



Pilrig Park School



Sunshine in Leith

June 2026

A very warm welcome to our final newsletter for this session! It is another bumper edition! From an Easter Egg hunt, to a great show, to the choir performing at The Hub, to Sports Day Mr McPhillips has once again done a fabulous job of putting together all the exciting opportunities our pupils take part in for you to enjoy. Thank you!

We are excited to not only share with you news from Tutor Classes and curriculum areas, but we are very proud to share with you the external awards we have been successful in achieving and the individual successes celebrated at our end of year Celebration of Achievements assembly which took place this week. As well as cheers, there have been tears. Our final assembly for this session was for our Leavers. It seems like only yesterday that an S1 Stephen was interviewing me as part of the Head Teacher recruitment process. His question was all about what I would do to change the lunches in the school! I have thoroughly enjoyed working with him as part of the Pupil Council to make those changes happen. I wish Stephen and all our other Leavers all the very best for the exciting new adventures that they are about to embark on. They will be missed incredibly.

I hope you enjoy reading an article from a guest reporter – Rosa! Rosa represents young people with Additional Support Needs as a Young Inclusion Ambassador for the charity Children in Scotland. She has had a busy year travelling by train and taxi to Glasgow and Edinburgh for very important meetings, supported by one of our Pupil Support Workers, April.

I am sure my favourite picture of this term will bring a wee smile to your face! As part of the choir's performance of *This is Me* at The Hub, Mr Mitchell and Mr Cuddy put together a music video (with contributions from all the staff) which was shown as the choir performed. As the Christmas Tree and Easter Egg are very much part of the Pilrig Family, we had to make sure they were included too!! Natalie and April were quite surprised by how hot it can get inside those costumes!

On behalf of all the staff and myself, we would like to wish our school community a relaxing summer holiday. Thank you for all the support you have shown to the staff throughout the year. It has been our pleasure to work in partnership with you for your young people.

Take care, stay safe and we look forward to welcoming all the pupils back to school on **Wednesday 12th August**.

With every best wish,

Ms Ann M. O'Hagan
Proud Head Teacher



The close contenders when choosing my favourite photo of this term!

PSW Ashleigh going above and beyond to help Ms Currie with filming for Drama Orange Class. She held up this green screen for about half an hour so Ms Currie could get the angle right!!



Very excited staff proudly showing off the Saroj Lal award – have we mentioned for the second year running?!!

The Christmas Tree and her cousin The Easter Egg arriving at the school for filming of the This is Me music video!



A very excited Ms Vennelle and Peter in the taxi back from winning senior Future chef!

Mr McPhillips so excited with his medal from the staff bowling night that he decided to wear it to school so he could tell the pupils all about his success!



Me and my trusty Irn Bru umbrella were ready for rain that was forecasted at Sports Day!



The Greatest Show

The Greatest Show - Summer Show

This term we had our summer show 'The Greatest Show' and what a show it was! The pupils showcased their breadth of talents and creative abilities. Our lead characters were absolutely fabulous in delivering their lines and making us all laugh throughout.



We had live performances from the school choir, Red Class, the ukulele club and Stephen from Ness Class. Every class took part in creating the movie, each representing a different act to bring to the show. We had acrobats, fire breathers, ribbon dancers, country dancers, dancing animals, figure skaters, hula hoopers, a Scottish march, and even for the first time, mime artists!





Well done and thank you to all involved, and a special thank you to Miss Currie for her support with the script. Roll on next year!



We also received the following 5 Star review from one of our wonderful audience/parents.

The Greatest Show – Pilrig Park School ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

A wonderfully clever, funny and, at times, moving production from Pilrig Park School. The emotions and narrators were brilliant, and the audience were relieved to see even Boredom perked up in the end. Although I was worried I'd have nightmares after Dillan's very convincing portrayal of Anger.

The biscuits on arrival set the scene for what was, throughout, a triumph of pupils' personalities and abilities. Ably supported by their crew of dedicated script writers, costume department, tech, choreographers and Mr Cuddy, the one-man orchestra.

The practice, preparation, care and attention put into the performance shone nearly as brightly as the new lighting. Once again Pilrig Park School staff show the world how you create the conditions for the kids to have the limelight and be as successful and independent as possible.

The soundtrack was expertly chosen, with the Firestarter clip featuring the fire eating a particular highlight. Delightfully chaotic and brilliantly contrasted with scenes from the elegant ballet dancers and the skilled acrobats.

The ukulele club's rendition of Hound Dog was an inspired choice that had the audience smiling and tapping their toes throughout. The choir shone under the glittering new stage lights, sounding every bit as impressive as they looked.

We all loved rocking out to Don't Stop Me Now. Queen would have coveted their electric stage presence and even more electric wigs.

Overall, this was a creative, confident and entertaining show packed with heart, humour and talent. Five stars - a must-see!

Aicha Reid, Chief Correspondent
Flossie's Front Row Reviews

PILRIG PARK NEWS

The Saroj Lal Award for Edinburgh Schools 2026



SAROJ LAL

At the Edinburgh International Festival Hub on Thursday 11th June Pilrig Park School was named, for the second year running (!), the 2026 winner of The Saroj Lal Award for Edinburgh Schools in the category “Proud To Be Me”. Miss Morrison and Mrs Ferguson entered the school into the competition for the whole-school work on our theme for the year – “This is ME!” – which included our sing, swing, sign choir.



We are absolutely delighted to receive this very special award and what made the evening even more special was that members of our school choir opened the award ceremony with their renditions of Reach and This is me, to a crowd of nearly 300! Not only did we receive a standing ovation, but we made the national news! <https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/26188004.edinburgh-pupils-staff-honoured-diversity-champions/>



UNICEF Rights Respecting School - GOLD

It's official! We are a Gold UNICEF Rights Respecting School!!!

Thank you SO much to all the staff, pupils and parents/carers who have contributed to our journey to achieve this over the past few years. We are immensely proud.



What an amazing end to the year!

Eco-Schools Scotland Green Flag RETAINED!

All the hard work of Ms Wheat, Ms Currie, The Eco Committee and White Class has paid off – we have retained our Green Flag!

Our assessment feedback stated:

“I have very much enjoyed reading through your journey. You have worked really hard on your wide-ranging actions to make your school a more environmentally friendly place to be. Well done!”



I hope you enjoy reading more about all the work in the Pupil Voice section later on.

SportScotland Gold Award

In May, we were delighted to be informed that we have been awarded for the second time the SportScotland Gold School Sport Award. The Gold School Sport Award is recognition of our achievements in putting sport at the heart of our school's planning, practice and ethos.

Over the past two years, since proudly achieving the Sports Gold Award in 2024, we have continued to build on this success by delivering an ambitious, inclusive and inspiring programme of sport, health and fitness opportunities for every pupil across our school community. Our unwavering commitment to promoting active, healthy lifestyles remains central to our ethos and we were delighted to showcase the breadth and impact of the activities we now offer, in our recent application.



As stated in our accreditation report by sportscotland: “The Gold Award highlights that your school has shown excellent practice across the core areas of the Award and demonstrated an on-going commitment to increase young people’s opportunities and engagement in physical education, school sport and leadership and provide clear pathways to life-long participation in sport”

At Pilrig Park School, we remain fully committed to providing high-quality sporting experiences and promoting healthy, active lifestyles for every pupil. It is a joy to see how these opportunities enrich wellbeing and contribute to the positive ethos that permeates throughout Pilrig Park School.

Sincere thanks to our Active School Co-ordinator, our friends at Edinburgh Leisure and all the sporting partnerships that have helped us on our journey to Gold. We can’t wait to receive our new Gold flag!

Well done to Mr T and all the staff and pupils who worked tirelessly to put together our application.





BREAKING NEWS!!!

We interrupt your usual reading to bring you an important announcement from our correspondent and Young Inclusion Ambassador Rosa!

“Hello everyone, and welcome to The Crannie Community hub in Edinburgh - the chosen location for this sessions Young Inclusion Ambassadors Conference for *Children in Scotland*.

Over the past year I have had the privilege of being Pilrig Park School’s young inclusion ambassador for the *Children in Scotland* charity after my predecessor moved on to pastures new.

Junior correspondent Ms Forsyth and I have travelled between Glasgow and Edinburgh, where we have attended four conferences over the past year.



As an inclusion ambassador I get to take part in important discussions regarding topics such as exams, transitions, what success looks like for pupils with additional support needs and the school environment with the aim of reducing the stigma around additional support needs and additional support for learning. It is hoped that by sharing our experiences we can influence and improve the experiences pupils with additional support needs face.



During these conferences I have met many wonderful students from all over Scotland some of whom have travelled from beautiful places such as Troon in the west and as far north as Banff.



If you would like to know more about the hard work we have done over the past few years you can find it here [Children in Scotland](#)

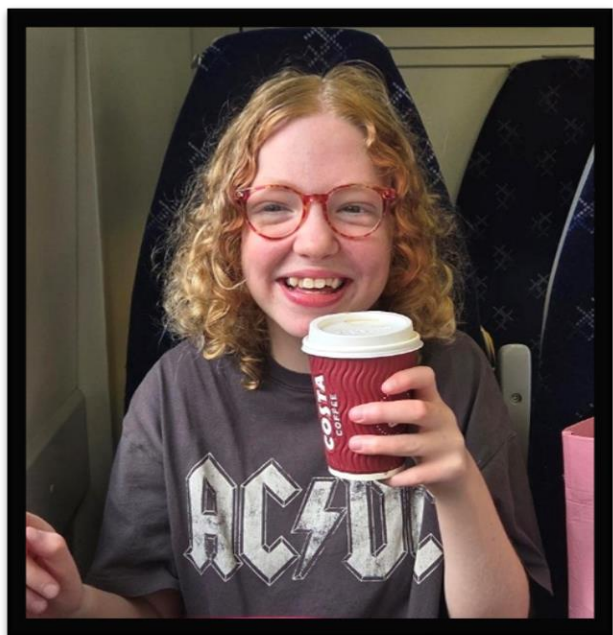


As for now, I am signing off for the summer and cannot wait for the next conference. Rosa @ PPS News - Ms Forsyth bring me my tea!!"

Challenging inequality and leading change

A report on the work of the Inclusion Ambassadors from 2020-21

Parisa Shirazi, Chris Ross, The Inclusion Ambassadors



White Class

STEM Day/DYW Week

White Class had so much fun during STEM day and DYW week. They particularly enjoyed being “arrested” by the police and making their own music video with Kevin.

We loved singing and dancing to Taylor Swift and BTS.



