



# Pilrig Park School



## Sunshine in Leith

April 2026

Welcome to another bumper edition of our school newsletter! So much news to share with all our school community! Where to begin?!

In February we welcomed our new Principal Teacher, Mr Scott Mitchell. Mr Mitchell is now the Tutor Teacher for Red Class. They have all been having a great time getting to know each other, including Mr Mitchell sharing with the boys his musical talents. These were put to good use when they took part in their first Taskmaster challenge together – which they won! Miss Currie has competition!

I would like to extend an enormous thanks to our Parent Council for their contributions to our submission to be a Rights Respecting Gold School. The evidence meeting took place earlier this term with further inputs from staff and pupils. We are waiting to hear if we have been successful or not and hope it is not too long until we find out! Mr T has also submitted an application for reaccreditation for the SportScotland Gold Award. Fingers tightly crossed!

Throughout the newsletter you will see examples of the learning opportunities our pupils have been taking part in across all areas of the curriculum. There are also many photographs from our different parental engagement events this term. We know it is not always easy for parents/carers to join us, and we greatly appreciate when you can, as it allows our pupils to show case how proud they are of everything they have achieved. Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> May is the date for **The Greatest Show!** Auditions are completed and rehearsals have begun! We will also be showing off our new lighting at the show which has been very kindly bought for us by the Parent Council. Thank you so much! Details of tickets will be coming out after the Easter holiday.

My favourite picture from this term is of one of our S6 pupils proudly holding the haggis just before he was piped into the Burns lunch. Lots of photos of our Scottish inter-disciplinary learning week inside the newsletter to enjoy. Mr McPhillips has once again kindly given me an extra page so I can include a selection of some more of my favourite snaps from this term!

As ever, thank you so much for all your support throughout the term. We hope all our families have a fabulous holiday. We look forward to welcoming our pupils back on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April.

Ann M. O'Hagan

Proud Head Teacher / Bunny Egg, cousin of The Christmas Tree!



## A selection of Ms O'Hagan's favourite snaps from this term



Natalie had some extra help in the office again this term!



Smiling faces in Blue Class!



We received an extremely kind donation of eggs from Central Taxis.

Thank you so much to them for thinking of us!



It is great when pupils stop by my office for an Easter chat and to show off their hard work!



The Bunny Egg, cousin of the school Christmas Tree(!), brought lots of excitement to the playground!



I had a great time at the Scottish Café held during our IDL Scottish Week.

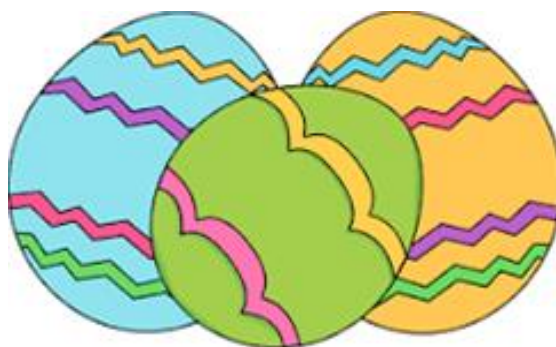
# Key Dates!

- Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April – pupils and staff return
- Monday 4<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May – pupils on holiday
- Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May – end of year report cards issued to all pupils
- Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May – pupils on holiday
- Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May – S1-S6 Parents Night 4.00 - 6.00pm (telephone calls or in person appointments available)
- Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> May (approximately 1.15pm) – Pilrig Park School Summer Show: The Greatest Show (for all pupils and parents/carers)
- Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June – Sports day! (parents/carers invited to attend)
- Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> June – P7/S1 transition visits; including welcome café for new S1 parents/carers to which all current S1 parents/carers are also invited to – Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> at 1.00pm
- Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June – End of Year Celebration of Achievement Assembly 1.30pm, S1 – S5 parents/carers (one ticket per family due to demand)
- Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> June – S6 Assembly and lunch for the Leavers, starting at 10.00am for parents/carers followed by a whole-school silent disco and end of term party for pupils only!
- Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June – end of term

## THIS JUST IN .....

As this Newsletter is being prepared, Mr Mackay is busy running our Easter Extravaganza, once again consisting of our whole school Easter Egg Hunt (fingers crossed for a dry morning) and *Mr Mackay's Pilrig Bongo Bingo!*

Watch out for photos in the next newsletter!



**PILRIG PARK SCHOOL SUMMER SHOW**



**THE  
GREATEST  
SHOW**

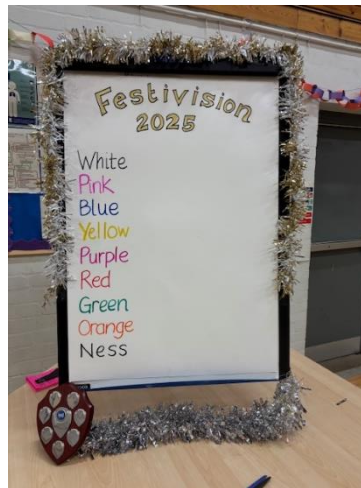
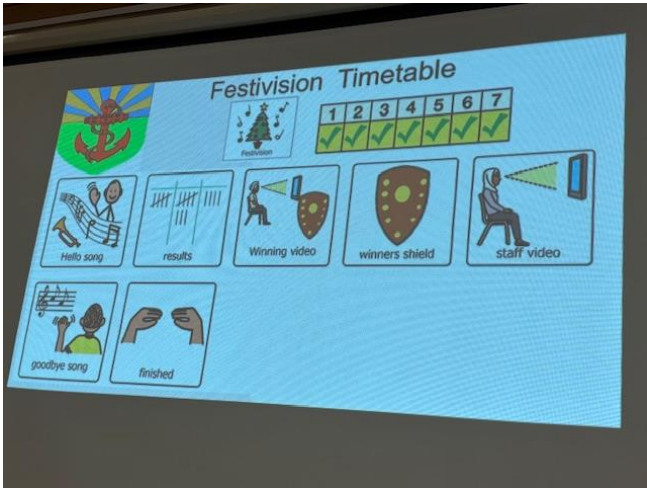
**Wednesday 27th May**

**1:30pm**

# PILRIG PARK NEWS

We will begin where we left off.....

As the last edition of the newsletter was going to print, the whole-school was busy taking part in our annual Festivision competition. As with previous years the standard of entry, including the entry from the staff (!), was incredibly high. There was fierce competition amongst the tutor teachers with Ms Currie determined to win for the second-year running. And guess what.....she did it! This year with an entry from White Class. Can she make it three in a row?! We will all have to wait until December to see!



# FUTURE PILRIG PARK NEWS

**This is me.....**



As you are no doubt aware from previous newsletters this session and our parental engagement events through the year, our whole-school focus for 2025/26 has been celebrating “This is me.....”.

We have once again entered the Saroj Lal Schools Award for 2026. Part of our submission will be some of the fabulous pictures you’ll enjoy seeing throughout the newsletter.

Fingers tightly crossed that we are successful (again!) with our entry.

# MORE PILRIG PARK NEWS

## School calendar – its famous!

I hope everyone enjoyed receiving our 2025/26 school calendar this year. Our calendar even made it all the way to the STV studios thanks to a former pupil of ours called James Rivals who has a close connection with the news team. They kindly sent James this photo of them receiving it.



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## Cyber Resilience and Internet Safety during the Easter holidays

School holidays can be a time that young people (and old people!) fill their hours away from school by going online; gaming, watching, playing, chatting and creating. With that in mind, there are reliable resources designed to support parents / carers to create positive experiences for their children in this space.

Edinburgh Learns Digital has curated reliable and easy to navigate sites, as well as some general advice here: [Cyber Resilience and Internet Safety \(CRIS\) – Edinburgh Learns Digital](#).

# JUST IN...

## April Fools 2026! 😊

Well, the resident Pilrig Park *April Fooler* has been at it again, pulling off another quietly impressive prank this year.

Early on Wednesday morning, before anyone else was around, our mystery mischief-maker wandered through all the downstairs classrooms (and even the office!), gathering up **ten** large, wheeled staff chairs. The chairs were then neatly stashed in a classroom and secured with a very enthusiastic amount of electrical tape — clearly someone was committed to the prank.

Imagine the annoyance of several teachers as they arrived at school, to discover their comfy desk chair had mysteriously disappeared!! And then to discover their chair was tied up with a whole pile of other chairs – how very inconvenient!! APRIL FOOL!



However, the tables turned rather quickly when the *April Fooler* ended up being April Fooled themselves — much to the absolute delight of the staff. Let's just say the payback was swift, simple, and *very* satisfying (see photos of the payback and the '*April Fooler*'!)



*(Just wait until next year....)*



# RECENT EVENTS

IDL Scottish Week – 19<sup>th</sup> January – 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2026



Our annual Scottish Week was a great success again this year and throughout the week there was plenty of tartan, bagpipes and Scottish dancing going on! For the second year running, we invited our parents and carers to join us for the ceilidh, and this year, we invited them to come along a bit earlier and enjoy some soup and oatcakes for lunch before the dancing! The ‘Scottish Café’ was buzzing with chat and parents having the chance to meet new people! The ceilidh was once again great fun, and everyone had a wonderful time burling their partner up and down the hall!



On Thursday, during Scottish Week, the whole school packed into the hall for our Burns Lunch. We tucked into a classic Scottish feast of haggis, neeps and tatties, after we enjoyed some brilliant Burns poetry recited by our senior pupils. Next, Purple Class signed to 'Flower o' Scotland'. To finish things off in style, pupils from George Watson's College Pipe Band played a medley of tunes outside. Despite the wind and spitting rain, it did not dampen the spirits and the sound travelled so well that I'm pretty sure everyone in the public park next door got to enjoy it too!



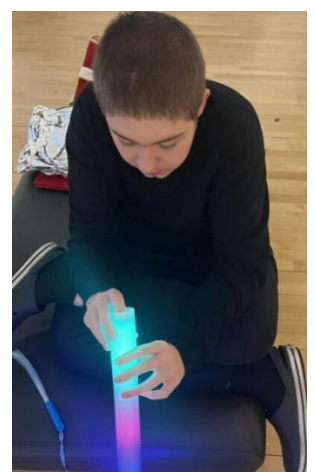
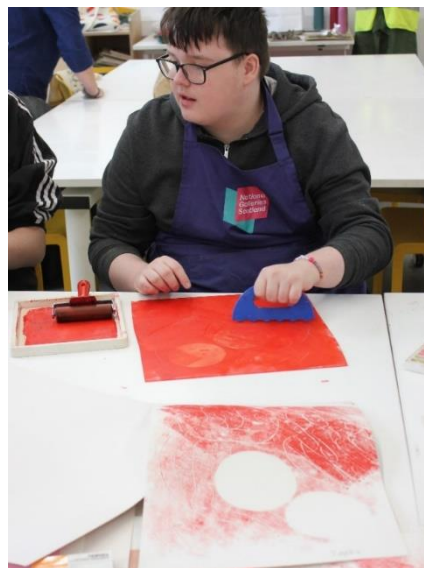


## Art Gallery Trip!

The school was very fortunate to be asked if we wanted to take part in some free art workshops at Modern One, at the Gallery of Modern Art in Belford Road. Of course, we said 'yes please!'



