



Pilrig Park School

Sunshine in Leith



June 2023

A very warm welcome to our last newsletter for this session. We hope it gives you a flavour of school life over this busy term! It has been a real pleasure to welcome parents/carers into the school for our school show. A massive thanks goes to all the staff who worked so hard on all the different aspects of production. Contrasting with the joys of the show, we have said a very sad farewell to our S6 pupils and their parents/carers. We were delighted that so many families were able to join us for the Leavers Assembly on Monday. That evening the Hibs Supporters Club hosted our Ball and what fun we all had dancing, singing and getting our photos taken. My lasting memory will be leading a VERY long conga line around the dance floor!

As well as saying cheerio to our Leavers, it also means we say goodbye to four members of our Parent Council. They have all been such a tremendous support to the school over the years and I cannot thank them enough for their hard work, dedication and fund raising efforts. What a difference you have made to the pupils of our wonderful school.

Throughout session 2022 / 23 the pupils and staff of Pilrig Park School have revisited our vision, values and aims. We would like to hear what our families and wider community think of our all our hard work. Please share your thoughts through the following email address: Admin@pilrigpark.edin.sch.uk

On behalf of all the staff I would like to wish all our school community a thoroughly enjoyable summer holiday. Thank you for all the kindness you have shown to us throughout the year, it has been our pleasure to work with you.

We look forward to seeing all our pupils again on Wednesday 16th August at 8.30am!

Enjoy the newsletter, take care and keep safe.

Ms Ann M. O'Hagan

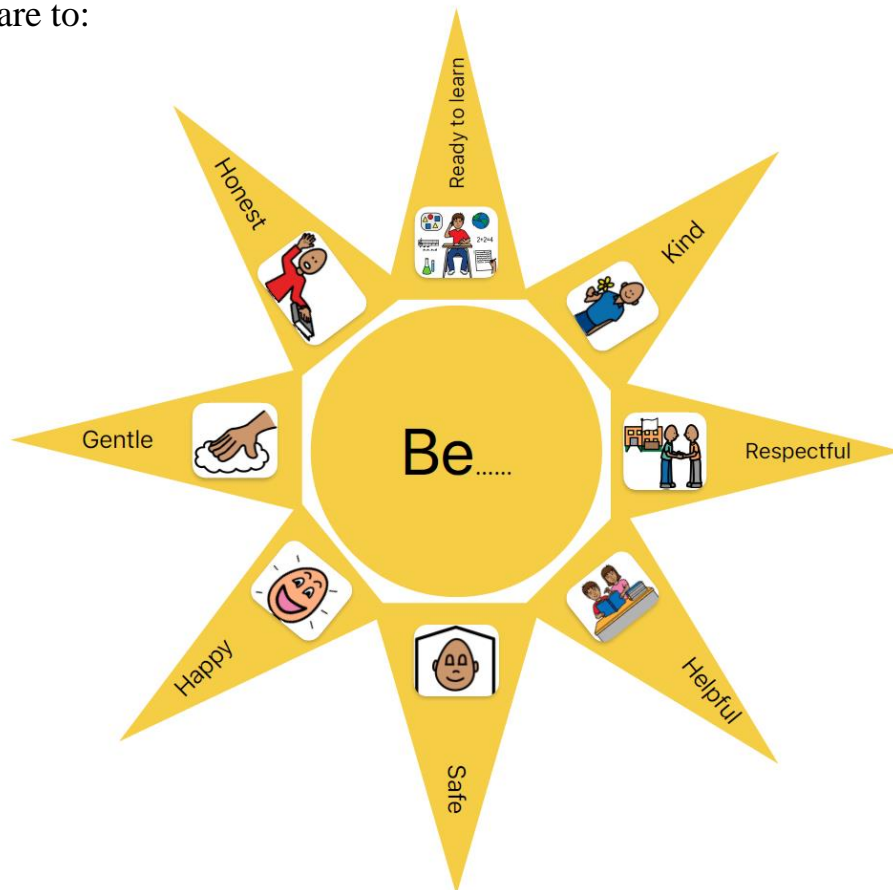
Head Teacher



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!

