembly was the school value 'Happy'.

Orange Class told us all about the happy celebrations for Eid Mubarak and handed out some tasty biscuits for everyone to enjoy! Thank you to Orange Class for designing the stickers on the biscuit bags during their art lesson and thank you to Mrs Vennelle in Home Economics for making an enormous amount of delicious shortbread with classes!

Green Class showed us how to sign the word 'happy'!

Sign of the month

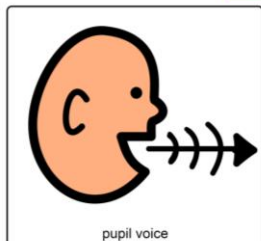
Happy /jolly / gl... ★



PUPIL VOICE

Clyde Class presented on their work towards gaining our Gold Rights Respecting Schools Award. They have created a fantastic video called, Our Voice, Our Community.

Pupil voice presentation:
on Rights Respecting Schools



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!



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.

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

Clyde Class – **Sport** special badge & **Music** special badge

Forth Class – **Learning** special badge

Purple Class – **Learning** special badge

Yellow Class – **Sport** special badge

Red Class - **Sport** special badge

Orange Class – **Creative** special badge

My **Big Achievement** badges – 4 pupils won this badge in April!

Well done to everyone this month! 😊

Gardening

Green and Red Class have continued working hard at **The Botanics** this term.

Here we are tending to our vegetable plot, clearing away weeds and building new structures to help our vegetables grow.



PUPIL VOICE

This term Green and Orange Class have taken part in the **Wilding Wee Spaces project**. We have been working with Nicola and our teachers to learn about our school's wild spaces and make decisions about how our school should use our wild spaces. So far, we have been busy learning about the species of plants that we have growing in the space, and clearing space for future plans! We have come across some extra friends during our session... our school frog! We are currently learning about food chains and will be learning about animal habitats before the end of term.

We want to say a big Pilrig Park School thank you to **Wilding Wee Spaces** for inviting us to take part in their project!



Signalong



Green Class have all created their own Signalong name as part of their SQA Have Your Say.

Here they are!



You Are My Sunshine - Signalong

Our final signalong song of the year was 'You Are My Sunshine' and the whole school performed this together at our final assembly. Well done, Pilrig Park School!

You can find all of our Signalong songs on the website, and you can start practising for August...



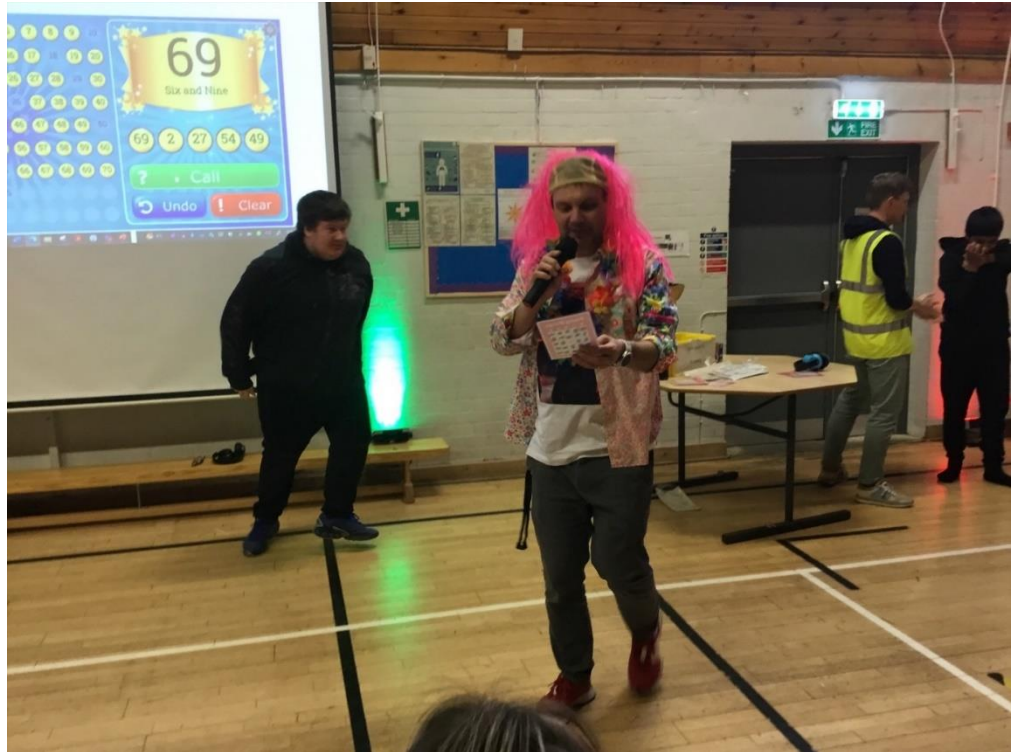
Easter Egg Hunt and Mr Mackay Bongo Bingo!