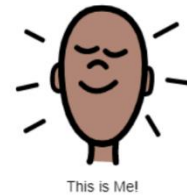
The William Syson Foundation Travel Fund covered all the costs of not only the artist-led workshops but also transport to and from the gallery. Each class in the school attended the gallery over the course of several weeks. We were shown around the various galleries and learned how to look at the artwork through sensory and hands-on activities. Finally, back in the educational art room, the pupils enjoyed making some gelli prints and clay objects.





# This is Me! - Home Economics Café!

On the morning of Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March, we welcomed lots of our parents and carers for our first ever This is Me in Home Economics Café!



Our senior pupils were showcasing their learning in the Home Economics department with teacher, Ms Vennelle. The pupils in Red Class did a fabulous job of meeting and greeting parents and carers at the door, taking orders for coffees and teas and then serving up the bacon, sausage and egg rolls! Question is – did they also do the washing up?!! Of course they did!! What a great a team and a wonderful cafe!



# White Class

We have had a very busy and fun term.

White Class have settled so well into their new school, and it has been wonderful to see them really shine during term 2. White Class work so well together and it has been amazing to see them develop friendships and relationships with both their peers and staff in school. Well done White Class!

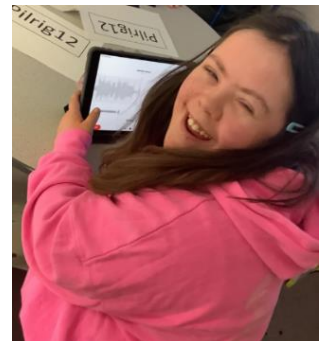
## Music Sessions with Julia from Youth Music Initiative

Once a week, we have been enjoying sessions with Julia from YMI. White Class look forward to her visits every Wednesday and we have had so much fun. Julia has used music to cover different topics such as Chinese New Year and Ramadan. White Class love the parachute and scarf activities and have been working so hard at learning rhythm, following a beat and using a variety of instruments.



## Digital Literacy

In Digital Literacy, we have been learning to sign in to the iPad and explored a range of apps. We have been learning how to stay safe online and how to use and look after our devices responsibly. White Class particularly enjoyed exploring the voice memos app and creating their own sounds using their voice or instruments.



## LifeWise

In LifeWise we have focussed on mindfulness this term. Across the term, we have been learning different coping strategies to promote emotional regulation. We have made rain sticks, glitter jars, taken part in guided meditation, yoga and had a lovely nature walk in Pilrig Park. It has been wonderful to learn new coping strategies and pupils in White Class have really enjoyed our lessons.

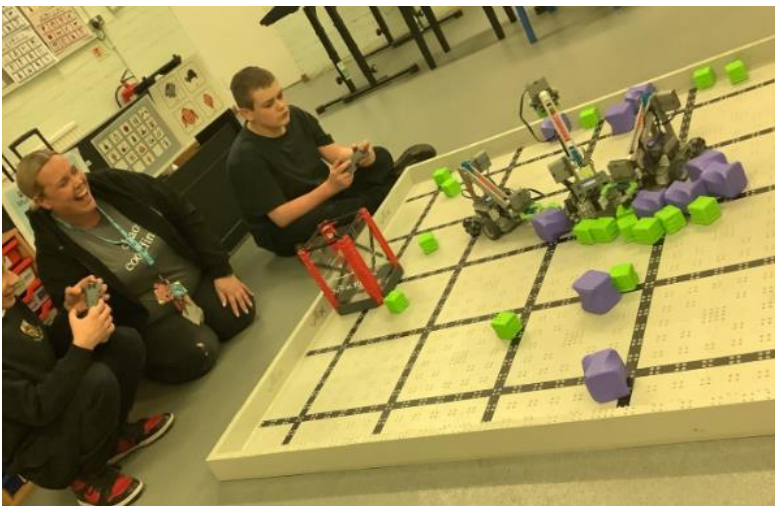


## Maths

We have focussed on money this term and have been learning to identify coins. We set up a role play shop to experience giving change, exchanging coins for items and lots of different activities around using money in a real-life context.



We have had such a wonderful second term in White Class and I wish I could have a whole newsletter to share all the exciting things we have been doing in class. It has been amazing to see each pupil develop their confidence and independence in school. Roll on term 3!



# Pink Class

This term, Pink Class have enjoyed exploring texts by Julia Donaldson and learning about Arctic habitats and the animals that live there. We have taken part in music sessions with Julia from YMI and continued our work learning about the benefits of buying fairtrade products. We were particularly excited to showcase our learning around the school value 'Happy' for our first assembly presentation. We shared a video that we had made to one of our favourite Morning Circle songs featuring different emotions.



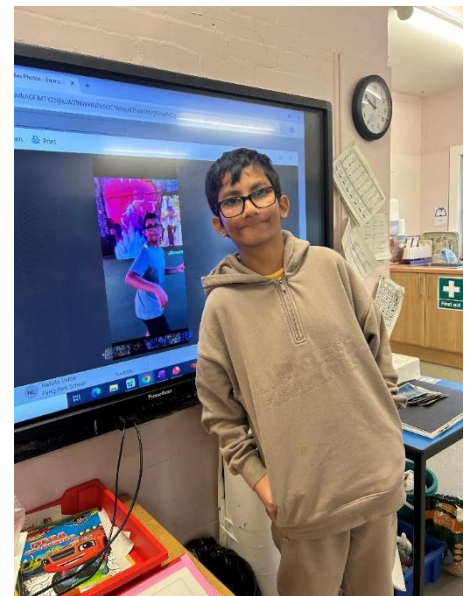
In Literacy, we have been working on making appropriate predictions about a text using the front cover, blurb and our own prior knowledge. We have used a range of interesting adjectives to describe the main characters in a text, choosing from a list and using symbols to support us. We particularly enjoyed our learning around *The Scarecrow's Wedding* and *Zog* and the *Flying Doctors* because we were able to compare the text with the short film adaptations. We gave our opinions, rating the films out of 5 stars and deciding who, if anyone, we would recommend the film to.

In Maths, we have been learning all about money. We identified a range of different coins and notes, using games and concrete materials to support us. We learned key vocabulary and signs, including 'How much?', buy and save. We used our understanding of pounds and pence to work out which item was the most expensive from a choice of 2. Using technology, we spent an imaginary budget on toys that we would like. As always, we listened to different songs linked to the topic and chose our favourites. We continued to develop our subitising skills and number sense through participating in whole class games and activities.

In Health and Wellbeing, we have been following our RSHP curriculum this term. We have learned the scientific names for different body parts and recognised that we are the bosses of our own bodies! We have used aided language boards to identify our similarities and differences and learned the sign for and meaning of the word 'unique'. After that, we learned about different kinds of families, discovering that all families are different and that this difference should be celebrated. Next, we will be learning about being a kind friend using the film *Toy Story* to help us to identify different positive attributes.

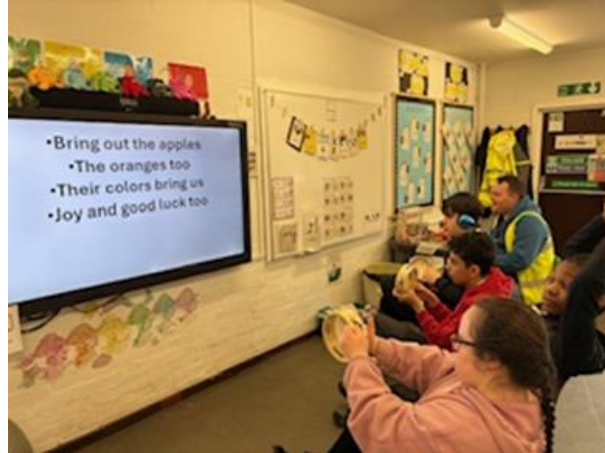
Pink Class have had a brilliant third term and are looking forward to a well-earned break over the holidays! Next term, we will share our voices and opinions, choosing between learning about space or forces as our final class topic of this academic year.





# Blue Class

This term Blue Class have been busy learning all about Lunar New Year. As part of the celebrations, the class took on special classroom jobs such as sweeping the floor and wiping the tables. We learned that cleaning your space is an important Lunar New Year tradition, helping to welcome good luck for the year ahead. The class also enjoyed creating beautiful blossom tree pictures, using different shades of pink paint and cotton buds to carefully dot the blossoms onto their branches.



Music was a big part of our celebrations too. The class learned a song called *Gung Hay Fat Choy*, which is sung to bring good luck for the new year. Everyone loved singing along while playing instruments such as tambourines and finger cymbals.

## Art Trip

We also had a fantastic trip to the National Galleries of Scotland Modern One art gallery. The class had a wonderful time exploring the gallery and taking inspiration from the artworks we saw. One activity the pupils particularly enjoyed was creating their own shadow art by drawing around their shadows and experimenting with different shapes and ideas.



## Youth Music Initiative Music Sessions

Another highlight of the term was our music sessions with Julia from the Youth Music Initiative. Julia taught us a range of fun and interactive songs and gave the class the opportunity to explore different instruments. Julia even brought in her saxophone for us to see and touch, which was very exciting. She also introduced some excellent musical games using equipment such as a parachute. The class thoroughly enjoyed these sessions and it was wonderful to see every pupil taking part.



In Social Subjects, we have been learning about old toys. The class were amazed to discover that there was once a world before iPads! Pupils had the chance to try out some traditional toys including marbles, a hobby horse, hoop and stick, and a diabolo. The class also made some of their own toys inspired by this learning. Our learners worked hard to create cup-and-ball toys– which proved quite tricky, but everyone showed great determination!



It has been another busy and exciting term in Blue Class. We are so proud of everything our learners have achieved.

# Yellow Class

The year started with one of our favourite trips out, the pantomime! This year it was Jack and the Beanstalk and we had a great time singing and dancing along to the music, booing and cheering the characters and looking on in amazement as the beanstalk grew out of the front of the stage!



We also got to see friends and staff from other schools. It's always brilliant fun.



