



Pilrig Park School

To be the best we can be



March 2023

A very warm welcome to our bumper Easter newsletter! As ever a huge thanks goes to Mr McPhillips for all his hard work collating all the articles which will give our readers a small taste of the busy life of Pilrig Park School! So much has been happening, from a Ministerial visit in January to our Valentine's Café to World Book Day and not forgetting taking part in the Future Chef final only last week! Next term will be even busier as we prepare for our first ever End of Year Musical Extravaganza Show, **Pilrig Park on a Summer Holiday!** - under the direction of Ms Ella Vogiatzaki, our fabulous new Music teacher. Details of how to get tickets will follow after the holidays and keep a wee eye out on our Twitter page for a very special trailer thanks to Lothian Buses!

Please see the second last page of the Newsletter for some important dates for your diary.

Everyone working at Pilrig Park School would like to wish all our families and pupils a very relaxing and peaceful holiday. We look forward to seeing our pupils back at school on - **Monday 17th April.**

Take care and keep safe.

Little Miss Sparkle Shoes herself!!



Pilrig Park School welcomes Mr Jamie Hepburn MSP

We were delighted to welcome Mr Jamie Hepburn, Minister for Higher Education and Further Education, Youth Employability and Training to our school on Tuesday 31st January.

The Minister met with our senior pupils to hear about how our partners support them to achieve positive destinations post school. He learned from our young people about the skills and opportunities we offer here at Pilrig Park School. Mr Hepburn heard about a selection of employability skills our pupils are currently learning as part of their senior phase curriculum including salon skills, gardening, and hospitality. Edinburgh College links and how they help to promote further education pathways into employment and training, was also a topic for discussion during our pupil voice session with the Minister.

Mr Hepburn heard from our partners, staff and the Leadership Team about the multi- agency approach that the school has developed and how this greatly supports our young people achieve positive destinations. The visit was an excellent opportunity for us to share our experiences and most importantly for our young people to express what they think about leaving school and the opportunities offered to them, including any challenges they may face.

A big thanks to all our young people, partners and staff in helping us to make this such a productive and successful visit.

Keith Mackay, Depute Head Teacher



Red Class

This term, Red class had a wonderful afternoon visit to Easter Road stadium. Tom, our tour guide, told us lots of interesting facts about the stadium, including the expensive prices for one of the hospitality tables - £25,000!! He let us visit the dressing rooms, referees' room, media room and pitch side among other areas. We even met two of the players from Hibs FC ladies team, who some of us had seen playing at the Hibs v. Hearts Ladies Cup Final earlier in the month.



We have started our personal care programme in the salon every Tuesday afternoon, with a focus on nail care for the first few weeks. Some of the class were kind enough to offer to brush Miss Wheat's nails last week with her own personal nail brush! We are excited to move on to hair washing after the holidays...



This term also saw the start of our paired reading initiative with the seniors who come to our class weekly to read to, or listen to, their partner reading. Each pair are enjoying getting to know each other and Red class enjoy this extra opportunity to practice their reading or hear a new story.



Orange Class

Orange had a wonderful time this term visiting the National Museum of Scotland! The pupils took part in a fun workshop all about space and got to explore parts of the Museum.



Green Class

Green class celebrated Chinese New Year by taking a trip to Rendezvous Chinese Restaurant. We made our own menus to decide what we would like to order – we tried chicken curry, prawn crackers, egg fried rice, spring rolls and vegetable chow mein! We left with tummies full of tasty food and smiles on our faces 😊



Green class enjoyed our school visit to the panto to watch Snow White, and of course the ice cream! We shared our feelings about the trip by making gold stars and rating the panto 0 stars – 5 stars.



Green Class and Orange Class

Mr. Cuddy – ‘What do you get if you mix Green and Orange?’

Miss Morrison – ‘A great game of rounders.’

Orange and Green class spent a sunny afternoon playing rounders together! It was wonderful watching both classes working together and having fun in the sun.



Blue Class

As part of Book Week, the Blue Class really enjoyed *The Book Thief* and designed a cover for our door. We also studied *The Boy in Striped Pyjamas* and did excellent character studies of the two main characters. This was linked to our work on Rights Respecting Schools and the Article Non-Discrimination and Keeping Children Safe in Armed Conflict.



