



# Pilrig Park School

## Sunshine in Leith



December 2025

A very warm welcome to our second newsletter of this session which is once again bursting with news of everything that has been happening in our wonderful school in the heart of Leith. As a whole school we have many things to celebrate including our achievement with securing Gold Level in the Visual Support Project and having not just one, but THREE, winners in the City of Edinburgh winter artwork competitions! We have included the winning designs in our school calendar for 2026. We hope all our families enjoy displaying the calendars in their homes. If you did not receive your calendar, please contact Natalie and she will ensure one makes its way to you. Staff are continuing to develop their Signalong skills and this session we have had the first group of staff in the school to have completed Level 2. Well done to all!

As ever, pupils and staff have been hard at work in all areas of the curriculum across S1 – S6. I hope you enjoy reading about our work in the wider community and with our many partners covering areas such as Developing the Young Workforce and the Creative Arts. Ms McLarty has been working with Red Class in their Pupil Voice lesson to develop a *My Rights Wall* – it looks amazing! Our work on our whole school *This is Me!* project for this session continues to grow. Thank you to all parents/carers who were able to join us for our engagement event in November. I'm sure you will agree with me that the afternoon tea spread was **delicious!** Following the success of the family ceilidh last session we will be holding another one during our Scottish week in January. There will be soup and oatcakes first and we hope very much that you will be able to join us.

Parents Night will be on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> January from 4.00 – 6.00pm. Appointments with Tutor Teachers can either be on the telephone or in person. I will send out details of appointment times when we return in January. I will also be sending out details of our Relationships, Sexual Health, Parenthood (RSHP) curriculum which we will start in January during Tutor time on a Tuesday and Thursday mornings.

I usually have a favourite picture to sign off my welcome, but this term I cannot choose, so instead Mr McPhillips has kindly given me an extra page so I can include a selection of my favourite snaps! As ever, a massive thank you to Mr McPhillips for all his hard work in putting our newsletter together.

Thank you so much for all your support throughout 2025. We really are very grateful. On behalf of all the staff at Pilrig Park School we would like to wish all our families all the very best for 2026!

We look forward to welcoming our pupils back on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January.

Have a fabulous holiday.

Ann M. O'Hagan

Proud Head Teacher / Dishevelled Santa!



Staff hard at work in Signalong level 2 training with our Speech and Language Therapist Heather



The School Christmas tree brought much hilarity.



Lots of hard work preparing for singing at Tesco.



Natalie had some much-needed extra help in the office!



Unfortunately, I was not invited in to taste! Only to admire!



Ms Vennelle and April were allowed to escape the Home Economics room – but it was to serve refreshments at the Silent Disco!



# Key Dates!

- Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January – Pupils return after Christmas holiday
- Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> January – Whole-school trip to the pantomime
- Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> January – School ceilidh with parents/carers
- Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> January – S1 – S6 Parents Night (4.00 – 6.00pm)
- Monday 26<sup>th</sup> January – Parent Council meeting - 5.00 - 6.00pm on TEAMS ([link to follow](#))
- Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February – Break for February holiday
- Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February – Pupils return
- Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March – “This is Me!” Café event (**9.30 – 10.45am**)
- Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April – Newsletter 3 issued and break for Easter holiday



Pilrig Park School  
*invites parents and carers to their*

## Scottish Week Ceilidh!

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup>  
January 2026 at 1pm



Soup and oatcakes followed by  
some dancing!



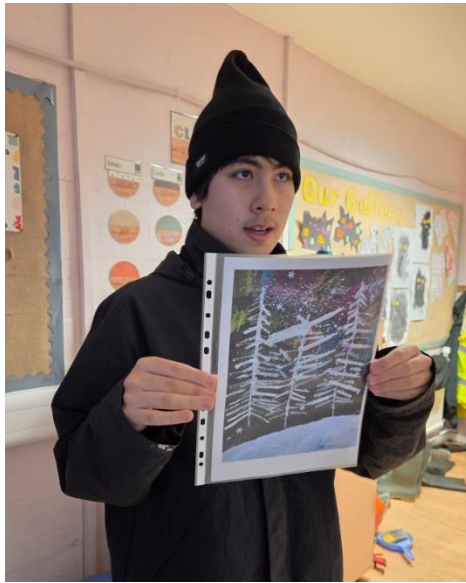
# PILRIG PARK NEWS

We were absolutely delighted to find out back in November that we had two pupils whose artwork had been selected as winning entries as part of **Edinburgh's Christmas Winter Windows Art Competition 2025!!!!**

This festive and vibrant art exhibition showcases 24 winter window artwork designs by local school pupils, brightening West Princes Street Gardens as part of the Edinburgh's Christmas celebrations!

The winter windows are there to view throughout the festive season.

A huge congratulations to our two winners and to our Art Teacher Mrs Ferguson who is just bursting with pride!



Above are pictures of our winners and below some staff and pupils spotting their work in town.





# MORE PILRIG PARK NEWS

We were absolutely delighted to find out back in November that **FOR THE SECOND YEAR RUNNING** one of our pupils is a winner of The City of Edinburgh Council and bus shelter advertising company JCDecaux artwork competition where pupils from all Edinburgh schools were invited to create designs to be showcased along Princes Street as digital posters in bus shelters.

The artwork was displayed from 4<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> December.

A huge congratulations to our winner – we are all SO proud!



# EVEN MORE PILRIG PARK NEWS

## Pilrig Park School Achieves Gold Level in Visual Support Project

Pilrig Park School has proudly achieved **Gold Level accreditation** in the Visual Support Project (VSP), a recognition of its on-going commitment to inclusive communication across all aspects of school life.

This achievement reflects the ethos of the school, that the voice of every learner, verbal and non-verbal, is heard and valued.

The project places **Boardmaker** at the centre of classroom practice, ensuring lessons, timetables, and qualifications are accessible through symbols. Staff training is a priority: eight colleagues have completed Phase 1 Signalong last session, eight have just completed Phase 2, and another cohort of ten staff will begin training for Phase 1 in the new year.

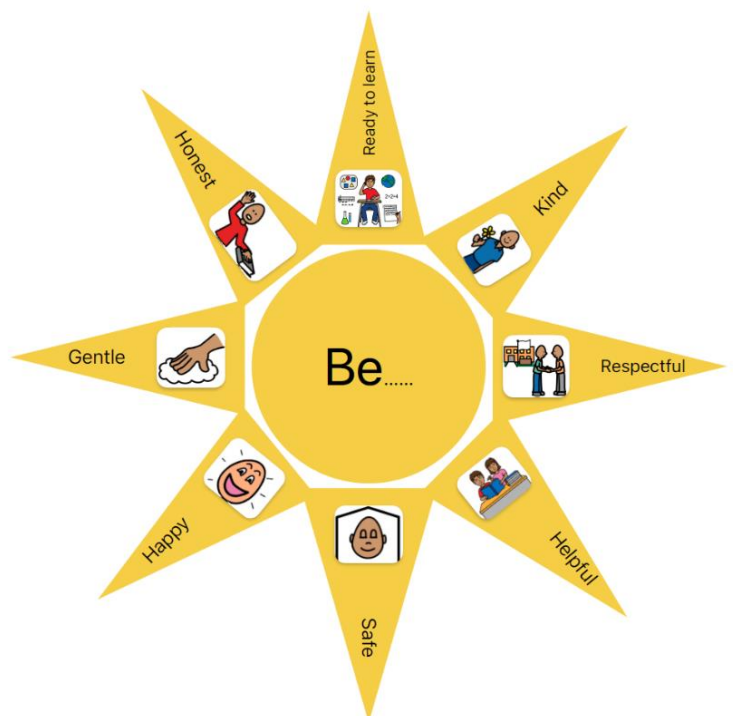
Speech and Language Therapist Heather Roberston and Speech and Language Assistant James Allen highlighted in their Gold Level report strong evidence of inclusive communication across all subjects. They praised the commitment of the whole-school for their work in driving the project forward and producing a whole-school symbol dictionary—standardising visuals and saving staff valuable time.

Pilrig Park School also uses extensively aided language boards, AAC devices, Talking Mats, Colourful Semantics, and Clicker to support literacy and emotional understanding. As part of the Gold Level assessment, we have welcomed visitors from other schools and services, sharing best practice and inspiring the wider adoption of VSP.

This achievement was not possible without a whole-school commitment and the support of our colleagues in SaLT. Thank you to all of you!