Maths

In Maths, we have focussed on data handling and measurement. This term, we have created and carried out our own surveys, made graphs, measured ourselves and different objects with non standard units of measure and explored capacity by estimating, filling and emptying different containers.



White Class loved using the water trays!



White Class have had a wonderful final term of the school year. As they prepare for S2 after the summer, I am so proud of how much they have achieved during their first year at Pilrig Park School. Pupils in White Class have built excellent relationships with their peers and staff, are now experts in following class routines and expectations and have had a fun year of learning and making new friends. I cannot wait to see how much they achieve in S2 after the summer.

Well done White Class!



Pink Class

Pink Class have had an excellent final term of their first year at Pilrig Park School. We enjoyed our well-earned cinema trip, supported by The Rotary Club. We went to see Super Mario Galaxy as part of our ASDAN work learning about amenities in our local community. Afterwards, we reviewed the film, sharing our favourite characters, scenes and giving it a star rating out of five. It was a lovely experience to see how well Pink Class have bonded as friends this year.



For our last topic of the year, Pink Class were given a choice between space or forces after watching videos and reading stories related to each. We voted overwhelmingly to learn about space and have enjoyed finding out about the different planets in our solar system using iPads to help us. We learned about the skills astronauts need and what kind of tasks they undertake in space. We packed our own astronaut bags, considering what we would need to take if we were going to space. Pupils had some great ideas, including taking a space suit, a first aid kit, a friend, and a gaming console!

In Literacy, we have enjoyed reading fiction and non-fiction texts about our class topic. Through this, we are beginning to recognise the different features of each, such as illustrations in a fiction book and photographs in a non-fiction book. Using video footage from outer space as a stimulus, we created our own book about space. We used the sentence starter 'I see...' and each built a sentence, using an aided language board of key space words to support. We used the Smartboard to select a suitable picture to go with our sentence, making our book more exciting and accessible. We read the story 'To Catch a Star' and wrote instructions for using our own star traps, selecting time connectives and verbs from an aided language board.

In Maths, we have focused on information handling and measurement this term. In information handling, we sorted objects into categories to create pictograms from a given set of data. We also asked questions to collect our own data, such as asking which Super Mario character is preferred from a choice of two. Through songs and visuals, we started to use tally marks to record our data. For measurement, we have been using different equipment to measure length, weight and volume. We particularly enjoyed having a long jumping competition and using our measuring skills in a practical context! We are also getting very good at showing different volumes quickly using water bottles and a tray of water.

In Health and Wellbeing, we have been focusing on the NSPCC programme, learning how to stay safe and speak out if something is wrong. We have engaged really well with all of the material, making the classroom a safe space to share our thoughts and feelings. We have also continued our work on friendships, identifying different strategies to fix a friendship problem, such as giving personal space, saying sorry, or seeking further support.

Pink Class have had a fantastic first year at Pilrig Park School and are excited for a well-deserved rest over the Summer holidays. We're looking forward to seeing everyone back in August!



Blue Class

What a fantastic term it has been in Blue Class! The class have had an exciting and busy few months, and the Blue Class staff team are very proud of the progress the learners have made this year.

This term our topic has been 'Space'. The class explored this through a range of games, crafts and practical activities. We learned the names of the planets and some facts about each of them. We also learned their order in the solar system, and the class did a great job remembering and sequencing them!

We also learned some space-themed signs, including *rocket*, *moon*, *stars* and *astronaut*, and created a piece of artwork inspired by a story we read in class. The class created a night sky using paint and sponges to form the moon and toothbrushes to create a starry effect. The learners added astronauts using paper plates, tinfoil and photographs of themselves. We explored constellations, learning their names and recognising them, before choosing one to recreate using craft materials.



In Social Subjects, we focused on our local community and famous landmarks in Edinburgh. The class enjoyed playing landmark bingo and were fantastic at identifying landmarks in a game where images were gradually revealed.

In Science, we carried out a volcano experiment linked to our learning in Social Subjects, where we discovered that Arthur's Seat was once a volcano. Inspired by this, Blue Class created papier-mâché volcanoes using recycled plastic bottles and newspaper. The class worked very hard to paint their models, before measuring and mixing vinegar, food colouring, dish soap and bicarbonate of soda. The resulting eruptions were met with great excitement and were a real success.



In April, Blue Class took part in a fantastic Developing the Young Workforce (DYW) skills week. Some highlights were the opportunity to fly drones, which the class thoroughly enjoyed, and the chance to go inside a real police van!



We also enjoyed several great trips this term. During Lifewise, we explored sport and leisure facilities and visited Meadowbank Sports Centre. The class particularly enjoyed using the running track. Each learner prepared a question to ask Andy, the Community Development Officer, about his role and about the sports centre, and we even had a tour of the Head Office.

Another memorable experience was our visit to Murrayfield Ice Arena, where we took part in a floor curling taster session. The class worked in teams and enjoyed the opportunity to try a new sport.



We also celebrated two birthdays within a day of each other this term, so we organised a class birthday party. We played games, danced and shared some cake together.



It has been a fantastic term for Blue Class, with so much to celebrate. We have had a great year all round and wish everyone a fantastic summer break.

Yellow Class

This session started off brilliantly! We came back ready to learn and our communication had been progressing brilliantly! We are signing, using symbols and gestures in all areas of the curriculum and to multiple people – everyone is noticing how much we are coming on.

Our DYW week was absolutely brilliant! We had a visit from Police Scotland and Fire Scotland. There were dressing up opportunities, and a chance to listen to the sirens and when the fire brigade came, we even got to have a go at using the hose! The staff cars all got a good clean! We also had a drone workshop which was great fun, once we mastered the art of flying them. The STEM morning was full of activities, from robots to looking at atoms and molecules. So many interactive activities and we had great fun exploring them all.



We have been learning about Space in STEM and having lots of fun making model rockets, planets and our own constellations. We also made a list of Space themed songs and have been choosing from them over the course of the term.

We introduced yoga to our morning routine, following a simple stretching routine that sets us up for learning, although secretly I think the class just enjoy the opportunity to lie down and listen to some calming music.



We had a brilliant time at sports day, jumping, running, balancing, and throwing.



We have really enjoyed spending more time outside as the weather has been getting better. We decided we would make seed bombs so we could encourage more wild flowers to grow and in turn encourage more insects! There were lots of skills involved, measuring, counting, stirring, and moulding. We put all our maths and home economics skills to good use!



Purple Class

Purple Class experienced a very full term 😊 From seed planting to learning about Shakespeare, the ladies and gentlemen of Purple Class, worked hard, debated even harder and had lots of fun and laughter! The learners enjoyed participating in Drama activities, loved the STEM activities organised by Ms. Wheat, showed their creative side designing the Purple Class flag for Sports Day. Our bairns completed literacy work on Clicker, decorated and enjoyed the library, handed out hearts to their special people in Pilrig Park School recognising them for their kindness and character!



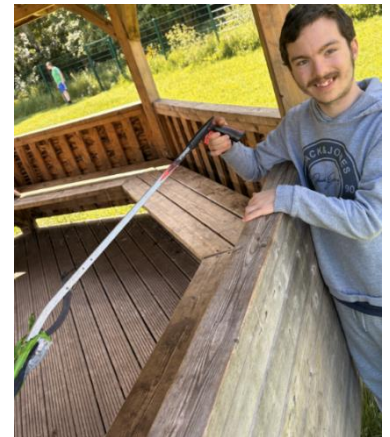


Red Class

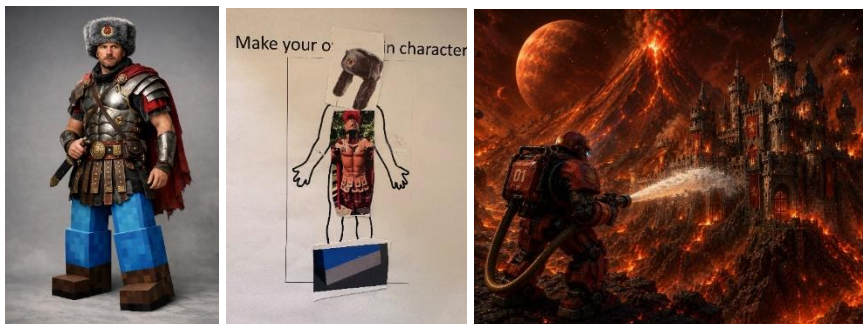
Red Class have had a brilliant term!! The boys became kindness ninjas for their latest taskmaster challenge! Secretly carrying out acts of kindness throughout the school.



We have been working on a community activity this term and the boys chose to do a litter pick around the school grounds. Everyone managed to find a little bit of litter (Alex the Janitor has eagle eyes!). The boys shared the litter pickers and tidied up the area to a very high standard, completing their unit of work and having fun while they did it.



Red Class have also been looking at main characters in fiction for their English module this term. The boys created their own characters and then with the aid of AI their selections for key features became a reality! Red Class created an environment for their characters to live in and an evil villain for their main characters to fend off!



Red Class focussed on Measurement for much of this term, using blocks and other items to measure the length of different things in and around the classroom and even out in the playground when the weather was kind to us.



During our DYW week Red Class were visited by Greig from Skills Development Scotland where they worked out what clothing was appropriate or inappropriate to wear for interviews or specific jobs.

Red Class have had a brilliant last term before the holidays! I wish them a very happy holidays and can't wait to hear all about it when they come back after the summer!



Orange Class

Orange Class have had a very busy term, full of trips, competitions and learning experiences of all sorts. You can read about most of our adventures throughout this Newsletter, including our trip to Murrayfield Stadium and more success in cooking competitions.

We had a lot of fun creating our class flag for Sports Day. We picked the United States of America as our country but decided to make our flag more personal. Rather than having red and white stripes, we had orange and white stripes, and rather than having fifty stars, we had eight, one for each pupil in the class. We therefore decided that we should be the USO, the United Students of Orange.



We have enjoyed being involved in the Taskmaster activities this year and we had a really good go at trying to win one in the final term. Unfortunately, we were unsuccessful, but we had fun doing the tasks, even cleaning and tidying the Home Economics room as part of a secret kindness challenge.



Orange Class have really enjoyed fifth year. Each pupil has achieved a good number of awards including SQA and Asdan awards.

We were all very pleased to hear that we are staying together as a class and are all really looking forward to our time in sixth year.



