



Pilrig Park School

Sunshine in Leith

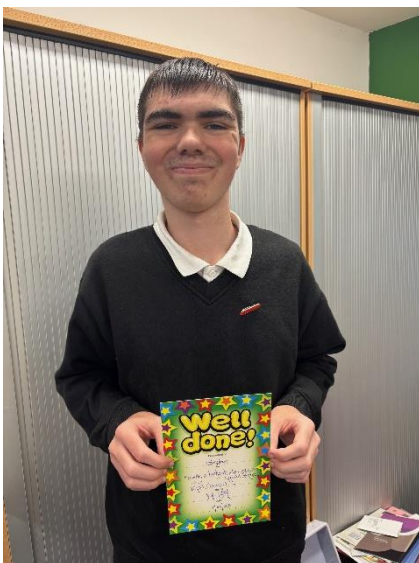


October 2025

Welcome to the first of our four newsletters for session 2025/26. As fast as we say goodbye to the Leavers of 24/25, we welcome our new S1 pupils into Pink and White Classes. White Class have already taken on the responsibility of being part of the Eco Committee! It is great to see them working in partnership with our experienced recyclers in Blue Class and making new friends.

Our first parental engagement event for the session took place on Wednesday where parents/carers “Met the Staff” and enjoyed some afternoon tea with class teams while taking part in “Taskmaster” activities as part of our Rights Respecting Schools Gold work. The Pilrig Park School Choir also showcased a wee teaser of our school song for this year “This is ME!”. More to come as the year progresses! One of my favourite pictures for this term is of April carefully negotiating one of the afternoon tea trolleys into the hall! The sausage rolls were not for staying on the cake stands!! We hope parents/carers will be able to join us at our next parental engagement event on Wednesday 19th November for our “This is ME!” interdisciplinary learning showcase.

Once again, we start the year celebrating whole-school success! We were absolutely thrilled to achieve the Digital Schools Award Scotland which recognises our commitment to digital excellence. It would not be possible to achieve this without the hard work and commitment of all our staff. Mr Cuddy, our Digital Lead, is going to be sharing at the Digital Learning Conference later this month, our journey towards achieving the Digital Schools Award – very exciting!



My second favourite picture of this term was taken at a recent Pupil Council meeting. We were discussing our Special Badges@Pilrig which is part of our whole-school initiative for celebrating our successes and achievements. One of the Pupil Council came up with a fabulous idea that was worthy of an immediate certificate! Look out for details in our next newsletter!

Finally, as you may be aware, we were visited by HM Inspectors the week beginning the 16th of June. All parents/carers should now have received a copy of their letter which was published earlier this week. I have attached a copy at the end of the newsletter just in case you did not receive it. An enormous thanks goes to all the staff, parents/carers and partners who supported us both in the preparation for the inspection and throughout the week. We can all be so proud of what we have achieved together.

Thank you as ever for your continued support. I hope parents/carers will be able to join the Parent Council meeting on TEAMS at 5.00pm on Wednesday 29th October.

Enjoy the October holiday. We look forward to welcoming our pupils back on Tuesday 21st October.

Take care and keep safe.

Ms Ann M. O'Hagan

Head Teacher



Key Dates!

- Tuesday 21st October – Pupils return from October holiday
- Wednesday 19th November – “This is ME!” family engagement event in school from 1.30pm
- Wednesday 3rd December – Pilrig Park School Winter Show: the Voice! in school from 1.30pm
- Week beginning 8th December – Pilrig Park School Choir on tour with festive songs for all to enjoy – tour manager currently in negotiation re venues and dates/times!!
- Friday 12th December – Whole-school silent disco
- Friday 19th December – Last day of term
- Tuesday 6th January – Pupils return after Christmas holiday
- Thursday 8th January – Whole-school trip to the pantomime
- Thursday 22nd January – S1 to S6 Parents Night 4.00 – 6.00pm

PILRIG PARK NEWS

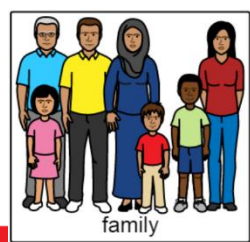
We are delighted to announce that Pilrig Park School has been successful in its application to become a Digital School in Scotland.

We are all SO proud! All the staff and pupils have worked incredibly hard to achieve the Digital Schools Award Scotland.

Feedback from the validator included:

It is evident that Pilrig Park School has a clear vision of where their digital journey will take them in the future and that staff and young people are on board to make this happen. The school offers their learners opportunities to use digital technologies and practitioners are striving to provide the best experiences for them all. The technologies and software used by the school helps to ensure that every child has an opportunity to become a confident digital learner. During my discussions it was clear that digital technologies are beginning to be embedded across the school in a number of different capacities and that staff use it to enhance the learning experiences of all children.

A huge congratulations goes to everyone for all their efforts and a special thanks goes to Mr Cuddy, our Digital Lead, for coordinating our application.



DIGITAL SCHOOLS
AWARDS SCOTLAND



Pilrig Park School



In recognition of the school's excellence
in integrating digital technology into
learning and teaching

2025

digitalschoolsawards.com



Inclusion Ambassador

We are delighted to let everyone know that Rosa is our new Inclusion Ambassador with Children in Scotland!



WE'RE GOING UP, UP, UP IT'S OUR MOMENT!

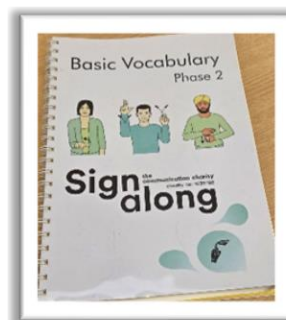
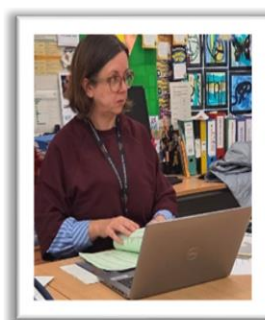
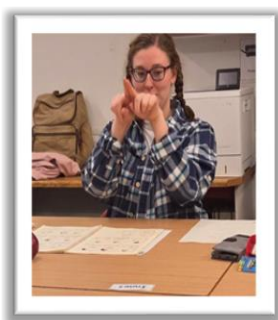
The staff at Pilrig Park School have been very busy after being one of the few schools in Edinburgh to secure the Silver Visual Support Project Award!