Ruth McLarty

Principal Teacher and Coordinator for VSP@PPS.





# RECENT EVENTS

On the morning of Monday 8<sup>th</sup> December, for the second-year running, our school choir sang a medley of Christmas songs at Tesco, in Duke Street, Leith! We are very grateful to all the family and friends of Pilrig Park School who came along to support us – we are very proud of our performance and hope that we brought a little Christmas cheer to all the shoppers that morning! Here are a few photos of the event.





# **This is Me!**

## **IDL Fortnight and Parental Engagement Event!**

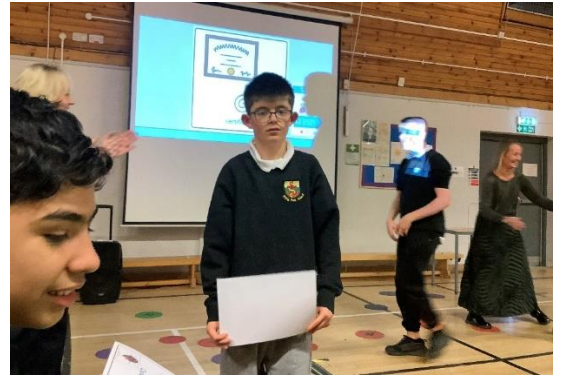
In November, the whole school took part in an interdisciplinary learning (IDL) fortnight centred around our theme for the year: *This is Me!* As part of our journey toward achieving the Rights Respecting Gold Award, we focused on Article 8 – the Right to an Identity – and explored this through the work pupils produced during the fortnight.

Each class and curriculum area contributed to the event by creating a wide range of work, from poetry, portraits, and drama to dance, sensory storytelling, and textiles. We also shared a film with our school community featuring all the staff and every single pupil in the school answering the question, “Describe yourself in three words,” along with a few interviews with parents and carers!

We enjoyed refreshments including gingerbread people, made by pupils in Home Economics, and an amazing cake made by our very own PSA April! Our school choir entertained us with a rendition of The Greatest Showman song, ‘This is Me’ which got us all singing along!



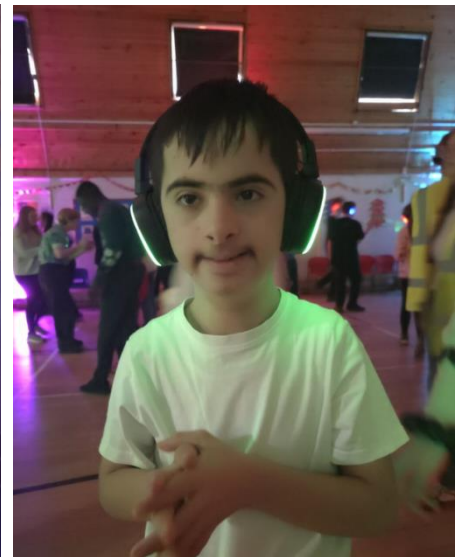
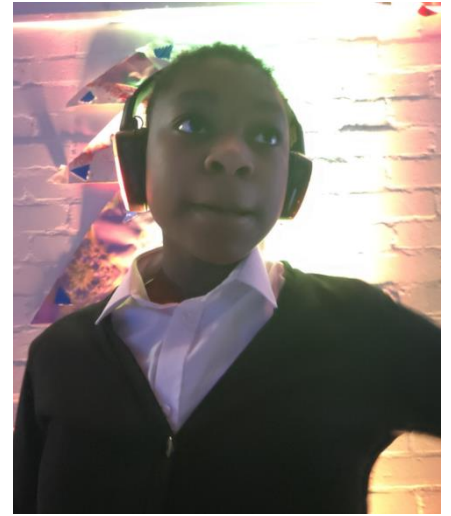






## **Silent Disco**

All pupils had a blast at the Winter Silent Disco this year. We witnessed some spectacular dance moves, and everyone had a wonderful time. What a way to celebrate the end of 2025!





# YMI Christmas Music Performance

We were very lucky to get a visit from a Youth Music Initiative band called Northern Lights during the last week. They played some Christmas songs for the whole school to enjoy.





# Christmas Lunch

All staff and pupils enjoyed a Christmas lunch – turkey and all the trimmings, with a vegetarian alternative for those that required one.

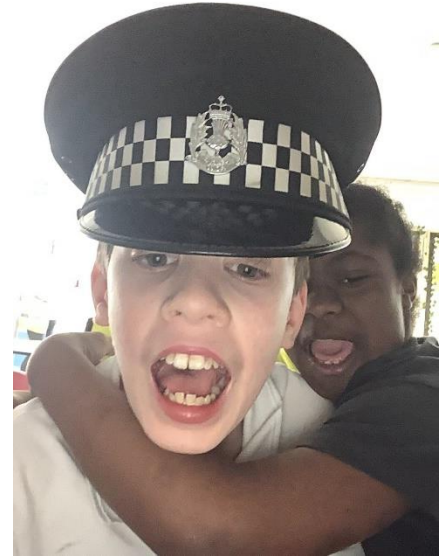
Dawn from the kitchen at Leith Academy helped our usual dinner ladies, Liz and Sheelagh, and Mr Mackay and Miss O'Hagan provided the waiting service. Mrs Vennelle also popped in behind the serving counter to help with pudding!

The pupils all got to pull Christmas crackers that they made themselves.





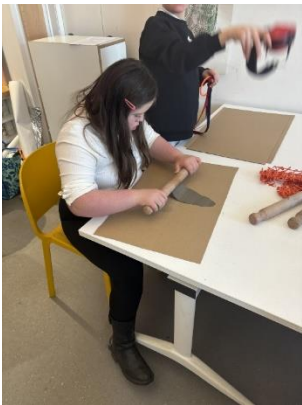
# White Class



## PSHE & ASDAN

White Class have been learning about our community and people who help us. We were very lucky to receive a visit to our school from 2 local police officers. They let pupils in White Class explore the equipment they use every day and even try on some of their uniform! They were very excited and had lots of great questions for the officers. The police hat and phone was a firm favourite.

## Modern Art Museum



Early in the term, pupils in White Class visited the Modern Art Museum alongside Pink Class. This was our first trip as a new S1 class! The staff at the museum had a range of activities and tasks for pupils which were fun, creative and inclusive. As part of our trip, we had a tour of the museum, took part in sensory movement activities with music and instruments. The last part of our trip involved printing with paint, moulding clay and using paint in spray bottles to paint a canvas. It was fantastic.

## Maths

This term we have been focussing on identifying, matching and sorting 2D and some 3D shapes. We made 2D Christmas trees using 2D shapes.



## School Show

White Class are superstars! I am so proud of the hard work and effort that went into their performance at their first ever Pilrig Park School show. White Class had been rehearsing both in class and in music with Mr Cuddy and what a wonderful job they did. They loved their “Barbie” costumes and definitely looked the part.





# Pink Class

Pink Class have had an excellent second term at Pilrig Park School. We enjoyed our first school trip as a class, visiting the Modern Art Gallery and taking part in lots of exciting activities alongside the other first year class. The pupils explored the galleries, created art using different materials, and looked at the outdoor sculptures too. We have taken some of our artistic experiences and used them to make our Festivision video to the song 'Snowman' by Sia.



In Literacy, we have continued learning new core words, using games and Aided Language Boards to support us. We have focused particularly on the word 'who' and using this to identify characters in a text. We voted on a new class novel to read and engaged well with 'The Owl who was Afraid of the Dark'. We made predictions about the text, answered questions and shared our thoughts and opinions at the end. We enjoyed making connections with the learning we have done in Maths about 'day and night', exploring all of the positive things that the characters thought about the dark.

In Numeracy, we have been learning about fractions, using a range of different practical materials to explore halves and quarters. We used symbols and Signalong to learn key vocabulary and demonstrate our understanding that all fractions must be equal in size. We have continued to develop our number sense through regular estimating and counting challenges. Next, we will be moving onto learning about 2D and 3D shapes. This links in well with the fractions work we have completed this term.





In Health and Wellbeing, we have been developing our knowledge of household chores and keeping our homes clean. We have looked at different rooms in the house and learned about which household items, such as the cooker or bed sheets, need cleaned regularly. We have also taken on some practical cleaning challenges in our classroom, using spray bottles, cloths and fairy liquid to make our table sparkle!