As part of Me and My World for JASS Award, we designed Fair Trade Posters and made two display boards to promote Fair Trade products in our school community. This is linked to Article 27 and the Right to an Adequate Standard of living for Farmers and Their families. We also learned about Mary's Meals and Child 31 and learned that sadly not all children across the world are getting their Right to an Education, Health Care, clean water and food.



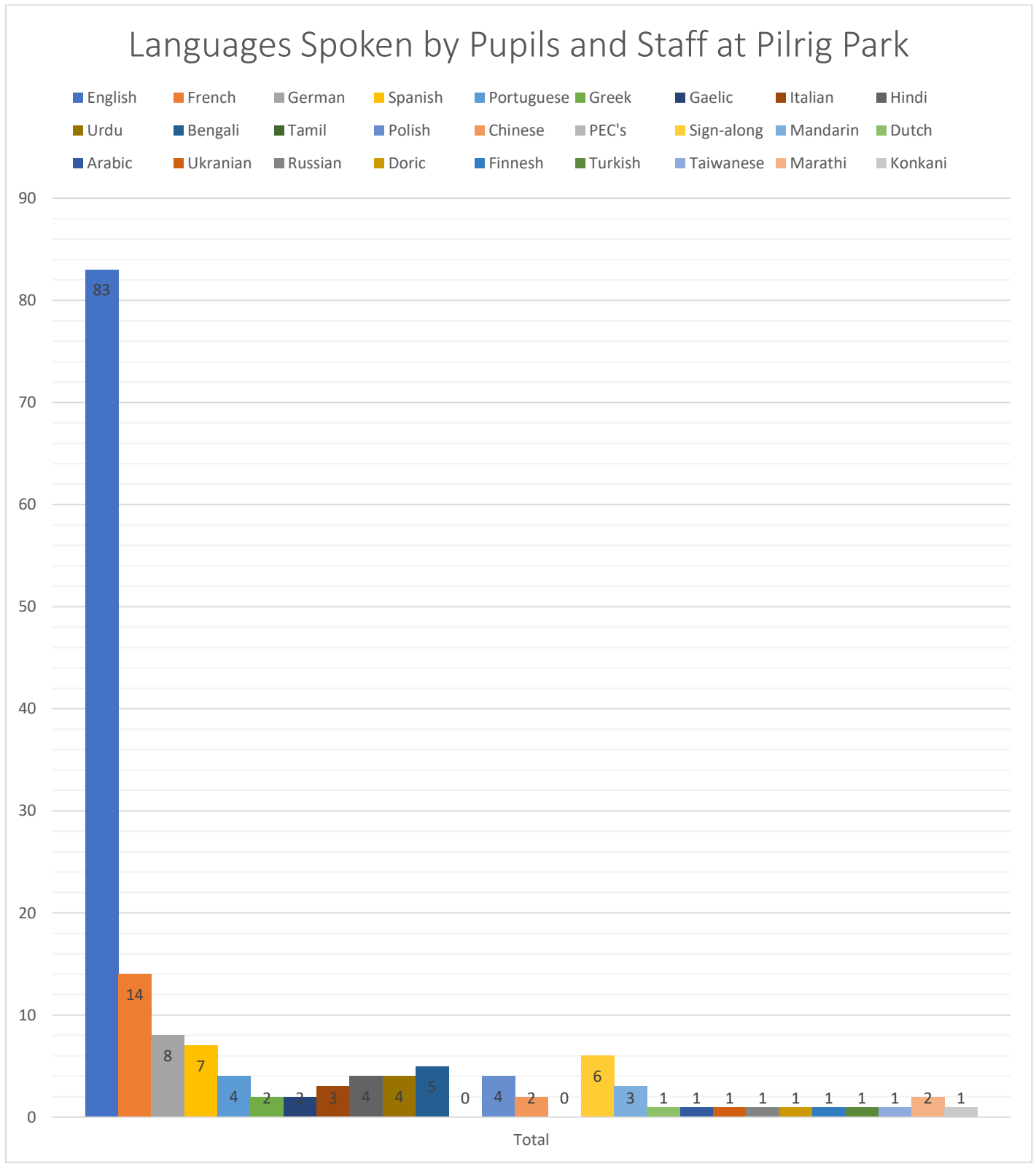
As part of the Steering Group for RRSa we have been helping all areas and classes to have a Class Charter.