We worked really hard to ensure we created an inclusive environment by displaying environmental visuals, specialist visuals and aided language boards! We even created a Pilrig Park School - Core Signs book with accompanying videos! Why not have a go yourself and watch the videos by scanning our QR Code!



We had a number of staff complete their Phase 1 Signalong thanks to our Speech and Language Therapist Heather. As a first for the school, nine members of staff have started learning Phase 2! This is a wonderful opportunity for the school as we widen our inclusive communication vision!



While working towards our Gold Visual Support Project Award, we have been busy adding to our library of Aided Language Boards as well as creating a symbol dictionary for all staff, to make sure we are collectively consistent throughout the school with the symbols we use.

Inclusive communication isn't just about making sure our pupils have a way to communicate with us, but also that we have a way to communicate with them, and so we have also created core symbols for all staff to use!



Wish us luck as we hope by the end of October

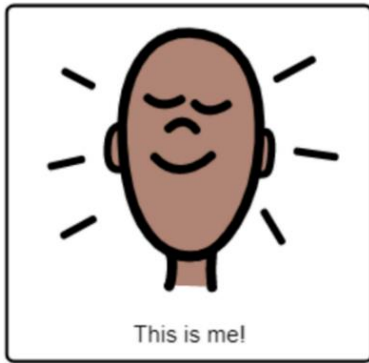
WE'RE GONNA BE, GONNA BE GOLDEN!!

Meet the Staff Event – Wednesday 8th October



Just before the end of term, we held our 'Meet the Staff' event for parents and carers. It was a lovely way for our new S1 parents and carers to meet each other and chat to parents and carers of older pupils in the school.

The theme for the event was launching our school focus for the session, 'This is Me'. We explained to everyone about the work we are doing in school in order to gain our Rights Respecting Schools Gold Award and how 'This is Me' supports RRSA Article 5, see below.



We had great fun doing a couple of 'Taskmaster' challenges and encouraging teamwork amongst our class teams, parents and carers! The first challenge was to build a bridge using only newspaper and Sellotape – making it strong enough when tested out with a toy car!



We all then enjoyed a fabulous afternoon tea, prepared by the Home Economic department! There was an amazing selection of homemade sandwiches, sausage rolls, Swiss roll, shortbread and other tasty treats!

Our school choir then entertained us with a wonderful rendition of 'This is Me' from *The Greatest Showman* – a wee taster of the school show, later in the session!



Our second challenge was to create (in no more than 5 minutes!) a 'silly walk' with a partner then present it to your class for voting. There were some very funny and silly walks going on – everyone was up on their feet having a good time! Thank you to all the parents and carers who could come along on Wednesday afternoon, meet the staff, make some new friends and have lots of fun!



Upmo Experience – Rock Band

During the final week of term, we had The Upmo Experience in school performing a concert for all the pupils and staff.



THE UPMO EXPERIENCE ROCK SHOW

PILRIG PARK SCHOOL

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Thursday 9th October

PERIOD 3-4



**All pupils and staff
welcome to the show!**

Upmo
support and
opportunity

Everyone had a great time at the concert.

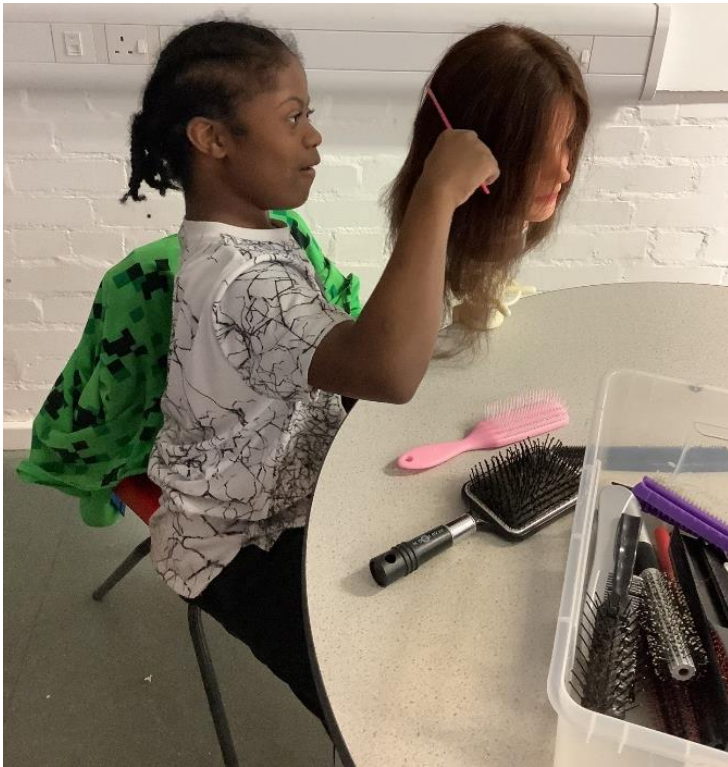


White Class

White Class have had an excellent first term at Pilrig Park School. We have been getting to know each other as a new class, learning our new routines and taking part in different activities in class and around the school. I am so proud of how well they have settled into our school, and I look forward to the year ahead.

LifeWise

As part of our LifeWise curriculum, we have been learning about personal hygiene and how to look after ourselves. We have focussed on hand washing, tooth brushing and looking after our hair.



We have been learning about our school values. We have discussed right and wrong choices and how this can make us feel.



Literacy and Communication

White Class have been loving taking part in our sensory stories. A favourite so far from this term was the 3 little pigs where we involved puppets and masks. They have been engaging each week with the core word curriculum and completing activities around this.



We have had an excellent start to the first term.

Well done White Class!

