



Pilrig Park School

Sunshine in Leith

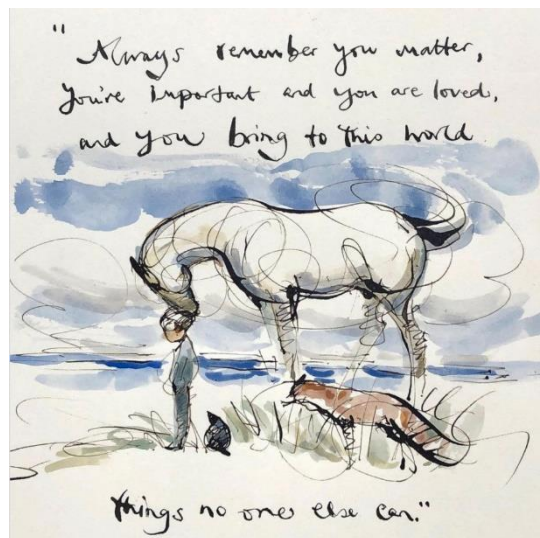


October 2023

A very warm welcome to our first newsletter of session 2023 / 24. We have had a busy time settling back into school life after the summer holidays. Not only did we welcome new staff, but we also had lots of excitement as we welcomed all our new S1 pupils! It has been lovely to watch them settle in so well to life here at Pilrig Park School and to see friendships being made across the different year groups.

Thanks to the hard work of Miss Morrison and Mrs Ferguson, we also welcomed parents and carers into the school to enjoy our first family engagement event, the Festival of Kindness showcase afternoon incorporating the film *The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse* by Charlie Mackesy. We thoroughly enjoyed all the examples of kindness throughout our Festival of Kindness fortnight as well as the special biscuits made by pupils in their Home Economics lessons. Our afternoon was very aptly finished by Miss Morrison asking us all to recite together this very special message from the book:

"Always remember you matter, You're important and you are loved, and you bring to this world things no one else can."



In the pages which follow, you will not only see examples of the different experiences all our classes have been taking part in since August, but you will also read the exciting news that we have been awarded Rights Respecting Schools Silver Level – Rights Aware! A huge thanks goes to all the staff and pupils who have worked tirelessly to drive this important work forward.

At the end of last session we unfortunately had to say goodbye to many members of our Parent Council as their sons/daughters were S6 leavers. We are now looking not only for new members but also a new Chair and a new Treasurer. If you are interested in either of these positions or in joining the Parent Council please contact me through admin@pilrigpark.edin.sch.uk and I will be in touch after the October holiday.

As always, a massive thank to Mr McPhillips for all his hard work in putting together this newsletter. We really hope you enjoy reading about our wonderful pupils and staff and some of the many activities taking place at Pilrig Park School.

Thank you to all our parents and carers for their continued support. Have a relaxing October holiday and we look forward to welcoming our pupils back on **Tuesday 24th October**.

Take care.

Ms Ann M. O'Hagan, Head Teacher
Pilrig Park School Newsletter

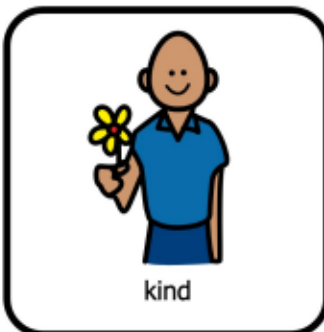


October 2023

This session our school values will be promoted through our assemblies, interdisciplinary learning events and even in our winter school show which we are very busy preparing for!



Our School Values



We have also created this new Boardmaker poster which is on display in every teaching area to help remind all pupils, staff and visitors of the school values which we endeavour to promote and uphold.

PILRIG PARK NEWS

Rights Aware!