We are really enjoying working on our tunes Shape of You and Roar for The Music Extravaganza. We have been learning keyboard, ukulele and using boom whackers to play Music.

The Blue Group had a brilliant time going to Waterstones at Ocean Terminal. We loved looking at all the different genre and found lots of books we would like to read. We exchanged our book tokens for our chosen books. It was very exciting.



The Blue Group surveyed all classes to see what languages are spoken in each class. We found that we are a very multilingual, multicultural school indeed, which we are all very proud of and want to celebrate. Mrs Ali helped transform our data into a graph. This is linked to our Right to celebrate our own language, culture, faith and country of origin.



Purple Class

We have had a busy time this term, working hard on all our courses and getting out and about for some learning in the community. We have been lucky enough to be involved in two great projects, a Dance Festival and the edible garden at the Botanics.

We have been doing some excellent group work with Green class, getting ready for our end of year musical extravaganza.

The Botanics

After what has felt like a very long winter, we finally got back to our plot at the Botanics. Kath and Trisha have planned a brilliant programme. We began by weeding our beds and planting shallots and onions.



Edinburgh Schools Dance Festival

We were lucky enough to have Kirsty from the 'Edinburgh Dance Academy' visit for a number of weeks and together we created a brilliant dance. We had a great time performing it at Oaklands.



In class we have been busy learning about taking journeys by bus, how to create a shopping list and how to cost it. We have also created walking tour maps and have been practicing our listening and talking skills during group work tasks.

We have also been lucky enough to take part in Army day and a coding project, both of which taught us about skills needed for different jobs in the world of work. We really enjoyed these visits and were excited to be involved in activities that we had not tried before!

We are really excited for all the excitement of next term!

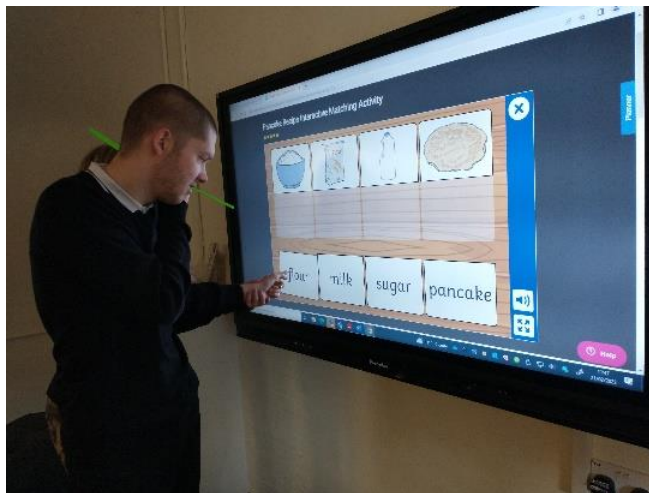
Barra Class

Making South Indian dosas for the entertaining module in the ASDAN Foodwise course.



Enjoying science week.

Learning about pancakes for pancake day and playing shapes bingo.



A short trip to Upmo as part of the Leavers programme.



The Seniors

Science Week: For Science Week, the Senior groups of Clyde and Tweed collaborated in creating the Solar System! Both groups used their Art and English skills to create the Solar System poster that decorates one of our school walls!



Paired Reading: Pilrig Park recently incorporated Paired Reading across the English timetable. Senior students have been paired with BGE students and enjoy reading sessions together. The Senior students feel empowered and confident and the BGE students enjoy having “the big kids” reading to them!



The Clyde group visited Waterstones at Ocean Terminal to redeem their World Book Day tokens and explore the bookshop!








To celebrate World Book Day, the Clyde group took the Potter Trail, a Harry Potter tour! The gloriously sunny day allowed them to begin the tour from Greyfriar's Kirkyard and finish at the Elephant House, learning about how J.K Rowling got her Harry Potter inspiration, the magic of Edinburgh and practice their spells!