Pink Class

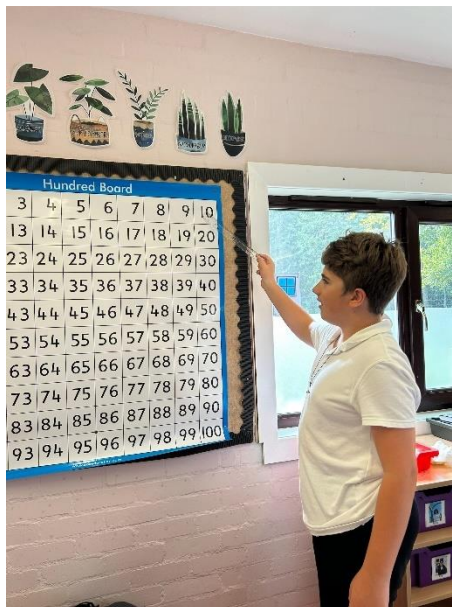
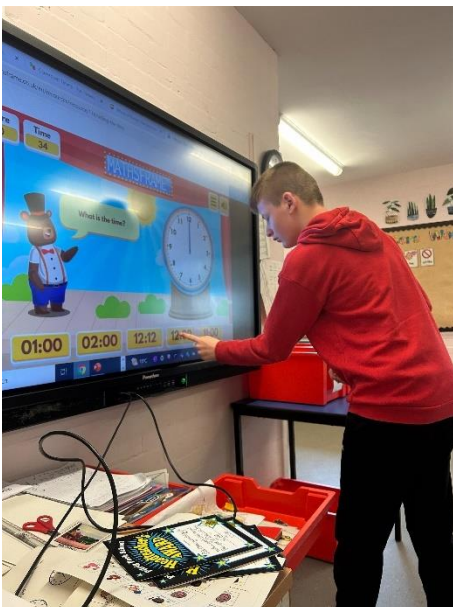
Pink Class have had a fantastic start to S1, settling in well at Pilrig Park School. We have enjoyed getting to know each other, building new routines and making the most of the Autumn sunshine! Alongside this, we have been exploring fairytales through STEM challenges, focusing first on The Billy Goats Gruff. We demonstrated fantastic teamwork as we built new bridges for the goats out of different resources. We also enjoyed using our creativity to make trolls out of card, paper and chalk! Next, we will be looking at The Three Little Pigs, learning about the strengths and weaknesses of different materials.

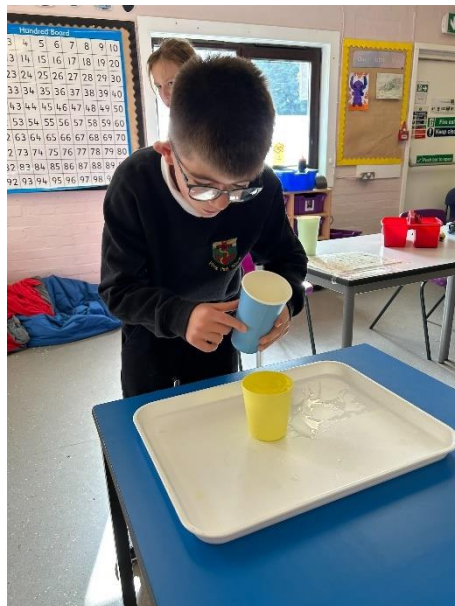
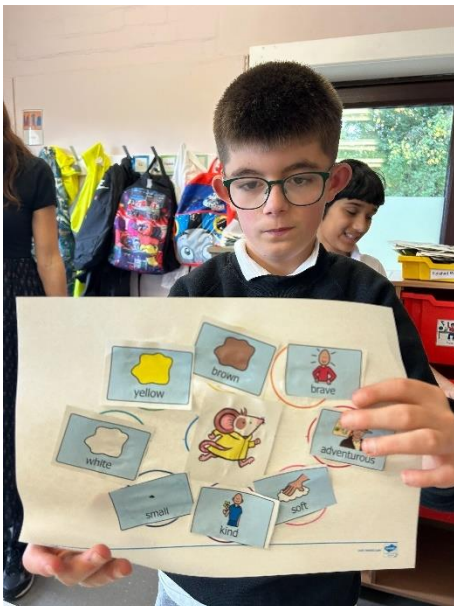
In Literacy, we have been focusing on learning the first set of core words, through a range of songs, stories, videos and signs. We have also explored enjoyment and choice, using the front cover and blurb to choose a story to listen to. Using Aided Language Boards to support us, we have shared our opinions of a range of texts. As a class, we have been reading the short novel 'Adventure Mouse: Otter Chaos!' and have been challenged to make predictions about what could happen in the next part of the story. We are excited to see what will happen to Pedro and his gang of friends at the end of the book!

In Numeracy, we have been learning about number processes and measuring time. Through regular 'Esti-mysteries', we have developed our estimating skills, using pictures and clues to help us to find out how many objects there are in each task. Using songs and random dot patterns, we have practised our counting skills to develop number sense and fluency. Alongside this, we have explored analogue and digital clocks and worked on telling the time. We have become quite competitive playing a Maths Frame telling the time game on the class Smartboard!

In Health and Wellbeing, we have started the New Horizons programme, focusing on the first section about our personal details. We have collected information about ourselves and shared it with the class, including our likes and dislikes and our families. Next, we will be using digital maps to explore our local community, identifying the different amenities that we would like to visit.

Pink Class are looking forward to term 2 after a well-earned holiday! We are particularly excited about taking part in our first school show and Festivision, which we have heard lots about from the older pupils.





Blue Class

Blue Class have had a wonderful start to the school year! We have been busy settling back into our routines and exploring lots of new learning. This term, we've been learning all about dressing appropriately for different types of weather. We played games to help us choose the right clothes for sun, rain, and snow, and practiced important independence skills, like fastening zips all by ourselves.



For our topic, we enjoyed the story of *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*. The class got creative by making and decorating their own clay porridge bowls and designing bear puppets out of wooden spoons to act out the story. Everyone worked so hard, and the results were fantastic!



In Social Subjects, we have been learning about voting and making choices. We practiced making group decisions together and even held our own election to choose an 'Energy Monitor,' who helps us remember to save energy in the classroom. We have also been choosing jobs to help tidy the playground which links in with our responsibilities as ECO Committee members.



It has been a busy and exciting term, and Blue Class should be very proud of all their achievements.

Yellow Class

It has been a very busy start to the new school year. We have settled into new routines well and are learning all sorts of new skills!



In Digital Literacy we are learning about passwords and have been practicing signing into the iPads with increasing independence. All the boys have enjoyed exploring a variety of apps and games and we are looking forward brushing up our digital skills as the year progresses!



In LifeWise we have been learning all about 'Doing Our Laundry'. We have sorted washing by colours, loaded the washing machine, learnt about using soap and which buttons to press for getting the washing machine to run.

Once the washing was done we then learnt about unloading the washing machine, hanging up the laundry – inside and outside, folding up the clothes and pairing socks! We are getting really confident at these tasks – I'm sure these skills can easily be used to help out around the house!



In Outdoor Learning we have been focusing on The Environment and what we can do to improve our school environment. We decided to make hanging planters.