Fabulous news! **Pilrig Park School** has now achieved **Rights Respecting Schools Silver Level!**

Thanks to all the hard work of Ms Kirkwood, Ms Karefylakis and the Pupil Voice Steering Groups, it is with immense pride that we are delighted to let everyone know that Pilrig Park School has met the standard for UNICEF UK's Rights Respecting Schools Award at Silver: Rights Aware! The report we received detailed a high commitment and passion by staff for advocating for the rights of all the young people in their care. The School Values tree that greets visitors to the school gives pupils a voice to say which articles they have learned about and are important to them. Furthermore, there was clear evidence that our young people have been actively involved in affecting change through sharing their views, needs and wants. We are really looking forward to receiving our banner and certificate and will be sharing some photos of our proud pupils with these as soon as they arrive.

Now the work begins to achieve GOLD!!!



Underwater Mural

At the beginning of term, we were lucky enough to welcome two fantastic local artists, the Bells, into school. They supported all the young people to stencil and paint fish and underwater creatures onto an underwater mural on the wall in the amphitheatre. The Bells were so enthusiastic and had a brilliant vision for how the mural would look. They were extremely impressed with all our young people and were so proud to receive Pilrig Park badges at the end of their time in school. This mural is part of a project that was funded by a Cash for Kids grant. The area will continue to be developed over the coming year with a rock river and some lovely sensory planting. We are really hoping that it becomes a well-loved part of the school.



Yellow Class

Yellow class had a fantastic time gathering and sorting leaves for the Festival of Kindness Fortnight!

Yellow class spent an afternoon collecting fallen leaves in their baskets and then sorting them into 'big' and 'small' groups back in the classroom.



Yellow class have also been exploring kindness and made a poster of their hands and their favourite ways to be kind!



Purple Class

Purple Class have settled in well during their first term at Pilrig Park School. We have focused on gathering and sharing personal information whilst building relationships with one another. We loved creating our own 'time capsule' at the start of S1, documenting our heights, shoe sizes and favourite things. We will open these at the end of the year and find out how much we have changed in that time!

We have really enjoyed weekly trips to The Yard, exploring our own interests and developing relationships with staff and other pupils. Particular highlights include using the bikes, roller-skating, swinging, reading books, going on bug hunts, playing in the water, dressing up and playing with toys. Through this, we have developed our communication and turn-taking skills.

In English, we have enjoyed performing a sensory story called 'Maria's Ball'. We have been taking it in turns to use different pieces of equipment to make the story come to life! We are building up to telling the story as a group, using our listening skills to wait for our turn to perform.

In Maths, we have been learning about measure. We have practised using a ruler to measure every day objects in our classroom and have begun sorting these objects into big and small. We are starting to use the signs for 'big' and 'small' when describing an object.

We have put our arts and crafts skills to the test, making our own animal masks. We worked in teams to cover a balloon with papier mâché, chose an animal to paint and completed our masks. We are looking forward to sharing our masks with other classes when we meet for an animal-themed dance!



More Purple Class Photos



Red Class

Red class have spent several weeks on a craft project with Miss Wheat, Lesley and Nargis for their Silver Jass Award creating these fabulous masks from papier mâché. Red class worked with Green class during the papier mâché process to cover balloons with 3 layers of paper and paste, before it was time to paint the masks. Several base layers of paint were applied before the final design was created for each mask. The pupils chose their own designs from the internet and tried to follow them as best they could. The class were desperate to scare Miss O'Hagan with their masks and you can see how shocked she was in the photo! Lots of hard work has gone into creating the masks and the pupils are extremely proud of themselves! Well done, Red Class!



Orange Class

What a busy start to the year we have had! We have been lucky enough to take part in lots of different activities with plenty of opportunities for outdoor learning.