Pupil Council Page

This term the Pupil Council met to discuss the results of our school food survey. We asked for pupils to express their views on the school dinners and suggest their favourite foods for the menu.

Below are the results:

Question	Yes	No	Sometimes						
1. Do you take a school lunch?	50	14	0	 pizza	48	 cake	42	 salad	13
2. Do you like school lunches?	35	16	6	 fries	49	 chicken	26	 custard	31
3. Are the portions big enough?	34	20	n/a	 soup	25	 sandwich	30	 pie	21
4. Do you like the desserts?	25	13	17	 macaroni	33	 pasta	31	 vegetarian nuggets	32
5. What do you think of the vegetarian food?	Good = 31	Bad = 28	n/a	 sausages	40	 Mexican food	23	 curry and rice	19
				 burger	38	 tuna pasta		 lasagne	22

Once the results were compiled, Jeni, Leith Academy's mobile supervisor, came to meet with the Pupil Council to discuss the results of the survey and how to improve the school menu.



Jeni was able to instantly provide the school with large trays for the canteen and is working on ways to create a new and better menu for the pupils at Pilrig Park School.

Thank you Jeni. Further updates next term!

The Pupil Council

The Art Room

The art room has been a hive of activity this term with each class in BGE, working together to create a mural for the foyer. The theme is 'under the sea' and we have made a collection of sea creatures, including turtles, octopus, crabs, and some wonderful and colourful fish. Pupils have learned how to do a mosaic technique using card and paint. There will be update next term once the mural is in position! Here is a sneak preview of the work – in progress!



The National 3 class are almost finished their final outcomes for their expressive piece of artwork. They have been using a variety of techniques including collage and watercolour painting and their pictures are fantastic!



Purple Class have been learning new art techniques for their National 2 Unit. When asked what their favourite art techniques was, the most popular answer was collage and here are some of their masterpieces!



Barra class are working on an enterprise unit in which they have been making bird feeders for the school garden. We have hung up lots of pinecone feeders on the trees and the birds are already enjoying the seeds. The group have just finished making some birdfeeders using recycled juice cartons. These birds are going to be very well fed this Spring!



English and Literacy

It has been a very busy term for English & Literacy in Pilrig Park School!

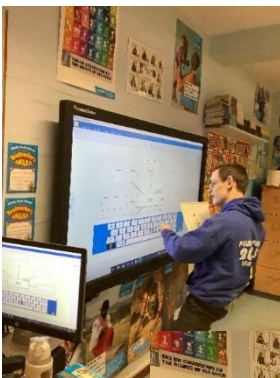
Holocaust: On the 27th of January, Pilrig Park School remembered the 6 million victims of the Holocaust. To mark the day, the Clyde group created the commemoration poster and asked from the learners and the staff to write the phrase “Never Forget”.



World Book Day: World Book Day was a huge success in Pilrig Park School this year! The classes unleashed their creativity and created amazing book posters to decorate their doors!



Clicker8: Pilrig Park School recently purchased the Clicker8 software to boost the Literacy levels across the School. The learners have been enjoying using this versatile programme as it allows them to stretch their learning from describing a monster to learning about the solar system!