We recycled bottles to make our planters. We then filled them with stones and then soil. We chose to plant peas so they can climb up to the strings! Also, peas are a favourite vegetable in Yellow Class! We enjoyed using the magnifying glasses to look the stones, the soil and the pea seeds. We have also planted apple seeds which are growing very well! We definitely have green fingers!

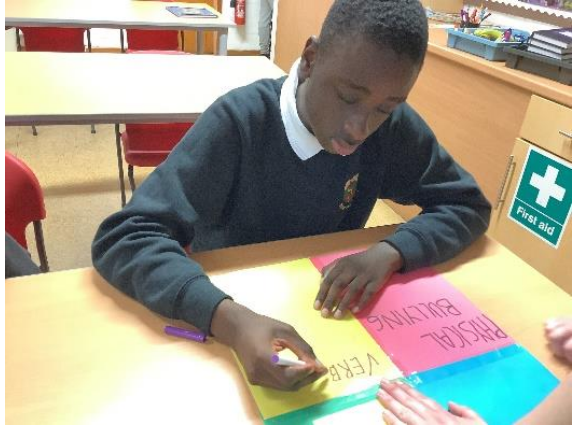


In general, it has been a brilliant start to the year. We are enjoying a wide range of activities and finding ways to relax when the work is done! The sand and the Tony's Box have been firm favourites. We are really looking forward to what next term brings.

Purple Class

Purple Class completed their UNCRC Class Charter and have been working towards completing their PSE poster on different types of bullying.





Red Class

Red Class helped to plant the flowers in our lovely new pebble river! A whole school thank you to our PSA Lesley for your amazing work to create this for us to enjoy.

We have also been busy getting our new playground planter ready for growing some vegetables, so far we have planned to grow carrots and onions!



Pilrig Park School were invited to be part of the Outdoor Learning Challenge at Holyrood Park. Read more about this later in the Newsletter, but here are some photos from the day.



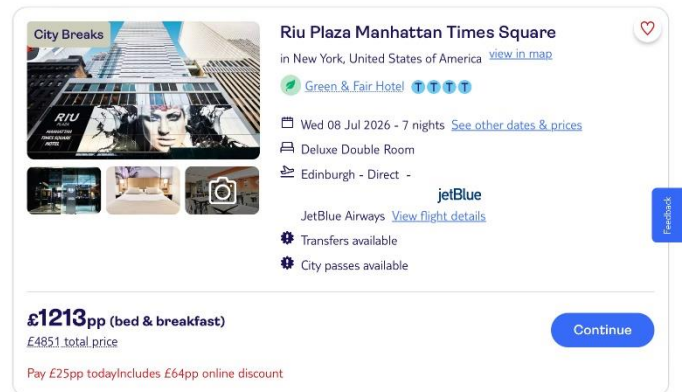
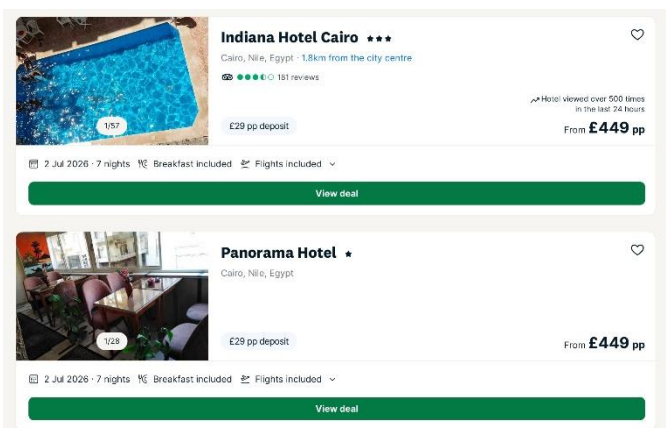
Red Class visited The Botanics to harvest our vegetables that we grew this time last year. We got a big surprise when we pulled out these huge carrots from the ground! We wanted to show our super-size vegetables back at school during assembly!



Orange Class

Orange Class are getting on great so far in Fifth Year and are enjoying the responsibility of setting a good example for the younger pupils around the school.

As part of our work towards Asdan – Living Independently, everyone picked a city from around the World. We had people going to every continent, except Antarctica. We found our chosen places on a globe and then looked up prices on-line.



We've only had one birthday in the class so far this year.

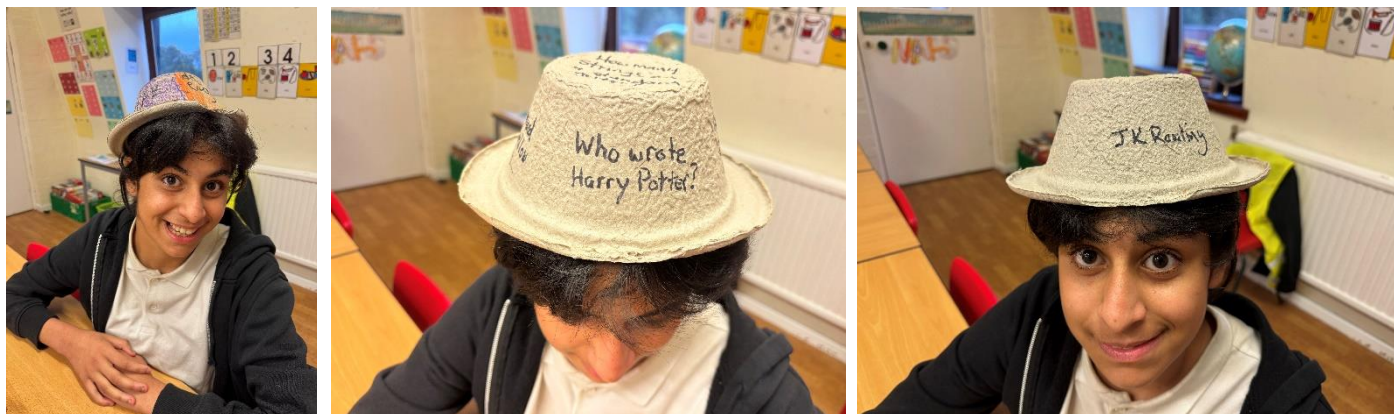


We have enjoyed taking part in all of the whole school activities.

We do lots of laps of the playground when we are out on a Monday morning for *Come Alive*. See more about this later in the Newsletter - here are all of us doing our laps.