PILRIG PARK NEWS

Pilrig Park School are delighted to announce they have now achieved their Level 3 RHS Schools Gardening Award!!!

This year the Pilrig Park School Gardening Group have worked hard to establish a rooftop allotment that will provide our pupils with the opportunity to learn about where food comes from, how to encourage wildlife into a non- traditional garden and to learn skills for gardening, with a focus on promoting mental health.

We started learning about composting, using weeds and garden rubbish to fill our compost bays. With a grant we received from the council for Future Food Growers we purchased some fruit trees and have been learning about pruning and caring for trees. In our raised beds we planted fruits and vegetables, learning about when best to sow, how to sow seeds and about the seasonality of crops. We have also begun planting flowers that will encourage insects into the garden so that we can learn about biodiversity.

We plan to develop the range of crops that we are growing in our allotment so that we can make up recipe bags for our families, using produce from our garden. We are also hoping that with the composting and worm tea from our wormery, we will be able to have high quality compost without having to buy it. Our plan is to be as self- sufficient as possible. We are aiming to have a community flower and produce show with workshops for families, as well as a seed swap so that we can share our successes.

Ms Kirsten Sawyer – ASN teacher

Mrs Lesley McArthur – PSA and Gardener Extraordinaire!



Rights Respecting School Silver Award

To this awesome newsletter, the Rights Respecting School Award steering groups would like to add the latest update regarding the journey of Pilrig Park School in becoming a UNICEF – recognised rights respecting school.

The Rights Respecting School Award journey began in August 2022 and was led by Ms. Anna Kirkwood and Ms. Virginia Karefylakis and the steering groups of Blue class and Clyde group. The fruits of everyone's hard work was recognised in December 2022, when the school was awarded the Bronze award which is the first of three levels on the road to the Gold 'Rights Respecting' Award. To achieve the Bronze – Rights Committed – award, the learners completed work that spanned from completing pupils' and staff rights questionnaires, to Anti – Bullying work, Black Lives Matter work, Holocaust work, World Book Day work, weekly Twitter updates on the UNCRC articles, work that showcases the learners' understanding of the articles and our weekly period of Pupil Voice.

After Pilrig Park School's success on obtaining the Bronze Award, the journey towards the Silver Award (Rights Aware) began in January 2023. On top of the work planned for the Silver Award, the steering groups of Blue and Clyde decided to create a link with St. Columba's Hospice to thank and honour them for taking care of one of ours – Ms. Alice Drummond, who was a long-standing member of our staff. Alice worked tirelessly as a PSA in Pilrig Park School for 22 years before she was taken away from us in 2022. The steering groups honoured Alice by planting blue sunflowers in pots that they decorated themselves, tended to them until they sprouted, and created a card thanking the staff at St. Columba's Hospice.

In addition, everyone in Pilrig Park School created their own class charter, taught and discussed about the children's rights and completed work linked to the UNCRC. The Pupil Council robustly asked (and got!) changes regarding their lunch provision and tools. The Eco Committee has everyone recycling and thinking about the future of our planet!

The Gardening Group achieved their level 3 RHS School Gardening Awards and are making sure that our premises are taken care of and remain beautiful! Pilrig Park School got their very own Rights Respecting Tree where learners and staff had the chance of expressing themselves.

The hard work by the steering groups of Blue Class, Clyde Class and the whole school, led Pilrig Park School to obtaining the **UNICEF Silver Award – Rights Aware** in June 2023, succeeding two UNICEF awards in less than an academic year!

Our journey towards the Gold award has begun, and we are positive we will succeed in this as well!

Love & Peace, Ms. Anna Kirkwood & Ms. Virginia Karefylakis

Special thanks to Chris Fotheringham(PSA) for his horticulture knowledge and guidance, and to Keith Allen(PSA) for his artistic skills and creative thinking!



Trams to Newhaven Project

Two pupils from Pilrig Park School were invited to travel on the first tram to Newhaven on Wednesday 7th June at 12noon. We were part of the cutting of the red ribbon ceremony with the Council Leader along with other pupils from the local area. We then all boarded the first tram and off we went on our journey down Leith Walk. On board was a piper, piping us along some of the journey. Many local businesses and locals kindly waved us along our journey all the way to Newhaven. Once at Newhaven there was a Samba Band who played for all the passengers before the tram then headed on its return journey back up Leith Walk with us getting off at the new local stop Balfour Street. It was a great opportunity for us all and a great experience to be part of this historic journey.