Green Class

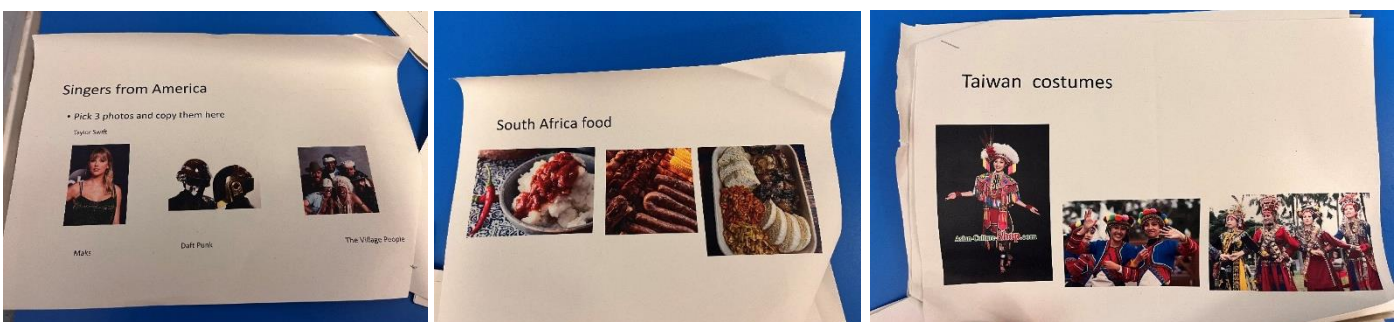
Green Class have been learning about recycling different material to make art and other things that can help the environment. We recycled shoes boxes to make herb gardens and recycled plastic bottles to make bird feeders. We made puppets from wooden spoons and used them to add actions to songs.



At our Easter Bingo event, Green Class were awarded “Best Class Dancers”. We had fun making a class conga line and everyone took turns to add a dance move to it as we shimmied our way around the hall. Miss Morrison was very proud of Green Class being so confident and showing so much happiness in school. The Easter Bunny visited to give us our prize!



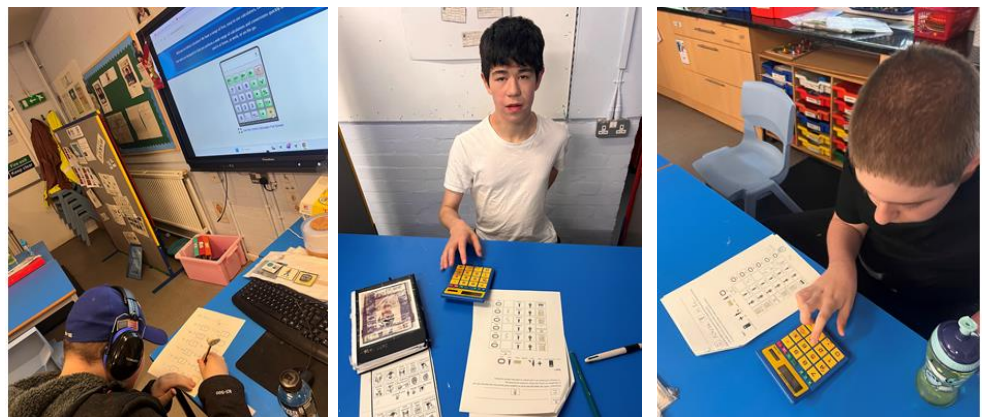
For our SQA in “Searching for Information”, each pupil in Green Class picked a country to research. The pupils were supported to use the internet to search for the areas they wanted to find out about and select photos for their project books. Many of the pupils picked to find out more about the country they have family members from which was a lovely celebration for us all to learn about each other’s cultures.



As part of our National 2 in “Retail and Customer Service”, Green Class was made into a toy shop for our pupils to role play different jobs associated with working in a shop. The class were great at using communication boards to interact with each other and a big highlight was using the till to serve customers. The pupils shared lots of knowledge about their experiences of visiting different shops with their families and what you can buy in different types of shops. One pupil in the class helped us to learn about going to the hairdressers with the toy he bought, he showed us the hairdresser blow dries and brushes hair. Another pupil shared with us what he knew about the Police after buying a Police costume from the shop!



Green Class have been learning to use calculators in Maths. We filled in a chart to track how many laps we walked in our daily mile and at the end of the week used a calculator to add them all together.



Green Class would like to wish one of our classmates a massive GOOD LUCK in the next part of their journey after leaving Pilrig Park School.

We will miss you lots!!!

Ness Class



This term, Ness Class have been busy preparing for their next steps whilst making the most of their final weeks at school. We've enjoyed learning about the great outdoors with visits to the Royal Botanic Gardens, and the planting we started last term has been a great success. Everyone has worked hard to look after our plot, enjoying the fresh air while we're there!



In order to (hopefully!) achieve the last and final Special Badge for our pennant, Ness Class pupils organised energetic games of "Red Red River" at breaktimes twice a week. They did a fantastic job of inviting and encouraging younger pupils to get involved and stay active.



In May, we led the school assembly on the value of “helpful”, sharing ways pupils can be helpful both at school and at home. We loved making a video of us all being helpful!



For the Taskmaster challenge in May, Ness Class became a Secret Service agency, dressing up in masks and capes whilst carrying out secret “helpful” missions around the school. We were delighted to then go on and win this challenge at assembly!! Woo hoo!!



June brought our very last Sports Day ever, and we proudly represented Portugal with our class flag. It was a brilliant morning, full of teamwork, laughter and great memories — even Mrs Ferguson showed off her running skills! Despite the rain stopping play a bit earlier than planned, we all managed to show off our sporting spirits and had lots of fun!

In Outdoor Learning lessons with Ms Reid, Ness Class have not only been going to the Royal Botanic Gardens to look after the plot there, but the pupils have also been learning about our local park – Pilrig Park. They conducted a litter pick and learned all about the local environment – there was even some tree hugging going on!



Well done Ness Class – what a lot you have achieved in your last term of Pilrig Park School!

RECENT EVENTS



Easter Egg-stravaganza!

It certainly was an extra egg-cellent Easter this year!

The last day of the spring term brought sunshine and smiles whilst the whole school enjoyed our annual Easter celebrations, organised, and run by Mr Mackay!

First was a fantastic Bongo Bingo for everyone. There were plenty of (chocolate!) prizes and a bumper number of 'bingos' being won! Some of us even managed to dodge the Mr Mackay's water pistols which helped to cool us all down!



After lunch, the fun continued with an Easter Egg hunt in the school garden. Everyone was a winner with lots and lots of prizes (including ones for the best helpers!). The bronze, silver and golden 'eggs' were found eventually – there were some good hiding places this year! Spot the guest appearance by the Easter Egg bunny herself...although, she was pretty exhausted afterwards (who would guess that being an Easter bunny is hard work?!! 😊)

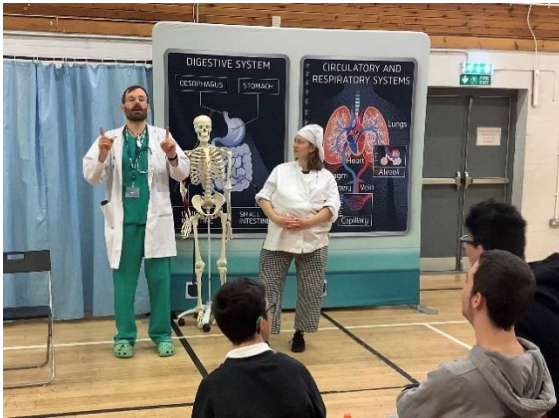


Generation Science Show – Body Builders!

At the beginning of May, we were delighted to have a visit from Generation Science which is a touring programme of interactive science shows and workshops that visit schools across Scotland!

Our show was called *Body Builders*, and we learnt all about the human body, its organs, and the importance of healthy habits. The actors, Dr. Watson and Nurse It Better, made us laugh nonstop while teaching us about the musculoskeletal, respiratory, and digestive systems. There were plenty of opportunities for pupils to get up from their seats and join in the fun, including becoming 'willing' volunteers for some of the experiments! Massive thanks to Simon and Caitlin for making science so much fun!





The Big Sing at the Usher Hall!

The choir were invited by YMI to join them at the Big Sing event at the Usher Hall this year.

The event hosted several schools from around Edinburgh and was a brilliant opportunity to get together to sing and sign.



The choir were treated to several songs from Mamma Mia to a John Williams film medley, all performed by a live orchestra and choir. Mr Cuddy and April were pulled onto the stage to help to teach the signs for 'Caledonia', which was then performed by the whole Usher Hall. The choir loved every minute of the Big Sing. They sang and signed beautifully, proving that 'No Pilrig, No Party!'



Tackle Maths – Edinburgh Rugby



Some of our pupils were lucky enough to be invited along to a Maths event at Murrayfield Stadium. Orange Class, along with the schools Sports Ambassadors attended the event where we learned all about the importance of numbers in rugby.

We were given a tour of the stadium, including visits to the gym, the changing rooms and we even got to walk down the tunnel to the edge of the pitch.





Maths

Senior Phase

Pupils from Ness Class and Orange Class have all successfully completed some SQA qualifications over the past year, from National 1 Number Skills up to National 4 Numeracy. Each pupil has worked hard to complete their allocated courses and certificates should be arriving in the summer.

Well done everyone!

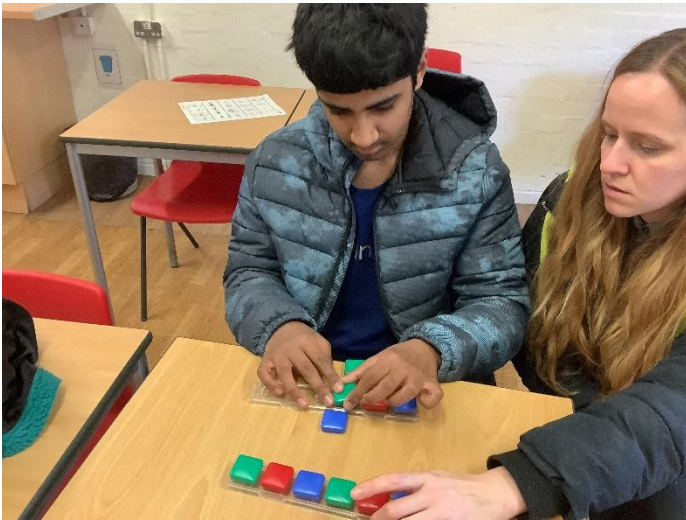
BGE

Pupils in Blue Class, Purple Class and Yellow Class have been working on patterns. Starting with colour patterns before looking at picture patterns and then finally working on number patterns.