We also tried our best with the first *Taskmaster* challenge.

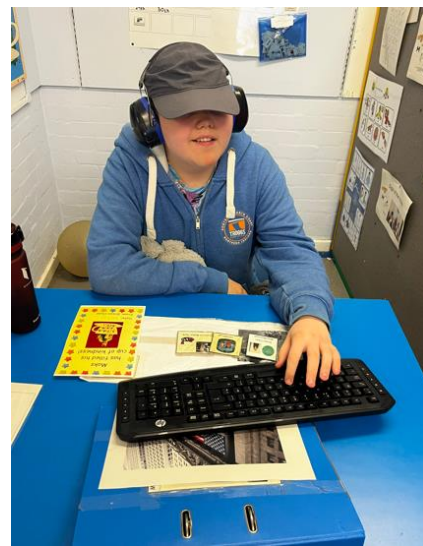
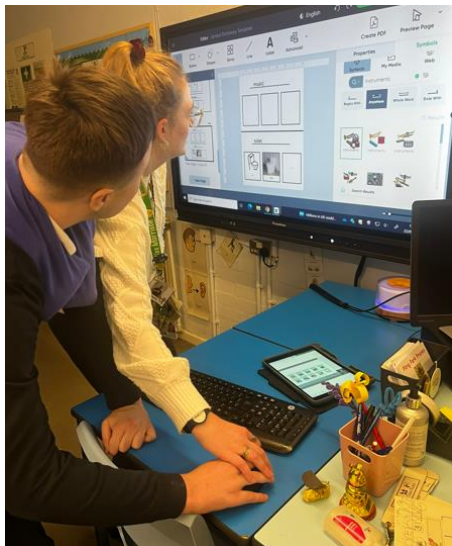


Orange Class have done really well so far this year.

Well done everyone.

Green Class

This term Green Class have been building their independence using Digital Literacy in the classroom. They have been helping Miss Morrison make games, books and other learning resources. They have been using the class computer, laptop or their iPad to search and recognise symbols that we need to use to complete tasks.



Green Class continue to wow Miss Morrison, Mahnaz and Ashleigh with their communication skills! The pupils are becoming even more confident using visual supports to play games and have fun together!



Green Class have been enjoying learning our new songs at our choir club!



Green Class have said goodbye to summer! We hope you all have a lovely Autumn 😊



Ness Class

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



Some of the pupils in Ness Class have been attending the Schools College Partnership taster course, held at Milton Road campus. This is giving them an insight as to what College would be like, should they choose to go there in September 2026. Exciting adventure planning ahead!



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



We have been working on the ASDAN module called 'Earning & Spending Money', which has included learning about National Insurance as well as discussing ways that young people spend money – we managed to make a big list for this task!



Ness Class really enjoyed working as a team to create a 'Learning Hat' for the first 'Taskmaster' challenge. Each month, every class will compete to win the task challenge, as part of our work towards achieving the Rights Respecting Schools Gold Award – Ness Class have got their fingers crossed for a win!

Here is our entry for September's challenge, to design a 'Learning Hat'!



The Music Department

Pink Class & White Class have been exploring all kinds of instruments this term!

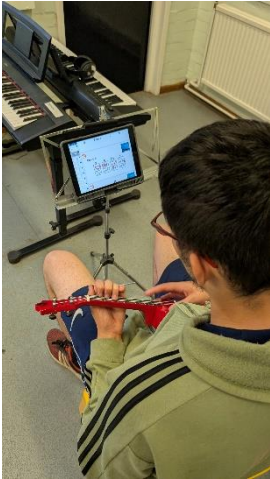
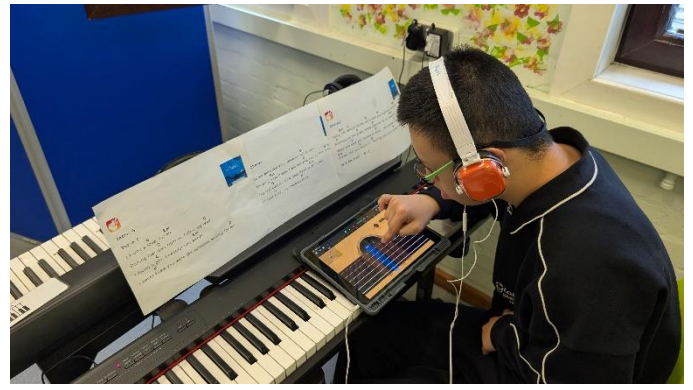
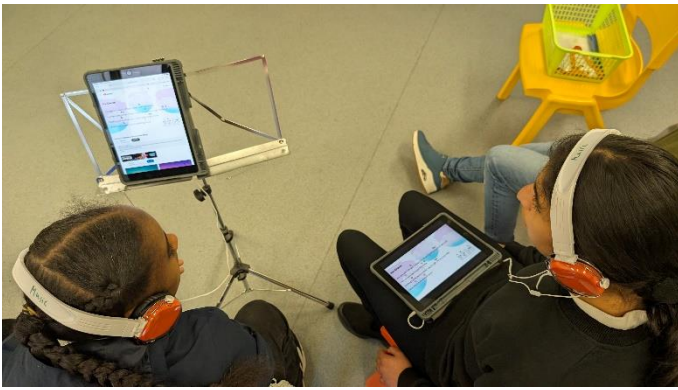
Here are photos of Pink Class playing the tambourine and White Class playing the shaky eggs.