Inclusion Ambassadors Group

Everyone at Pilrig is very excited and proud that one of our pupils has been chosen to be an Inclusion Ambassador with Children in Scotland! Children in Scotland is a Scottish children's charity that works to ensure that all children and young people are heard and included in decision-making. The Inclusion Ambassadors is a group established to guarantee that the views of young people with additional support needs are heard in discussions about education policy.

We look forward to hearing how Katie gets on with this important work.



Red Class

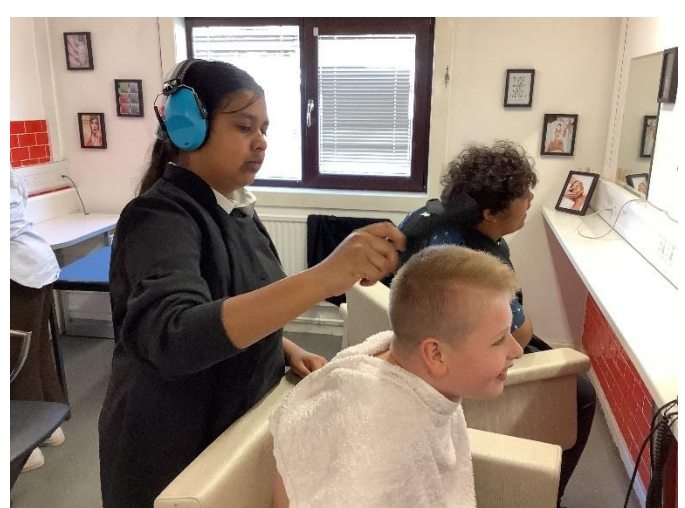
Red Class have been working towards their Heritage Heroes Award at Holyrood Park Education Centre this term. The visits have included: a walk to Camstane quarry to learn about geology; washing a tractor then some litter picking and recycling; learning about how people in the area used to live in the Iron Age; and, learning about different types of birds during some fun games! The sessions culminate in a walk around Craigmillar Castle.



Bikeability sessions with Mr T have been going well this session, with cycling skills and confidence growing!



We have continued to enjoy our weekly sessions in the salon, learning about nail and hair care, and opportunities to practice on each other! We were also lucky enough to have a session with our school nurse, Ronnie, about shaving.



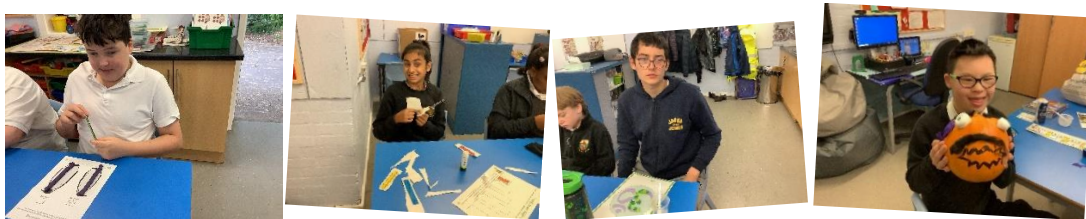
Orange Class



What a year it has been!!! A journey to remember!!



Orange class has grown from strength to strength!!



WE ARE ALL SO PROUD OF YOU!!!



Wishing you all the best for next year!!

Mrs Ali, Mr Cuddy, Isabel, and Kath

Green Class

Green Class started to learn the skills used to clean windows! We are learning to put on gloves, squeeze sponges and look after our classroom and school. We asked different teachers if they would like their windows cleaned and started to complete parts of the task independently!



We worked as a team with other classes help look after our school. We learnt how to collect the schools recycling bins and sort the bins into the correct bins.

Green class visited the Home Economics department for the first time this year. We made pizza, noodles, cakes and pasta!



As part of our Jass Award, Green Class wanted to spend time outdoors and playing games. We have learnt how to play rounders, and invited different classes to play with us!



We celebrated lots of birthdays! Green class enjoyed a boogie and a sing song!