All pupils tried counting in 10s and 2s, and some managed to count in 5s.

Some of the pupils in Purple Class continued this topic into looking at times tables, including 3s and 4s.

We also spent a lot of time reviewing all of the topics we have covered this year.



During the final 2 weeks of term, all classes have been talking about the World Cup.

Orange Class coloured in all of the flags and we discussed how league tables work, what goal difference is, and what is the likelihood of Scotland winning!!

Yes, we learned about the number zero!

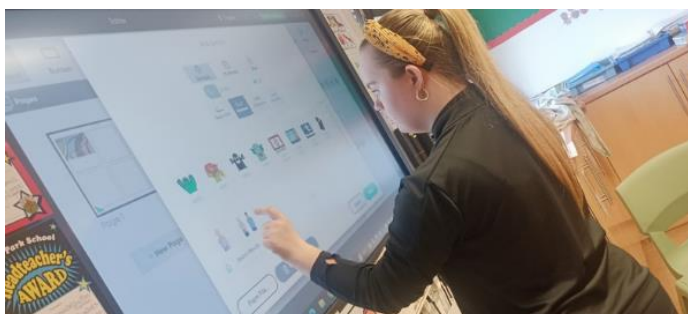
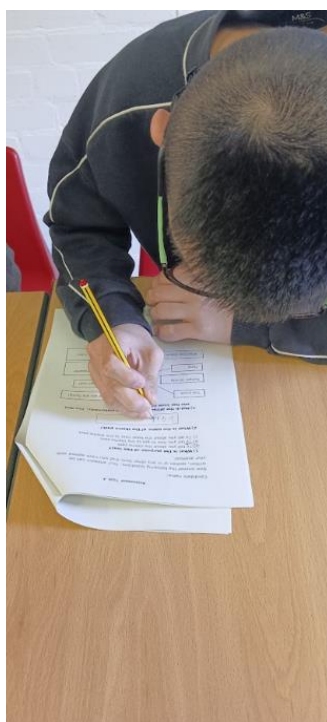
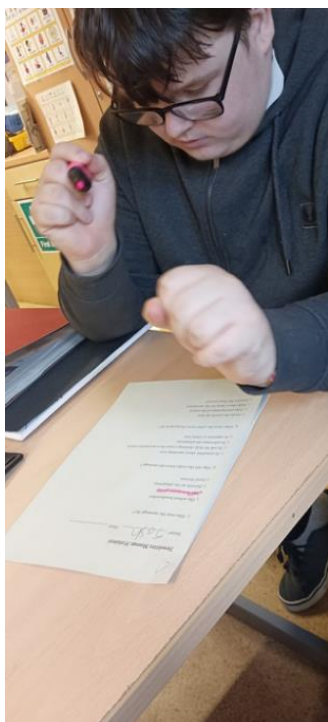
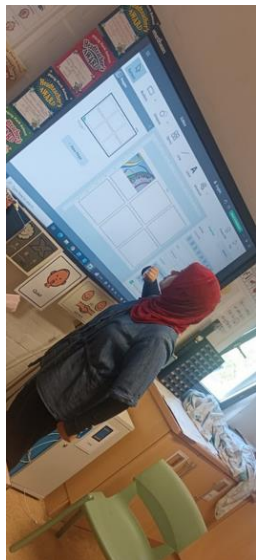


English

SENIOR PHASE

The senior group of Orange Class and the Leaver's group of Ness Class successfully completed the final assessments of their Qualifications in National 4 Literacy, National 3 Literacy, and National 2 units. From learning to extract appropriate information to writing about community issues and healthy lifestyle, everyone produced remarkable work.

PROOD O OOR BAIRNS!



BGE

The final term of the BGE was filled with a range of learning and activities. Pupils engaged in literacy games either on pair or group work, developed their singalong communication skills, enjoyed the library regularly, improved reading confidence, and built their digital literacy skills through technology based work on Clicker. I am very proud of our learners who showed growing independence, confidence, and progress throughout the term.





English & Literacy Resources

Dear parents & carers,

Please find an accessible list of websites you can use with your young people over the summer, should you wish to.

- 1) <https://www.booktrust.org.uk/how-we-help/have-fun-at-home/storybooks-and-games/>
- 2) <https://www.uniteforliteracy.com/free-books-online/home>
- 3) <https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/games>
- 4) <https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/stories>

Social Subjects

This term, pupils have been on an exciting learning adventure to explore the world around us. They have engaged with mapmaking and been introduced to travel by discovering everything from our own school to countries far away!



Our Geography Signs & Symbols

We have been learning important geography words like people, place, and transport using Signalong and symbols to help us communicate and understand the world.



Exploring Different Maps

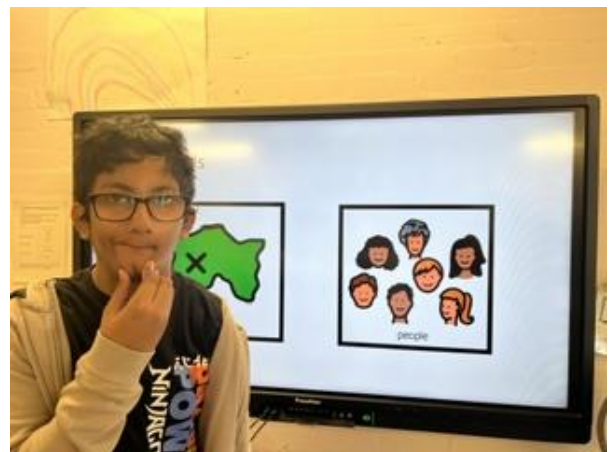
Pupils looked at lots of different tools to find our way around. We used globes and atlases to look at the whole wide world, and even used Google Maps on the screen to "zoom in" and explore our very own local area around our school!

Pupils worked together to design and build their very own map of the classroom! Then played fun games where they had to match different people to the right places on a map.

Our Amazing Country Projects

Every pupil picked a special country for their very own project! We investigated our chosen countries and became experts by finding out:

- One fact about the people who live there.
- One fact about the place (what it looks or feels like).
- One fact about the transport they use to travel around.



The Music Department

Orange Class

This term, Orange Class chose to lead and sign one of our assembly songs! They chose 'Sunshine on Leith' and produced a signalong video for the whole school and our website.

Amazing work Orange Class!

You can find this on our school website to learn the signs at home.



Ness Class

For their Scottish Studies unit, some of the pupils in Ness Class chose to learn to sign a Scottish song. The pupils chose 'Far Side of the World' by Tide Lines and showcased their learning at the April assembly.

Well done, Ness Class! An inspiration to the rest of the school.



In the Art Room!

The focus for the BGE classes this past term has included colour, texture and shape, using a variety of art materials and techniques.



In April, **Pink Class** and **White Class** enjoyed designing their own pizzas, making 'stuffed crusts' from brown paper, cutting up paper for the 'cheese' and then choosing their own toppings! In the next topic, we had a go at squirting tissue paper with water, to see the colours run and leave a very interesting pattern. Then we printed on top, with some polystyrene on which we had made some drawings. In our latest topic, we had fun mixing up colours inside a polypocket, learning about primary and secondary colours along the way!



Blue Class started the term by enjoying some sensory art fun! We loved using shaving foam and paint to make a marbling effect then we did 'snap' paintings using elastic bands to make a splat effect on the paper – just as well we all wore aprons! Our next sensory art lesson was done using cotton wool balls, droppers full of liquid paint and some fly swatters! Oh, and yes, we all wore aprons again! Finally, we did a project on owls and had fun making an owl puppet from recycled paper towel tubes! We used a variety of materials including wool, paper and paint to create the most colourful owls you have ever seen!



Purple Class started the final term creating Springtime blossom using chalk, tissue paper and blowing paint through straws! In their next topic, pupils learnt how to weave using wool and disposable coffee cups. Everyone chose a colour theme and followed a pattern. We think they will make very handy pencil pots!



Yellow Class have been working on various art projects under the theme of colour and sensory activities. First, we tried 'snap painting' with elastic bands and paint. We loved ping the elastic to make a noise and splat of colour! Next, we did some painting with lemons and some salt to see the effects. We also used cling film and paint to see the crinkle effect when you squished the paint and let it dry.



Red Class and **Green Class** are completing their SQA unit, 'Working with Textiles' and have been busy learning how to box weave. The pupils all completed a beautiful piece of weaving which we think could make a handy bookmark! Next, the classes learnt how to print using stencils, fabric paint and sponges. We enjoyed making some prints onto fabric and then sticking on sequins for decoration. We printed our designs onto canvas shopping bags.





Orange Class began their SQA Art & Design Expressive unit last term and their first task was researching their chosen topic. These included 'Despicable Me Minions', animals, 'Jaws' and female singers. Next, the pupils experimented their ideas using a variety of art materials. Finally, they chose their favourite idea, and created an A3 size image using their choice of art technique. Everyone has worked so hard on this unit – they were so pleased with their final pieces of artwork!



Drama

Orange Class have worked incredibly hard throughout this term and across the whole school year. As part of their National 3 qualification, Orange Class helped to write a script, select props, choose appropriate sound effects, music and costumes for their short film. This term, we rehearsed and filmed their short film "The Ruined Birthday". It was wonderful to see their performance come together after a year of working on different drama and production skills such as body language, facial expressions and gestures. I am so proud of the fantastic work they have completed this year. Each pupil brought their characters to life and we had the opportunity to share their film at our end of year celebration assembly. Well done Orange Class!



"THE RUINED BIRTHDAY"



P.E.

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



We had some pupils representing Pilrig Park School at SDS National Cross Country Championships 2026 in April. They took part in either a 1km or 2km run. They all did great. One of our pupils even won silver in their age category.



Blue Class took part in the Floor Curling session at Curl Edinburgh recently. Pupils enjoyed practicing different curling skills.



Eight pupils represented us at Edinburgh Secondary Schools Track & Field Championships at Meadowbank Sports Centre. They took part in four athletics events: sprint, shot put, long jump and relay run. They all did great and got medals for participation and places.



Following several taster sessions of cricket earlier this school year, Purple Class took part in Cricket Festival 26 at Inverleith Park in Edinburgh on Monday 8th June. They played small games of cricket with other schools, and all got medals at the end.



Sports Day 2026

On Wednesday 3rd June we held our Sports Day at Pilrig Park. We had 6 non - competitive and 5 competitive events. Despite the cloudy weather all pupils showed great sport spirit and had lots of fun.

We had 4 Young Leaders from Drummond High School (accompanied by Active School Coordinators) who helped us at the stations. They all got Headteacher awards along with Gold Badges.