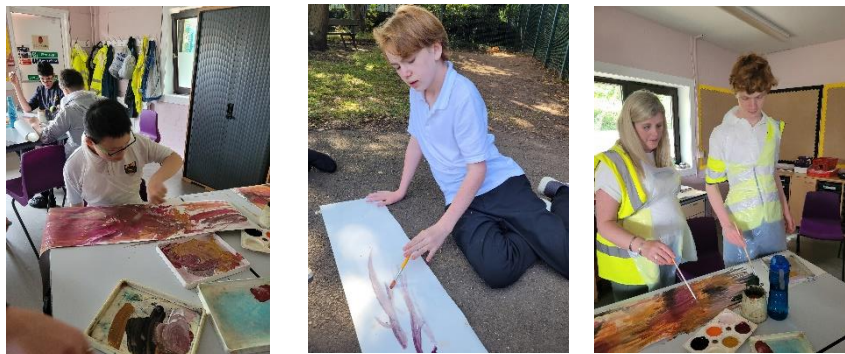
The year began with mural painting with the Bells, local artists, who we helped to create a brilliant underwater themed mural.



We got the opportunity to take part in a brilliant Archaeology day out at Holyrood park. We dressed up, took part in lots of different practical activities and ended the day listening to some traditional Scottish tales.



This term we have been joining up with Green class to do outdoor learning. This has been great fun! We have done lots of different activities to help us learn about snails.



We have also really enjoyed taking part in the Festival of Kindness. We did some leaf sorting, listened to the story “The Lion and the Mouse”, and then made our own leaf pictures of the main characters.

It has been a busy time in Orange class but we have worked really hard, producing some excellent writing, learning about time and planning what we would like to learn for the coming year.

Roll on next term!



Green Class

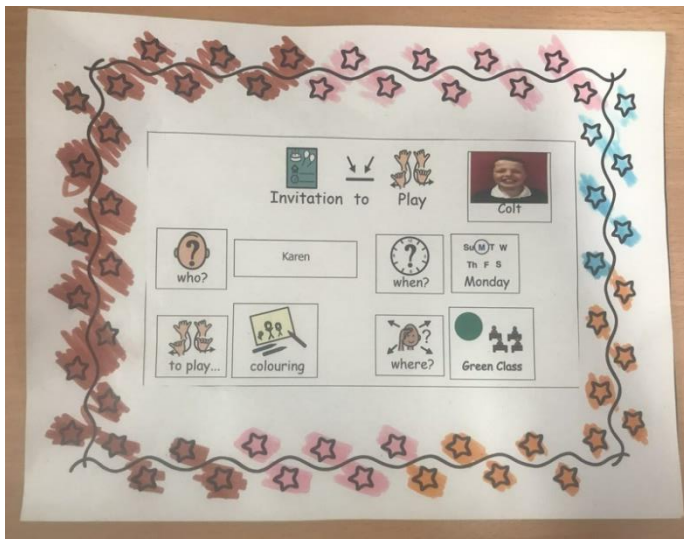
Green Class visited the horses at Morton Mains as part of Festival of Kindness. We were using quiet voices to respect the horses personal space. We had a walk around the horses paddocks and the stables. We got to see the brushes that are used to keep them clean and the van that they use to transport the horses to other fields.



Green Class have been visiting Meadowbank Gym to keep our bodies fit and healthy! We start every visit with a warm-up lap around the running track, we have been timing ourselves to try and get faster every week!



Green Class's motto is "be kind"! As part of our assembly, we invited someone in the school/from home to come for a play activity. The pupils made kind checklists that they could use during their activity and ticked them off after they have completed that kind action!



Clyde Class

Clyde have had a super first term this academic session. In Towards Independence and Living Independently we have been learning how to identify things we like, don't like and may like to try. We have also been learning about what we can do independently and what we need support with both in school and at home.

In our Health and Well-being module we have learned about Puberty, Personal Hygiene and Healthy relationships and friendships and what they should look and feel like. We are learning about personal space and boundaries. We know our bodies belong to us and we can say no and stop. We have learned about Dental Hygiene and what good tooth brushing involves. We have learned about the need to keep our faces, hands and bodies clean to keep us and others healthy and reduce the spread of germs. We also know how important this is during Puberty and how our bodies and feelings change, grow and develop.