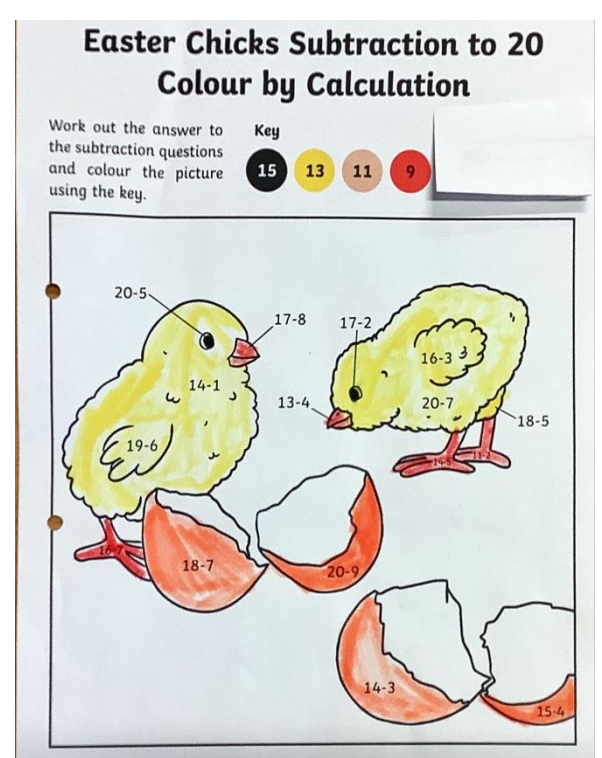
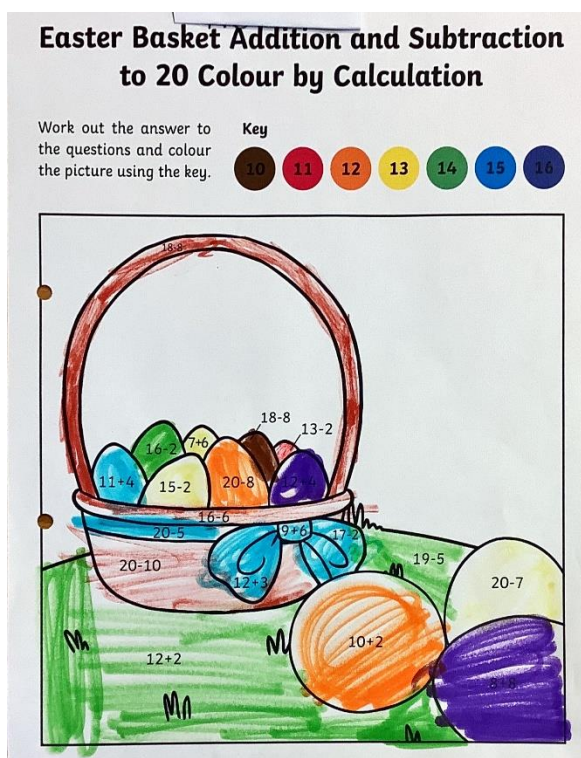
Maths

Tweed class have continued to work hard and most of the pupils are on track to complete National 3 – Applications of Maths this year, with one pupil working towards National 4 Numeracy, which they will complete soon. Well done to everyone in Tweed for working hard on these units.

Forth and Clyde have continued to complete units at National 1 and National 2 level.

The effort and engagement of all pupils from S4 – S6 this year has been great and everyone has achieved what they deserve.

Recently we have been practicing our adding and subtracting with some Easter activities.



P.E.

Pupils participating in PE have been developing and improving skills and techniques through practice and play in following activities: Handball, Fitness, Badminton, Boccia.

Purple class took part in PE dance sessions led by Kirsty - Edinburgh Dance Academy Instructor. They represented Pilrig Park School at Special Schools Dance Festival at Oaklands School in Edinburgh.

Our football team continued to take part in football trainings at Spartans Football Club. 13 pupils have worked very hard to excel their skills.



Cross Country Competition

Five pupils represented our school at SDS National Cross- Country Championships on Thursday 16th March at Alexandra Park in Glasgow. One of our pupils finished in 4th place in the 1 mile S5-6 category.



Home Economics

Some of our seniors have recently been practicing for a competition.

We have been invited to take part in a Future Chef competition with Kaimes and Woodlands. We had our in school heat last week, judged by Natalie, Mr Mackay, Ms McLarty and Jen from Speech and Language. Our 2 winners went on to join Ms Vennelle at Woodlands for the final.

Well done Everyone who took part!



Future Chef Final

This week our winners went to the final of the senior Future Chef competition with pupils from Kaimes and Woodlands schools.

The 6 pupils taking part, showed off their amazing skills and have made everyone proud.



Music Department

The preparations for our school concert have started! We have auditioned and we have been rehearsing every week!

Another One Bites The Dust , Wrecking Ball and You Are My Sunshine are just some of the songs!!