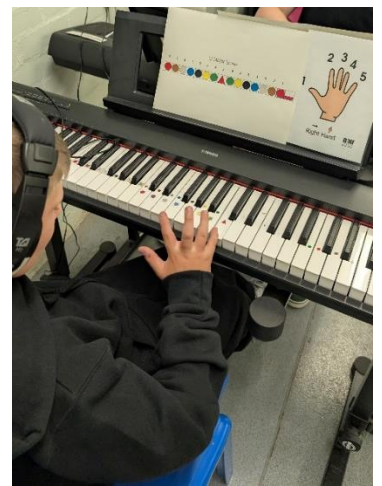
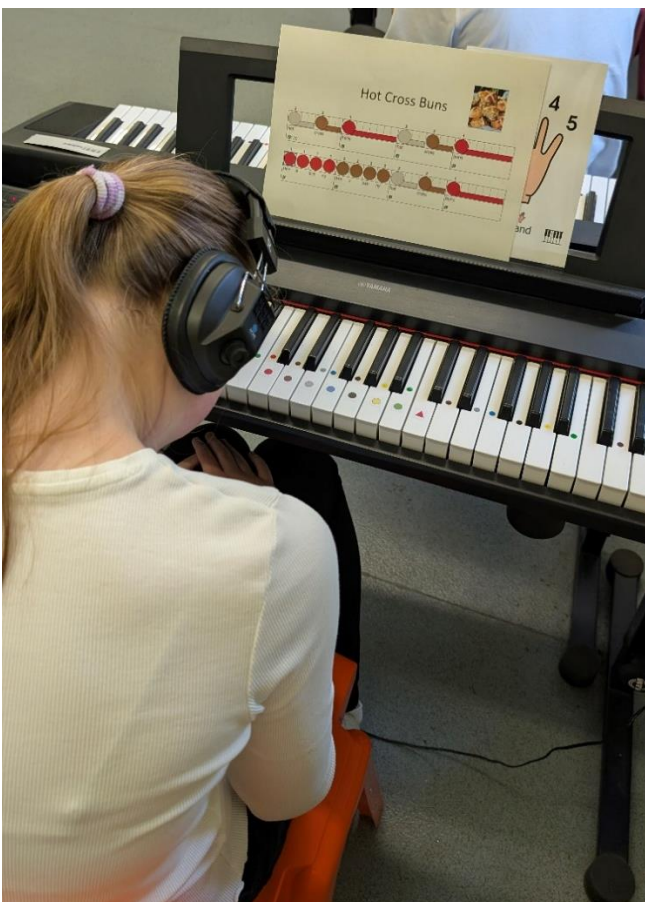
The Choir has started up again this year! We have many new recruits and are currently working on our theme song for the year, "This Is Me", and preparing for some more Christmas singing!



Orange Class are busy preparing for their first band performance of the year at the October assembly!



Purple Class are working hard on their keyboard skills, and some pupils are beginning to explore playing with both hands.



In the Art Room!

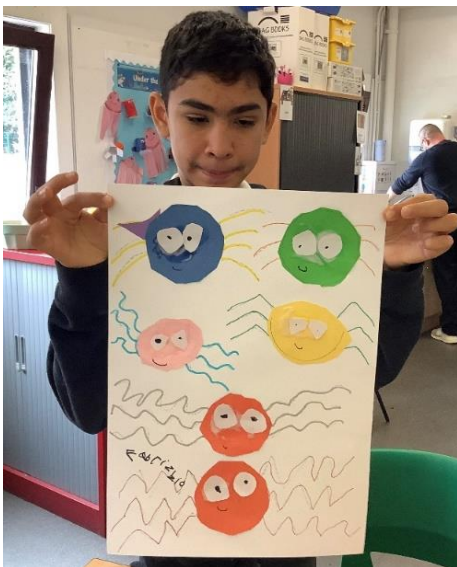


The focus for the BGE classes this term has been line, pattern and a dash of colour!

Pink Class and **White Class** started off their first week in the art room by decorating folders for all the artwork they will produce in the years to come. They have been getting to know the art room and practice skills like cutting and gluing these hedgehogs! We have just started learning about lines and patterns and had fun with toy cars and a wavy road!



Blue Class has been learning about lines and patterns. We made some rather friendly looking spiders whilst practising our wavy and zig zag lines. We have also been doing some painting and creating patterns with straight lines and printing on top with different circle shapes.



Yellow Class and **Purple Class** have been brushing up on their cutting and gluing skills and creating pictures using newspaper. They have also been creating designs for the City of Edinburgh's Season's Greetings Art competition. The theme this year is 'Winter Wonders' so we have been looking at the Northern Lights on You Tube and recreating this beautiful phenomenon using chalk and paint.



The senior pupils have been starting new projects.

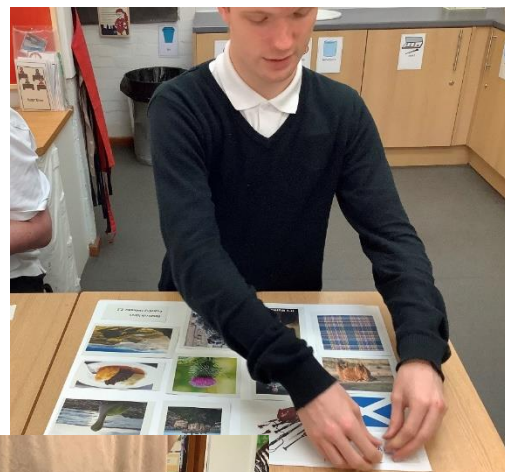
Red Class have started 'Developing Skills in Creative Arts' and created some fantastic collages as their first piece of artwork in their SQA qualification.



Green Class has been making some gold masks to use as trophies in our monthly 'Taskmaster Challenge', and as part of our Rights Respecting Gold Award journey.



Orange Class have started working towards their National 3 Design unit and have been learning about the designers Cath Kidston and Frank Stephenson. Now we are researching images for their design brief, based on Scotland.



P.E.

Pupils participating in P.E. have been developing and improving skills and techniques through practice and play in following activities: Football, Basketball, Tag Rugby.



Pupils in Green Class are working on their cycling skills in order to achieve Bike-ability and Cycling Awards.



Sarah – our Active Schools Coordinator for Pilrig Park School presented a Sports Ambassadors Programme to our pupils. She also carried out the interviews for our Sport Ambassadors.



The pupils below are the school's Sports Committee this year. They will work on developing their leadership skills and organising sports activities for others.



Young leaders already did the questionnaire about favourite activities for school clubs amongst all the pupils.

Connor Brian - Disability Cricket Development Officer, has delivered 6 cricket taster sessions for White Class and Purple Class.



Pupils have been attending Spartans F.C. for coaching sessions once a week.



Home Economics

BGE

This term in Home Economics we have been learning new skills and building on others.

Our lessons have been looking at where food comes from, seasonal produce and kitchen hygiene.

We have also been looking at what bacteria does at different temperatures, and what we need to do to keep the kitchen clean. We made playdough and our own germs for an interactive lesson on the Germometer and made our own display. This has helped reinforce the importance of washing hands and food storage.

We have been learning if food comes from a plant or animal and then what kind of plant and which animal, which the pupils enjoyed. We discuss this in each practical lesson to help our students remember the theory aspects we have covered.