In DYW and SQA Employability we have really enjoyed learning about People Who Help Us and different jobs we could do and what they involve and what skills and qualities are needed. We have been identifying our own skills and qualities and roles we might enjoy. We've linked this to our senior options such as The Salon, Gardening, Foodwise, Animal Care and Spartans Football. We enjoyed a Money Management Workshop on Needs and Wants. We did a sort and stick activity of things we really need to live and thrive and things that we want but can live without.

In Maths we have been focussing on Number Recognition, Number Processes and Money. We have enjoyed songs, games, activities with concrete materials and using the Interactive Resources and Games on the Interactive Smartboard. This has been linked to real life and life skills and using money as an exchange for goods and services.

In English we have been enjoying fiction, character studies and book reviews. We have also been working with Speech and Language on sounds, syllables and signalong.

In Pupil Voice we have been working on our Class Charter and relevant articles. We have been learning about The Goals of Education Article 28 and our Right to develop our skills and talents. We have been Exploring Knowledge of Rights Article 42 and our Right to Play Article 31. Our group and the Orange Group are the Steering Group for RRSA and are led by Anna Kirkwood and Virginia Karefylakis. We recently received our Silver Award and are now working on Going for Gold.

As a school we have been learning about and celebrating Kindness in our IDL Fortnight.

We are looking forward to the film screening.



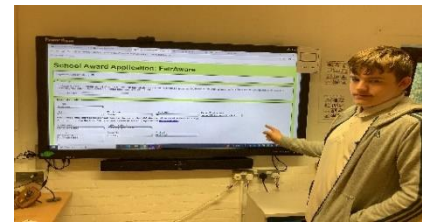
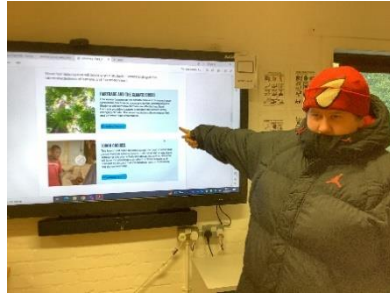
Ness Class

As part of Pupil Voice, Ness class have been learning all about Fairtrade.



They have been working on designing a BIG display for their classroom. They added information about Fairtrade using text and symbols, so that everyone can learn about Fairtrade.

They have launched their campaign and applied for the Fairtrade FairAware Award for the school.

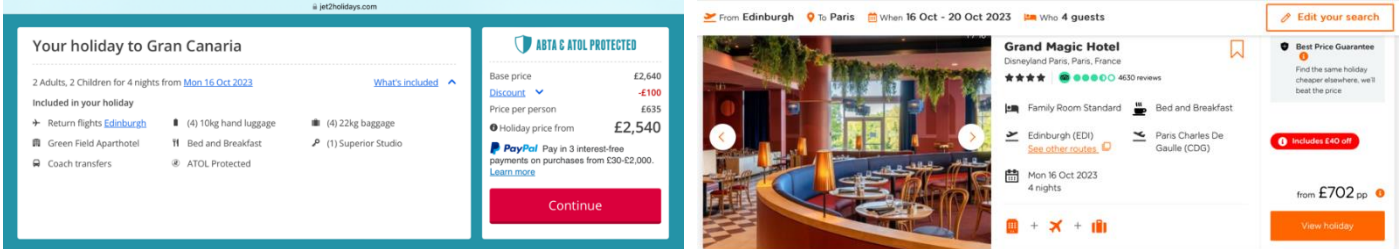


Ness class will soon be launching different activities for the whole school to participate in. This will support their campaign about Fairtrade and get everyone involved in their determination to achieve the Fairtrade FairAware Award for the school.

Forth Class

This year Forth class have really enjoyed working on our Asdan Awards courses – Personal Development and Living Independently.

For Living Independently, we have been working on Module 3 – Making Financial Choices. We each picked a country, investigated our chosen countries, and then planned a holiday to that country.



For Personal Development we each picked a piece of Maths equipment, looked up information about it and explained how it works and what it's used for to the rest of the class.