Green class helped to plant new trees to grow the forest at Redbrae Park. We used different gardening tools and worked in partners to plant the trees.



Green class enjoyed a walk in the park to look for different signs of Spring. We then shared our photos with the rest of the school at our Spring Assembly.



Some pupils visited The Yard to ride bikes, swing and play at the park!



We have enjoyed lots of opportunities to get crafty and dress up in Green Class! We made Easter hats, celebrated different types of Mexican art and made crowns!



Green Class would like to wish everyone "peace and love" during the summer holidays!



Blue Class

The Blue Group have had a busy and fun, final term in S3 at Pilrig Park. We really enjoyed play-based learning with The Green Team outdoors. Making a den with our parachute was a highlight. We also enjoyed using magnifying glasses to go on a mini beast hunt.



The Blue Group absolutely loved Sports Day, particularly the fun run. They loved designing and painting their Burning Blue Flag and hats and looked rather splendid. We did not let the lack of sun get in the way of our fun.

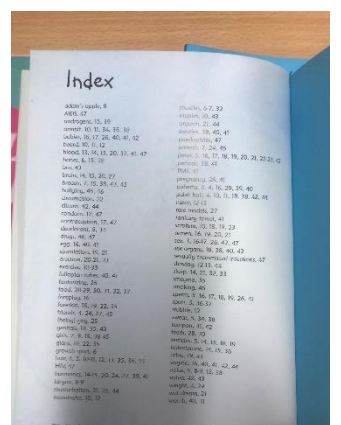
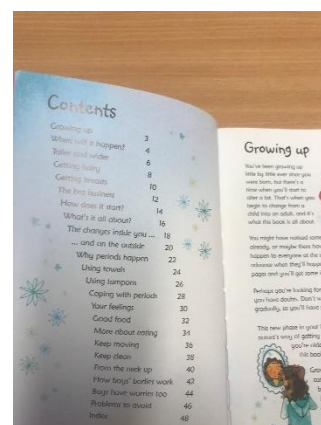
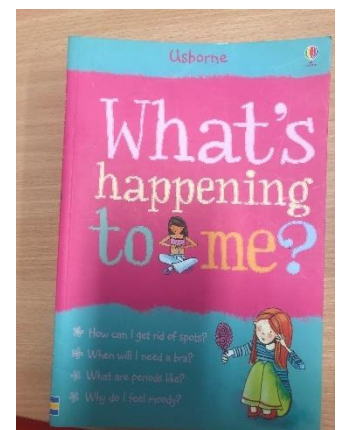
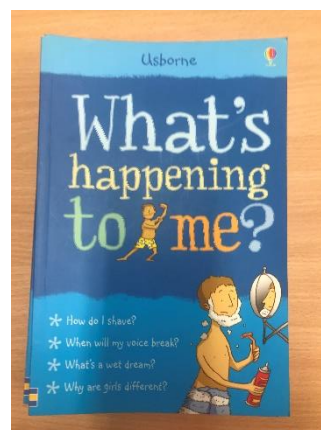
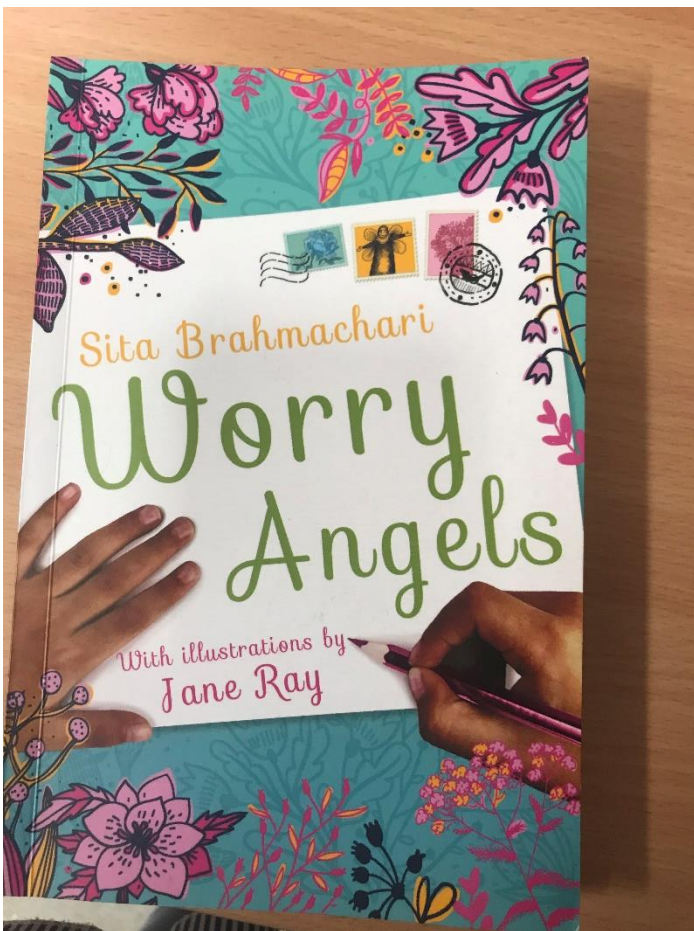