Here are some photos of our fun musical adventure! Watch this space 🎵

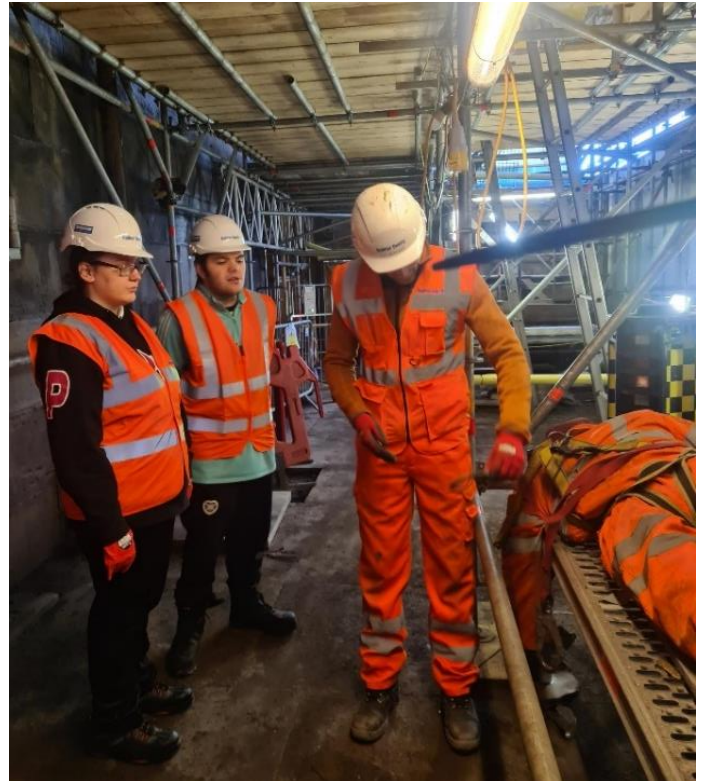


There have been several DYW experiences and activities going on in and out of school this term, and we welcomed Elizabeth Hazley, our new DYW Schools Coordinator, who has been getting to know our young people.

Balfour Beatty Construction site visit

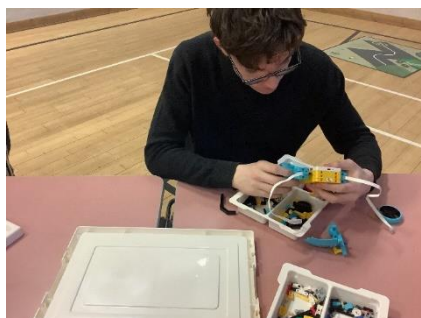
Pupils in Tweed class made a site visit to see the North Bridge which is being refurbished by Balfour Beatty. Hard hats were worn, and everyone enjoyed a very interesting site visit.

The photo shows a worker explaining what the team do if they have to rescue someone who is injured inside the bridge.



Army STEM Youth Engagement Team

Two members of the Army Youth Team came to see us in February and every class in the school had the opportunity to take part in some STEM (science, technology, engineering, and maths) activities. The pupils learned how to build, programme and drive mini robots. Great fun was had by all and the school hall was full of buzzing robots!



Scran Van



A few pupils were involved in an opportunity to take part in Scran Van workshop in March. Dave provided confidence-boosting, skills building workshops on the Scran Van, showing the classrooms come in all shapes and sizes! Our young people were also learning team work as well as culinary tips whilst making tortilla pizzas and macaroni cheese! It was a very successful event and a practical way to teach pupils the transferrable skills they need for life and work.

DYW Roadshow

Our 5th year pupils in Forth and Clyde classes went to the DYW Roadshow at the O2 Academy in March. The event brings together employers, further education, and training providers with the young people in our region, to help them find their next step. Our pupils had the opportunity to see lots of possible post school destinations as well as meet other young people across the city.



ASDAN Awards

Animal Care

The Animal Care group have been out on 2 trips this term.

In January we visited Pets At Home at Fort Kinnaird. We saw lots of different types of animals: mammals, fish, reptiles, amphibians and insects, but no birds apart from the squeaky duck dog toy that one of the pupils bought!



More recently we enjoyed a trip to Maison De Moggy, which is a café, near the Grassmarket with 10 cats. Everyone really enjoyed this trip, and we loved playing with the cats and learning all about them.



Gardening

Our Rooftop Allotment

As you may know, we won a grant a long, long time ago to create a rooftop allotment. After a bit of a wait, we finally received all our items: from seeds to trees and tubs to trugs.