In November, we enjoyed a visit from our local police officers. They told us all about their uniform and the special equipment that police officers use to keep us safe. We had lots of fun trying on the police hats and even had a go with the handcuffs! With the help of Aided Language Boards, we asked the police questions about the police station, prison, and the siren. We hope that they will visit us again soon, bringing their car with them this time as we were all very excited to see it!



Pink Class have worked really hard this term, even winning a trophy for our Taskmaster challenge in November! We created a video all about superheroes starring all of the pupils in Pink Class. We're hoping to win another trophy in the new year!





# **Blue Class**

As we come to the end of a busy and exciting term, Blue Class are delighted to share what we've been learning and exploring together.

In PSHE, we have been learning about people who help us, both in school and in the wider community. Blue Class explored the individuals who support us in school every day, as well as roles such as police officers, doctors and nurses. We also thought about how families, parents and carers look after us at home.

Alongside this, our learners chose some jobs to take on themselves to help our school community. Blue Class selected tasks such as pulling weeds, washing windows and picking up litter in the playground. This gave us the opportunity to take on real responsibilities and look after our school environment.



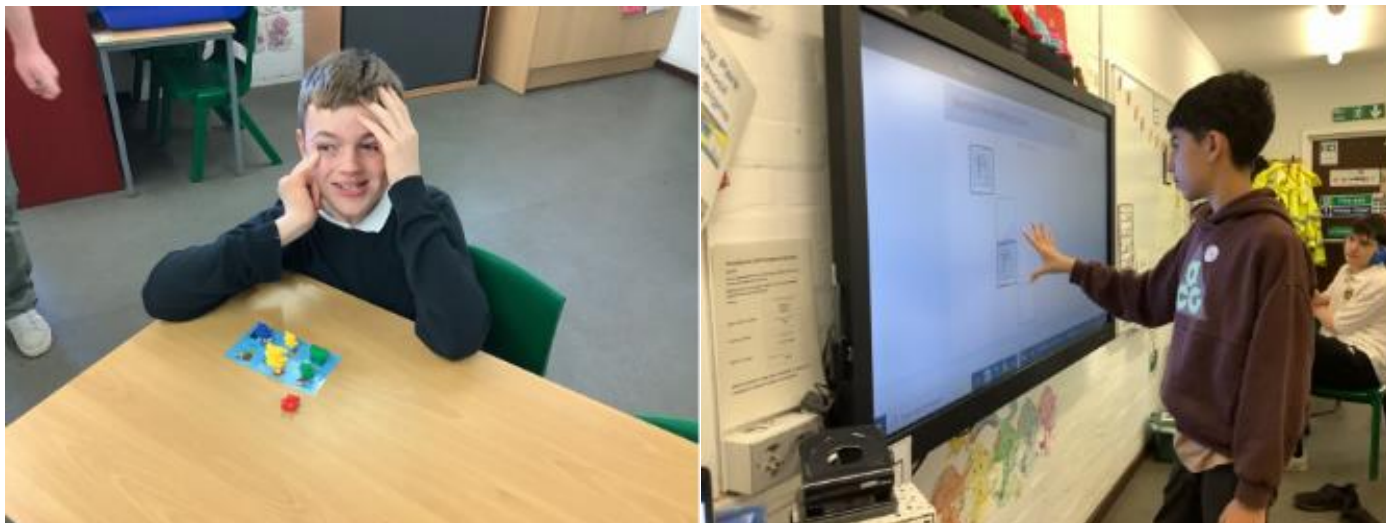
Our focus for Lifewise has been learning about going to the shops. We explored what we might need to bring with us, where to find different items and even practised making a shopping list based on a recipe.





In Science, Blue Class investigated materials and their properties. We focused on the concepts of 'hard' and 'soft', exploring different objects and sorting them into categories. The class loved hands-on activities that helped them describe textures and explore how different materials are used in everyday life.

Our work in Social Subjects centred on understanding children's rights. The class learned about what every child should have. We explored these rights through games, discussions and linking them to our own class jobs and responsibilities. We also played a game of children's rights bingo, which was great fun!



We have also enjoyed taking part in some seasonal crafts throughout the term. Blue Class used paint and recycled cardboard tubes to make lovely winter trees. We also used our iPads to make festive pictures, practising our digital literacy skills by using simple coordinates to colour in the correct boxes.



It has been a very busy term, and we are incredibly proud of everything Blue Class have achieved!



# Yellow Class

This term has been full of adventures, and Yellow Class have worked really hard and made some great progress.



We had a brilliant visit to the Gallery of Modern Art. Dot, Poppy and Liz had organised a brilliant tour which involved looking at some art works and listening to music. Then we got the chance to make our own art! We all had a brilliant time. Everyone took part in their own way and it was a great chance to learn in a new environment and meet some new people.



In Outdoor Learning we have been focusing on *The Environment*. We have been busy making items to help improve the look of our playground, tidy areas inside and outside of the school and learn about recycling. We took part in a litter pick in the playground – luckily for us the pupils in Pilrig Park School are very good at putting their rubbish in the bin.







As part of our STEM topic we were using the theme of Fairy Tales to look at different materials. We read 'The Gingerbread Man', listened to some brilliant music by the BBC Philharmonic and made our own gingerbread dough. We each got to make a batch and we had great fun playing with all the ingredients and actually stirring up the dough.



In PSHE we have been focusing on our 'Coping with People' unit. The boys have been learning about friendship and what makes a good friend. We have also looked at how we can make new friends in school. It has been great to find out how we view our friends and each other and what qualities we like about others and ourselves! Using the ipads for these activities has also meant we've been able to brush up on our digital literacy skills and we are all now whizzes at logging into the ipads!

In Social Studies we have been learning about Community and who helps us. We focused on the school community and being able to name all the people that help us within the school. We really enjoy interacting with different staff and when choosing who helped us most, along with the class team nearly all of us chose a member of staff who doesn't work in Yellow class! We have also been working on choosing partners for activities, and choosing what activities we want to do! Fair to say pupil voice is well used in class.

We are very much looking forward to seeing what new skills we can develop after the holidays. Miss Sawyer, Morven and Andra want to wish you all a peaceful holiday period, however you are spending it.



# Purple Class

Purple Class have had a busy, vocal and productive term! From unlimited debates - ranging from children's rights to the necessity of wearing belts, to creative thinking, reading, writing and signing the Flower of Scotland, this colourful bunch of spirited learners has developed their confidence, progressed on their learning and keep making me proud.



Smoke on The Water practice!

Heated debates!



Gentle debates!

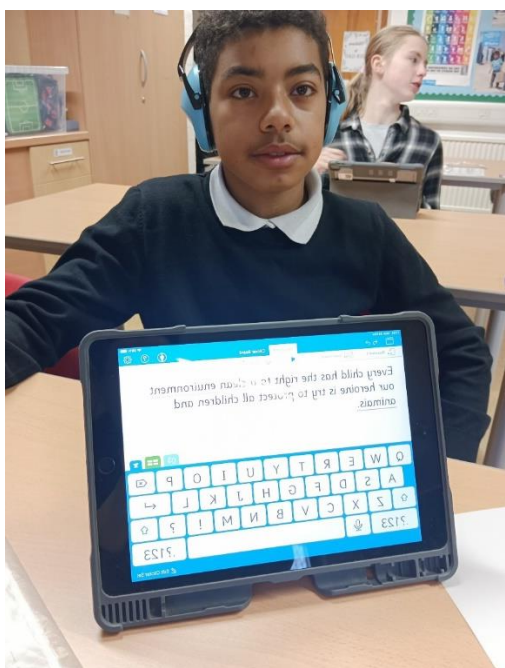
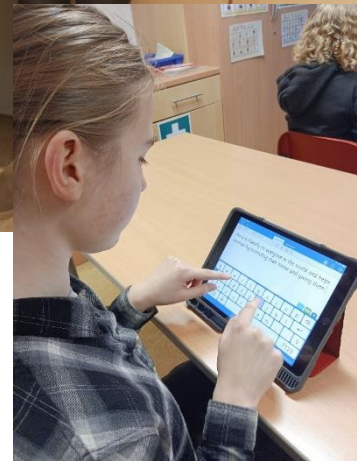




## Superhero creative thinking & writing!



## Rights & Responsibilities work!





# Red Class

Red Class have had a brilliant term, working really hard and making progress across all areas of their National Qualifications and ASDAN courses. Their confidence, independence, and enthusiasm has improved this term.



