



Pilrig Park School

Sunshine in Leith



December 2023

A very warm welcome to our bumper packed Winter Newsletter! As you will read, it has been another busy term at Pilrig Park School. The past few weeks have been particularly exciting as staff and pupils enjoyed Christmas lunch together, we had another VERY successful whole-school trip to the Panto, we danced our hearts out at the Silent Disco, and then just this week, we put on our FIRST EVER Winter Show – A Valuable Snowman! It was fabulous that so many parents/carers were able to join us, especially at such a busy time of year. I was one incredibly proud Head Teacher as I watched all the hard work of staff come together as our pupils gave such tremendous performances. A very special well done has to go to our S1 pupils who were just amazing performing to a hall full of people.

Please pencil into your diary the dates for our Summer School Show Cinematic Extravaganza – 22nd May for S1 – S3 pupils and 29th May for S4 – S6! There is no time for our pupils to rest – rehearsals begin in January!!

In January we look forward to welcoming parents/carers into the school once again. Firstly, on the 10th January for the RSHP Information Session and secondly on the 25th January for Parents' Night.

This year, in the spirit of sustainability, we decided to make in school our school calendar. We hope all families have received their copy and enjoy displaying it in their homes. We also decided this year to make our own Christmas tree and decorations from recycled products. Our resident inflatable tree had some stiff competition! Have you guessed yet who is inside?!



Our last day will also be full of amazing performances by our pupils and their staff teams as the annual Festivision competition takes place! Red Class are determined to hold onto the trophy they won last year!

In the meantime, on behalf of the staff and myself, we would like to wish all our pupils and their families a very relaxing holiday and all the very for 2024!

Thank you for your continuing support. We look forward to welcoming all our pupils back on Tuesday 9th January.

With every best wish,

Ann M. O'Hagan

Head Teacher

Pilrig Park School Newsletter



December 2023

PILRIG PARK NEWS

The Leavers Hoodies arrived mid-November and caused great excitement amongst our 2024 Leavers!

Ms O'Hagan presented each Leaver with their hoodie (in their chosen colour) and then we had some fun taking some photos to capture the moment. A hundred and one photos later (and a lot of photo bombing by Ms O'Hagan!!), we had some very funny pictures and a lot of happy memories had been made.



We received an exciting package in November!

Members of our Pupil Voice Groups are delighted to show off our banner and certificate for our success on achieving the second stage of the **Rights Respecting Schools Award, Silver: Rights Aware!**



JUST IN!!!!



Festivision is held on the last day of term.

Each class created a video with a Christmas song and all entries this year were excellent. The standards were very high with the teachers editing skills improving every year as well.



And in the winner.....

will be announced on the homepage of the website after 11.20am on the last day!

- <https://pilrigparkschool.org.uk/>

Yellow Class

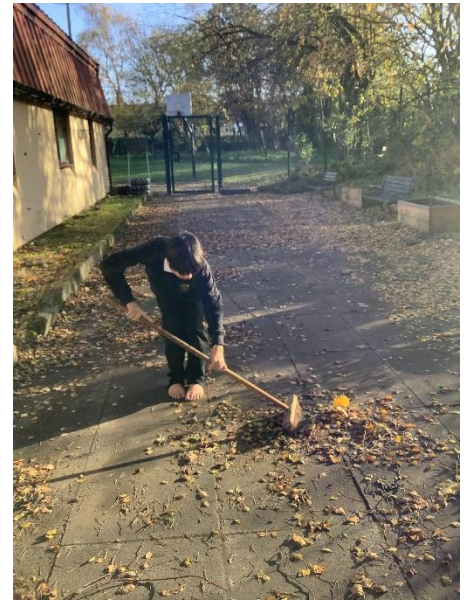
Yellow Class have been having so much fun on Wednesday mornings with Julia from the Youth Music Initiative Project!

They've been singing, dancing, playing the drums and starting every Wednesday with a bang.



Yellow Class have been embodying the school values being "helpful" and "kind" by helping sweep up leaves outside, playing nicely with pupils from other classes and working well with the PSAs.

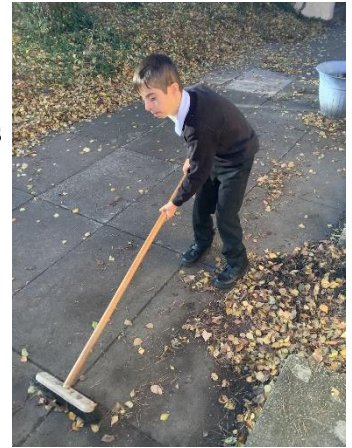
Well done Yellow Class!