On the last day of term in April, we held our annual Easter Egg Hunt and the now famous Bongo Bingo, led by Mr Mackay our DHT! Here are a few photos of a fun morning, to celebrate the end of term and welcome the start of Spring (although it was a very cold day!).



Some photos from the Bongo Bingo.



Outdoor Classroom Day

Pilrig Park School took part in our first ever Outdoor Classroom Day!

Schools across the country were also taking part, having fun and exploring the outdoors. We went for a sensory walk in our local park and used communication boards to share what we could see and hear. The pupils (and staff) had a lovely time enjoying our local community.



We also had a big game of rounders involving lots of classes, and a staff versus pupils' game... the staff had no chance at winning! The whole event was filmed. Here are a couple of screenshots of the action.



To end our day, the pupils shared their favourite music with each other and danced/played games/relaxed together in the sun before a whole school YMCA dance off.

We are looking forward to Outdoor Classroom Day 2026!

End of Year Celebrations

Our last week of the term began with our annual end of year Celebration of Achievement Assembly which parents/carers were invited to for the first time. We recognised the achievements of all our pupils over this academic year with awards, certificates, trophies and even gold badges in the following categories:

- School values awards
- JAS awards
- A whole host of PE certificates including for the first time Bikeability Level 1
- ASDAN awards for PSE, Short Courses, Personal Development Programme (at Bronze, Silver and Gold levels)
- Edinburgh College certificates
- Wider achievement awards
- Head Teacher special awards for all staff and pupils
- Young Leader award
- And finally the Spirit of Pilrig Park School Junior and Senior school awards!

We must send a MASSIVE thank you to the fabulous Natalie for all her printing and laminating of the certificates!

We hope you enjoy some highlight photos of our special afternoon.



THE LEAVERS 2025

Our two senior school trophy recipients showing off their awards at the Leavers assembly. Wiktoria with the *Pilrig Park School Young Leader* trophy, and Nikolas with the Senior *Spirit of Pilrig Park School* award.



Ms Sawyer with the winners of the Junior and Senior *Spirit of Pilrig Park School* trophies.



THE LEAVERS 2025

Our end of term celebrations took place during the final week of term, beginning with an emotional Leaver's assembly where we were joined by and joined by their parents and carers.

The leavers then had fun playing some games before being invited to Ms O'Hagan's office for a glass of Shloer!

A special lunch for the leavers was much enjoyed (first ever pizza delivery to Pilrig Park School!), before the whole school gathered together for a silent disco in the afternoon!

A very happy day for everyone, and a true 'Pilrig Park School' celebration of our fabulous young people!