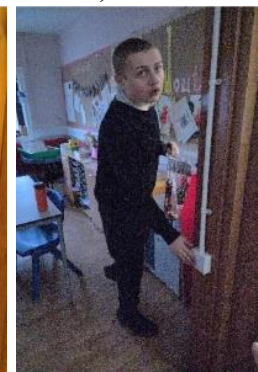
This term we have been really focusing on our communication and the progress we have made is brilliant!

We have been singing, signing and using communication boards and symbols to share our thoughts, ideas and feelings in all areas of the curriculum and we are proud of how well we are doing.

We have been lucky enough to have the amazing Julia, from Youth Music Initiative, join the class every Wednesday morning. We got to enjoy learning new songs, hearing and exploring new instruments and generally make a lot of noise. Yellow Class really love music, so this was perfect for us. Julia brought a clarinet, a saxophone, as well as ukelele and lots of drums. We are going to keep practising the games and songs she taught us as we enjoyed them so much!



In Outdoor Learning we have continued to focus on The Environment. We have been busy looking at recycling and energy saving and we are all getting good at switching off the lights and plugs when we have finished. As our final project we teamed up with pupils from Blue Class and Purple Class to make some brilliant recycling posters out of recycled materials, we chose newspaper!



We are also looking forward to our visit to the Botanic Gardens to see the Pilrig Park School raised beds.

In January we celebrated Scottish week. We started the week by creating our own class tartan. We each chose our favourite colour from a selection. Then using the answers, we created stripes which we placed on a yellow background.



We had a brilliant time at the Burns lunch where we listened to poetry, bagpipes and drums and of course ate some delicious haggis, neeps and tatties! We ended the week with an assembly where our tartan won the Taskmaster challenge for being the best class tartan! What a brilliant way to finish the week.



In RME we have been looking at different religious celebrations, customs and traditions. Most recently we looked at Ramadan and Eid al Fitr. We listened to a brilliant song 'Ramadan Moon' which taught us about what Ramadan is and we enjoyed drumming along. We then made our own Ramadan moon sun catchers.

As part of our Social Studies project, we visited the Wee Museum of Memories at Ocean Terminal. We got to look at lots of different objects from the past, from technology to toys. We had a brilliant time exploring the different items in our own time and finding items that we have maybe never seen before. It was such a great space to visit and I'm sure we will be back to do some more exploring!

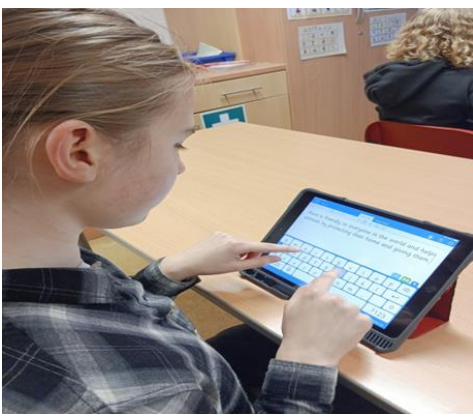


It has been a very busy term, and we are all looking forward to the sunnier weather and doing more of our learning outside after the Spring holiday.

# Purple Class

Purple Class has had a busy term as they completed work related to Scotland and the Scots language, became even better at signing and amazed everyone when they signed the “Flower of Scotland” for Burn’s lunch, completed comprehension on different platforms, won the special Environment Award for their daffodil planter and visited the Gallery to awaken their senses, admire the art there, show off their dancing moves, and create their own clay art – from a whole pack of wolves to Winnie the Pooh!





# Red Class

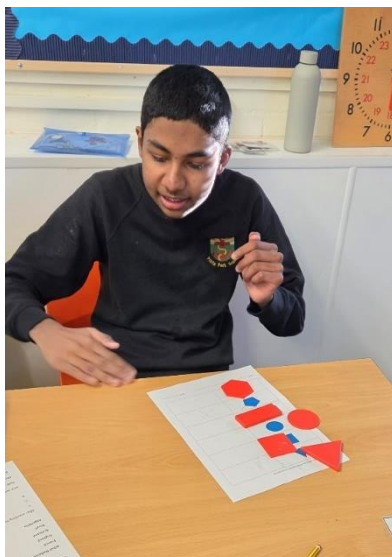
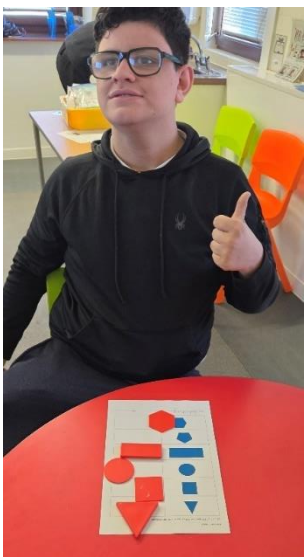
Red Class have worked hard on our Taskmaster entry and due to their efforts, they WON! The boys did a great job learning all the different signalong signs that we had to use and showing off their dance moves with real enthusiasm!



Red Class have been working hard this term and have made great progress with their Employability Personal Achievement: Safety & Security module. They had the choice to learn how to apply a plaster or treat a burn. Great job boys!



Our Maths continued this term learning about 2D and 3D shapes.





In RME we were learning about World Festivals, and we made masks for Chinese New Year.



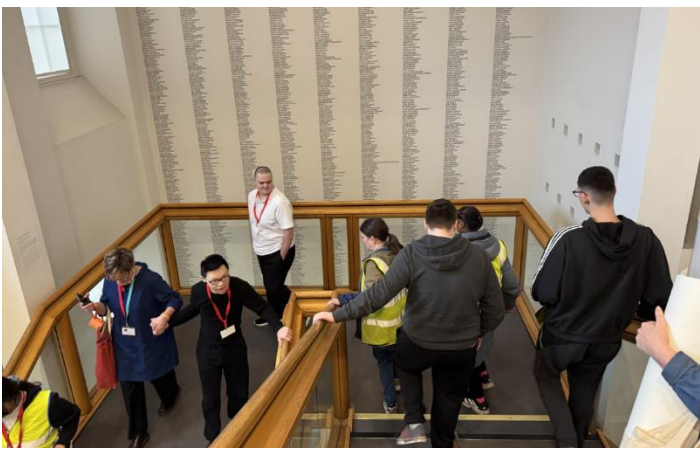
We are looking forward to the summer term and getting stuck into plenty of exciting learning opportunities.

# Orange Class

Orange Class have had another busy and productive term.



We had a great time on the Art Gallery trip.



We have enjoyed taking part in Taskmaster challenges, and in the most recent one, we were accused of being 'cheeky' by Miss O'Hagan. We made a short video with the message – 'Believe what you want'.



In Science, Orange Class have taken part in practical experiments, making predictions and drawing conclusions using symbols to support them. They investigated the ecology of our playground by surveying which animals and birds they could spot over a short time period. After that, they explored which substances dissolve in water. They wrote up their experiments using checklists, comparing their results with their initial predictions.



Orange Class have been learning about different types of relationships as part of our RSHP curriculum. We started by looking at friendships before moving on and looking at lots of different types of families. We have been showing what good friends we are with each other and with pupils around the school.



As part of a recent assembly, Orange Class prepared a short survey on Rights Respecting School Award.







Children have the right to an education.

# Green Class

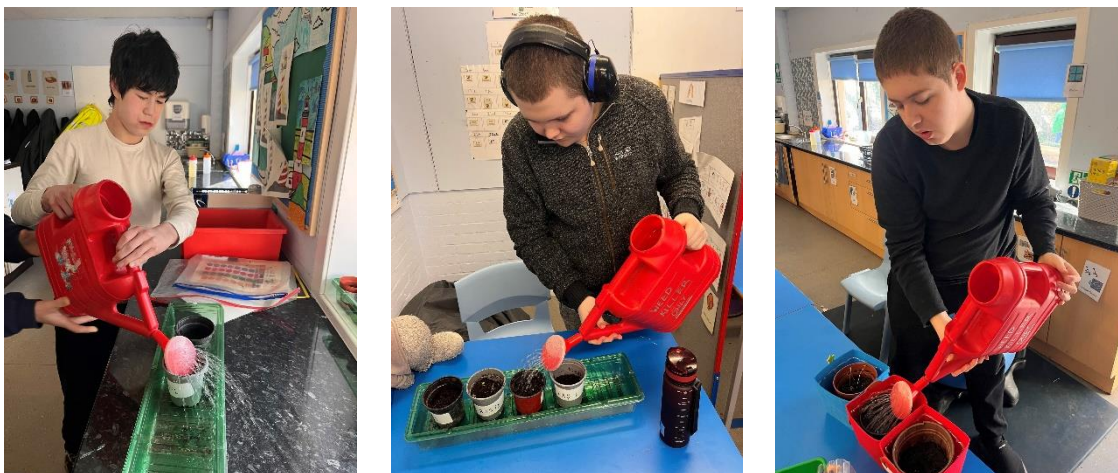
As part of the work that Green Class were doing for their SQA “Working with Animals” they visited 5 Sisters Zoo. We took part in their school curriculum activity, “A Bears Picnic”. We used the posters we had made in class to share our knowledge of what bears like to eat. We then prepared food buckets for them picking out the right foods for their diets. Green Class picked lots of fruit and vegetables for the bears and we took the food buckets down to their hibernation area. We spent the rest of morning enjoying walking through the zoo and looking at all of the different animals we could spot. Below are a few of our favourites.



In Maths, Green Class have been learning about different types of measurement this term. We explored using the balance scales to find heavy/light objects – checking if the scales were up or down. The pupils picked things they wanted to weigh and experimented trying to make the scales heavier on one side. We made a poster to order the weight of different objects from light to heavy. We also used measuring cups to weigh flour and salt to make some spring animal decorations!



For English, Green Class have been studying and learning to follow different types of instructions for their SQA “Using Information Texts”. We decided to grow a herb garden in our classroom, following instructions on how to grow and look after seeds. We worked on our reading through symbol recognition and tried to follow parts of the steps on our own, gaining more independence as our project went on!



Green Class have loved trying out different experiments for our SQA “Simple Experiments” in Science. We have explored magnets, made liquids change colour, made foaming liquids and continued our weight from our Maths lessons to make objects balance on the scales.



ICT has been a highlight for Green Class this term. We have been studying the SQA “Working with Digital Images” and learning different photo editing techniques such as using filters, adding stickers, adding text and adding signatures. The class were wonderful at remembering how to find the different techniques and had fun trying out different combinations when editing. Here are some examples of the work the created!