Purple Class

This term, Purple Class have enjoyed exploring Autumnal changes as our Seasons topic began. We spent time outside observing the changes and using our senses to experience Autumn. We explored the leaves falling and practised our counting skills.

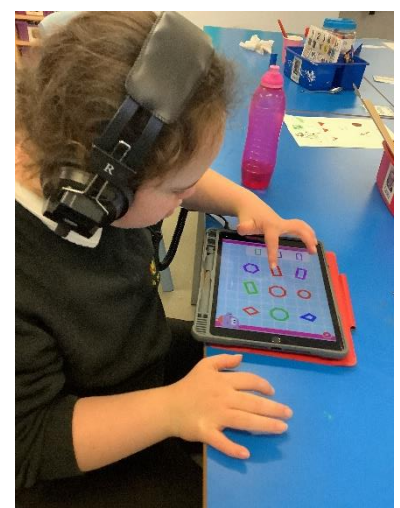
We also noticed changes in the wildlife around our school and our insect enthusiasts found new joy in the everchanging weather conditions!



In English, we developed our communication skills, using symbols and simple sentences to respond to a story book. We particularly enjoyed reading familiar Julia Donaldson tales and stories around the themes of kindness and being gentle. We used choice boards to select activities and developed our social skills as we played gently together.



In Maths, we learned about a range of 2D shapes. We labelled shapes and began to look out for them in our environment too. We started to compare and describe different shapes, using our skills to sort shapes into different categories. We also enjoyed singing our shapes song, which is very catchy!



We have also spent time getting to know Yellow Class and taking part in a range of different activities with them. From playing together and developing our social skills to making pom poms and sharing our learning, we have really enjoyed this time together with the other first year pupils.



For St Andrews Day, we created some fantastic art, using crayons and watercolours. We enjoyed predicting what might happen when we painted over the white crayon with blue paint. We were very proud of our creations!



Red Class

Red class were responsible for presenting the value 'Safe', to staff and pupils, at assembly last month. We created some videos to provide examples of what it means to be safe, and feel safe, at Pilrig Park School.

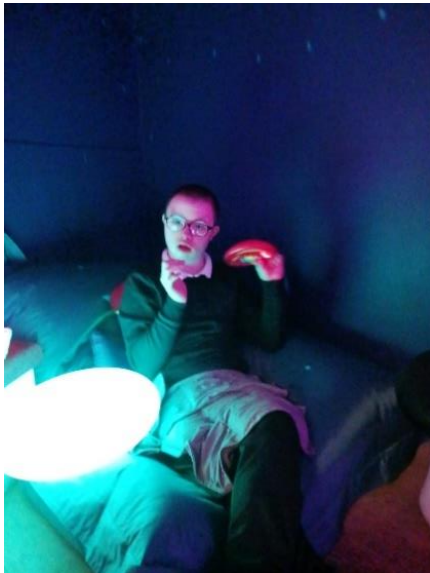


Members of Red class have been attending the Monday Lego club with Miss Wheat and Miss Morrison where they work together to build motorised Lego models which will be used in future in competitions. Recently, Red Class received a visit from Kevin McPhee, from Gorgie Mills High School, as part of his role leading The Schools of Engineering, Design and Technology, which Pilrig Park School has joined.



Kevin was dropping off some more Lego sets and a competition mat which will be used when we meet up with his, and other schools, to take part in the Lego competitions.

Members of Red class have enjoyed sessions at Meadowbank gym on Wednesdays, working mainly on their cardio fitness. Others have spent the mornings visiting The Yard for a mixture of activities.



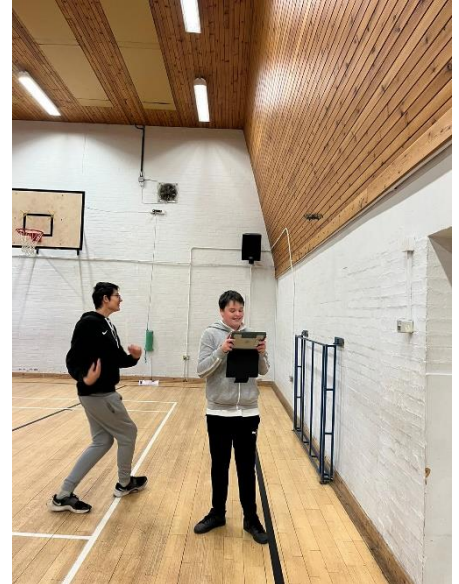
We really enjoyed our time learning to fly drones in the PE Hall during a visit aimed at Developing the Young Workforce.