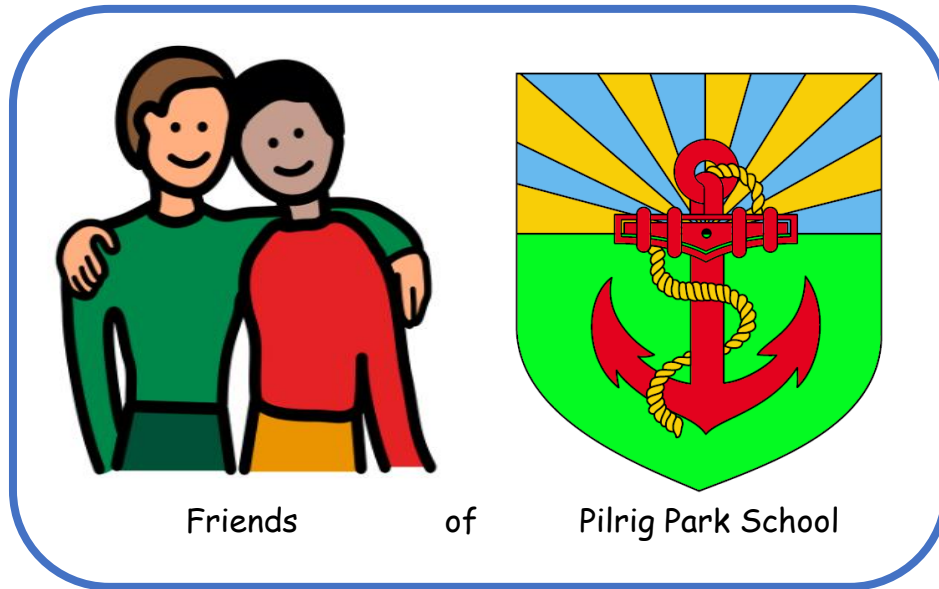


Silent Disco



Friends of Pilrig Park School charity

Friends of Pilrig Park School charity was set up in 2017 and run by parents of pupils who attended the school at the time. In 2025, a new treasurer and trustees were appointed. The charity team now includes: Lesley McArthur, currently a PSA at the school; Jill Hale, a retired English teacher, who often does supply work here at Pilrig Park School; Moira Montgomery, a retired depute head; and Kath McCall, a retired PSA.



The aims of the charity remain the same with the goal of advancing and enhancing the learning experiences for pupils at Pilrig Park School. We have been successful in sourcing funding for a new medical bed. The charity received a letter from Green Class who had asked if they could raise money for the charity as part of their work towards an SQA unit. The boys raised a fantastic amount which was then given to the charity. The money raised will go towards the cost of this term's music therapy.

Our next set of funding applications will be to source funding for The Scran Van, Music Therapy and to fund the breakfast fruit and cereal bars that school provides.

Here are some photos of Green Class doing their walk to raise money. See their class page for more.



Parent Council

Hello, I am Hugh Mooney, the Chairperson of Pilrig Park School Parent Council.

I am very new to the job; in fact, this Parent Council is fairly new. The Parent Council was only revived less than a year ago. The school had one before to support the students, carers and staff of Pilrig Park School but the practical reality of students growing up and leaving made it difficult to maintain. This new Parent Council has the same aims, to support our young people, carers and staff.

I recently met with Miss O' Hagan where she shared the school's improvement plans and priorities for the future. The future of the school and our young people look very good.

The next Parent Council meeting will be at the start of September. Anyone is invited to join the meeting and the Parent Council, people are free to involve themselves as much or little as they wish. Just by existing as a Parent Council we are already helping the school and our young people. If you have ideas how we can help even more, have a question or problem you need help with or if you have anything at all you'd like to share or discuss with us, please don't hesitate to contact us at Pilrigparkpc@gmail.com.

All year round, we all enjoy the activities and opportunities the school offers carers to get involved, but as the year comes to an end it gets even more exciting and enjoyable with the final school show of the year, the shows are always excellent, and Sports Day. We hope everyone has a great summer break and we look forward to meeting new students and families in August.

Come and say hello!

Office Bearers:

Mr Hugh Mooney - Chairperson

Ms Clare Armstrong - Treasurer

Mr Craig McInnes - Secretary

If you have made it to the last page of our newsletter (the biggest yet!) – well done! As a wee treat for making it this far, I thought I would share with you this photo Stewart took at the Leaver's Assembly!

Happy summer everyone!