# Ness Class

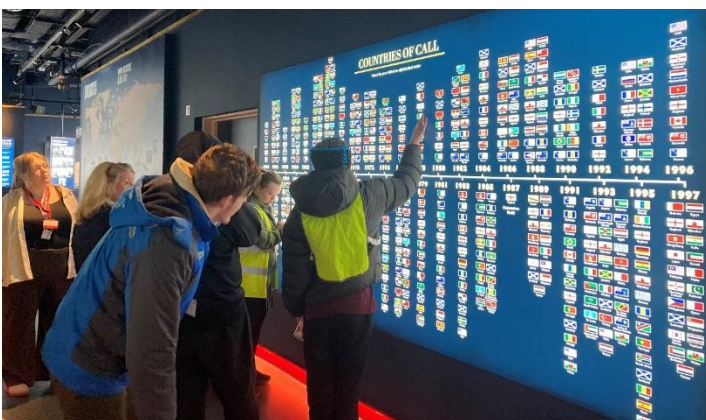
Ness Class have continued to work on various qualifications including their SQA Mentoring Award, in which they started their roles as buddies to classes from the end of January! The pupils taking part in the qualification have enjoyed supporting younger pupils in various subjects including PE, Music and Home Economics! Here are a few photos of the Ness Class Buddies in action!



In February, we worked hard on their Taskmaster Challenge which was to create a 'Helpful Box', for someone who needs support when tired, worried or needing help. We enjoyed filling our big green box with everything from a sleep mask, and some fidget toys to 'Join the dots' puzzles and a foot massager!



In March, Ness Class had a wonderful morning visiting the Royal Yacht Britannia in Whisky Quay. We learnt about all the different jobs which the staff do on the yacht and then were asked to help clean the Royal Land Rover! It was a beautiful sunny day and the views from the upper deck were stunning! The staff looked after us all so well - we all would love to go back with our families one day!





There was a peaceful afternoon one day when some of Ness Class were in the school library, enjoying looking at all the lovely books!



Ness Class had a second visit to the Royal Botanic Gardens this term, to continue their work on looking after the planters in the garden. They spent a lovely afternoon in March sunshine, planting onions and weeding some vegetable planters! All ready for spring!

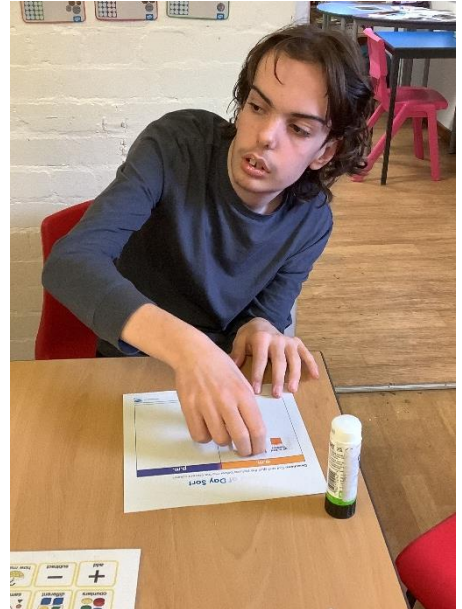
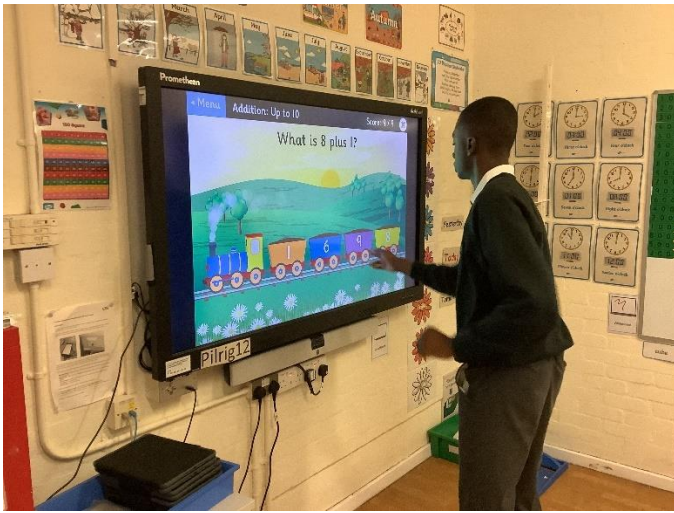


# Maths

## BGE

Pupils in S1 – S3 have been working on Early and First Level Maths.

This term has been mostly learning about Money, Fractions and Time.



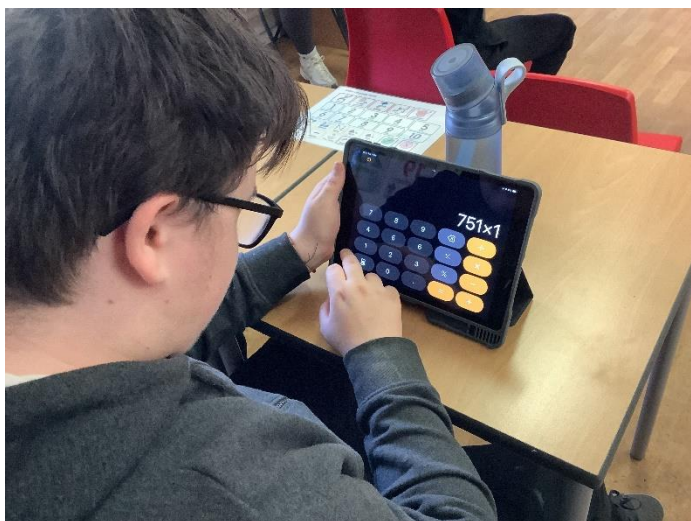
## Senior Phase

This year we have pupils in the Senior Phase completing SQA National Qualifications from National 1 Number Skills, up to National 4 Numeracy.

There has been a lot of learning about measurement. This has included measuring length, weight, volume and time. Look how tall some of the pupils are nowadays!



Pupils completing National 3 and National 4 awards have been working on calculator skills.

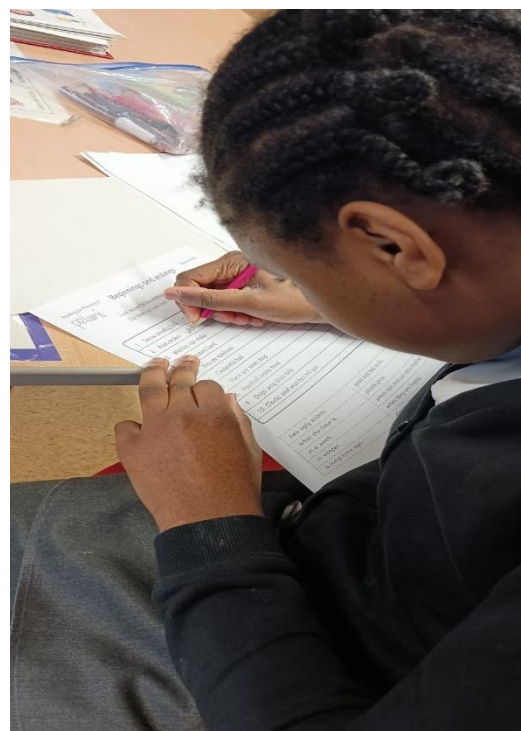


Everyone is working really hard to make sure they achieve success.

# English

## BGE

This term, the BGE learners engaged in a plethora of Literacy and English games – from spelling and matching words and phrases to storytelling, critical thinking, digital literacy and signing. This term is especially notable for the excellent collaborations amongst the learners, everyone completing work related to the Scots language, and paired reading, as well as each one of the learners appropriately vocalising and sharing their thoughts, preferences, and objections!



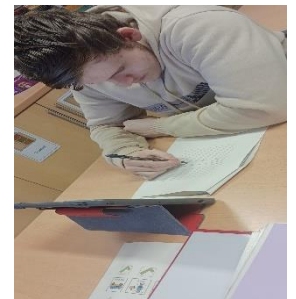
## SENIOR PHASE

The Seniors have been working tirelessly into completing their SQA NAT 4 Literacy, SQA NAT 3 Literacy and NAT 2 Creating Text with a Scottish context. From independent research and work to pair and group collaborations, this term has been their most intense yet! We are thrilled and proud that our learners keep challenging themselves and keep working towards securing their qualifications!

### SQA - NAT 4



### SQA – NAT 2 Creating Text with a Scottish Context.



### SQA – NAT 3 Literacy assessment.



### The Leavers

Relaxing in the library and playing games together.



## Social Subjects

It has been a busy and exciting term in Social Subjects across the school, with pupils engaging in a wide range of interesting topics.

Our S1 pupils have been enjoying their history topics this term, where we have been learning key vocabulary such as “now” and “long ago”. We investigated life at Edinburgh Castle and explored what life was like for the Romans. Pupils enjoyed comparing how people lived in the past to how we live today.



National 1 pupils have been having a great time comparing carnivals from around the world, as well as learning about Scottish festivals such as the Highland Games and Burns Night. Pupils particularly enjoyed looking at traditions, food, music and celebrations from different cultures.



National 2 pupils have been working very hard on their Evacuees project, learning about what happened to children during wartime and what life was like when they were sent away from their families.

National 3 pupils have been investigating slavery, both historical and modern, and have taken part in thoughtful discussions and research activities on this important topic.

Amazing work all round from our pupils this term – well done everyone!

# The Music Department

## **Choir** - Rehearsing for school show

The choir has been busy rehearsing for the school show! They have been working so hard in learning new songs and getting their singing and signing ready for 'The Greatest Show'.



## **Ukulele Club** - Up and running for the first time!

Our first ever ukulele club has been up and running this term! Pupils have been learning a range of chords and working on their very own performance at the school show.



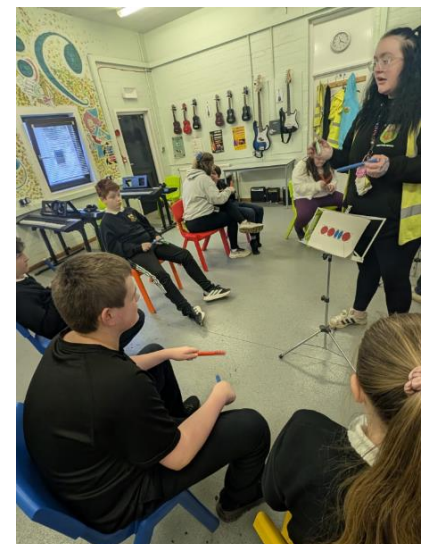
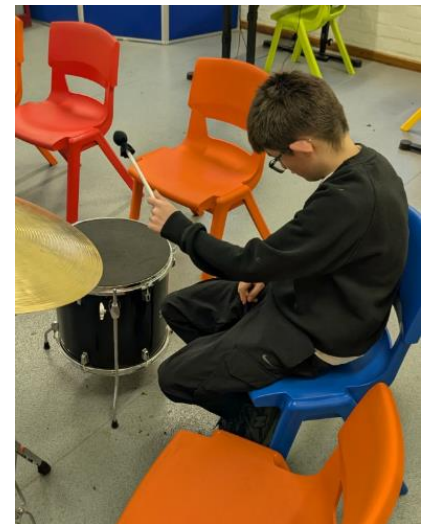
## Ness performing at assembly

Ness Class gave an amazing performance at assembly this term! They've been learning about Scottish music and performed along to the famous Scottish dance, "Strip The Willow".