The Blue Group have loved taking part in the Music Extravaganza and making the back drops for our songs Roar and Shape of You. Fabulous work ❤️



In English and PSE we have been working on the book Worry Angels which is about young people who go to Art Therapy. It is about friendship and a Refugee family who come from Syria. We have had really interesting conversations and worked on character studies.

In non-fiction we have been looking at what is happening to our bodies and emotions during puberty. We have learned how to use a contents and index page to locate the information we need or are interested in quickly.



Purple Class

We have continued to have be busy in school this last term. Completing courses, trying new activities and continuing our work with the brilliant people at the Botanic Gardens.

We have continued doing excellent group work with Green class, getting ready for our end of year musical extravaganza. This has involved lots of different art activities, learning new games and practising our songs for the musical extravaganza!

The Botanics

We have continued visiting the Botanics on a Wednesday afternoon. We have developed a number of plots and raised beds and are now seeing the fruits (or vegetables) of our labours!

So far we have grown garlic, lettuce, chives, peas and beans. We recently went to have a look at the Cherry Blossom trees we planted last year for the Queen's Green Canopy project.



In class we have been busy learning about road safety and have been out practising our skills!

We have also been learning about collecting data, sorting and presenting data, we are now experts in Venn diagrams, bar graphs and pictograms! All as part of our maths curriculum.

Sports day

Sports day was a big success, we enjoyed taking part in all the activities and the relay. We enjoyed making our headbands and giant flag, which was Mason's design.

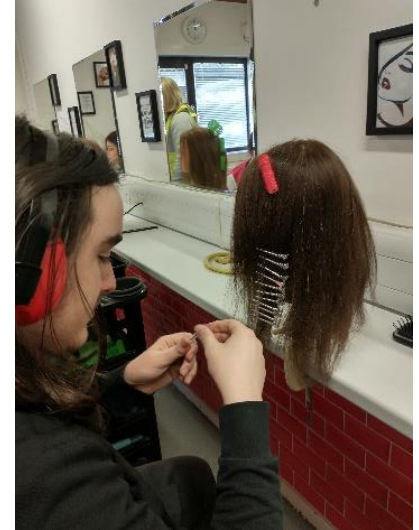


Barra Class

Barra love a story and we try to read one every day so imagine our excitement when we had a visit from Nicola, a storyteller from Trinity House. We particularly loved the story about the hungry cat living in the Royal Mile. It certainly had an amazing appetite; even eating a bus full of tourists!



We have continued to use the salon for our S.Q.A. Course and as you can see, we have been perfecting some pretty wacky styles.



For the ASDAN Foodwise course we have been cooking our way round the British Isles. The school rhubarb came in handy for our rhubarb crumble and we loved the tattie soup and soda bread from Ireland and of course who doesn't like a Devon cream tea with scones, cream and jam.



Some of the Barra class will be leaving school this year. We have been preparing for this with visits from partner agencies and getting ready for the end of term celebrations. We are looking forward to seeing families and friends at the various events and we hope to give the Barra leavers the amazing send off they deserve. I for one will miss you all terribly so please keep in touch! **Mrs Tupper**

Clyde Class

The Clyde group has been supporting the Green Class in Pilrig Park's Forest Schools journey! The learners have loved the whole process as they like being outside and working with their peers from the Green Class!