We made crumble using seasonal produce of apples and blackberries, Gruffalo Crumble. Lots of the blackberries were collected by our pupils in the playground with Ms Sawyer and Ms Morrison.

The BGE pupils also got to try out our new air-fryers while baking their rolls they made and transferred their kneading skills to also making scones and biscuits for our latest family event.



Senior phase

The senior phase classes have been working towards their new qualifications for this year. We have both ASDAN and SQA courses across S4 – S6.

Green Class have been working with the air-fryers focussing on both baking and making a healthy meal.

Red Class are working on Food, Health and Wellbeing this term. They are currently focussing on Food for Health, Preparation and Independent Living Skills.

Orange Class are working on Practical Cookery. They have completed their assessment for one unit and are working towards completing their next assessment. The class are also working on an ASDAN course for Personal Development where they have written a story book for communication and are now completing a module to help the school community (a gardening task).

Whilst most of Ness Class are at college this term, 2 pupils are in school working on a unit at National 5 level, which we hope to complete by Christmas. The whole class comes together again later in the week and we are focussing on baking.



We finished off before the October break with our 'Meet the Staff' event. All classes contributed to the food offered to everyone on Wednesday 8th October. Thank you to all classes for their help, everyone was very impressed.



With the support of Camilla, our allocated DYW coordinator, Pilrig Park School pupils have opportunities to connect them with employers so that our young people develop the skills needed for the world of work.



This term, a group of senior pupils went to find out all about the well-known company, Pizza Express. The group travelled by tram / minibus to the restaurant in Ocean Terminal where Charlie explained about the company.



Next was the really fun bit - a chance to make your own margherita pizza! Everyone was shown how to spread the tomato sauce onto the dough base, and top off with lots of cheese! Whilst the pizzas were cooking in the pizza oven, Charlie told them lots of fun pizza facts!



Our pupils had great fun making and eating their pizzas and even brought some back for the office to enjoy!



Scran Van Returns!



We are delighted to welcome back the SCRAN Van with Jamie and Caitlin!

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

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



Come Alive

This term we have introduced a new activity on Monday mornings called *Come Alive!* The name comes from a song in *The Greatest Showman*, which is our theme for the year, and probably gives a clue of what the end of year show may be!!

This involves the whole-school coming together to be active. When the weather is good enough, we all walk round and round the playground for 20 minutes. If it's raining, we will do some exercise and movement in the hall.



Pupil Council

The Pupil Council has lots of new members this year and we are delighted to welcome back some familiar faces!

We have been busy meeting with Ms O'Hagan on a Wednesday period 1 during our Pupil Voice lessons.



Our first task for this session was to agree our agenda for the year, and this is now on display in every classroom.

We are so pleased that our work on our whole-school Special Badges project continues again this year. We sent a questionnaire to all the teachers in September to gather their views on Special Badges @ Pilrig. Following their feedback we have made some changes and are introducing a new Special Badge – Rights Warriors! This badge is our contribution to the whole-school work which is being undertaken as we work towards being a Gold level Rights Respecting School!

We look forward to sharing with you the progress in our work in the next newsletter.



Pupil Council Agenda 2025 / 26

Representing Pupil Voice for Rights Respecting Schools:
Gold Award



1. Lunches



2. Whole school activities



3. Playground



4. How good is OUR school?



* Our learning and teaching (theme 2)



* Our health and wellbeing (theme 4)



Young Ambassadors

Two pupils were selected to represent Pilrig Park School as Young Ambassadors. This programme is funded by the National Lottery and is a key element of **sportscotland**'s contribution to developing young people as leaders in sport.

The boys came together with the other Young Ambassadors across the city to attend the 'Edinburgh's Young Ambassadors Conference' on Thursday 2nd October at Meggetland Sports Complex. During this day, the boys showed engagement and enthusiasm in the workshops where they brainstormed how they could make a difference at Pilrig Park School. They came away with lots of ideas of how to promote the benefits of sport, physical activity and living a healthy lifestyle.

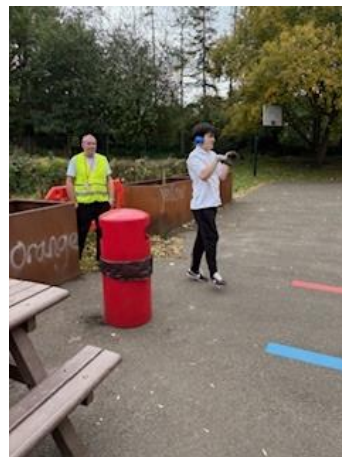
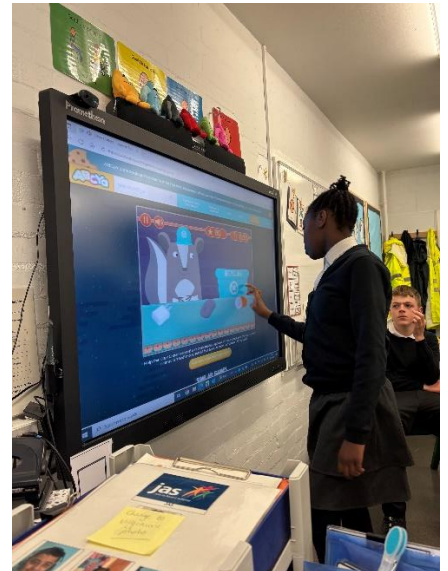
They can't wait to work with the school to put these ideas into action!



Eco Committee

Along with Blue Class, White Class now help to lead and run the Eco Committee.

We have been learning about recycling and keeping our school clear from litter. We have elected energy monitors around our school to help save energy.



Rights Respecting School

Rights Respecting School Gold Award

Our school's journey towards achieving RRSA Gold is going brilliantly! Each month, we've been taking part in exciting Taskmaster-style challenges in tutor time, all linked to UNCRC articles and our monthly school values.



Every class has been showing off their creativity and teamwork as they complete each challenge. To kick things off, classes designed their very own “thinking hats” to show they were ready to learn and take on the Taskmaster’s challenges. After much careful judging, White Class came out on top with the most successful entry — well done!



This month, our focus is on respect, and classes are working hard to create inclusive secret handshakes or greetings that everyone can share. It's been wonderful to see so many ideas that celebrate kindness and belonging in our school community.

We've also started reaching out to local businesses as part of our campaign, Our Voice, Our Community. Our Red and Orange Classes—who make up our steering groups—took a special trip down Leith Walk to deliver posters and information letters. Fingers crossed we'll be hearing back from local businesses soon!