## S1 – Percussion

Pink Class and White Class have been exploring percussion instruments this term and have been learning how to read Figure Notes rhythm notation.



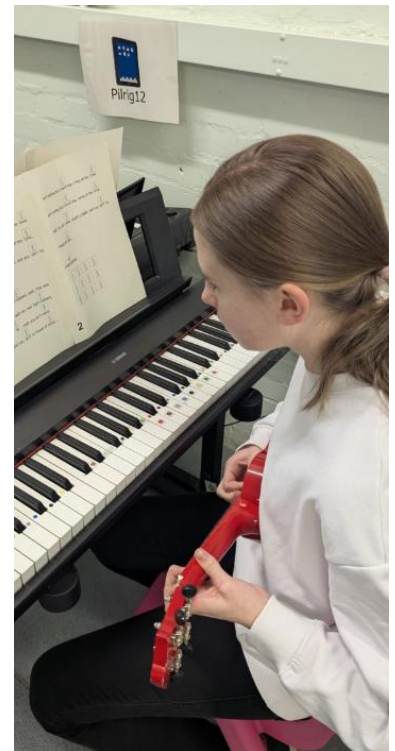
### S2/3 – Glockenspiel/Keyboard

Blue Class and Yellow Class have been learning how to use Figure Notes notation to play a variety of songs on either the glockenspiel or the keyboard! Some pupils have even been learning how to play pieces with two hands.



### S2/3 – Ukulele

Purple Class have been excelling in their ukulele skills this term! The class has now learnt to play four chords and are working on their most challenging song to date... watch this space!



# In the Art Room!



The focus for the BGE classes this past term has included Scottish Week and winter colours, using a variety of art materials and techniques.

In January, **Pink Class** and **White Class** enjoyed creating some Scottish kilts using paint and paper and then some images of Robbie Burns using oil pastel. Later in the term term, classes completed a project which was based on colour. We produced a winter scene image of trees against a very colourful background of concentric circles or lines, all handpainted!



**Blue Class** started the year by making some Scottish thistles, as part of our Scottish week theme. The pupils have been creating some enormous mosaics, inspired by pattern and colours.



**Purple Class** started the year by celebrating 2026 and painting fireworks using cut toilet tubes. They had previously masked out the numbers 2026 using special tape and then removed the tape to reveal the numbers to create a dramatic effect!

Purple Class then created some wintery townscapes, using a combination of drawing and painting techniques.



**Yellow Class** have been working on various art projects under the theme of 'winter'. The pupils created a selection of textures using bubble wrap and rollers, before creating a background for their beautiful silvery trees in the snow.

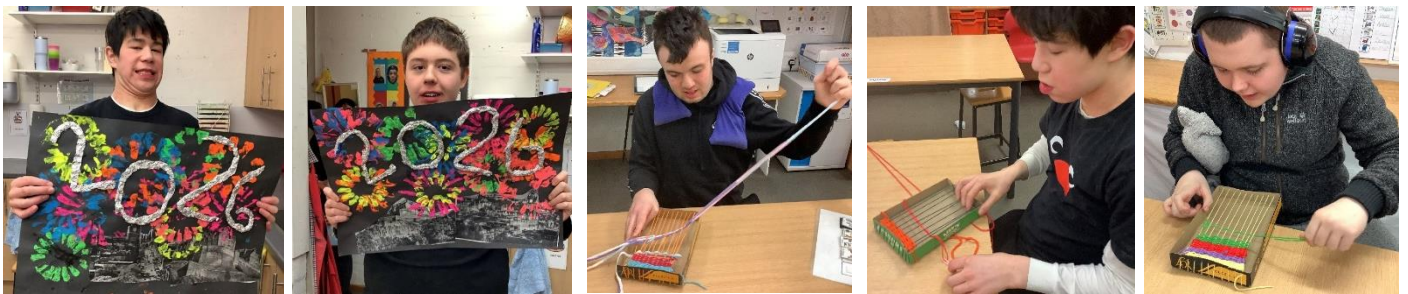


The senior pupils have been starting new projects.

**Red Class** are completing their SQA unit, 'Creating Materials for Display' and have produced some fantastic polystyrene prints as their artwork in their qualification. They drew fish designs by drawing round their hand and then carving this into the polystyrene.



**Green Class** began the year by creating some fireworks over the castle, using mixed media and some silver foil to create the numbers 2026! They are currently in the middle of their SQA 'Working with Textiles' unit and have been learning how to weave using a box, a swing needle and some wool!



**Orange Class** began their SQA Art & Design Expressive unit this term and have been learning about the art work by Georges Seurat and Van Gogh. The class had a little break from studying the artists when we made some mini Scottish people using toilet rolls! The class also worked as a group to produce some posters for our first ever Scottish café, held on the day of the ceilidh for parents and carers. Currently, the class are working on ideas for a final expressive piece of art work and have tried collage and painting techniques so far!



# P.E.

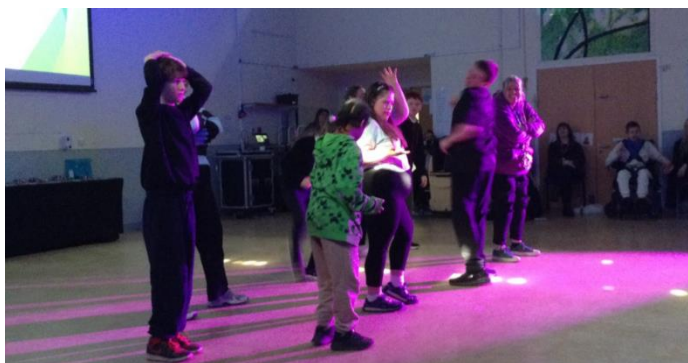
Pupils participating in PE have been developing and improving skills and techniques through practice and play in tennis, volleyball and badminton.



During wet breaks pupils played whole school dodgeball games.



White Class took part in the Dance Festival at Oaklands School, following six dance sessions run by Chloe - Edinburgh Dance House Instructor.



Nine of our pupils have been out in Pilrig Park training for the SDS National Cross Country Championships 2026, which will take place at St James Playing Field in Paisley in April.



Active Schools Volunteer Jack helps at Spartans FC.



# Home Economics

We started off the year celebrating Scotland and Robert Burns, the classes made lentil soup and oatcakes for families to have at the Ceilidh.

The vegetables for the soup were grown by the boys in Red Class at the Botanics, so they saw these from seed right through to putting them on a plate. They prepared the vegetables and popped them in the freezer ready for when the soup was being made. We also had a go at making our own tartans.



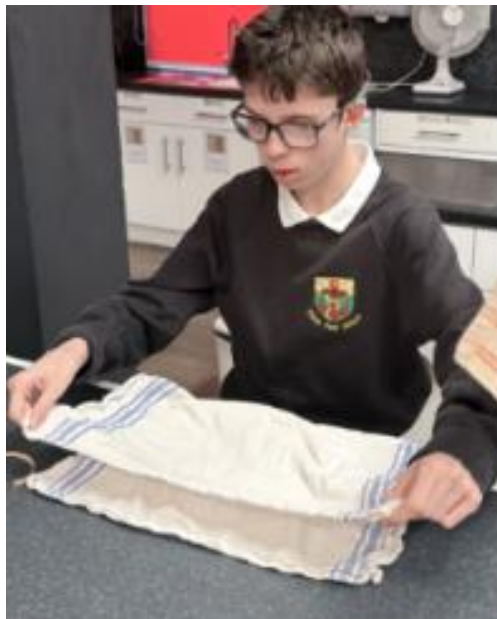
Another topic we covered with all classes was Chinese New Year. We looked at what foods are local to China, different meals and using chopsticks. Some of our pupils mastered the use of chopsticks quickly!! We made egg fried rice, chow mein and chicken noodle soup. We did some tasting too of spring rolls, won tons and prawn crackers.



We moved on to looking at different dietary needs, the most popular items made were dairy free chocolate mousse using coconut milk, and gluten-free chow mein using rice noodles and gluten free soy sauce.



Our 'This is me' cafe event on the 18th March, was our first morning event. We had were showcasing some of the work by the senior classes, the event was hosted by our pupils working on their National 2 Employability award in Hospitality. The class were also working on independent living skills. All classes helped to create biscuits for our guests to take home.



We have recently been enjoying making some Easter cookery treats and having some fun learning new skills, such as melting, crushing and measuring.

We hope you enjoy your Easter Break.



# DYW – Developing the Young Workforce



THE NATIONAL  
**ROBOTARIUM**  
PEOPLE CENTRED ■ INTELLIGENCE DRIVEN

**DYW**  
Developing the  
Young Workforce

## The National Robotarium visit

On Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> January, the school welcomed a four-legged visitor to school for the day! No, it wasn't a cat and it wasn't a dog...well, not a real dog anyway!! It was a ROBOT dog!!