Pride Month!

The Clyde group created the Pride flag after having talked about June being the month celebrating the LGBTQ+ community, the importance of celebrating each person's uniqueness and advocating every person's freedom of expression.



The Seniors

As part of a whole school project, pupils from Tweed and Forth classes have each been designing and painting a stone to go in the 'rock river' which is being created in the amphitheatre part of the playground. Every pupil in the school will paint a stone to place in the 'river', alongside a new mural on the wall! It's going to look fantastic when it is all finished! Watch this space!



The Leavers Pupil Voice group have been busy preparing for the end of term, which has included making 19 red anchors as part of a lovely farewell gift! They have also been compiling lots of ideas for the Yearbook. One feature in the yearbook is a 'Guess the Baby' page which has been very entertaining to put together!



The Scran Van

This term, we have been very lucky to welcome back Dave and his van from the Scran Academy! Several pupils have experienced what it is like to cook and learn new skills – all done in the van! There have been nice smells wafting out of the van each time, which has made us all very hungry! The Scran Van will return next session, which is fantastic! This work supports pupils to develop positive health and wellbeing, and hopefully help give them a passion for cooking that will last them a lifetime!



College taster course

As part of the Schools College Partnership, several pupils have enjoyed attending a part time taster course, ahead of starting their post school destinations. A project which one of the groups have been doing at Milton Road campus, is creating scarecrows for the College garden! The scarecrows look fantastic although definitely more friendly than scary!



The Art Room

BGE classes

The 'under the sea' mural is finished! Every single pupil in the BGE classes contributed to this fantastic piece of artwork, and it is now up on the wall in the school foyer. Pupils helped to paint the sea creatures, cut out shapes and learn how to use a mosaic technique! It is a very large piece of group work, so we needed several weeks to finish it. Well done to everyone for working hard and making it so colourful!

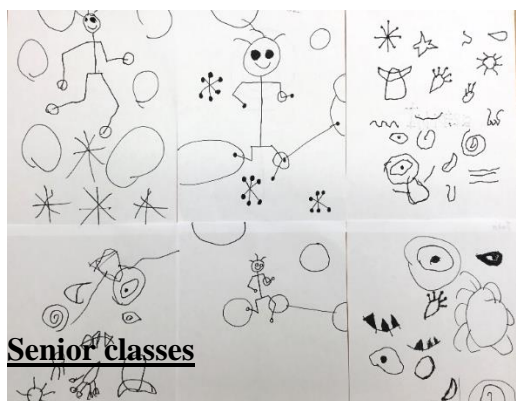


Green Class have been learning about textures this term. They have been making their own textures using various art materials and discovering rough and smooth surfaces. We had fun making textures using rollers, bubble wrap and making collagraph boards for printing!



It has been all about colour with the Red Class as they discovered the work of the artist Mondrian. The class created their own 'stained glass windows' in the style of the artist and the results were very bright and colourful!

Orange and Blues classes have been doing some polystyrene printing and getting to know the work of the artist, Miro. Pupils learnt how to press into the polystyrene and create simple images which they could then print using coloured inks.



The National 3 class have finished their final outcomes for their expressive piece of artwork and they should all be extremely proud of their hard work! Over the course of the year, the pupils have learnt a variety of art techniques and practised their art skills. Well done to them all on a fantastic selection of artwork!



Barra class have continued to make items for the school garden, as part of their Enterprise Unit. They have produced a wonderful selection of decorated CDs which we are turning into sensory mobiles using recycled coat hangers! We used sparkly gems and stickers to decorate the CDs and catch the sunlight as they blow in the wind.



Purple Class continue to experiment with various art skills and have mastered how to create textures, photography and gouache painting to produce some magnificent pieces of artwork.