Home Economics

Home Economics



What a year we have had.

We started off with welcoming the S1s of Pink Class and White Class into Pilrig Park School. Some classes were moving up, some continuing with BGE, whilst the Seniors were moving on to new SQ courses and new Asdan courses.

The BGE classes continued working on our kitchen safety and hygiene, which we continue through S1-S3. This helps us embed the learning. We look at healthy eating, foods from around the world and textile work too, along with practicing weighing and measuring and our practical skills.

In the Senior Phase, pupils work towards SQ qualifications and/or Asdan courses. This year we offered National 5 Practical Cookery - Understanding and Using Ingredients to 2 pupils from Ness Class while their peers were at College. Ness Class also completed The Baking Unit from Practical Cake Craft National 5. This was our first year offering these units, as the pupils had spent time in Home Economics working up to them, and practicing their skills and developing their knowledge.

We had our biggest catering job for a Parental Engagement Afternoon Tea which every class in the school helped us with. Classes helping with the events earned school service awards as well as learning new skills and developing confidence. I lost track of how many Swiss Rolls Orange Class made in total that term, not only for learning the skill but then making them for the event! Although saying that, I think they are now pros!

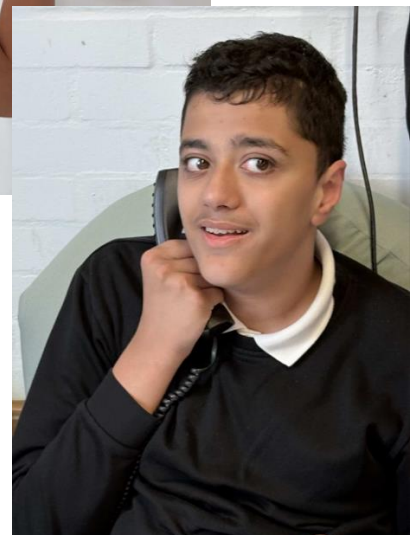
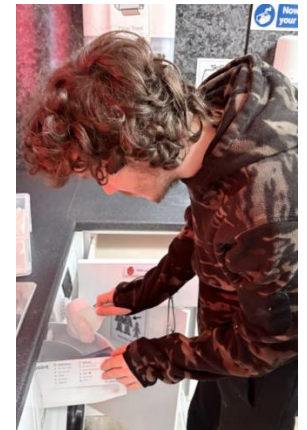
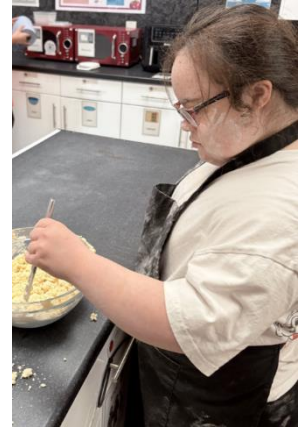
Our winter treat sale was a great source of fundraising for the school with our winter scene cakes, hot chocolate cones and trail mix. We have already been thinking about what to do this year, so watch this space! I will not say the C word just yet, although a pupil was singing a few festive tunes in bus group last week!

We saw the end of the year with the future chef competitions and final assessments of AVU for Practical Cookery National 4, and a light fruit cake for the Baking unit. As I am typing this, the baking for the last week of terms events are well under way with help from various classes.

Thank you so much for your continued support this past year and we hope you have a lovely summer.

Here are some snapshots of us in Home Economics, whether it is for textile work, cooking, theory or transport groups.





Springboard Future Chef Competition



Junior category

This years task..

When the Home Economics teachers of Pilrig Park School, Braidburn School, Kaimes School, Woodlands School and Meadow Park School got together a few months ago, we chose that the Junior pupils in S1-S3 be tasked with designing, making and presenting a cupcake.



After dates were chosen for the final competition, the school heats began. Each pupil who would be able to complete the task independently would be given the opportunity to participate in the competition.

Cupcakes... but what to choose?!

The pupils were given a guide of suggested flavours - of vanilla, chocolate, mint, strawberry or banana. They were allowed to select some decoration ideas of their own or choose from a selection of ideas given to them.

We also had a few pupils who went rogue with their ideas, and I thought it was fun, so why not let them! These ideas were to make Irn Bru cupcakes and Cola cupcakes.

School Heats:

Out of 24 pupils who would be able to compete independently, we had 13 pupils chose to take part and enter the school heat. The selection of cupcakes were given to the school office where we had 6 people, complete a judging criteria sheet, scoring 1-5 on presentation, taste and texture.

The winner was the Winnie the Pooh themed cake by Rosa in S3.

We discussed with Rosa the plans for the final heat held here at Pilrig Park School and before we knew it the 19th of May had arrived.

Finalists come together:

Rosa and I met with the finalists and staff from the other schools as they arrived in time to have lunch before we started the final.

We had 4 pupils from across the schools working to compete for Future Chef winner. Lots of different skills were shown, from creaming, using electric whisks, portioning and piping to name a few.

There was a chocolate surprise cake, chocolate cake with piped butter cream, a Winnie the Pooh vanilla cake and a vanilla cake with glace icing.

Our guest judges were Dave from The Scran Academy and Heather from Speech and Language. They had a tough job, and declared our visitor from Kaimes the winner of Junior Future chef. WELL DONE EVERYONE!

School Heats:



Finalists working away:



Senior category

Savoury or sweet tart...

Whilst we were discussing the Junior Future Chef we also needed to confirm the task for the students who could compete in the Senior heats. When the Home Economics teachers of Pilrig Park School, Braidburn School, Kaimes School, Woodlands School and Meadow Park School were discussing the upcoming competition, we were deliberating over what dishes would be best suited for the Senior pupils to show off their skills.

Last year it was a fruit tart and due to the skills required we felt this was still an area to stick with but to give variety we changed the brief to a savoury tart, so we were not repeating ourselves. Josh from Orange Class was the overall winner with his fruit tart last year.

Choices, choices...

After the Junior pupils were given a bit of choice, where a few went rogue with deciding the flavours, Senior pupils were given the opportunity to suggest ingredients they would like to include. The most surprising ingredient suggested was 'pickles', which I know more as gherkins.

I did wonder how this would work, however the pupils were given the choice and so I respected that and the different ingredients were ordered. These included: olives, chorizo, gherkins, cottage cheese, peperoni, red onion, white onion, mushrooms and courgette.

School Heats:

Five Senior pupils chose to take part in the competition and put forward their ideas and their product for judging. We chose different judges this time round, all of whom were surprised with the ingredients chosen as there was not a ham and cheese, or cheese and onion quiche in sight!

After quite a bit of deliberation Peter from Orange Class was declared the Senior Future Chef finalist from Pilrig Park School with his savoury tart of gherkins and chorizo.

Off to Kaimes for the final:

On the 21st May, Peter and I made a trip across Edinburgh to Kaimes School to take part with 4 others in the Future Chef final. We paused for lunch whilst Peter got his bearings of the room, and we got him set up to start.

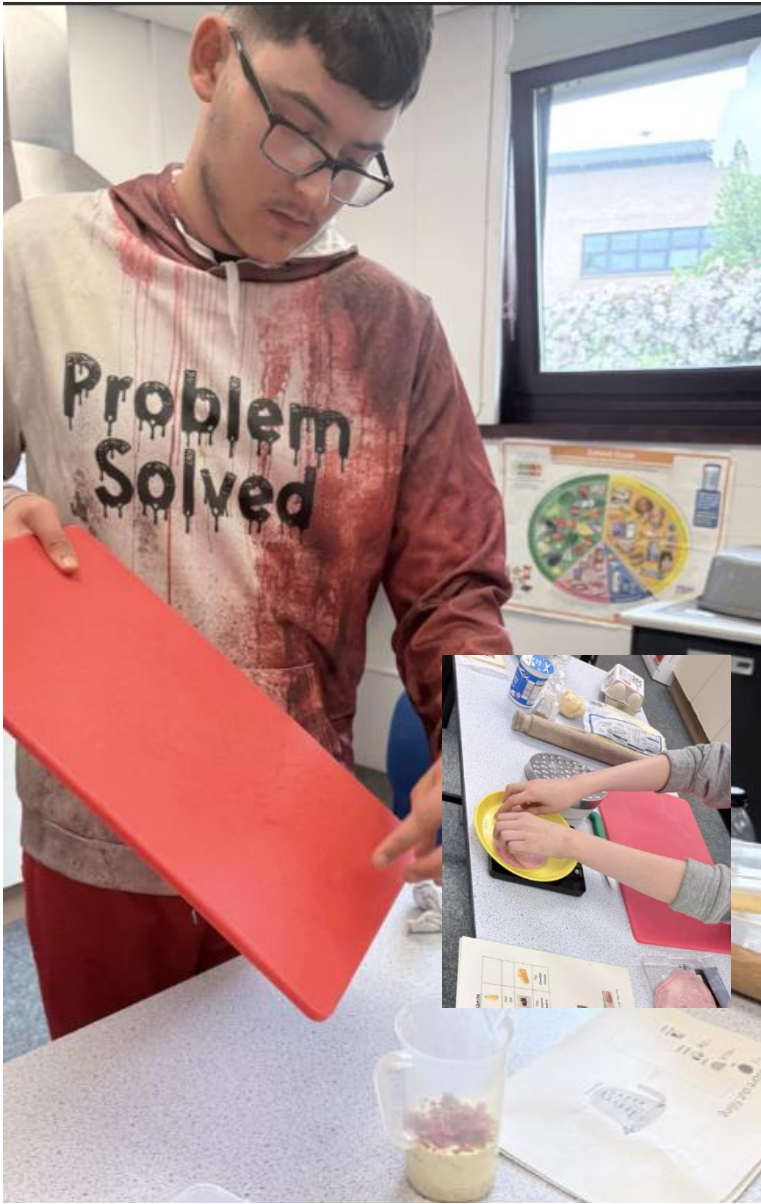
Tasked with rolling out his pastry then lining a flan ring, blind baking it properly as we don't like a soggy bottom, then preparing the filling, and baking in the oven. Peter took great care and took tips from the judges who tasted his savoury tart in the school heat to have finely chopped gherkins as well as larger slices.

Peter kept calm and worked efficiently taking great care with his safety and hygiene throughout. Although once his tart was placed on the table for judging, Peter was very quiet, was it nerves? He denied it, but not like Peter to be quiet!