In Science, the class have been exploring the fascinating world of forces. With Ms Wheat leading the way, pupils carried out hands-on experiments that brought the topic to life - from testing friction to investigating gravity, there has been no shortage of excitement in the science room.

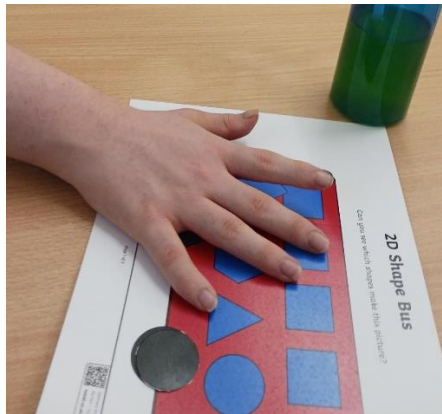
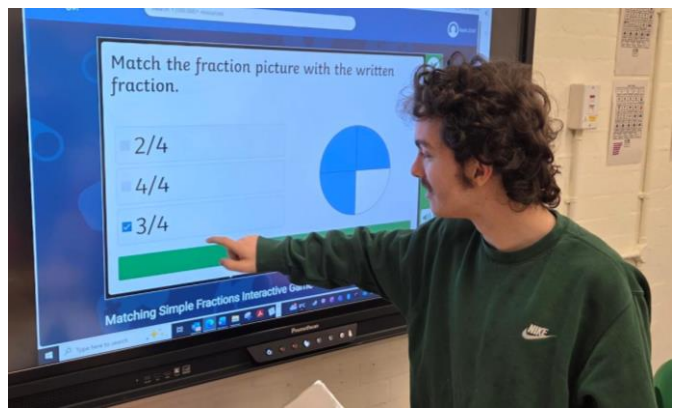
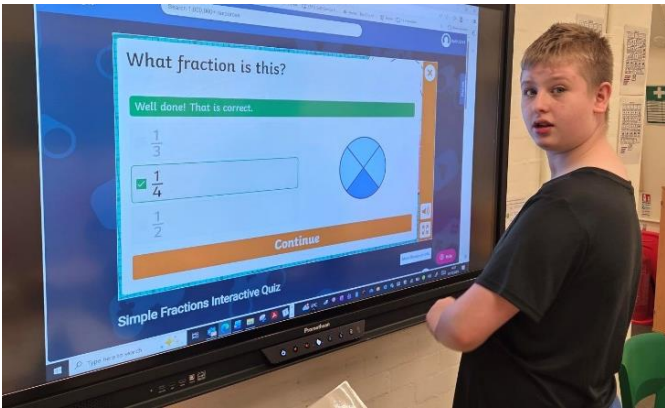
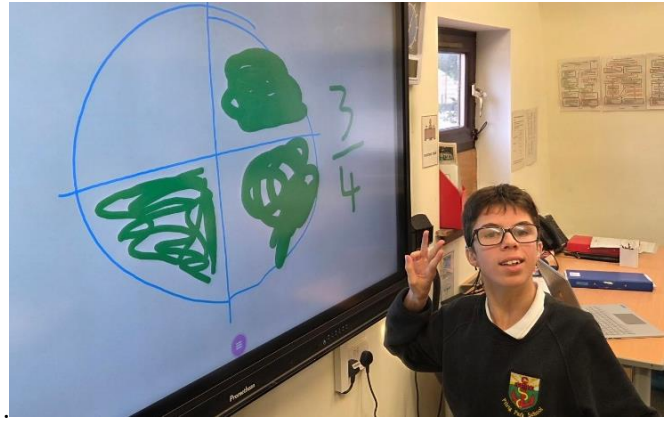
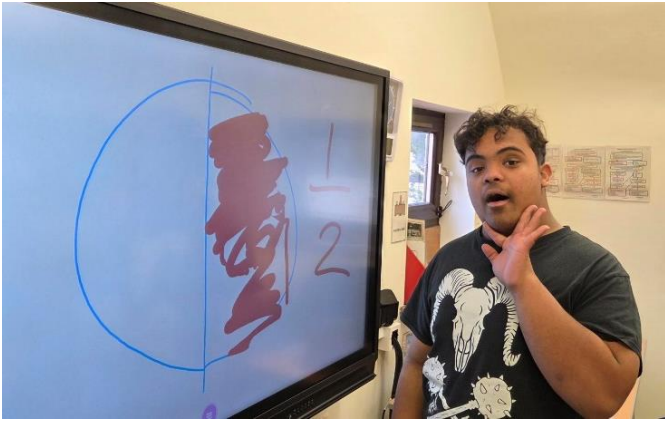
Social Subjects has been just as lively. Every pupil successfully completed their first unit, diving into the lives of historical people and societies. The class enjoyed discovering facts about Robert Burns, the infamous Burke and Hare, inventor Alexander Graham Bell, and the iconic Dundee publishers DC Thomson. Each topic sparked brilliant discussions and plenty of curiosity.

However, the highlight for many was their project on Greyfriars Bobby. The pupils were captivated by the story of Edinburgh's most loyal little dog, and they threw themselves into the activities with enthusiasm. It was a wonderful way to connect local history with their own experiences.





In Maths, Red Class have been working extremely enthusiastically in their learning about fractions, numbers and shape.



It's been a busy, rewarding, and fun-filled term for Red Class. We're incredibly proud of everything they've achieved and can't wait to see what they accomplish next.



# Orange Class

Orange Class have had a very busy and rewarding term.

Firstly, you will have already read about our successes in Art competitions in the PILRIG PARK NEWS earlier in the Newsletter. We took a class trip to see both of our winners' artwork in town.





We also prepared and presented the November Assembly. Our theme was *Kindness*. We discussed all the ways that we are *kind* to each other every day. We prepared a short video and then asked all of the other classes to nominate people from their class that they have seen being *kind*.



We have been doing a topic called *A Place of Your Own* as part of our Asdan course – Living Independently. Recently we have been discussing how to wire a plug, change a light bulb, change batteries, and build flat-pack furniture.



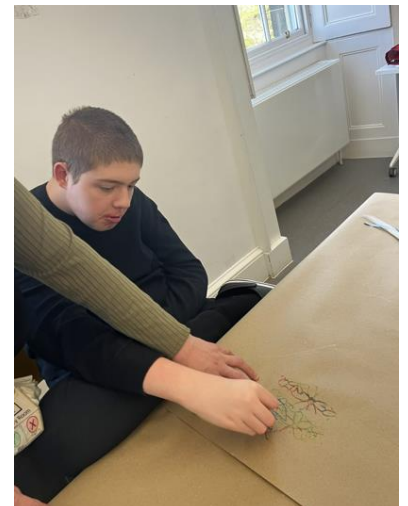
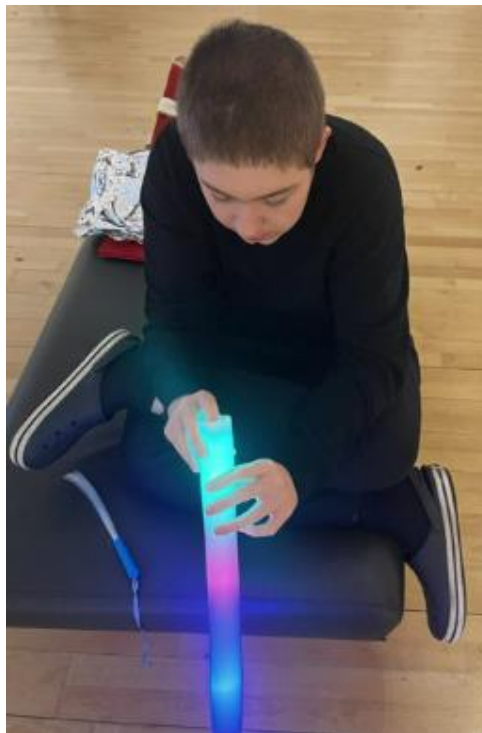
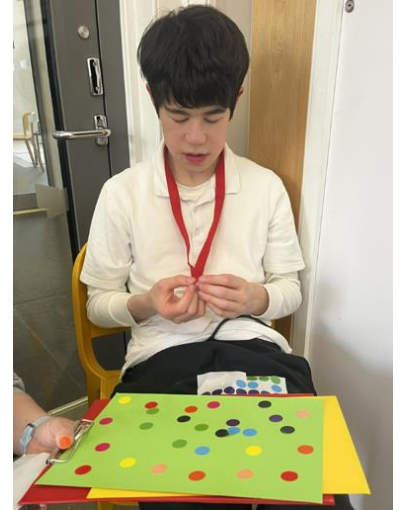
We really enjoyed performing *I'm A Believer* at the school show. One of our class even got a special mention from the Head for his brilliant singing.