So now the real work has begun. We started by gathering all the tubs and trugs into one space. We also cleared out all the rubbish from the roof terrace. We were left with a big, blank space.

We planted up the fruit trees, we will eventually have apricots, plums, apples and pears. After Easter we plan to plant up spring onions, radishes, peas, herbs and some flowers. Last year we planted strawberries and rhubarb, and both of these crops are doing well.

We also have a lovely wormery which is doing really well, and we hope to get a compost bin up there too.

By the Summer we should have a good variety of fruit, vegetables and herbs growing there.



Eco Update

Throughout the year, Red Class have carried out weekly recycling for all classes and communal areas.

Barra class are collecting and emptying the compost bins weekly too. **WELL DONE ALL!**



In February, Red class asked Miss O'Hagan if she would buy some reusable cups for the dining hall. We wrote a letter to the dining hall staff to ask for their help in washing the reusable cups. **This has reduced our plastic consumption in school.**

In Red class, our current focus across Social Studies and Science is on climate change and pollution. Here are our pollution catchers hanging in the gazebo in the playground:



Recently, we read the stories 'Somebody Swallowed Stanley' and 'Somebody Crunched Colin', which highlight the dangers to animals of littering, and that many items which are recycled can be reused, and made into new items. We also watched a short video about the harmful effects of littering on wildlife. Following this film, we decided to make our own seagull covered in litter to highlight this serious issue, which Mrs Ferguson has kindly displayed in the foyer with her Spring collection.



In the Eco cause Barra recycled some toilet rolls into binoculars so they could check if birds were eating from the feeders made in Art. Inspiration for this came from watching the amazing David Attenborough series 'Wild Isles'.



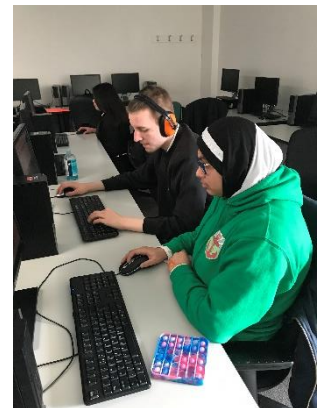
The Eco Team are in the latter stages of their Draft Action Plan for the ECO Schools Scotland Green Flag Award and will be submitting the application before the end of the academic year.

College Links

Pupils from Forth and Barra have been attending Edinburgh College at Milton Road this term.

This has been going well and the 4 pupils involved are really enjoying it and have been a credit to the school.

Well done to these pupils.



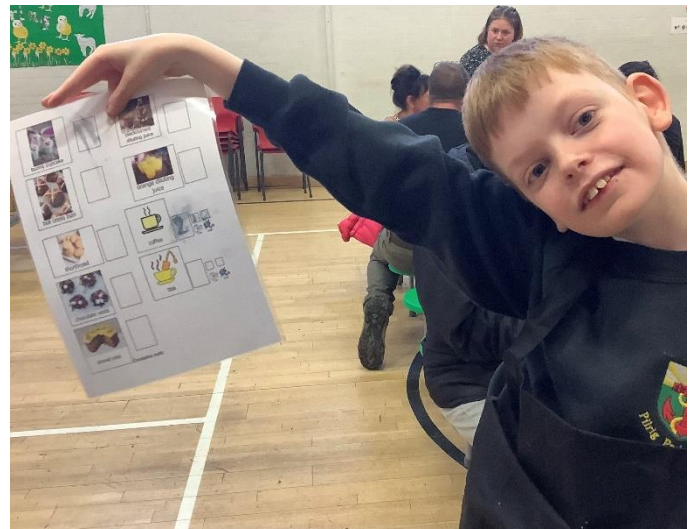
Rights Respecting School

Our RRSA Steering Group are working hard for our Blue Sky Day for Alice's Memorial Day in June. We have painted plant pots in sky blue. We are using Art Deco and collage techniques to decorate them with a sea theme of fish. This is to celebrate our dear Alice's life and to celebrate it and to thank St Columbas Hospice for taking such good care of her our beloved and very much missed colleague and friend who contributed hugely to our school through her many years in service. We are going to plant sunflowers using compost from our garden and seeds and present them to patients at St Columbas Hospice to celebrate them and their life and to thank Health Care professionals for their loving care. This is linked to the RRSA rights to Life and Survival and Health Care.