The judging was completed by those that run the cafe at Kaimes who tasted each tart and gave feedback on each one. Then came the reveal of the winner - Tart B. Peter then went a wee bit rosy in the cheeks when he realised he had won! Not only was he a winner of Senior Future Chef, but he also won the Junior Future Chef with his cupcakes two years earlier.

A quick phone call to Ms O'Hagan, to let her know the good news in the taxi back to school, and Peter relaxed, enjoying his goody bag and winners prize!

Well done to everyone who takes part and helps this event go ahead each year. It is very much appreciated.



DYW – Developing the Young Workforce



Skills Week

During the last week of April, we held our DYW Skills Week! The whole week was devoted to skills for life, work and learning with several external partnerships leading workshops and activities throughout the week.

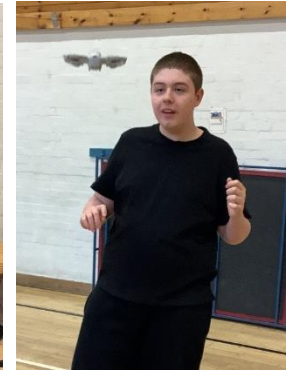
At the beginning of the week, we enjoyed visits from two of the emergency services. Firefighters from McDonald Road Fire service came round to see us, with their fire engine and lots of water to blast all over the car park! Unfortunately, the firefighters were only with us for a very short time before they got a call and had to hurry away to an emergency.



The following afternoon, Police Scotland paid us a visit and allowed pupils to experience life as a police officer, trying on hats and climbing into the back of the very large police van! Jodie and John told us all about what it is like working with Police Scotland and explained that no two days are the same – they're always busy out and about in the local community.



David from Skills Development Scotland brought his (mini) flying drones along, much to everyone's delight. We learnt some excellent digital skills whilst flying drones in the school hall! They made quite a buzzy noise and created a lot of wind!



On the Wednesday morning, the whole school enjoyed a STEM morning (science, technology, engineering and maths) with activities led by various organisations including Edinburgh College, Heriot Watt, Dundee and Edinburgh Universities. Pupils enjoyed various activities including LEGO (Duplo), music videos, molymods, chromatography and Spheros (robots). There was a real buzz with plenty of teamwork and construction skills going on!



On Thursday, the whole school took part in workshops given by Dynamic Earth, whereby pupils learnt a variety of science skills, learned about the oceans and watched some very impressive experiments. Some classes met some rather scary spiders, but thankfully the spiders were behind glass so there was no need to worry – much!



Staff from the Festival Theatre delivered very useful workshops on how to create material for performance. Our teamwork skills were put to the test, but everyone worked very well together and made each other laugh with our drama performances! Izzy and Grace taught us how to pretend to be animals, superheroes and much more!

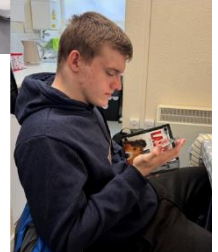


The whole school had lots of fun during the DYW Skills Week, and learnt so many new skills including teamwork, construction and problem solving. We're looking forward to next year!

Work Experience

Several of our S6 pupils have taken part in work experience opportunities over the past term. Through our long-standing partnerships with SCRAN Academy and Enable Works, pupils have gained valuable insight into the world of work while developing their skills, knowledge, and confidence in a range of professional settings.

One of our S6 pupils went to gain some experience with SCRAN Academy and their SCRAN Café in Comely Bank. She has been working on practical, hands-on skills in catering, customer service, and food preparation. It was a thoroughly enjoyable experience for our pupil and she loved serving behind the counter, greeting customers with her big smile!



Three other S6 pupils had the opportunity to gain experience in a local charity shop. Over the course of several weeks, our pupils travelled independently to the British Heart Foundation in Leith. They learnt skills in the stockroom, as well as on the shop floor – including how to operate the till! The positive experience has given each of them a taste of the workplace.



Pulse of the Place Samba Drumming

Partnership music in school



In addition to our own music department, we also have our partnership with Pulse of the Place a weekly basis. Rohan and his team from **Pulse of the Place Samba Band** teach pupils the skills involved in playing the large samba drums – and we all know when the group are in school playing, because you can hear them all over the building!

Samba drumming provides our young people with not only new musical skills but also confidence building and communication skills. The group are looking forward to being part of a 20-year celebration of Pulse of the Place in October later this year. Watch this space for more details nearer the time!



JUST IN



End of Year Celebrations

After a year packed of memorable and fantastic assemblies, including our P7 Welcome Assembly, we finished the year with the End of Year Celebration Assembly and Leaver's Assembly.

At our **End of Year Celebration Assembly**, we warmly welcomed parents and carers, Jackie Reid, Head of Education and Iain Hutchison, Quality Improvement Education Officer.

We recognised the achievements of all our pupils over this academic year with awards, certificates, trophies and even gold badges in the following categories:

- School values awards
- JAS awards
- A whole host of PE certificates including Track and Field and Cross Country
- ASDAN awards for PSE, Lifewise, Personal Development Programme
- Edinburgh College certificates
- Scran Academy scrolls and certificates
- Wider achievement awards including Bikeability Level 1 and Future Chef winners
- Work Experience certificates
- Drake Music achievements at Level 6
- Special Badges – Gold award
- Head Teacher special awards for all staff and pupils
- Young Leader award
- And finally the Spirit of Pilrig Park School Junior and Senior school awards!

We must send a MASSIVE thank you to the office for all the printing and laminating of the certificates! We hope you enjoy some highlight photos of our special afternoon.







The Leavers Assembly was an emotional but poignant occasion where we celebrated the seven leavers of session 2025 - 2026! They each received a copy of the Leaver's Yearbook (created by them in Pupil Voice lessons), a bespoke Pilrig Park School anchor in a frame, a gold badge and an autograph book and pen! The leavers then enjoyed a very special lunch (pizza and fizzy juice!) and a slice of an amazing 'anchor' cake made by April, our Pupil Support Assistant!







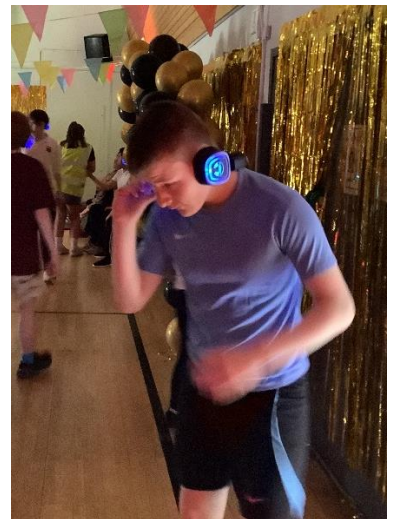


In the afternoon, the whole school gathered together and danced along to the **silent disco**, complete with personal headsets! We coped with the heat – just! There was plenty of juice to drink and more than a few requests for refills!

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

No Pilrig, no party!!!



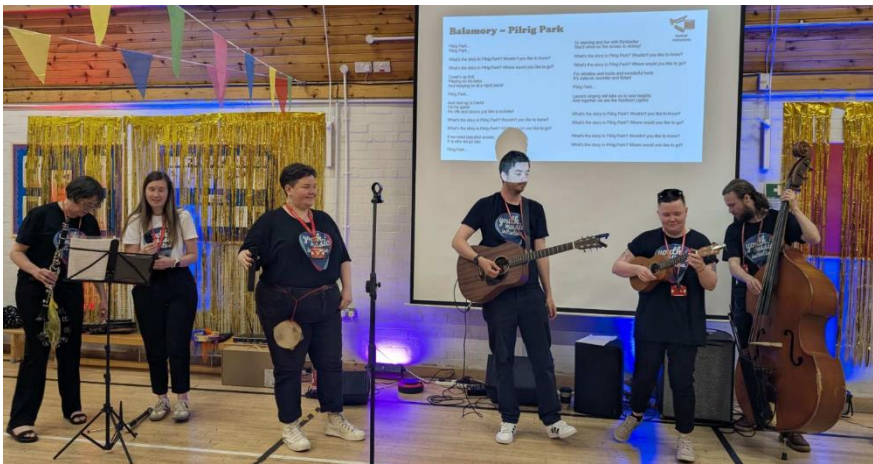


YMI Edinburgh – Big Sing on Tour

Also during the final week of term, we had the YMI band in school again.

The played a lot of our favourite songs and we all joined in with the singing, dancing and signing.

Everyone had a great time.



Pupil Council

As you will have read in previous editions of the newsletters, the Pupil Council have been awarding special badges throughout this year to classes at assemblies.



The challenge was for a class to collect ALL the special badges so that they could receive a **GOLD** Pilrig Park School badge and an invitation to Ms O'Hagan's office for morning tea!



Three classes were successful in their quest for that illusive gold badge!

The Golden Badge Winners 2025 /26!



Pink Class **Green Class**
Ness Class



PUPIL VOICE

There were cupcakes with special gold badge toppers and golden anchor biscuits for all to enjoy! Ms Vennelle worked so hard to create these delicious treats and Ms O'Hagan and the Pupil Council are incredibly grateful to her. Much fun and hilarity was had by all! Pink Class even made their own party hats for the occasion!



The Pupil Council and Ms O'Hagan would like to thank all the staff and pupils for engaging with the Special Badges challenges this year and we look forward to your entries again next session. Maybe it will be your class who joins Ms O'Hagan for a morning tea and a special treat (or two!).



This is me

The theme this school session has been **‘This is Me’**, focusing on the identities that make up our Pilrig Park School community. In November, we held a two-week cross-curricular programme in which pupils engaged. We wanted pupils’ experiences to explore the richness of identity, so activities were planned across a variety of contexts, including art, home economics, music, outdoor learning, dance and poetry. Through these experiences, our pupils gained confidence in expressing themselves while exploring themes of identity, equality, diversity and respect. We invited parents and carers to enjoy a journey through song, photographs and videos, celebrating and commemorating the amazing work completed as part of our **‘This is Me!’** focus.

In December, our choir sang ‘This is Me!’ at our local Tesco. Little did we know where the choir would then go on to perform later in the year!

In March this year, the school decided to enter the Saroj Lal Award, following our work on our school focus, ‘This is Me’. The Saroj Lal Award was established in 2022 for young people and schools, to create work inspired by the award themes of equality, inclusion and diversity.



On Thursday 11th June, the school and its choir were invited to attend the Saroj Lal Award for Schools ceremony, held in The Hub, Castlehill – a much larger venue this year! What an emotional night it was - 17 members of the school choir received a standing ovation after their truly emotional performance of ‘Reach’ and ‘This is Me’ in front of a packed audience. You would have been hard pushed to find a dry eye!