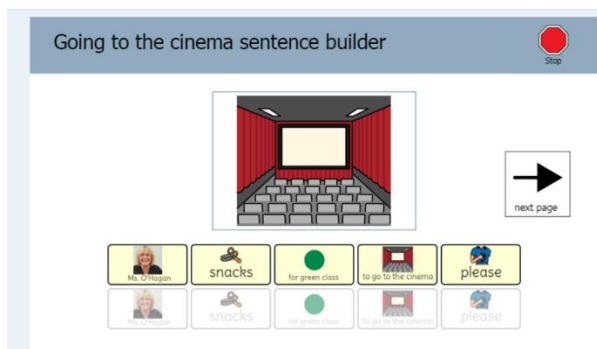
# Green Class

We visited the National Gallery for a tour and an interactive, sensory art making session. We made sticker collages during our tour and spiders from sensory materials whilst sitting looking at the big spider in the gallery! Green Class loved this trip so much! They experimented with shadow and light art. They explored clay and stencils in the Learning Classroom. Big smiles and creative minds!





For our SQA in “Information and Communications Technology: Working with Communications Technologies” we worked on a project that helped us organise a trip to the cinema. We spent time exploring how we send emails, before sending our own to Ms. O’Hagan to organise our trip. We used symbols digitally to create text to communicate in our email, here is an example of the email we sent to let Ms. O’Hagan know we would like snacks for our trip!



After the organising was complete, we visited our local cinema at Ocean Terminal to watch Wicked: For Good. We enjoyed relaxing, watching the film and eating our popcorn! Green Class staff were so impressed with our pupils; everyone knew it was important to listen and stay safe whilst out in the community! Well done Green Class 😊

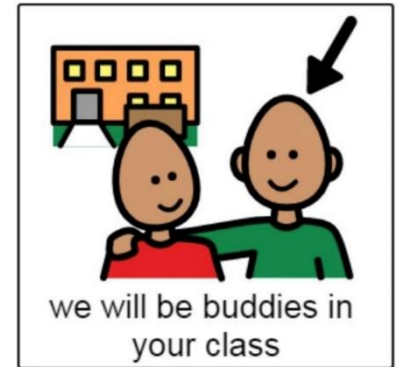
As part of Green Class’s SQA in “Communication in the Workplace” the pupils have been making Christmas cards that have been sold in our local community to fundraise for “The Friends of Pilrig Park Charity”. The class have focused on developing communication around working as a team, following instructions, reading Christmas card order forms and sharing what jobs have to be completed on our order forms. Some pupils then delivered the cards to the local businesses that are selling them for us – Duncan Place Community Hub, Leith Laundrette and Upmo. The pupils did an amazing job being out exploring our local community and communicating with the staff that their cards were ready to sell.





# Ness Class

Ness Class have continued to work on various projects including their SQA Mentoring Award, in which they are preparing to become buddies to classes in January! As part of the qualification, they had to prepare an advert for their upcoming service to the school. We made a wee film all about their skills and qualities – and they have lots to offer!



In November, Ness Class were very excited to receive their 'Leavers 2026' hoodies from the school. Each pupil had chosen their favourite colour for their hoodie and Ms O'Hagan did an official presentation of hoodies in the hall one morning. Much hilarity and several hundreds of photos later...and who is that photo bombing AGAIN?!!!





All of Ness Class had a wonderful afternoon at the Royal Botanic Gardens, as part of their Outdoor Learning class. They got stuck into digging, weeding and cleaning the equipment at the end! Hard work but smiles all round!

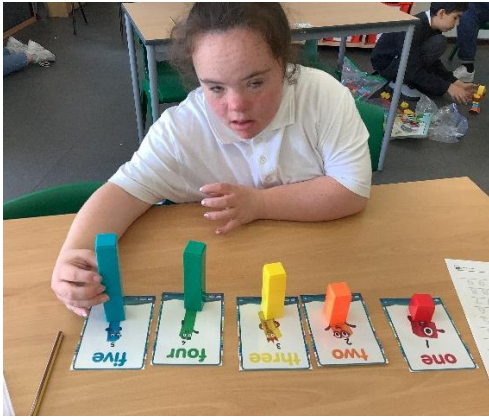




# Maths

## BGE

Pupils have been working on many areas of Maths including Number, Measure and Handling Information.



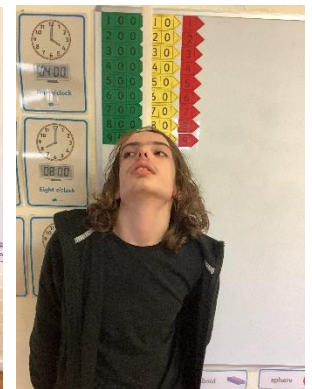
Yellow Class were making groups of 1,2 and 3.



All pupils looked at ‘Me in Numbers’ as part of the whole school event – *This is Me*. This included talking about our age, date of birth, and height, amongst other things.

## Senior Phase

Senior pupils have been working hard towards achieving some SQA qualifications. Every pupil is gaining qualifications at National 1, National 2 or National 3 level, and some of our S6 pupils are attempting National 4 Numeracy.





# English

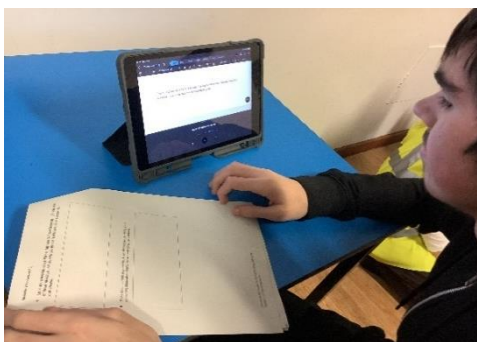
Halò Freens! From signing to national assessments, and everything in between, our amazing and ever surprising Pilrig Park School learners have had a colourful term! Very proud of their determination, personal, and academic development! Upwards and Onwards!

## Signing

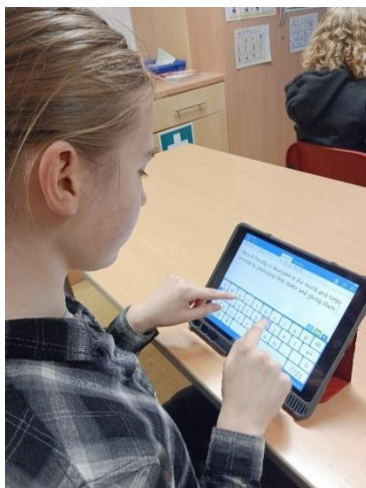
## Literacy games



## SQA National assessments



## Creative writing



## Scottish studies assessment



Wishing you and your families 🎄 Nollaig Chridheil agus Bliadhna Mhath Ùr 🎄

Ms. Karefylakis



# The Music Department

## School Show Preparations & Show

Classes had a fantastic time preparing for the school show in music classes, and all gave spectacular performances at the 2025 winter show! Well done, everyone.



## Drake Partnership

Green Class & White Class have been having sessions with Drake music on Tuesday afternoons. They've been exploring melody through music technology and have been recording songs and their own melodies.



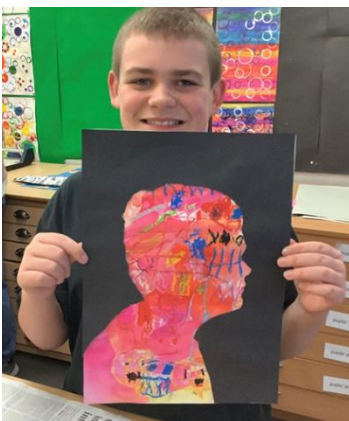


## In the Art Room!



The focus for the BGE classes this term has included creating portraits for the 'This is Me!' event, pattern and autumn colours.

**Pink Class** and **White Class** worked on various art techniques including press prints, oil pastel and silhouettes, as part of their portraiture contribution to the 'This is Me!' evidence of work.





**Blue Class** have been learning about the autumn colours and created several pictures using leaves we picked up in the school playground. We experimented with some printing techniques to create lovely designs!