We all had a great time at the DYW Roadshow at the O2 Arena.



We've already started planning for our Assembly in January on Honesty. Or have we?!?

Tweed Class

Tweed class have had a busy start to the year with the first of their Post School Destination Planning meetings taking place. It has been very exciting to hear their views and start making decisions about where and what they would like to do when they leave Pilrig Park School!



The class have also been involved in workshops with our new Enable Works coordinator, Rebekah. She is working with pupils on various topics including work experience, wellbeing, and confidence building.

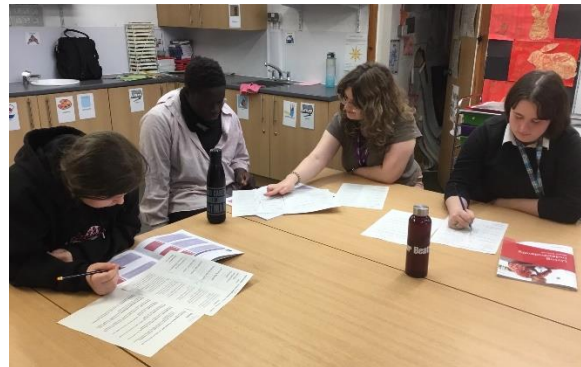


Photo - Rebekah working with some of Tweed class on their ASDAN module.

Some of the pupils in Tweed class have been attending the Schools College Partnership taster course, held at Sighthill campus. This is giving them an insight as to what College would be like, should they choose to go there in September 2024.

Tweed class took the lead in presenting at the first Assembly of the session. Each assembly has a theme which is one of the school values. Our value for September has been 'Ready to Learn'. Each pupil contributed to the presentation by either speaking, signing or holding up a visual symbol of the key messages. The class finished their presenting by leading in the song, 'Best Day of My Life' to which the whole waved scarves in time to the beat!

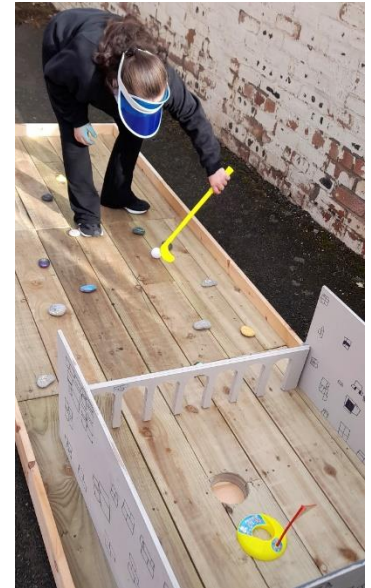


The Seniors

DYW – Developing the Young Workforce

Golf Hole Challenge with Mitie

At the start of term, we welcomed back to school, Jenn, from the Facilities Management company Mitie, who worked with a group of pupils last session. The group had designed a game similar to mini golf with a golf hole and obstructions in the way! The design was built by Mitie and the product was delivered to school in September for everyone to have a shot! Plastic golf clubs and balls were provided by Elizabeth, our DYW school coordinator, and the pupil ‘designers’ were on hand to show the rest of the school how to play and score. Great fun was had by all! (PS. Some of our pupils are extremely competitive!!).



DYW Roadshow

Some of our senior classes attended the DYW Roadshow, held at the O2 Academy. The event brings together employers, further education, volunteering options, outreach services and training providers with the young people in our area to help them find their next step. Our pupils really enjoyed visiting all the stalls and asking some excellent questions – not to mention picking up some fantastic free notebooks and pens along the way!



Scran Van

We are delighted to welcome back to Pilrig Park School, David from SCRAN Van. The SCRAN Van is a mobile cooking unit or food truck, which allows young people to work with their dedicated staff to plan, prepare and cook food for themselves and others. In doing so they overcome challenges, receive feedback, develop complex skills and most importantly, have a good time! The SCRAN Van is an opportunity for our Senior pupils who have expressed an interest to do something connected with cooking, after they leave school – these sessions are certainly giving them a real insight to the hard work involved working in a kitchen! Some delicious smells have been wafting into school already, making us very hungry!