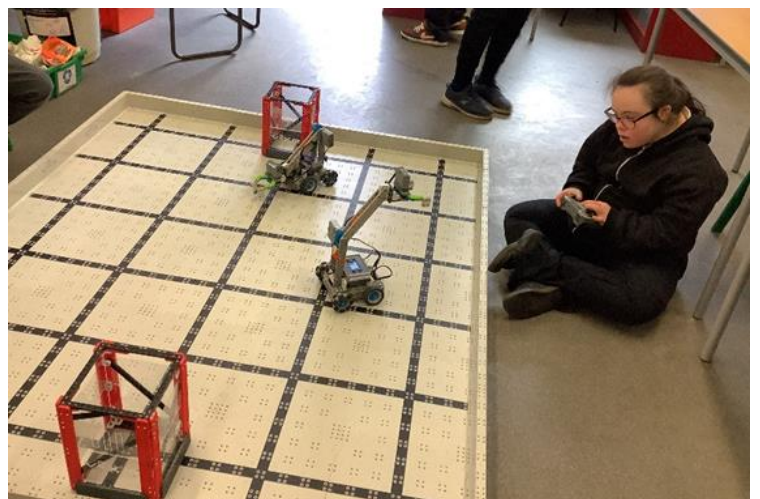
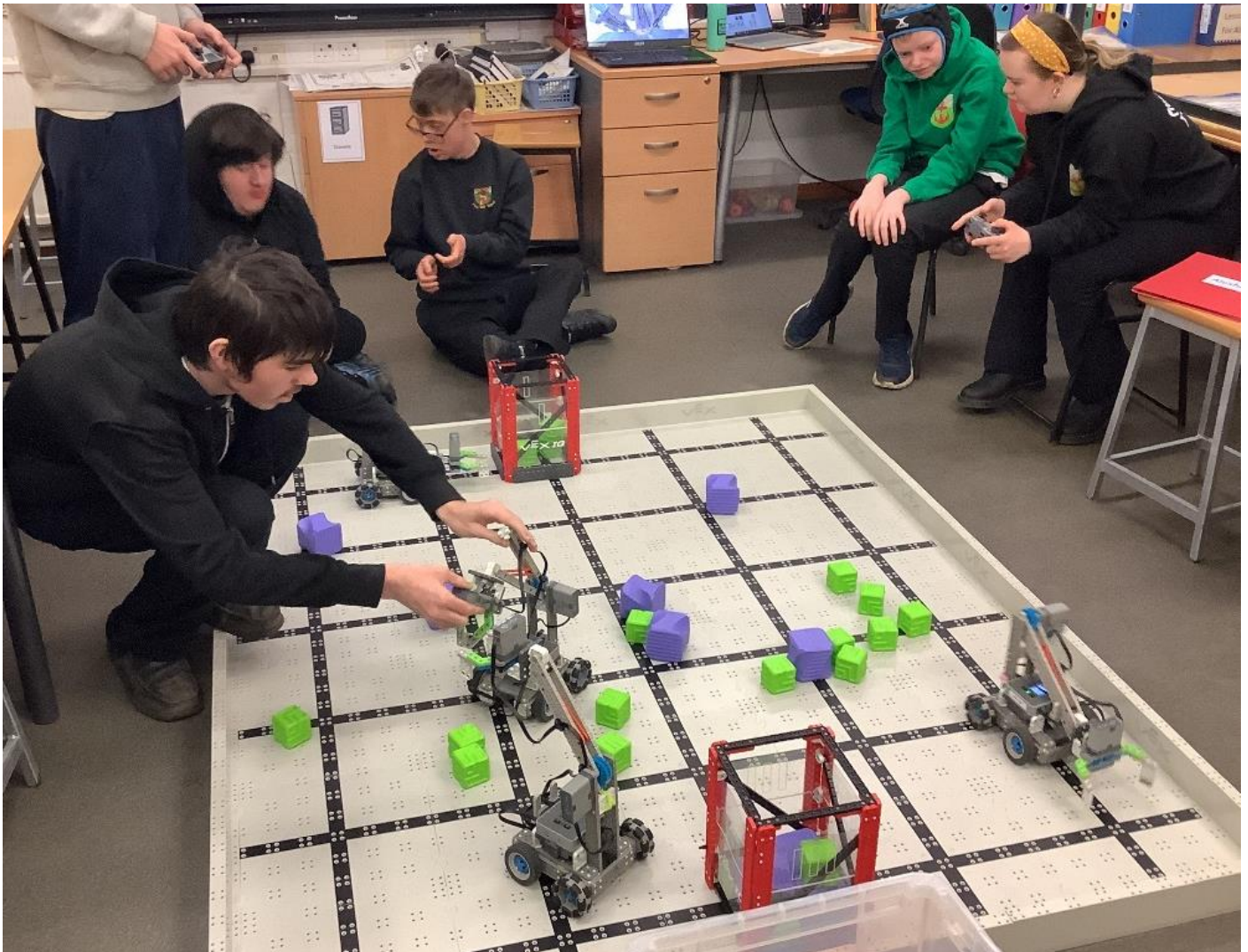
The National Robotarium in Edinburgh uses a robot dog called 'Spot', made by Boston Dynamics. It is used for research, checking industrial sites and teaching people about robotics.

The robot dog has cameras and sensors that let it see all around and create maps. It can safely explore dangerous areas, help with farming tasks and inspect building sites.



The whole school had the opportunity to meet 'Spot' and watch him walking across the classroom, lie down and even pick up a bone! Blair from the National Robotarium then let us play with some robot diggers and learn how to make the digger pick up blocks.

We had a lot of fun, especially with 'Spot' the dog!





Last session, Red Class did some work with the construction company McLeer and Rushe, organised through Developing the Young Workforce. The pupils helped to paint four large wooden birdboxes, two for our own school garden and two for Pilrig Park.

The birdboxes were varnished by McLeer and Rushe and just a few weeks ago, the boxes were brought back to school ready to be hung up in the trees. Mario from McAleer and Rushe arrived with his ladder and fixed two of the birdboxes to trees in the school garden, making sure they were in the best position for future visitors!

Red Class were out in the garden this week, inspecting their handiwork and were very proud of themselves. Hopefully, some birds will start nesting in the Spring!



We are very fortunate to have some many partners working with us, in school. Greig, from Skills Development Scotland is the new careers adviser for Pilrig Park School. Greig is mainly working with the senior pupils to help plan their post school destinations.

We welcomed Greig into school one Wednesday morning at the beginning of February and the S6s and S5 pupils all had the opportunity to get to know him a bit more, whilst having fun doing a challenge! We had to build a tower, only using paper and Sellotape – and it was a competition to see who could lame the highest tower! (Mrs Ferguson’s effort was disqualified for taping their tower base to the table – boo!!). We all had fun and everyone decided that working with Greig was good fun!



## Scran Van

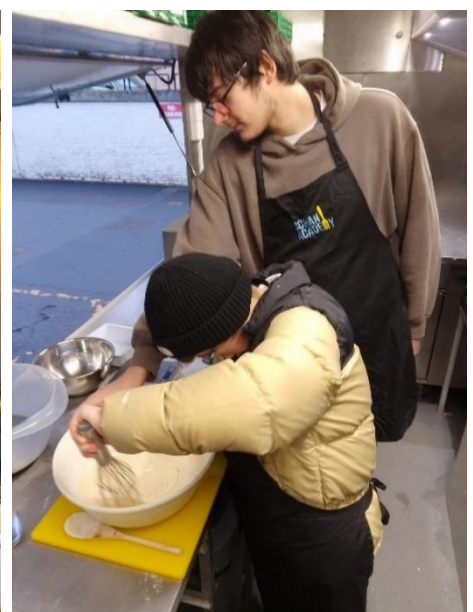
Scran Van returns to Pilrig Park!



We are loving the Scran Van being back in the school car park! This time, we were running a mentoring program. Senior pupils took on a “Kitchen Buddy” role with pupils in the junior school. This approach closely aligns with the Curriculum for Excellence Health and Wellbeing outcomes, especially in terms of building positive relationships, developing confidence, and supporting others. Additionally, the program directly supports priorities related to social development, inclusion, and pathways to employment. As the sessions progressed there was a noticeable shift in confidence, development of key transferable skills and a clear increase in willingness to try things that initially felt uncomfortable.

“The young people engaged well, developed key skills, and showed clear progress. Just as importantly, they enjoyed it, and that’s often the point where everything else starts to fall into place.”

David McVey, Head of Youth Enterprise at Scran Van





## Pupil Council



The work of the Pupil Council never stops!

Since our last update we have approved **23** Special Badges!!!

- 12 *My Big Achievement* badges
- 1 *Sports* Special badge
- 3 *School Service* Special badges
- 1 *Kindness* Special badge
- 3 *Rights Article 12* Special badges
- 3 *Environment* Special badges