Playground Update

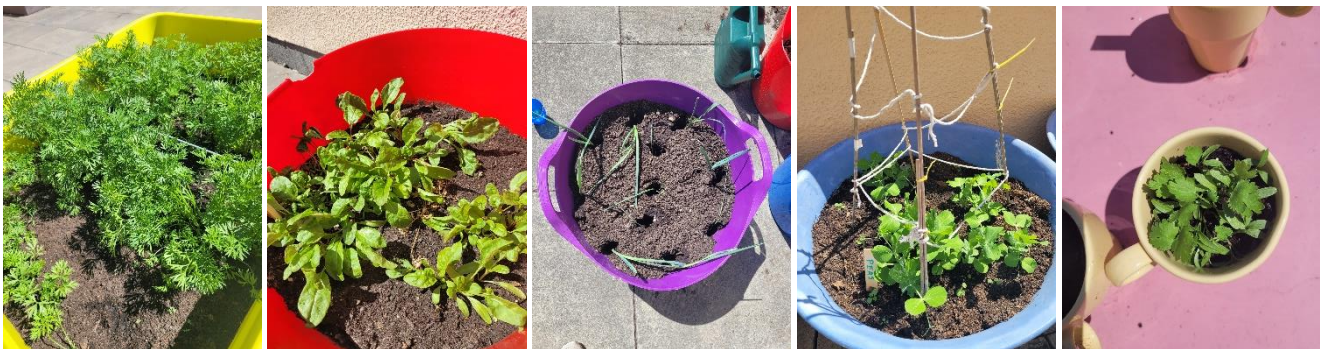
Our under the sea themed mural has begun taking shape! The wall has been prepared, all ready for each pupil to put on their own design of fish. More pictures in the next edition of the newsletter. Pupils have also been busy designing and painting their pebble for our rock river which will go under the mural, with some lovely sensory plants. Watch this space.



The Pilrig Planters

As the year comes to an end, the Friday gardening group are starting to see all their hard work in the rooftop allotment come to life!

We have planted fruits, vegetables, herbs and flowers and the space has been transformed into a calm space where pupils can learn about gardening and see the process from seed to table.