They have also been making a spiral mosaic design, choosing their favourite colours for each 'ring'.



**Yellow Class** have enjoyed a mixed media project based on the song 'Harry the Snail'. We used a mosaic technique for the shell and then painted the grassy background using forks!

We think our snails are quite cute!





**Purple Class** have also been using a variety of art materials and techniques, to create a magnificent monster! We used our knowledge of lines and patterns to do a bright oil pastel with watercolour paint wash for the monsters body, and then had fun cutting out teeth, hairy eyebrows and pointy ears!

One monster had only one eye!



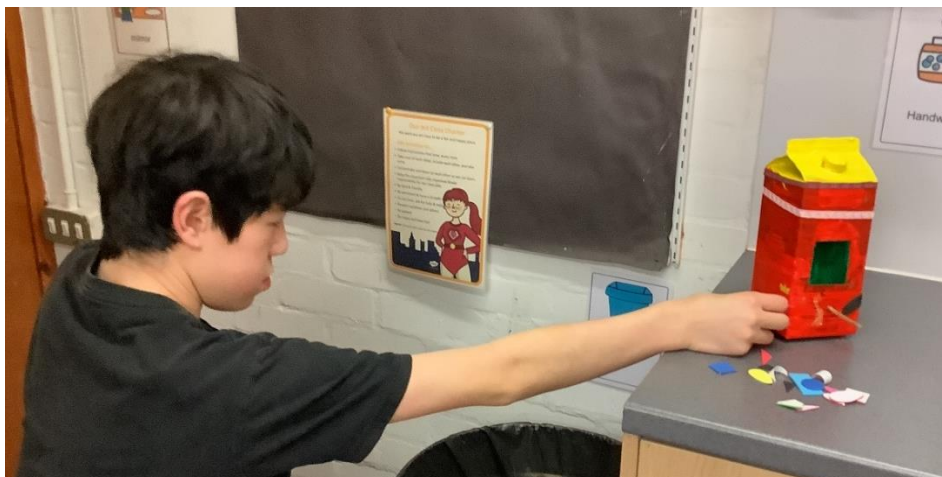
The senior pupils have been starting new projects.

**Red Class** are continuing to produce amazing artwork for their SQA qualification, 'Developing Skills in Creative Arts'. We made a giant image of birds in a tree, using oil pastels for the bright colours, and a watercolour paint wash on top. We printed the background using rollers and ink which was very quick and fun! We have also been learning about photography and incorporated a photograph that we had each taken, into a painting. Can you spot the photographs?





**Green Class** have been making bird feeders as part of their SQA qualification, 'Making a Craftwork Item'. We used recycled orange juice cartons and chose a shape for the door, as well as colours for the roof and decorations to attract the birds. There's even a little stick for the birds to perch!



**Orange Class** have now completed their Design Unit for their National 3 Art and Design course. They have been creating ideas for their Scottish souvenir using an iPad app called 'Freeform'. It was difficult to choose their favourite idea, because they were all very creative and eye catching!





## **Drama**

This year, Orange Class are undertaking their National 3 in Drama. As part of their SQA, we have been learning about drama and production skills. We have been looking at body language, gesture, facial expressions, costume and music. I am so proud of all the incredible work they have been doing.

We were lucky enough to be invited to Edinburgh College for a set tour and to watch a dress rehearsal of their winter show: The Jungle Book. We were given a tour of the set that PASS students had been working on and even got a close-up view of the costume and puppets used for the show. Orange Class were a joy to take on the trip, and it was great to see them engage with different production skills.





## P.E.

Pupils participating in PE have been developing and improving skills and techniques through practice and play in following activities: gymnastics, fitness, dance.



In October, pupils from Purple Class took part in the Boccia Festival 25 at Edinburgh College. Our Sports Ambassador practiced his leadership skills helping there.

We also thanked Sarah Murphy for all her hard work and help as Active Schools Coordinator.





We run four sports clubs at break time: Football, Basketball, Table Tennis, and Tennis.



Young Leaders present *PE Star* and *Football Player of the Month* certificates to pupils at school assembly.





# Home Economics

Within Home Economics we have been working on multiple topics from S1 right through to S6. From sensory tasks, fabric work, healthy eating and cookery skills to dietary requirements, piping and catering for others.

Pink Class and White Class settled in well to their first Christmas term and all that comes with it at Pilrig Park School.



Blue Class, Purple Class and Yellow Class have all taken it in their stride, bringing in their skills they have transferred over to HE or from what was previously learnt. The senior classes - Red, Green, Ness and Orange have been exceptional examples to their younger peers of supporting each other and coming more into their own, a few of them showing new strengths that we can nurture and help grow.



All classes started the term doing fabric work for our 'This is Me!' event, where they could showcase their talents in self-portraits, some of which showed how they see themselves or what makes them happy. For the event, they also made gingerbread people. Blue Class measured the ingredients for each class, the classes then made the dough, with support cut out the people shapes and once baked decorated with a range of colours of icing. Our new squeezy bottles made all the difference in helping our pupils with their dexterity when decorating with icing. These biscuits were shared with the families and friends that visited for our event.



After the *This is Me!* event, the senior classes were focusing on making items for our Christmas show, where we can show some of our wares to fundraise for the school and HE department. We started off making Christmas cakes as the earlier we make these the better. After some research the pupils chose to make a trail mix as well as the reindeer hot chocolate cones that were popular last year.

We had advertising made up (thanks to one of the pupils in Ness Class), designs created and packaging chosen and ordered. All senior classes were involved in making up our wares and packaging them up for people. The pupils took this task very seriously and were eager to do more, so watch this space!

This year we had 10 large Christmas cakes, 8 small, Christmas trail mix and hot chocolate cones, the majority sold on the day of the Christmas show and we raised £200. Thank you to those who purchased items. We also took in some donations which has been very much appreciated. Thank you so much.

Alongside the items for sale at our Winter Show, we also had snickerdoodle biscuits for all and the pupils chose a festive drink rather than tea and coffee. We choose a mulled punch made with spices, orange peel and cranberry juice. We have been finishing off the term with rounding up our learning, looking at dietary needs, healthy eating, designing meals and safety in the kitchen.

The Home Economics team, Mrs Vennelle Bell, Ms McLarty and April would like to wish you all a very happy festive break.





# DYW – Developing the Young Workforce



## Money Museum Visit

On Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> November, Hannah from the Money Museum on the Mound, came to visit us for the day. She brought with her, a big (and very heavy!) box full of artefacts from the museum, including some real money and some fake money!

Every class in the school had a chance to undertake a few of the activities which included, medieval penny striking using a special hammer, smelling old money made of cocoa (!), exploring unusual currencies, forgery and coins we use today.

Here are a few photos of the day. If you are near the Mound, do pop into the museum and see the 1 million pound display – it's awesome!





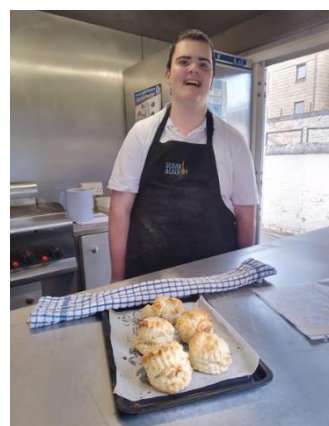
## Scran Van

Caitlin from the SCRAN Van has been working with some senior pupils and the delicious smells coming from the car park have been amazing!

As part of the SQA qualification, Introduction to Baking, the pupils have been making a range of foods based on the various types of pastry including sausage rolls, chocolate twists, pizza and quiche.

SCRAN Van sessions offer hands-on cooking experiences that build confidence, develop practical skills, and encourage teamwork. The sessions give pupils a practical and engaging way to learn transferable skills for both life and future employment.

Here are a few photos with what the pupils have been making over the last two months on the van including a lovely photo of Caitlin and Jamie with the whole group holding their certificates and wooden spoons! 😊





## Enable Works

### Visit from TESCO!



As part of the work with our S6 pupils, Enable Works coordinator Sarah Forsyth arranged for Bill, the Community Champion at Tesco, Duke Street, to come and visit us at school.

On Friday 14<sup>th</sup> November, Bill met with Ness Class and showed them some items from Tesco, including a (small sized!) replica delivery van, and protective clothing for wearing in the store.