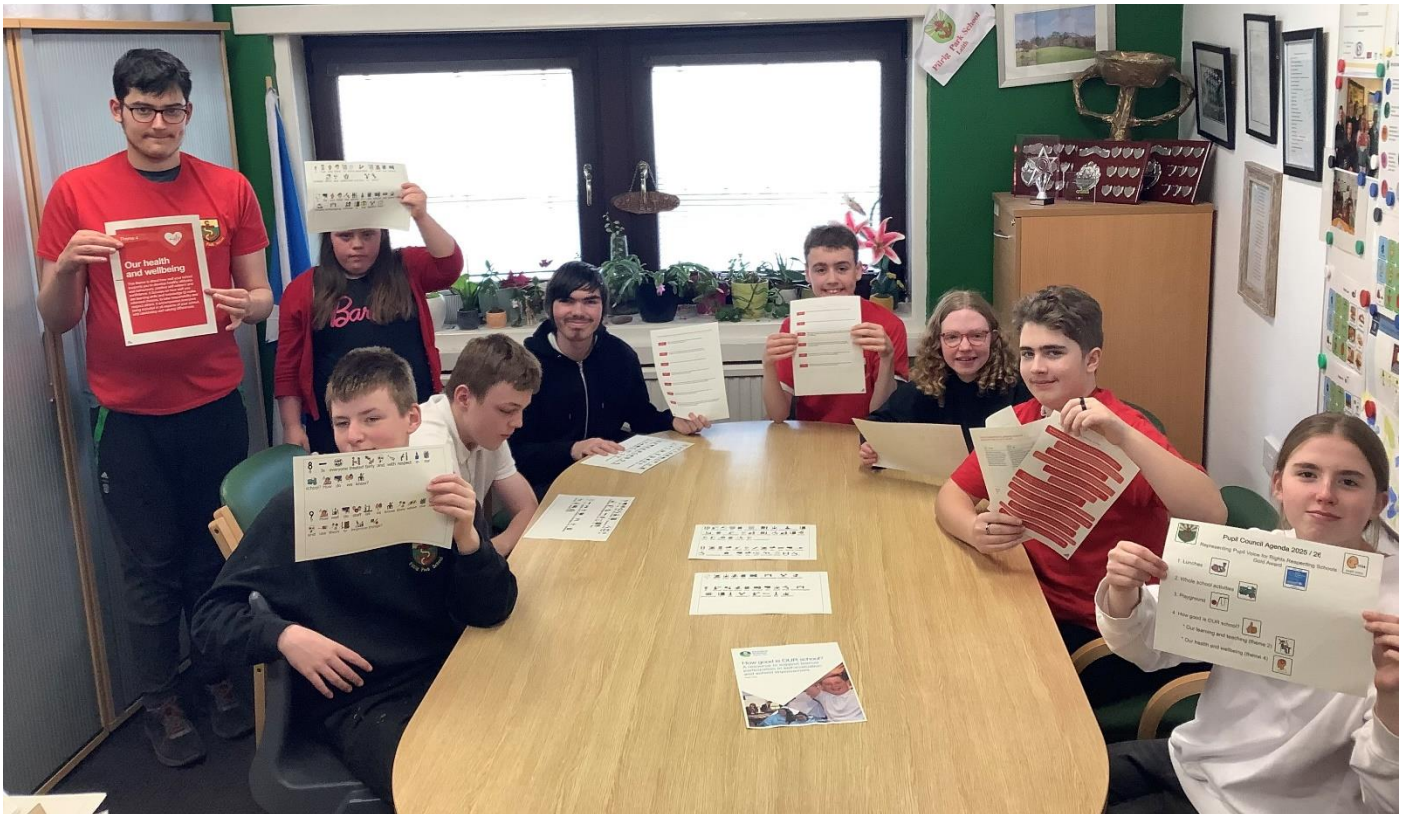
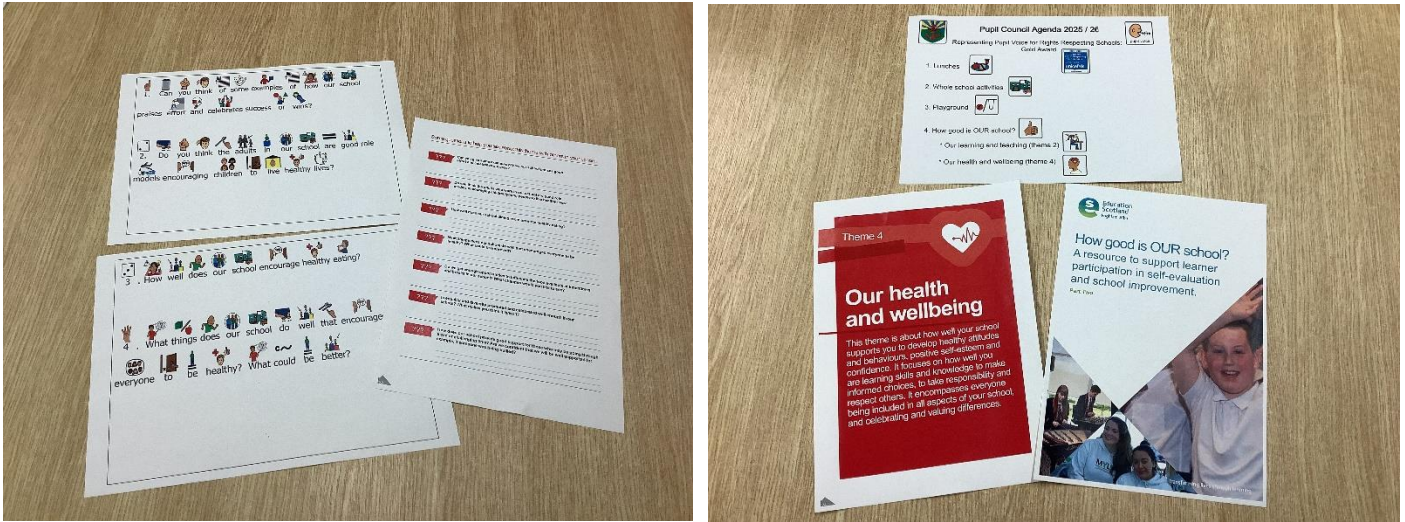
Which class will be the first to achieve all 9 Special badges and their very own Pilrig Park School **GOLD** badge?!

We have also been part of the accreditation evidence presented to UNICEF for the Rights Respecting School Gold award. We talked about our work on *Rights Article 12* Special badge and presented the Rights map which Ness Class had submitted for their badge. We can't wait to hear if we have been successful in our Gold application.



# PUPIL VOICE

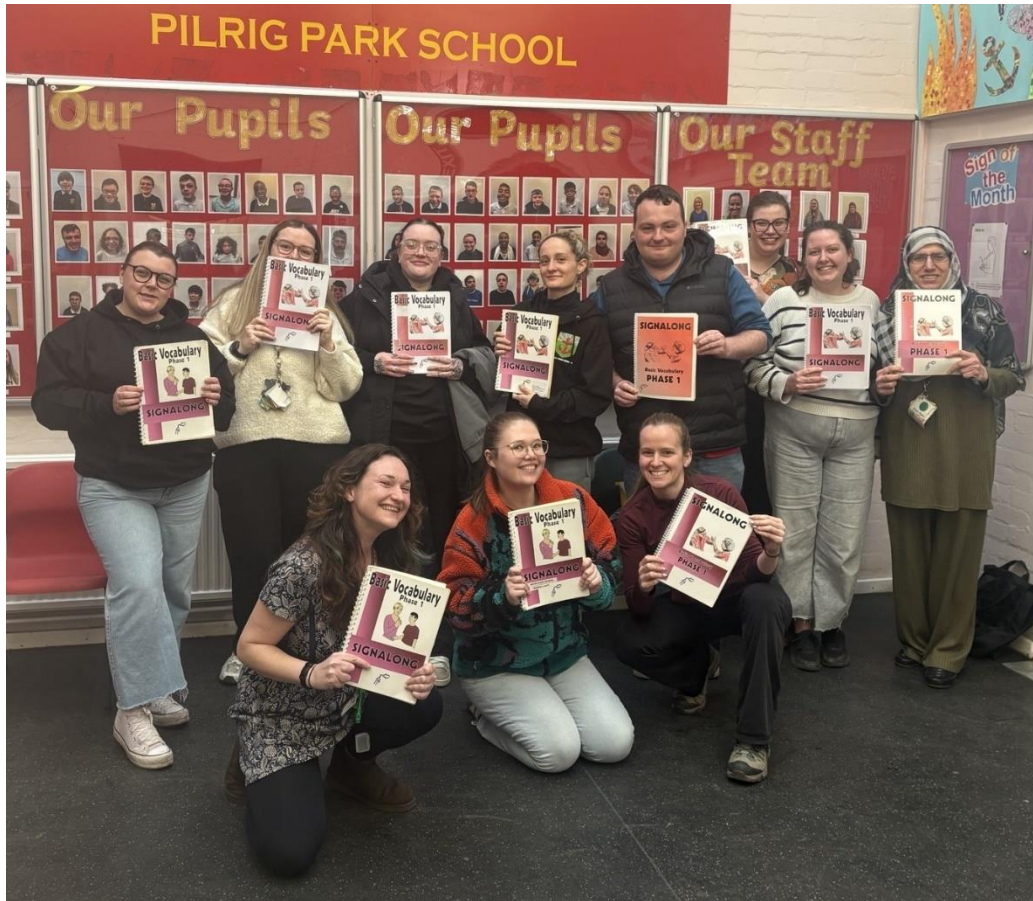
Our work is well underway with the Sports Leaders to look at Theme 4 Our Health and Wellbeing in How Good is OUR School. We are adapting the questions inside the document to make them fully inclusive and accessible for everyone in the school. Our Learning Walks will begin early next term, and we will report on the outcomes in the next newsletter and also at assembly. It is great that two different Pupil Voice groups have been able to come together to work on an important aspect of all our lives.



The Pupil Council would like to wish everyone a very happy holiday.

## Signalong

In our ongoing commitment to promoting inclusive communication, we are delighted to announce another cohort of staff trained in Signalong Level 1.



Ruth McLarty and Scott Mitchell, Principal Teachers, have also completed Talking Mats training, a framework that uses symbols to help people with communication problems express their opinion/view on a question, topic or issue.

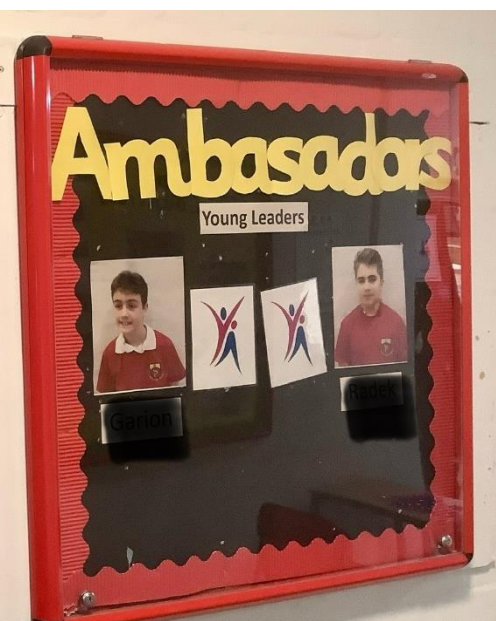
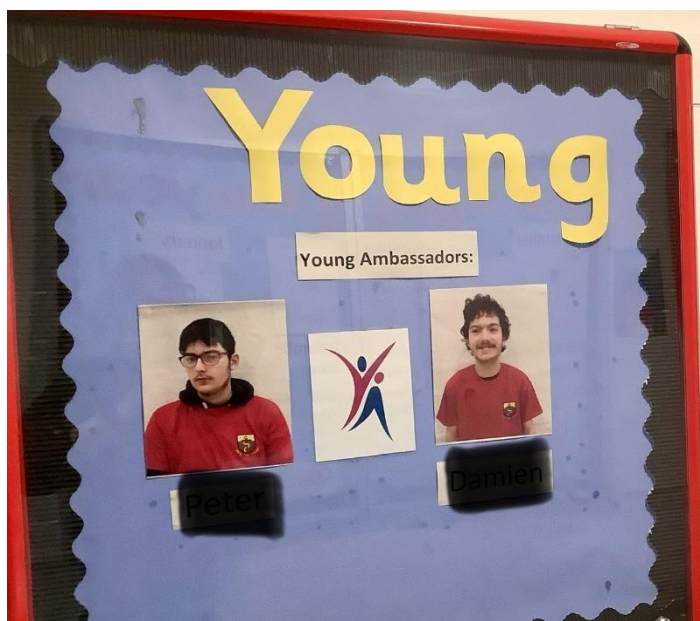


## Young Ambassadors

Young Leaders helped to organise and run sports events including a Christmas football festival, a pupil versus staff football match and basketball game, and clubs.



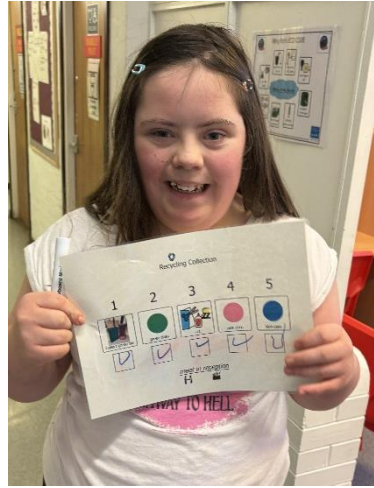
Young Leaders demonstrated Scottish dances at Pilrig Park Ceilidh.