The Music Department

What an exciting month it has been in music!

We have been enjoying learning how to play our favourite songs on the keyboards, drums, and ukuleles using Figurenotes!

We have also been practicing our singing and signing.

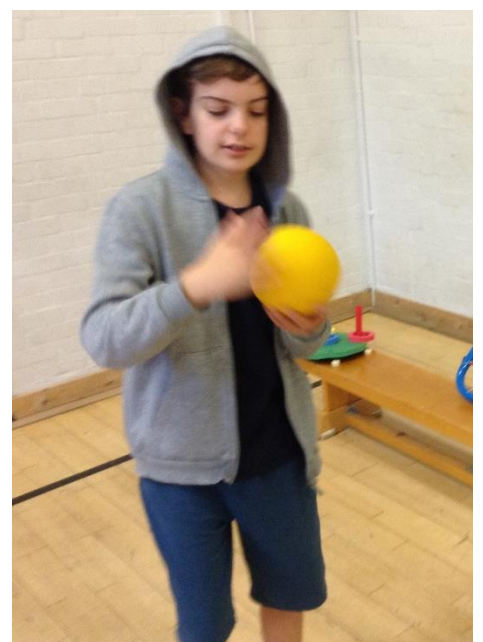
Additionally, we've been very creative, making our own comics and music to accompany them using iMovie and GarageBand.

Our drumming and chanter tuition has started, and we can't wait to begin preparing for upcoming performance events! Watch this space!



P.E.

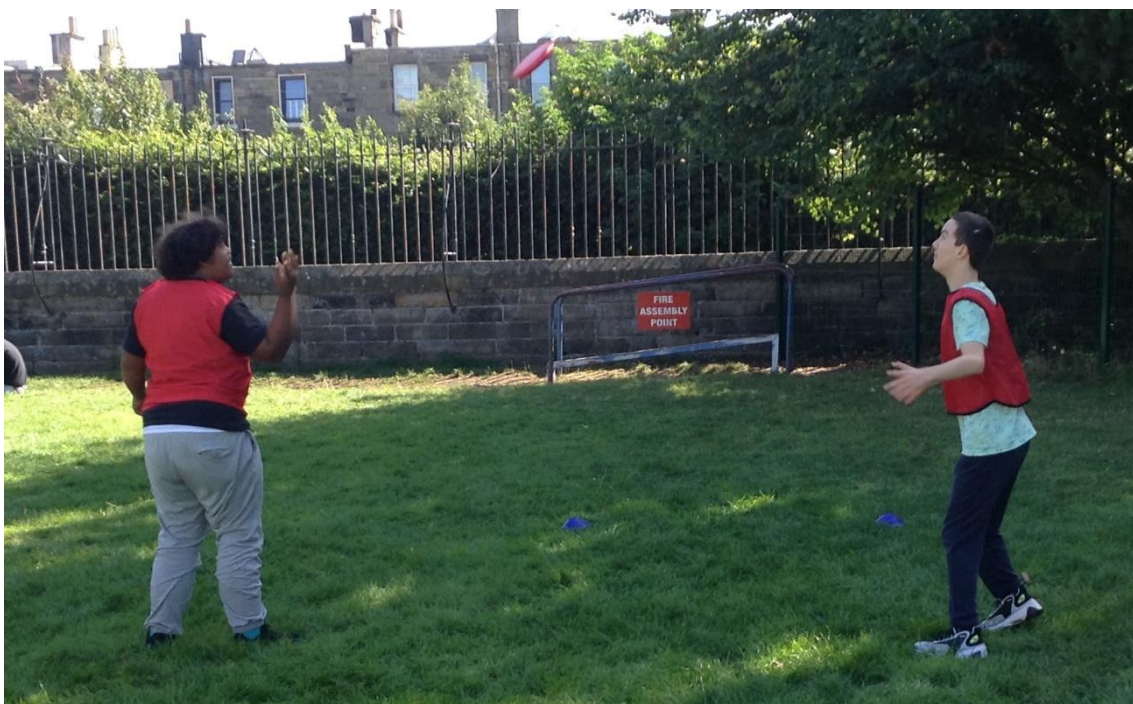
Pupils participating in PE are developing and improving skills and techniques through practice and play in following activities: Football, Basketball, Basic Moves.