The pupils had created some advertising posters for Bill to take away and put up in the store. They also had prepared some great questions to ask Bill, including: “What skills do you need for your job?”, “What hours do you work?” and “Is there anything you don’t like about Tesco?” (to which Bill replied, “Nothing at all!!”). Thank you to Bill for coming and sharing your working experience with Tesco. We’ll be down for a visit very soon!





# Samba Drumming

## Pulse of the Place

In addition to our own Music Department, we also have our partner from Pulse of the Place visiting us on a regular basis.



Rohan and his team from **Pulse of the Place Samba Band** have returned to Pilrig Park School this session to deliver weekly sessions with a new group of pupils from across the classes. Their drumbeats can be heard throughout the building on a Thursday afternoon!

Samba drumming provides our young people with not only new musical skills but also confidence building and communication skills.





## Come Alive

We have weekly *Come Alive* sessions for all the pupils in the PE hall, or outside when the weather allows.

In the hall we all do some dance moves.



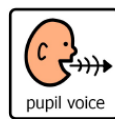


## Pupil Council



### 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)



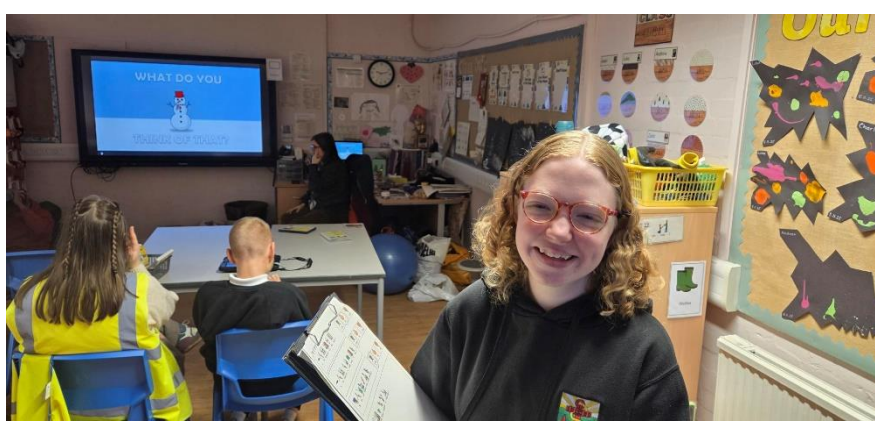
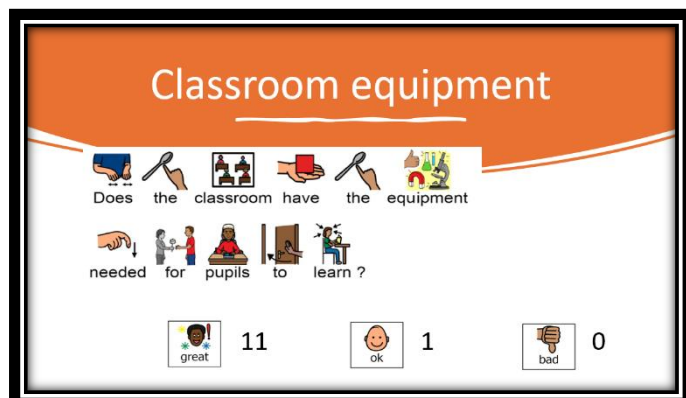
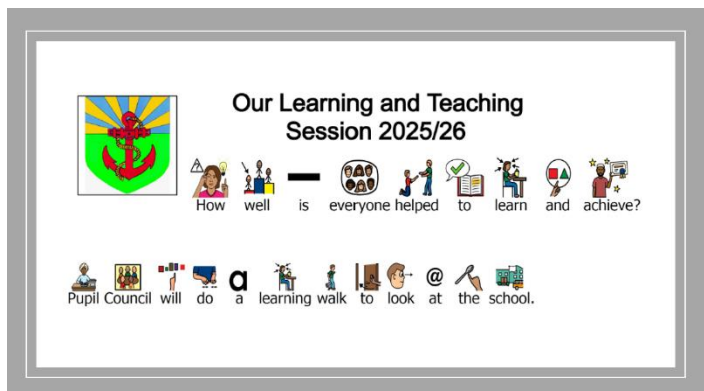
Every Wednesday during the Pupil Voice period, the Pupil Council meet with Ms O'Hagan in her office to work through our agreed agenda. Once a month we judge all the special badges applications. It is great fun! Not only have we approved special badges, which are given out by us at our monthly assembly, but we have also given applications back for reasons such as more evidence needed, application late, or wrong badge applied for!





## PUPIL VOICE

Our main focus for this term has been agenda item 4.1 – Our learning and teaching – which is theme 2 from How good is OUR school? We came up with a survey and then split in to two groups and went on Learning Walks throughout the school with Ms O’Hagan and Mr Mackay. At the time of writing, we are busy preparing our powerpoint and presentation of the results which we will be sharing with everyone at the Christmas assembly. We have included some of the slides from our PowerPoint and some pictures of us on our Learning Walks so you can see how hard we have all been working together to continue to improve our learning and teaching experiences.



Next term we will working on theme 4 – Our health and wellbeing. Our work in this area will help Mr T in his application to renew our Sports Gold Scotland award!

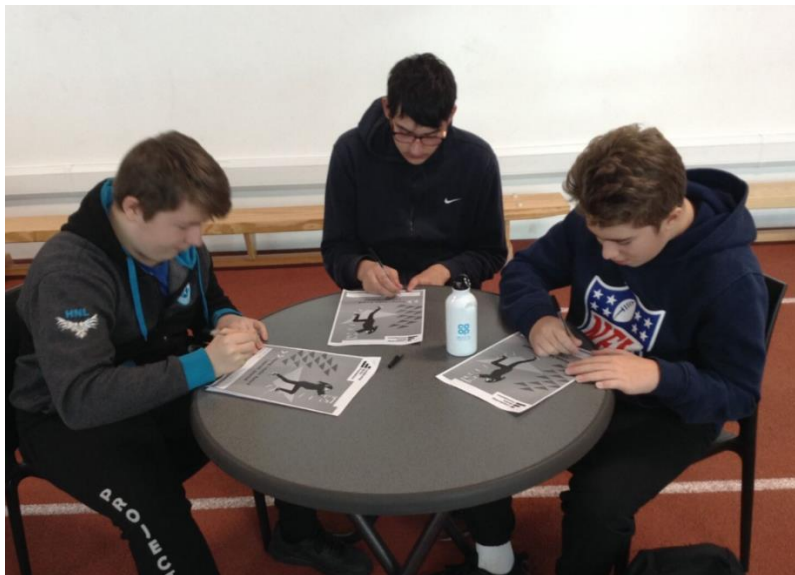
Have a great holiday!

Pilrig Park School Pupil Council



## Young Ambassadors

Four pupils from Pilrig Park School took part in **Young Leader Course** at Meadowbank Sports Centre during October and November 2025.






## Eco Committee


This term, White Class and Blue Class have been working hard to find ways to reduce food waste and save energy in school.


They went around the school with a survey to ask classes what fruit and cereal bars they had in their classrooms. Information was then passed on to Natalie to help with fruit and cereal bar ordering to reduce food waste and money.


Class Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Fruit & cereal bar survey**

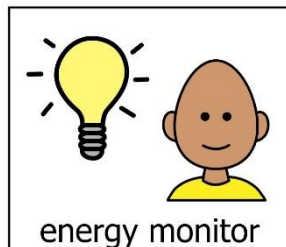
1. How many bananas do you have? 

2. How many oranges do you have? 

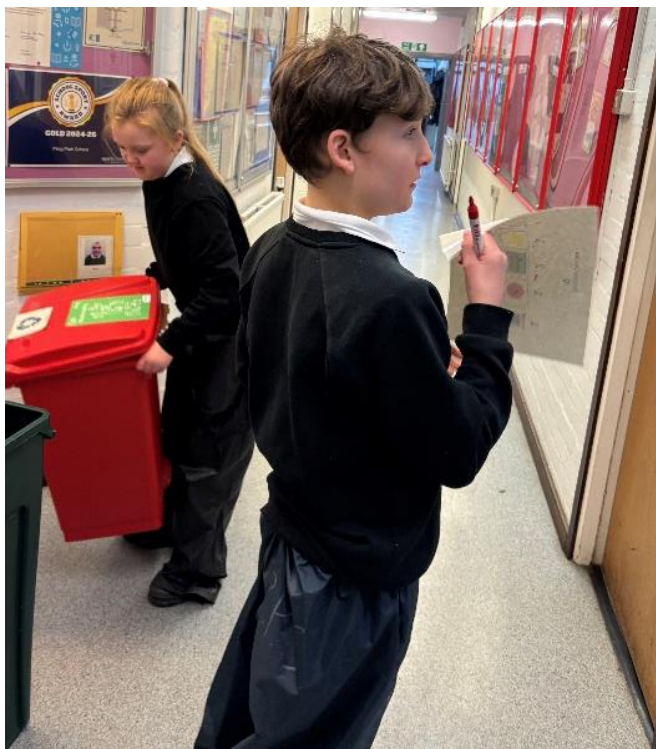
3. How many pears do you have? 