Orange Class

This term has been a busy one! With visits from Cath and Tricia at the Botanic, preparing for our assembly and lots of hard work in class as well.

In October we had a DYW visit. The pupils all got the chance to direct and fly drones. It was a great opportunity to try out our skills on the ipad. We had great fun trying to carefully catch the drones too!

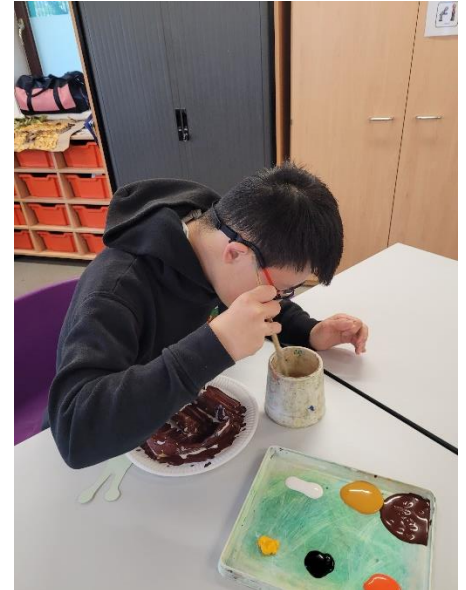


We had a really lovely visit from Cath and Tricia from the Botanic, and some of the pupils got to visit at the end of November. There are two more visits planned in the new year.

This term we have been working with Julia from the Youth Music Initiative. We have had the chance to play different instruments, learn about rhythm and have lots of fun with the parachute!



We have had lots of fun doing our outdoor learning on a Wednesday afternoon with Green Class. We have been working really hard on making 'Snail Books' which we have now finished. These involved learning what food snails eat, where they live and some snail art! A fantastic amount of work!

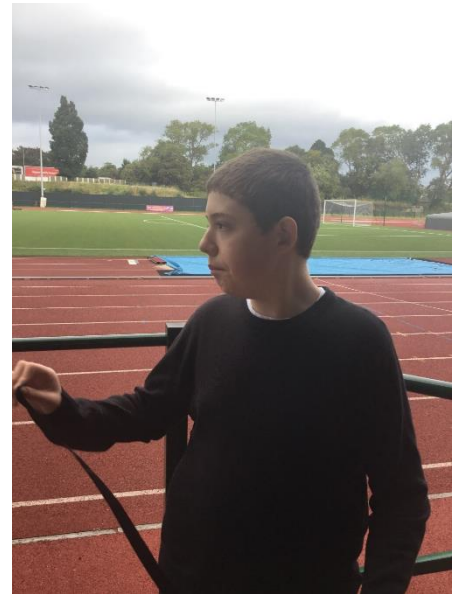


Finally, we were really excited to see the panto this year, and it didn't disappoint! We had the best time cheering, booing, singing and dancing.



Green Class

Green Class took part in gym sessions at Meadowbank Gym. We started every session with a lap of their outdoor track, we tried to beat our time each week! We then had fun playing throwing, kicking, balancing, jumping and running activities.



Some pupils from Pilrig Park School visited The Yard and learnt to ride bikes without stabilisers!



We worked as a team to make our Christmas Tree advent calendar! We learnt about making patterns in Maths to make the baubles. We picked a Christmas song to be behind each, and one of our classmates wrote them on for us. We enjoyed a festive start to every morning!

Orange and Green started our visits to The Botanic for this year. We helped to dig and turn the soil to 'check we hadn't left any onions in our vegetable patch. We went for a walk amongst the herb garden and gave some a touch and a smell, and we found their scarecrow!



Green and Orange Classes worked together to make our very own snail books! We have taken photos of our amazing work and sent them off to Blue Peter, they are so impressed with them that they are sending us all Blue Peter badges!



Clyde Class

In Communication we have done:

- National 1: Recognising signs in the community.
- National 1: Creating text (where we made our own Christmas menus).
- National 1: Recognising character in fiction. We read 'The Snowman.'

There has been a focus on Wellbeing this term and to this end we have had daily relaxation sessions. We have also looked at strengthening friendships with parachute games and circle dancing.

We have also used sensory activities to promote a feeling of wellbeing. These have included water and foam play, making lavender dough and slime and orange and clove Christmas decorations, which made our room smell very Christmassy.