## Eco Committee

### Recycling

Our first years, White Class, have really got into the swing of recycling and require very little adult support on their Wednesday afternoon recycling collection around school.



Other classes also enjoy getting involved and helping to ensure we are recycling as much as possible.



### Composting

Green Class have continued to carry out the composting on behalf of the school on a weekly basis with some help from Red Class. Every week pupils collect the compost bins from each class, empty them, wash them, and deliver them back to classes.



## Water of Leith Litter Picking

Red Class and Orange Class were lucky enough to take part in one of the Water of Leith Visitor Centre's Education programmes this term, with their staff members Ruth and Laura. The classes took part in three walks together around the local area and along the Water of Leith learning about the history and wildlife of the area. Our final walk was a litter pick and the whole group were involved in collecting as much litter as possible on our walk. The photo below shows how much litter they collected! I think you'll agree the efforts of the pupils will have made an enormous difference to the safety of the local wildlife and a much prettier walk along the water.



## ASDAN – Outdoor Learning

The S3s have been learning about recycling as part of their ASDAN qualification. As part of our project, we made posters out of recyclable materials. Pupils chose fabric, plastic, or newspaper. Their patchwork designs turned out amazing!



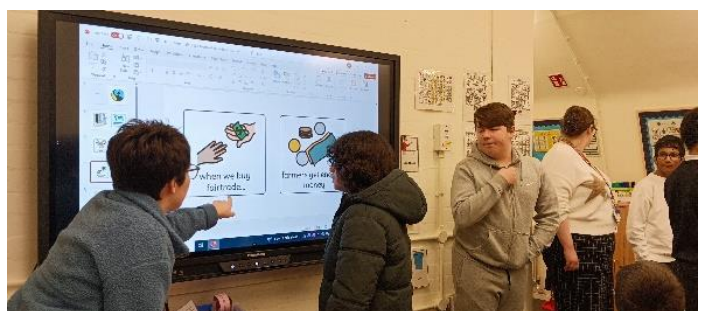
## Fairtrade

This year, Purple Class and Pink Class have been learning about Fairtrade.

Under the guidance of Ms. Reid and Ms. Karefylakis, the learners have developed a solid understanding on the positive impact of choosing Fairtrade products, and how it benefits both the producers and the consumers.

The pupils have been visiting the Pilrig Park School tutor groups, teaching their friends about Fairtrade, as well as singing and signing a special song!

Shhhh! It's a surprise to be revealed in the next assembly!



## Rights Respecting School

### Rights Respecting Gold Award - Update

We are delighted to share an exciting update on our Rights Respecting Schools Award (RRSA) journey. Our Gold application has now been officially submitted, and we welcomed our assessment visit on the 4th of March. We are thrilled to report that it went extremely well!

Mrs Ferguson and Ms McLarty would like to extend a huge thank you to all pupils, parents/carers, and staff who contributed to making the visit such a success. Your enthusiasm, commitment, and teamwork truly shone through and made us incredibly proud.

We are now eagerly awaiting the outcome and will share the news with everyone as soon as we hear. For now, we wait with bated breath!



Our local campaign, “Our Voice, Our Community,” continues to go from strength to strength. We are proud to announce that two local businesses—Sea Breeze Café and Stories the Bakers—are now fully signed up to support inclusive communication within their premises. If you have the opportunity, please pop in and experience this for yourself by using an aided language board to place your order, as well as area symbols to help navigate the space.

Back in school, our RRSA journey remains as engaging as ever. Classes are continuing to take part in our monthly Children’s Rights Taskmaster challenges, which are closely linked to our school values. The competition is fierce each month, making it incredibly difficult for the Taskmaster to choose a winner!

Thank you once again for your ongoing support.

Stay tuned for more updates as our RRSA journey continues!



## Outdoor Learning

### Outdoor learning opportunity with Bangholm Outdoor Centre

Some of our pupils are currently taking part in an eight-week outdoor learning programme ran in conjunction with Pete and Richard from Bangholm Outdoor Centre. As you will see from the photos, a great time is being had by all, at the same time as developing some very important skills. Activities have included:

- An introduction into fire skills using a flint and steel to light cottonwool and start a fire while getting to know each other around the campfire. Everyone made and helped cook a cheese toastie and hot chocolate which was a massive success with cries for a second!
- Walking up through community woodland and seeing chickens on the way - it was fun seeing the chickens interact with us and each other. We played and chilled at a fallen down tree, collected our best sticks and before leaving we went to the loch to see the ducks.
- As a progression of fire skills, going over man made and natural ways to light fires, getting an ember and blowing it to life to create a fire. Finishing off with making smores and hot chocolate.
- Waking out to Cramond Island, battling the wind and nature to get a photo next to the old buildings and exploring a wild place.



# PUPIL VOICE



# The Leavers

The 'S6 leavers' are in the process of creating their very own Yearbook, full of memories and photos and will be issued to each leaver at the end of June.

The class have all been in control of choosing the articles to feature in the Yearbook, and they have been very busy creating, writing and editing the content!



At our whole school assembly in February, we shared a little of what is in the Yearbook, and gave everyone a sneak preview of the joke page and the 'Guess the leaver' page!

In the next few weeks, the leavers will be planning their end of term celebrations, and we all look forward to making their last few months in Pilrig Park School, very special indeed!



**3.**

**2.**

Finally, we would like to ask staff for a baby photo for our Yearbook!

The Friends of Pilrig Park School will be taking part in the Tesco Stronger Starts scheme. Running from April 28<sup>th</sup> until the end of July, every time you purchase an item in Tesco you can vote for Friends of Pilrig Park School using the blue tokens. The project with the highest vote will receive £1500, Second place will receive £1000, and third place will receive £500. Please support us by using your blue tokens to vote for us and feel free to tell family and friends!! The funds will go towards supporting the breakfast fruit and cereal bars school supply. The participating stores are :

Broughton Road Superstore, EH7 4EW  
Nic Street express, EH8 9EW  
Edinburgh Express, EH8 7NG  
Leith Walk express, EH7 5HW  
Foot of the Walk express, EH6 5DT  
Causewayside express, EH9 1PR  
Earl Grey Street express, EH3 9BN  
Great Junction Street express, EH6 5LJ  
Picardy Place express, EH1 3JT  
Edinburgh South express, EH1 1LS  
Edinburgh Fount express, EH3 9QG  
Edinburgh Leith Superstore, EH6 8HL  
Holyrood express, EH8 8AU  
Princess Street express, EH2 4BL  
Edinburgh Dundas express, EH3 6JN  
Ocean Terminal express, EH6 6JJ



[https://www.justgiving.com/page/ruthmclarty?utm\\_source=IG](https://www.justgiving.com/page/ruthmclarty?utm_source=IG)

On Sunday the 24<sup>th</sup> of May, Miss McLarty will be taking part in the Edinburgh half marathon. She has very kindly said she will raise money for our charity. Any funds raised through her efforts will go towards purchasing items for the playground. We would like to get outdoor Bongo drums and a set of outdoor chimes. Please check out our Just Giving Page. Any donations would be greatly appreciated. We wish Miss McLarty lots of luck and hope her legs are not too sore afterwards!! KEEP RUNNING MISS MCLARTY.

Our work this term has also included a donation of £500 to the school for their purchase of more *Special badges* and Headteacher certificates as part of the school's whole – school celebrating success strategy. Maybe one day the Friends of Pilrig Park School will be successful in achieving one of the infamous *Gold Badges*!



Friends of Pilrig Park have been applying for funding for the year ahead. We hope to find funding for The Scran Van, Music Therapy, The Yard and support the school with any requests for trips or equipment.



## The Charitable Trust of the Society of High Constables of Edinburgh

In March, *The Friends of Pilrig Park School*, were delighted to accept a cheque for £1000 from the Charitable Trust of the Society of High Constables of Edinburgh. Richard and Angus, two of the High Constables from Ward III, visited the school to present the cheque to Lesley and Kath from *The Friends of Pilrig Park School*.



**“The Trustees of the Charitable Trust of the Society of High Constables of Edinburgh are delighted to present a cheque for £1000 to *The Friends of Pilrig Park School*. This donation to be used towards supporting education for secondary school pupils experiencing long-term complex additional support needs from S1 to S6. The teachers, carers and parents in this fantastic, supportive environment, endeavour to provide pupils at Pilrig Park School with equal opportunities to that of their peers in Edinburgh’s mainstream schools.**

Possible uses for the donation, could be towards a trip to the risk factory, Blair Drummond Safari Park or for Music Therapy, provided by Nordoff Robbins or SCRAN Academy cooking sessions on the SCRAN van.

It is a great pleasure to present this £1000 cheque today to *The Friends of Pilrig Park School*.

Thank you.

**The Trustees of the Charitable Trust of the Society of High Constables of Edinburgh and Ward III, of The Society of High Constables of Edinburgh”**

Ms O’Hagan had great pleasure in thanking Richard and Angus for visiting the school and their extremely kind and generous donation: “I would like to say a massive thank you to the trustees of the Charitable Trust of the Society of High Constables of Edinburgh and Ward III for your extremely kind donation of £1000. I cannot begin to tell you what a difference this will make to the wider opportunities which we are able to offer to our wonderful pupils”. She presented them with **gold** Headteacher awards and badges, along with a badge and certificate to take back to Matt the treasurer of The Society of High Constables of Edinburgh.

You can now follow the charity on Instagram @friendsofpps.

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

## **Parent Council**



**Your friendly Parent Council has been busy in the background, and we have some exciting news to share!**

**We are delighted to let you know that the Parent Council is funding new lighting equipment for the school. These lights will be used for school shows and discos, helping to create a more professional experience for our pupils and making things a little easier for staff organising these events. We are especially looking forward to seeing them in action at the school summer show — because there's no business like Pilrig Park School show business!**

**Behind the scenes, we are also taking care of some of the less exciting (but important) banking and admin tasks.**

**We would love for you to join us at our next Parent Council meeting, which will be held online on TEAMS from 5.00 – 6.00pm on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> April.**

**You are very welcome to drop in for part or all the meeting,**

**There are no fundraising or jobs to take on! There is no pressure to speak unless you would like to. You can keep your camera and microphone off if you prefer. Just come along, listen in, and get a feel for what we talk about.**

**The school will send out the meeting link on the day. If you need any help with technology to join, please contact the school or the Parent Council and we will be happy to help.**

**We hope to see you then.**

**Hugh, Craig and Aicha**

**[pilrigparkparentcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:pilrigparkparentcouncil@gmail.com)**

Here are some photos of us opening the show lights with Ness class. They are FABULOUS! Will make such a difference for our shows for many years to come. 😊



**A massive thank you to the Parent Council!**



# Our School Values