Our football team takes part in training sessions at Spartans Football Club. 11 pupils are working very hard to develop their skills.



Young Leaders help to organise Football, Frisbee, Basketball and other playground games at lunchtime.



Festival of Kindness – an IDL Fortnight Celebration



Green Class have been busy organising (with the help of Miss Morrison and Mrs Ferguson!) a two-week IDL project, called the “Festival of Kindness”. The whole school has been involved in this project which culminated in a cinema event for parents and carers in the last week of term.

The project was inspired by the book “The Boy, the Mole, The Fox and The Horse” by Charlie Mackesy. The story focuses on themes of love, friendship, resilience, braveness, kindness and hope. Staff planned lessons across different curricular areas and many activities have taken place, including shelter building, a giant tree created out of paper, a data collection of leaves in the playground, woodland animals made using salt dough and short animation movies created using the Stop Motion app. Pupils have also been racing to collect the most ‘kindness tokens’ for their class – the winning classes are to be announced at assembly but suffice to say, there has been a lot of kind acts, in the last few weeks!

The cinema event was a tremendous success, and everyone enjoyed seeing the film adaptation of the book. Many thanks to Mrs Vennelle and her pupils in Home Economics for baking such delicious ‘woodland animals’ biscuits! Yummy! 😊



Pupil Council

Introducing the Pupil Council for the 2023/24 session.



In the Pupil Council we have representatives from each class.

Rosa and Fabrizio from our S1 classes.

Luke from our S2 class.

Peter and Colt from our S3 classes.

Stephen from our S4 class.

Wiktorina from our S5 Class.

Katie who is our School Inclusion Ambassador.

The Pupil Council takes place every Wednesday P1 during our pupil voice period. The

Pupil Council is supported by Miss O'Hagan, Miss Vogiatzaki and Maria Chantou.

Young Ambassadors

Peter and Katie have joined sportScotland Young Ambassador programme which is supported by our Active Schools Coordinator Jill Coleman. This is a nationwide programme which provides a range of leadership opportunities. There are Young Ambassadors in each of Edinburgh's secondary schools giving Peter and Katie the opportunity to meet and work alongside young people from across the city.

They both attended the Young Ambassadors Conference at Tynecastle Stadium on 12th September with almost 200 attendees which saw them hearing inspiring stories for previous Young Ambassadors as well as meeting professional athletes. They took part in a number of different workshops to help them understand more about their role and begin thinking about what they might like to do in their own school.

Additionally, they are attending the Active Schools Leadership Academy where they will participate in various sports linked training opportunities. Throughout this year they will work with Jill and school staff to develop their leadership skills.



Jill Coleman | Active Schools Coordinator Equalities and Inclusion and Special School Cluster

Parent Council

We would like to thank very much former Parent Council Members for their tremendous work in previous years. We also would like to invite parents and carers willing to be part of The Parent Council this school year to contact our school office.




The Parent Council represent the views of the parents and carers to ensure that the parental perspective is taken into account.

Parent Council business may include:

- partnerships between home, school and the community
- communication with other parents
- improvement planning for parental involvement
- events such as assemblies, school fairs, and discos
- growing school and community finances through fundraising and grant applications
- representing the school parent forum locally and nationally

Typically, Parent Council consists of:

- Chairperson - who run parent's meetings.
- Secretary - to take minutes and handle all communication.
- Treasurer - to keep a good record of all money related matters,
- Parent Council members

We invite you  to join our Parent Council!