Carrots

Chard

Leeks

Peas

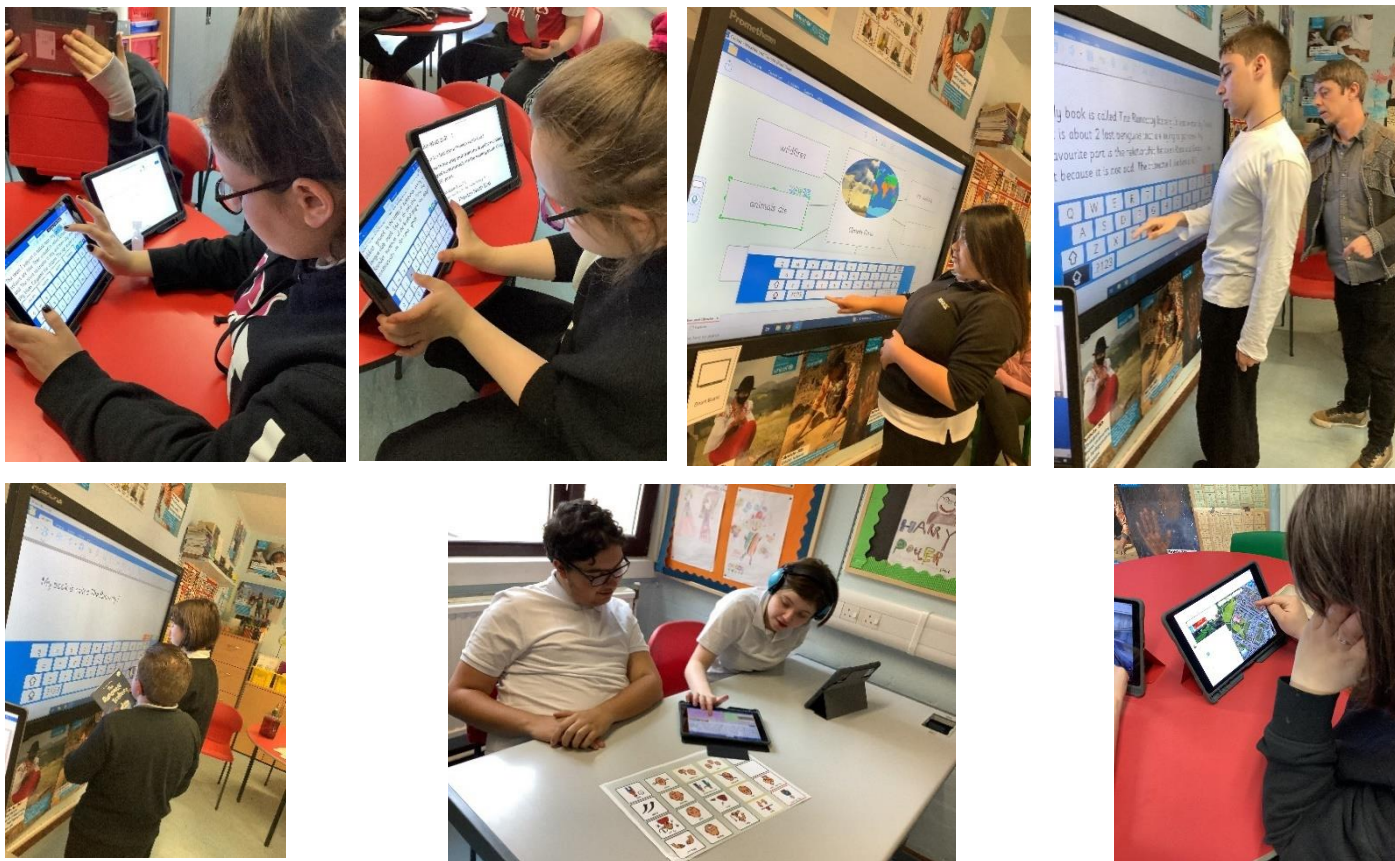
Coriander

...and rhubarb and strawberries and pears.

English & Literacy News!

Digital Literacy

During the last term of the year, the learners focused on expanding and enriching their digital literacy knowledge! From using Clicker8 extensively to using a variety of other educational programmes and apps, the learners worked on tasks related to English, Literacy as well as developing their digital skills!



Storytelling Day!

Pilrig Park welcome Nicola from Illuminate for a full day of Storytelling! The learners enjoyed and engaged with the stories and had a fabulous day! We are looking forward for more storytelling sessions with Nicola in the future!



P.E.

SDS National Junior Athletics Championships 2023

Eight athletes from Pilrig Park School took part in Scottish Disability Sports National Junior Athletics Championships 2023 at Grangemouth Stadium. Everybody showed great competitive spirit and dedication.



Sports Day 2023

This year we held Sports Day on Thursday 1st June in Pilrig Park.

Pupils enjoyed taking part in different competitive sports activities, followed by a Fun Run, when pupils wore silly hats or fancy-dress items. After the event our Head Teacher awarded students with medals and certificates.



Young Leaders

Hundreds of primary pupils took part in Games @ The Hub 2023 in Inch Park. Our four Young Leaders were helping with Boccia games, being in charge of different Boccia stations.

They did great and all had very positive feedback from organisers and teachers involved.



Proud Moment

Pilrig Park School pupils were very proud to create a guard of honour across Pilrig Park for the children from Pilrig Children's Nursey as they came over to use our hall for their own Leavers' celebrations.



Welcoming our new S1 pupils!

On Tuesday 21st June, we held a Welcome Café for our new S1 pupils! Our senior pupils were a fantastic help, serving refreshments and school-baked goodies to all our new families! It was so lovely to welcome the next generation of Pilrig Park School pupils! We hope you all enjoyed your three days with us and we look forward to welcoming you back on the 16th August!



Leavers' Celebrations

Leavers lunch

Lots of fun, dancing, party food and plenty of Harry Styles!



Leavers Trip to Blair Drummond Safari Park

All of the S5 pupils joined their friends in S6 for their one final school trip to the Safari Park.



Leavers Assembly

On Monday of the final week, we celebrated our Leavers and their achievements at a special Assembly



Pilrig Park on a Summer Holiday!

We finished the term in spectacular fashion with this year's Musical Extravaganza – Pilrig Park on a Summer Holiday!

The show combined a film which everyone had worked together on, along with some live performances and singalongs. Those in attendance left thoroughly entertained and impressed by the talents of our pupils (and staff).

We also collected money for St. Columba's Hospice Care, a cause close to our hearts.