Even though we have been very busy we still found time to get spooky at Halloween and after our Christmas lunch we were delighted to make friends with a walking Christmas tree in the school playground!



In Numeracy we have been doing S.Q.A. units on measuring and number processes.



We do hope you have a fantastic Festive season and all the best for 2024!

Mrs Tupper, Leanne, Keith, Niki and Isabel.



Ness Class

Ness, as part of their National 2 English, have had to create 'Personal Texts'.

Each pupil wrote personal invitations to two friends in other classes to join us for a light refreshment. In hosting these events the class also completed an assignment for their Asdan Award that they are working towards. We linked with Cookery so the class also made some yummy treats for our guests.

The image is of our wonderful Maitre d', who excelled in creating a wonderful table display, welcoming each guest as well as serving the refreshments.



One of our pupils entered the recent Minecraft Christmas Challenge.



Minecraft Christmas Challenge!

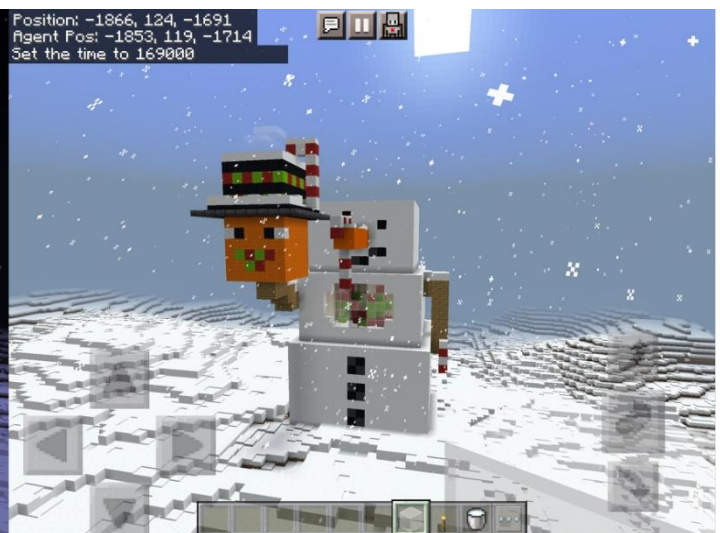
Can you design a snow person using Minecraft blocks?

- Winning entry will be the most creative/funniest!
- Prizes will be awarded to the winning team members and their teacher.
- Teams must consist of 1-4 pupils.
- Send your teacher a screenshot of your person when complete.
- Entries must be uploaded by your teacher no later than 13th of December.

For Teachers:

- We will create a channel on the Minecraft Team called 'Christmas Challenge Channel'.
- Upload a screenshot of each entry to this channel only.
- You can enter as many teams as you wish.
- Snow people can be uploaded anytime up to the 13th of December.
- Competition closes at 1pm on 13th of December.
- Feel free to use the Praise function on Teams and the emojis to give all learners some recognition for their efforts.

The challenge was to create a snowman in Minecraft. This is what was entered by one of our class.



Ness class busy making their unique snowman for their Festivision song competition. The class decided to use their favourite character faces on the snowman to represent them in the video. The video will be released on the last day of term. Good luck Ness class!!!



Very proud of Ness Class for helping and supporting other classes at the Christmas Boccia Festival.



We were very happy when one of Ness Class successfully completed the Disability Inclusion Training and achieved the certificate for Disability Inclusion Training. Well done.



Congratulations also to another member of our class for taking part in a 4 week programme with Prince's Trust called LEAP (Learning, Employability Achieve Programme). This is a new schools transition programme from The Prince's Trust, aimed at 15-16 year-old school leavers who are unsure of their next steps. The programme was a great opportunity for him to gain qualifications and vital experience to increase job prospects and learn from positive role models and mentors.

Forth Class

We had great fun using a green screen to make a video about the school value – Be Honest. We were pretending to be in different places all over the world, like China and Australia. We have been learning about different countries as part of our Asdan – Living Independently course.



We had the green screen out again to help us with our Festivision entry for this year. We picked the song ‘Merry Christmas’ by Ed Sheeran and Elton John. Some of us were even flying in the video.



As a class, we have been looking at ways to contribute to the school’s website and also how we can add to the Newsletter. Staff interviews will be in the next edition of the Newsletter, featuring an interview with a teacher and one with a Pupil Support Assistant.

We are also hoping to add a ‘Joke Page’ in future editions. We’ve had a good laugh telling each other some jokes in class. These were our 2 best ones so far:

What's red and smells like blue paint?