The Easter Café

We were delighted to welcome some parents and carers in for the Easter café this week. Everyone had a great time and the pupil helpers served everyone very professionally.



Parental Engagement

A massive thank you to families for taking the time to complete the **Family Engagement Questionnaire**. We were very pleased to receive the feedback and we are now in the process of addressing the action points.

1.	How often do you currently meet with other parents and carers at Pilrig Park School?						
	Daily	Weekly	Monthly	Seasonally	Yearly	Never	
			2	7	5	20	Σ 34
2.	How involved have you been in social aspects of the school in the past? For example, Winter Festival Event or School Show.						
	Extremely involved	Somewhat involved	Neutral	Somewhat not involved	Extremely not involved		
	4	5	5	9	11		Σ 34
3.	Would you like to be involved in / attend social aspects of the school in the future?						
	Yes	No	Maybe				
	14	2	18	34			
4.	Would you like to get to know other parents and carers of young people at Pilrig Park School?						
	Yes	No	Maybe				
	17	2	14	Σ 33			
5.	Would your young person benefit from socialising with his/her school peers out of school hours?						
	Yes	No	Maybe				
	14	7	12	Σ 33			
6.	Do you think that your young person and your family would like to attend a social event organised by school, out with school hours?						
	Yes	No	Maybe				
	15	4	15	Σ 34			
7.	Do family circumstances such as transport, English as an additional language or childcare, impact on you engaging with school as fully as you would like to?						
	Yes	No					
	15	17	Σ 34				
8.	If the answer is 'yes' to the question above, can you give details?						
	Afternoon sessions, transport issues, childcare issues, health issues, events are not out with the school hours, public transport is long journey, do not drive, language, working hours, lives far away and so afterschool is an issue						
9.	Can you give any suggestions on how the school can engage families to become involved in the school community?						
	S1-3 stay and play, s4-6 chance to look at work, Facebook group, events with 8n school hours. Special events, weekend events, social media safe space, youth events, guides and scouts, engage in person, by emails, teams or by letter, more weekend events, parents watching school engagements						
10.	Would you like to be part of a group of staff and parent/carers that looks at Family Engagement within Pilrig Park School?						
	Yes	No	Maybe				
	2	13	15	Σ 30			

Parent Council

The Pilrig Park School Parent Council hope all in our community have a restful and relaxing break over the Easter Holidays. It was a lovely start to the holiday for families to be able to join the young people in school for the Easter Cafe. A lovely afternoon was had by all and it was so nice to be served, with home baking, by the wonderful 'waiting staff'.

When we return to school in mid-April we will be on the countdown to summer. We are sure the staff team will have lots of interesting, educational and fun things for the young people to enjoy. How exciting!

Kind regards

Your Parent Council

PS. A wee reminder about EasyFundraising:

Thank you to everyone who is shopping via Easyfundraising and raising funds for all the young people in the school! £25.60 has been raised from December - February. If you are interested how Easy this fundraising is and want to contribute to raise funds for the school please visit their website and look for Friends of Pilrig Park School: <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk>



Some important dates for your diary

17th of April	Pupils return
1st and 2nd of May	Holiday
8th of May	Holiday
16th of May	Report cards issued
18th of May	Musical Extravaganza for S1 – S3 parents/carers
19th of May	Musical Extravaganza for S4 – S6 parents/carers
22nd of May	Holiday
25th of May	S1 – S6 Parents Night – 4:00pm – 6:00pm
1st of June	Sports Day
7th of June	Summer Café
16th of June	Whole-school silent disco to wish leavers good luck
21st of June	S5 and S6 trip
26th of June	10:00am – Leavers Assembly, by invitation to families of leavers
26th of June	7:00pm – 9:30pm – Leavers Ball at Hibs Supporters Club, Sunnyside
28th of June	Last day before the summer holidays

Coming Soon

Pilrig Park on a Summer Holiday!



Pilrig Park School End of Year Musical Extravaganza – May the 18th (S1-S3) and May the 19th(S4-S6)