4. How many cereal bars do you have? 

Both classes also ran a “Turn Off the Lights” Poster Competition which they voted for and judged by themselves.



White Class have been doing the weekly recycling collection around school and are enjoying working in teams to collect from each classroom and the school office.

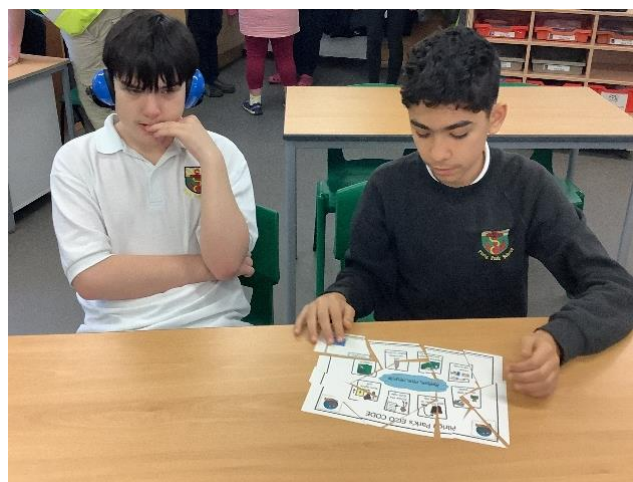




## PUPIL VOICE



Blue Class have been learning about recycling, reusing materials, and following the Pilrig Park Eco Code through games, puzzles and craft activities.





## Rights Respecting School

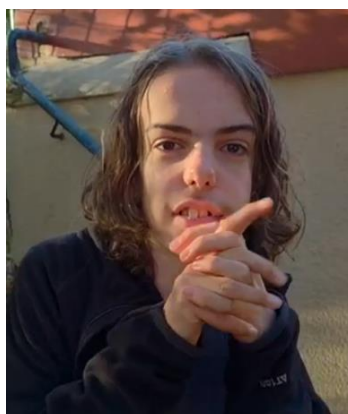
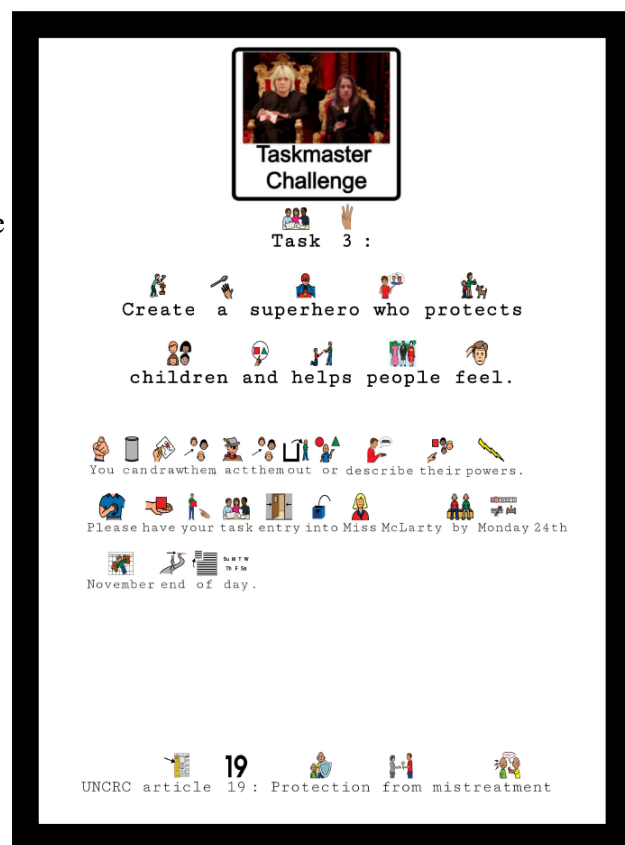
### Rights Respecting Gold Award

As we continue our journey towards gaining the Rights Respecting Gold Award, various activities have been getting under way this term. These activities are generating some amazing evidence of how our young people interact with UNCRC articles. We will be submitting this evidence, in order to achieve the award.



The *Taskmaster* Challenges which are completed each month have been very entertaining! This term, challenges have included: creating a greeting which is inclusive to all learners (Article 12) and designing a superhero who protects children (Article 19). Our final *Taskmaster* challenge for this term, will be for each class to contribute to the whole school *Festivision* event on the last day of term.

Some photos of Yellow Class with their winning 'Inclusive Greeting' for October's challenge.





## PUPIL VOICE



Photos of Pink Class who won the challenge to create a 'superhero' to protect children!

In addition to the Taskmaster challenges, Red Class have produced an impressive 'My Rights Wall' with every single UNCRC Article illustrated by the pupils! The Articles are on display, on the main corridor of the school for all to see!

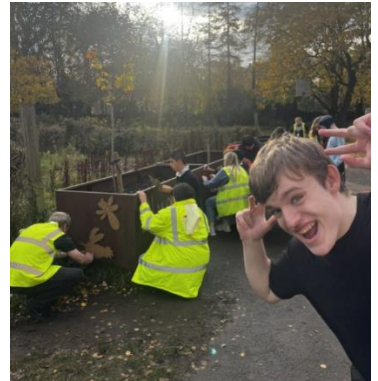




## Outdoor Learning

### OUTDOOR CLASSROOM DAY

Pilrig Park School celebrated National Outdoor Classroom Day for the second time! This year we decided to decorate the planters in our playground. Each class used stencils of flowers and insects to make a unique design! It was lovely to see so much teamwork going on. We had a break to eat some bread we had baked in Home Economics and some warm juice.





## PUPIL VOICE

The next day we continued to work as one big team to make sure each planter had enough soil for our big planting plans!





## **Friends of Pilrig Park School** - Charity No. SC047854

Friends of Pilrig Park School have been very busy working with Green Class, who approached the charity with a proposal to raise funds by selling their handmade Christmas cards. This went towards their work towards an SQA qualification.

Miss Morrison approached the Leith launderette, Upmo, Duncan Place and Leith Makers Market to ask if they could support us with selling cards.

This then became a whole school event where classes made items to sell at Leith Makers Market. All craft materials were bought through the school procurement system and funded by the charity. All craft activities went towards pupils work towards a national qualification. Every penny raised came back to the charity.

Moira, one of the charity volunteers suggested she could make up some wreaths and table decorations to sell. She ended up being a very busy bee and raised over £200!! We would like to say a massive thank you to her for all her hard work. Here are some examples of Moira's beautiful wreaths, table decorations and the pupils' handmade crafts.

At the time of writing we have raised £432.66.

Many thanks to everyone who has supported us. It is greatly appreciated.

All funds raised go towards enhancing the learning of pupils at Pilrig Park School.



You can now follow the charity on Instagram @friendsofpps.

We will post with any updates of charity fundraising events or news.







## **Parent Council**



**Our Parent Council is friendly, informal, and completely pressure-free. No homework, requests to raise funds or organise events!!**

**All parent/carers welcome. We meet a few times a year. You don't need to commit to coming. Just pop in when you can.**

### **What we do:**

-  **Share ideas about what matters to our young people and our school**
-  **Build connections with other parent/carers**
-  **Hear what's happening in school from Miss O'Hagan, Head Teacher**
-  **Help make Pilrig Park School the best it can be for our young people**

**Next meeting:**

**5.00 - 6.00pm**

**Monday 26th January 2026**

**Online on a TEAMS video call**

**You can email us [pilrigparkparentcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:pilrigparkparentcouncil@gmail.com) The only people who can access the email are the chair, secretary and treasurer. School staff cannot read Parent Council emails.**

**Some Parent Councils discuss issues like transport, holiday hubs, the playground etc.**

**Hugh, Craig and Aicha (chair, secretary, and treasurer)  
Pilrig Park School Parent Council**