But it didn’t end there! We waited patiently for the winner of the Proud to be Me secondary school category to be announced. And then chaos erupted as we were announced winners for the second year running!!!!

You can see from our smiles, that we were absolutely delighted and honoured to be recipients of this prestigious award – again!

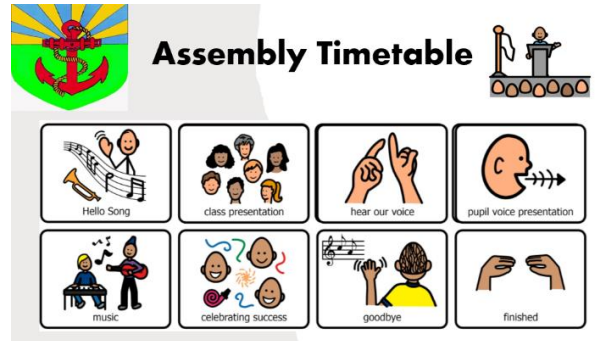
The whole school is very proud to be acknowledged for their creative work on issues linked to equality, diversity and inclusion.

Our award is now sitting in the display cabinet in the school foyer, for all to admire!



Assemblies

Throughout this session, each tutor class has taken a turn presenting at our monthly assemblies, helping to bring our school values to life. Ness Class started the year by sharing what it means to be 'Ready to Learn'. Later in the session, we enjoyed Green Class showing us ways to be safe and Yellow Class demonstrating the importance of honesty.



Our Pupil Voice groups have also enjoyed the opportunity to showcase their fantastic work. We heard about the ECO group's dedication in working towards the Green Flag award, the Rights Warriors' efforts to gain RRSA Gold status, and our Pupil Council's plans for learning walks to take place across the school.

These presentations have highlighted the enthusiasm, leadership and commitment of all our pupils, and we are incredibly proud of all they have achieved this year.



Turn the Lights Off Poster Competition

Thank you to all the classes and pupils who submitted an entry.

The winner will get their poster put up around the school and a gold badge from Miss O'Hagan.



Our Learning and Teaching Session 2025/26

How well is everyone helped to learn and achieve?

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



Young Ambassadors

Young Leaders helped with sports activities for P7 pupils during their 3-day visit.



The Young Leaders getting presented with our new SportScotland Gold flag.



Eco Committee

Pupils in Pilrig Park School have been working hard this term and across the school year with helping to look after our school and local area. We have been learning throughout the year about recycling, composting, caring for nature, creating art and crafts from recyclable materials and caring for our school environment and local area.

Litter Picking



Pupils from Blue Class and White Class have been taking part in weekly litter picks in the playground to keep our school grounds clean and tidy.

Recycling

White class are now experts in carrying out the recycling collections on a Wednesday afternoon with Miss Wheat with very little adult support required!



And last but not least...

Pilrig Park School has successfully had our Eco Schools Scotland Green Flag Award renewed. A massive achievement which showcased all the wonderful work pupils and staff have completed over the last 2 years. A special thank you to Miss Wheat for all her hard work in collating all the evidence and embedding an eco-schools ethos into our school. Well done Pilrig Park!



Fairtrade

Pink Class and Purple Class, under the guidance of Ms. Reid and Ms. Karefylakis, have continued working well together this term, embedding Fairtrade across the school. This is part of our work towards earning the final Fairtrade Schools Award, the Fair Achiever Award. We took our learning to different classes across the school, presenting on what Fairtrade is, why it is important, and how we can make a difference in our daily lives, that will also ethically support farmers and producers.



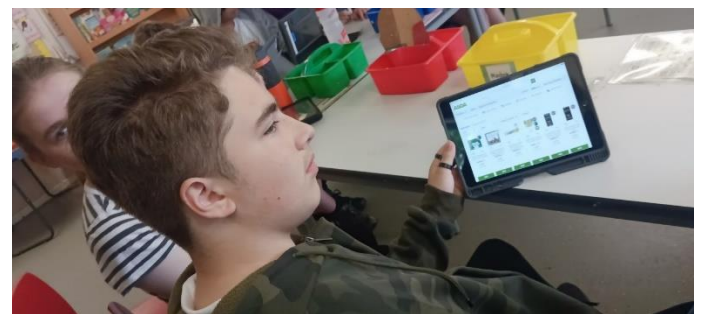
We built up to presenting at our school assembly, sharing our knowledge about Fairtrade and a song about the Fairtrade mark. We taught the whole school signs for different Fairtrade items that come up in the song, including fruit, nuts, honey, and rice. To listen to the Fairtrade song and see if your young person can teach you the signs, scan the QR code below!

For the final part of the year, we started exploring how we could make a difference as a school. We decided to ask Ms. O'Hagan and Mrs. Vennelle if it would be possible to make a 'Fairtrade Switch' by changing a product that we regularly order into a Fairtrade alternative. They were both excited to help and it was decided that all future orders of sugar for the Home Economics classes in Pilrig Park School would be Fairtrade.



After the Summer holidays, the Fairtrade group will continue working towards the FairAchiever Award, aiming to invite a visitor into school to share their knowledge about Fairtrade and to go on a Fairtrade related excursion.

Our **AMAZING** Fairtrade groups in action!





Pilrig Park School Fairtrade Policy



Pilrig Park is committed to supporting, using and promoting Fairtrade, wherever possible. We believe that Fairtrade can make a difference to the lives of young people throughout the world by improving living and working conditions for the people who grow the things we buy.

Our school will:

- 1) Ensure that Fairtrade and Fairtrade issues, and the concept of 'fairness', are embedded into the curriculum and in whole school activities, and the culture of the school.
- 2) Promote Fairtrade in the school and wider community, by taking part in Fairtrade Fortnight, completing Fairtrade Challenges and highlighting Fairtrade activities in newsletters
- 3) Ensure Fairtrade is part of the School Improvement Plan
- 4) Use Fairtrade products around the school wherever possible.
- 5) Use the Fairtrade Schools Award identities on the website
- 6) Put this policy into practice through a Fairtrade Group that meets regularly to:
 - a) monitor and drive forward the school's support for Fairtrade
 - b) make sure those connected with our school are aware of this policy and can support it
 - c) take responsibility for Fairtrade Challenges and the Fairtrade Action Plan

This policy is supported by:

The Head Teacher

The Staff

The Pupil Council

Rights Respecting School

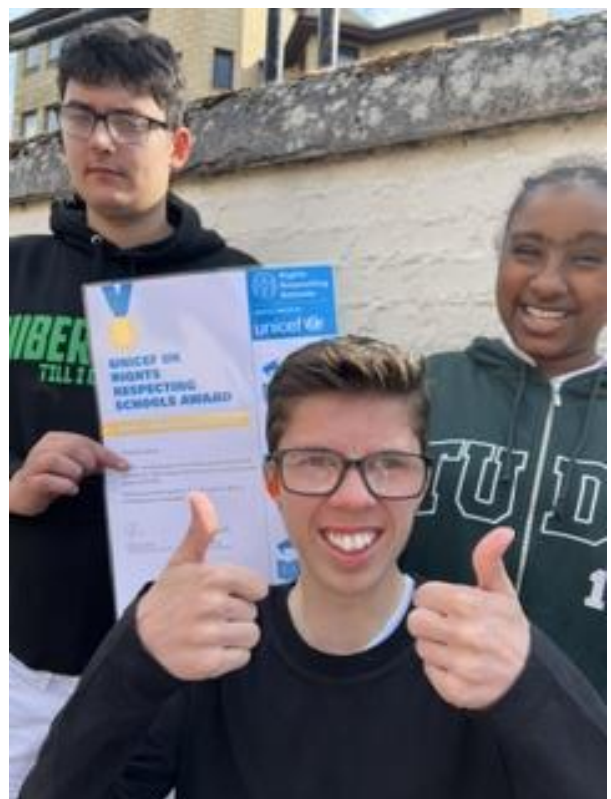
Pilrig Park School Achieves RRSA Gold: Rights Respecting Schools Award!

This May we were extremely proud to hear that we had achieved the UNICEF Rights Respecting Schools Award at Gold level. This award recognises all the work that staff and pupils have put in place to deeply embed children's rights into the school's culture and curriculum. The accreditation report highlighted the school's dedication to promoting student voice, building relationships based on dignity and integrating rights education into daily school life.

The Rights Respecting Schools Award (RRSA) celebrates schools that put the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) into practice every day. Achieving Gold means that children's rights are not just taught but truly lived and championed throughout our school community.

A huge thank you to our pupils, staff, and parents/carers for your passion and commitment to making Pilrig Park School a truly rights respecting school. Together, we are making a real difference in the lives of our young people.

Let's keep up the fantastic work and continue our journey as a Gold Rights Respecting School!



Outdoor Learning

This year all pupils in third year and sixth year got the opportunity to visit the Botanic and learn about the Living Roots project that Pilrig Park School pupils have been part of for many years. Two groups were chosen, coming alternate weeks, from mid-March. We learnt about plants, planting and using tools to tend to raised beds.

Having introduced them to garden tools and how to carry and work with them safely, digging is a favourite activity. It offers the students the chance to connect with the soil and to be active.

Once the onions and garlic start to sprout (planted in the first visits) we made sure we were tending to the raised beds and got a great deal of joy from watching our crops grow. As the weather improved watering became essential and was a favourite activity to round off sessions. There was always a queue for the tap, much excitement when the water missed the watering can and valuable experience of team work and coordination in holding a watering can under a tap. We were lucky with the weather on Wednesday afternoons but we did experience rain a few weeks ago, but the group seemed happy to continue and the rain moved off.

Planting seed potatoes is an activity that always goes well. We started by talking about potatoes we have eaten, in all their various forms, looked at pictures of the stages of growing potatoes, put them in the correct order to show what happens under and above the soil and once the potatoes have chitted, planted them in bags on the beds. We checked them each week and once the shoots started to show, we earthed them up and watered them. These potatoes will be harvested by a group in September.

We also sowed parsnip, carrot, radish, rainbow chard and beetroot seeds in the beds and we look forward to seeing them grow over the next few weeks and to harvest them when the time comes.