We're so proud of the progress we're making together as a Rights Respecting School. Stay tuned to find out more about our journey to RRSA Gold in the next newsletter!



Signalong

Yellow Class and Green Class are working together this year to learn more Signalong signs to share with everyone at our monthly assembly. The pupils communicated weather, clothing and fun things we do at different times of the year and then helped to find the symbol to match. We are calling this our “Signalong Seasons Bingo Board”, which we will be giving out to classes to mark off as we share our Signalong at assembly. Here is our bingo board!



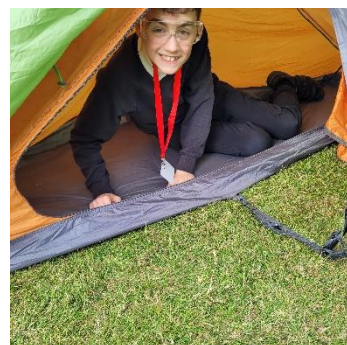
Outdoor Learning

On Wednesday 10th September, pupils from Red and Purple Classes were invited to take part in the first **Outdoor Learning Challenge Day** run by Edinburgh City Council along with partner providers and Edinburgh University. It was a brilliant opportunity to meet new people, try new activities and practice some of the skills we have been learning in Outdoor Learning. There were lots of schools there taking part in a wide range of activities, from archery to drumming!

We were lucky enough to take part in three different activities during the morning. The first was a brilliant den building activity. We got the chance to make two different shelters and have a relaxing time in the hammocks that were set up. We had great fun trying to get the ropes over the tree branches and get the tent pegs hammered into the ground!



The next activity was tent building. This time we didn't need to use trees, but the tents were much smaller, only one of us could fit in at a time. There were some quite tricky instructions to follow, and we had to work as a team but both groups managed to build the tents and try them out for size!



PUPIL VOICE

Our final activity was learning all about trees. We learnt how to measure the height of a tree using our bodies, we did enjoy having to walk and then look upside down through our legs to see the top of the tree! This process also involved some careful counting. We then learnt about the different species of trees that were growing in that area and how we can identify them by looking at the leaves. It was fun naming the trees – Steve being our favourite!



All in all it was a brilliant morning. We cannot wait to continue with our Outdoor Learning curriculum and build on the skills we learnt during this exciting trip.

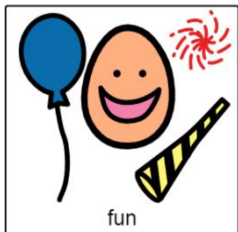
Save the Date!

Our focus this session is

This is Me!



Our next parental engagement event is on



Wednesday 19th November

1.30pm - 2.45pm



Refreshments and entertainment!

Come and join the fun!

PILRIG PARK WINTER SHOW



**3RD DECEMBER 2025
1:30PM**



Dear Parents, Carers and Friends,

This school year, the Speech and Language Therapy Team at Woodlands and Pilrig Park Schools would like to invite you together to a series of 4 online workshops. These workshops are to support your young person's understanding, communication and regulation. You can join as many of these workshops as you want.

The first workshop will be on **'Using Visual supports in the Home Setting'**.

This workshop will be held on our NHS Near Me platform on Thursday the 30th October at 10.15 until 11.30. To access this, click on the link below or click on the QR code. Do this a few minutes before before 10.15am, enter you details and you will enter a virtual waiting room. 'Doors' will open at 10.15am.

<https://nhs.attendanywhere.com/ce/?apikey=41764869-4205-4b0b-bb9d-93764b554f77&nid=j6fFno%2cAw>



If you are interested in attending the workshop on October 30th, it would be helpful if you could please text your name and child's school to the following number: 07773 746904. This is so we have an idea of numbers attending.

We have some ideas for the next three workshops, but we would also like to ask you what you feel you need. Please share your ideas on the 30th or text the number above if you want to share but can't make that day.

Looking forward to seeing parents from both schools.

Best wishes

Heather Robertson and Sarah Cunningham

Speech and Language Therapists

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 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 was part of the HM Inspection in June and am happy to share my involvement.

The next Parent Council meeting will be on Wednesday 29th October at 5.00pm on TEAMS. 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.

Come and say hello!

Office Bearers:

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

7 October 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

In June 2025, a team of inspectors from Education Scotland visited Pilrig Park School. During our visit, we talked to parents/carers and young people and worked closely with the headteacher and staff.

The inspection team found the following strengths in the school's work.

- Under the strong strategic leadership of the headteacher, staff have established a nurturing school culture underpinned by positive relationships and children's rights. Young people feel safe, cared for and enjoy learning.
- Staff work very well together to support young people with their learning. They know young people very well and are highly responsive to their needs.
- Young people in S4-S6 are gaining an extensive range of qualifications and awards. The school is providing young people with very good opportunities to achieve well across a wide range of subjects.
- Across the school, young people's personal achievements are recognised and celebrated very well. As a result, they are gaining accreditation for their achievements and are growing in confidence.

The following areas for improvement were identified and discussed with the headteacher and a representative from The City of Edinburgh Council.

- Senior leaders and staff should continue to improve the school's approaches to learning and teaching. Staff should ensure that young people are sufficiently challenged with their learning at all times.
 - Senior leaders and staff should work together to continue to streamline how they plan learning for young people. They should use information to set clear learning targets that allow young people to develop further appropriate skills and make progress.
-



We gathered evidence to enable us to evaluate the school's work using quality indicators from [How good is our school? \(4th edition\)](#). Quality indicators help schools, local authorities and inspectors to judge what is working well and what needs to be improved. Following the inspection of each school, the Scottish Government gathers details of our evaluations to keep track of how well Scottish schools are doing.

Here are Education Scotland's evaluations for Pilrig Park School

Quality indicators	Evaluation
Learning, teaching and assessment	good
Raising attainment and achievement	very good
Descriptions of the evaluations are available from: How good is our school? (4th edition), Appendix 3: The six-point scale	

A more detailed document called Summarised Inspection Findings (SIF) will be available on the Education Scotland website at: [Pilrig Park School | Inspection Report | Education Scotland](#)

What happens next?

We are confident that the school has the capacity to continue to improve and so we will make no more visits in connection with this inspection. The City of Edinburgh Council will inform parents/carers about the school's progress as part of its arrangements for reporting on the quality of its schools.

Tommy Donnelly

HM Inspector