School Values Awards

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

This year the certificates were issued to:

Maya for demonstrating the school value – Ready to Learn



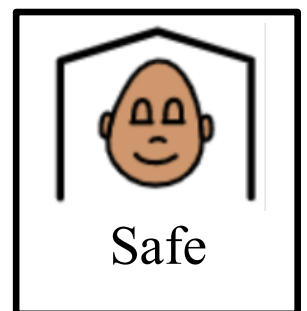
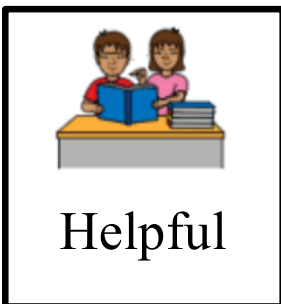
Luke for demonstrating the school value - Honest

Mark for demonstrating the school value - Kindness



Lena for demonstrating the school value - Respectful

Thomas C for demonstrating the school value - Helpful



Michael for demonstrating the school value - Safe

Andrew for demonstrating the school value – Happy

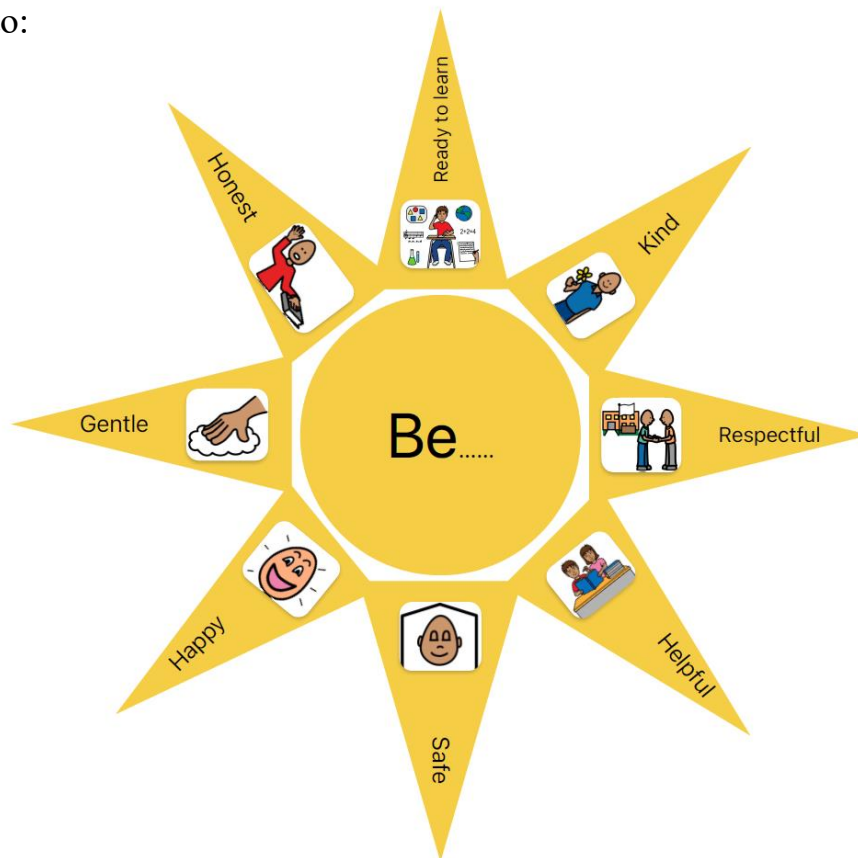


Louis for demonstrating the school value - Gentle

Sunshine in Leith!

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

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



Aims:

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

Inclusive learning environment;

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

Rights respecting cultural ethos;

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

Gallus!

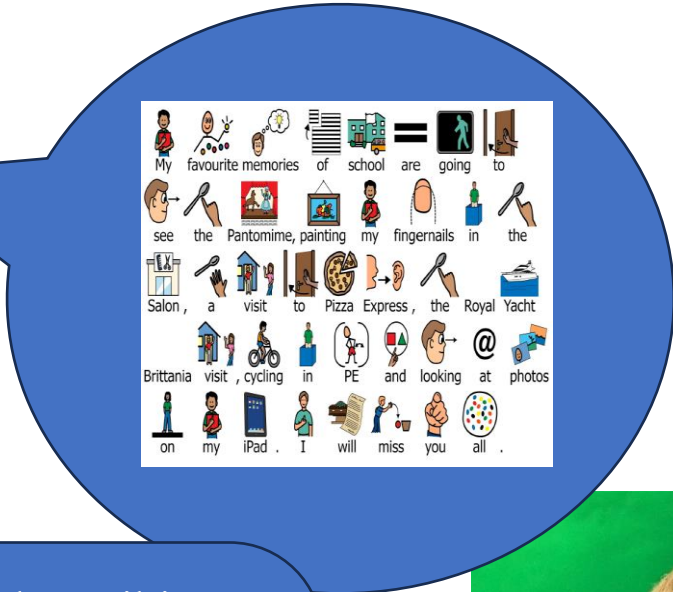
The Leavers

Ness Class are almost at the end of their time at Pilrig Park School. This past term has brought a mixture of emotions, including some sadness as they prepare to leave, but also a great sense of excitement for what lies ahead.



Through every activity and shared experience, the class have grown even closer, developing a genuine sense of care and support for one another.

They have worked together as a team, making anchors for a farewell gift, planning their end of session party and most importantly editing and printing their Leavers Yearbook!



I'll miss everybody at Pilrig Park School so much! I had so much fun joining in all the activities at school, especially sports day! I'm excited about starting college but I won't forget all my friends at Pilrig Park School! I'll come back and visit!



I am looking forward to leaving school and I am excited about starting college. I am going to miss my old friends but I'll make new ones! I'll come back and visit everyone!



PUPIL VOICE

Thanks to all the great staff for always being so kind, fun and helping me to do my best. I'm sad to be leaving and will miss all the staff and my friends but I'm excited for the future! I hope Ms O'Hagan remembers to send me a birthday certificate!



I liked going to the Yard in S1 and I loved going to see the pantomimes at the theatre. I remember all the Christmas lunches and Ms O'Hagan dressed up as a Christmas tree! I'll miss you all!

I am going to miss the school but I'll be coming back to visit and say hello. I'll miss being part of the school shows and helping at cafes.



PUPIL VOICE

You have all worked so hard on the Leaver's Yearbook and we hope you will keep it safe for years to come!

There are lots of great photos and memories for you to enjoy! 😊

Well done Ness Class on all your achievements this year – we will all miss you very much!



Friends of Pilrig Park School are still taking part in the Tesco Stronger Starts scheme. This will run 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

A massive well done to Miss McLarty for running in Edinburgh's Half Marathon, on one of the hottest days of the year!! A few of the staff team went down to Portobello Beach to cheer her on. She raised a fantastic **£531.29** for Friends of Pilrig Park School which will go towards funding a piece of play equipment for the playground.



The charity funded some snazzy choir t - shirts which you may have seen pupils wearing in the school show. We have also purchased school sweatshirts for our new 1st year pupils.



Funding applications have been submitted to The Trefoil Foundation, The Hedley Foundation, The Maple Trust and The Corra Boost Fund. If successful the funding would go towards The Yard trips, Music Therapy, The Scran Van.

The charity is now registered with HMRC which means we can now claim gift aid on any donations.

On the 13th Of September The Pilrig Parkers will be taking on the Kilt Walk, mighty stride walking 21 miles to raise funds for the charity. Please feel free to share our page with family and friends. Any donations greatly appreciated.



https://www.justgiving.com/page/lesley-mcarthur-1?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=CL

You can follow us on Instagram for any updates @friendsofpps or check the school website.

NHS Lothian requested that the following e-mail be shared with parents and carers

Dear Parent/Carer,

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT MENINGITIS B (MENB) VACCINATION

You might have heard about recent cases of Meningitis B (MenB) in parts of the UK. Because of this, plans are being put in place to offer the MenB vaccine to young people.

Your child can get the MenB vaccine if any of the following applies to them:

- They were born between 01 March 2008 and 28 February 2009
- They were in S6 during the 2025-2026 academic year
- They are under the age of 25 and starting their first undergraduate university course in the 2026-2027 academic year
- They are under the age of 25, starting their first college course in the 2026-2027 academic year, and living in shared student accommodation

To make sure your child does not miss out, check the NHS Lothian website for the latest updates and clinic information and locations

Visit nhslothian.scot/vaccinations and click on MenB.

About the MenB vaccine

- The MenB vaccine is given in two doses.
- You need both doses for the best protection.
- It takes about 2 weeks from the second dose for your body to build full protection.

That is why it is important to start the vaccination course early and to come back for the second dose.

How the vaccine helps

The MenB vaccine helps protect against meningococcal B bacteria, which can cause:

- meningitis (an infection around the brain and spinal cord)
- sepsis (a serious blood infection)

These are serious illnesses that can cause long-term health issues. In severe cases, they can be life threatening. The best way to be protected is to get vaccinated.

Yours sincerely

Susan Webb
Director of Public Health & Health Policy
NHS Lothian

Children First **support available over the summer holidays**

On behalf of Simon McGowan, assistant director, Children First support line:

The summer holidays can be tough at times. If your family needs support, Children First's kind and understanding support line team offer free emotional, practical and financial help. Open seven days a week, they understand the challenges families face. No matter how big or small, whatever your worry, they can help.

Call 08000 28 22 33
or start a webchat: www.childrenfirst.org.uk.

At Children First we can offer particular support to families facing financial challenges, in kinship arrangements or where they are experiencing trauma or mental ill- health. Our advisors can offer help and support on the phone or via webchat and can also link families with other services, including our financial wellbeing support team.

Find out more about our support line at: www.childrenfirst.org.uk/supportline



Parent Council



Pilrig Park Parent Council **Report Card 2025-26**

Another successful year for the Parent Council who continue to make a positive contribution to school life with their trademark blend of practicality, enthusiasm and good humour.

Support for school - A+

The Parent Council funded new stage lights for the school, ensuring shows shine even brighter.

Admin - B+

Completed some banking housekeeping. Not the most exciting subject on the timetable, but somebody has to do it!

Communication and Partnership - A

Made a valuable contribution to the development of the school's new communication statement, helping strengthen relationships between school and families.

Children's Rights - A+

Supported the school's application for Gold UNICEF Rights Respecting School accreditation.

A big thank you to Craig, who has generously volunteered to continue as Secretary next year, even though his child leaves school in the summer. Greatly appreciated.

Hugh, Craig and Aicha

pilrigparkparentcouncil@gmail.com

Time to hang up that mop!

After 14 years of helping to keep our wee school clean and tidy every morning and afternoon, it is time to bid a sad farewell to our fabulous cleaner Diane who has decided to retire. We are all very grateful for everything she has done for the school. Everyone in the Pilrig Park School community wishes her a long, happy and healthy retirement. She will be missed.