Red paint

Why don't lions eat clowns?

Because they taste funny.

We all had a great time at the 'The Pantomime Adventures of Peter Pan' at the Festival theatre. It was great to see the Panto during the Christmas period this year.



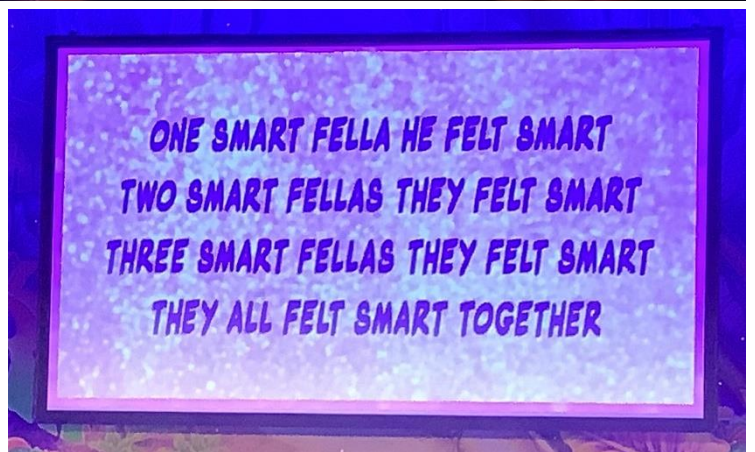
The highlight for us was the 'Smart Fella' song, especially because one of our class was invited on to the stage by Andy Stewart to sing the song.



Here are the words in case you want to give the song a try.

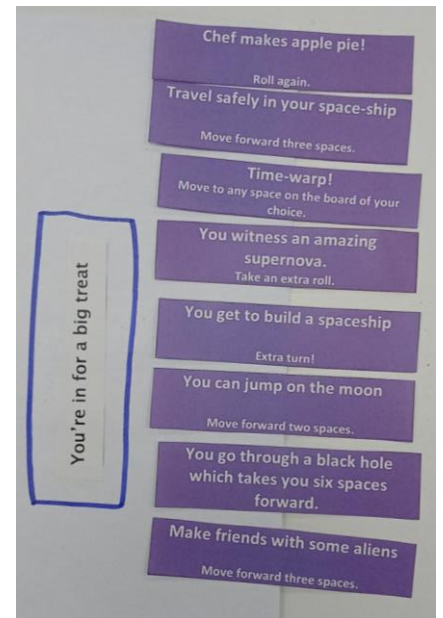
Be careful what you say.

Merry Christmas from Forth class.

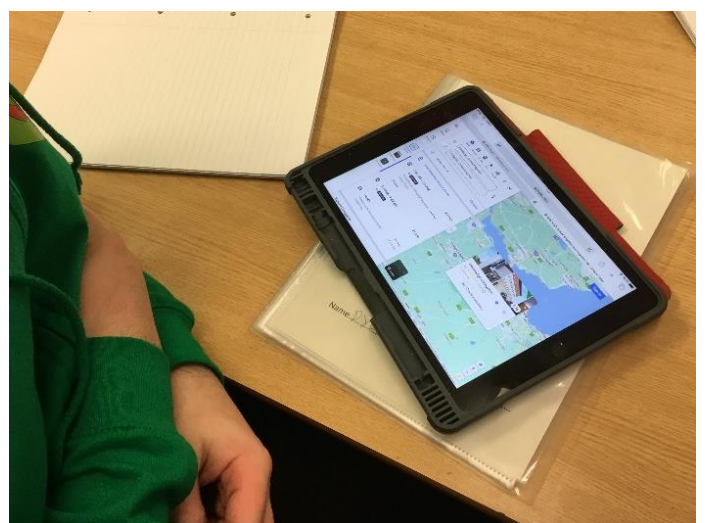


Tweed Class

Some pupils in Tweed class have been continuing their College taster placements this term. They have been getting a very good understanding of what College is like and enjoying some interesting projects, including designing and making a board game.



The pupils who are completing their ASDAN short course on Living Independently, have been focusing on Preparing for the World of Work. They have been looking at various jobs and matching the skills and qualities required as well as learning how to use Google Maps to plan a journey to a work placement.



In amongst all this, Tweed class have been planning items for their Leavers Yearbook! They decided on a new feature this year, which is based on the game 'Guess Who'. It has involved taking unusual photos of various member of staff, for example their right ear – and you will have to guess who it is! Here is a sneak preview!!



Tweed Buddies

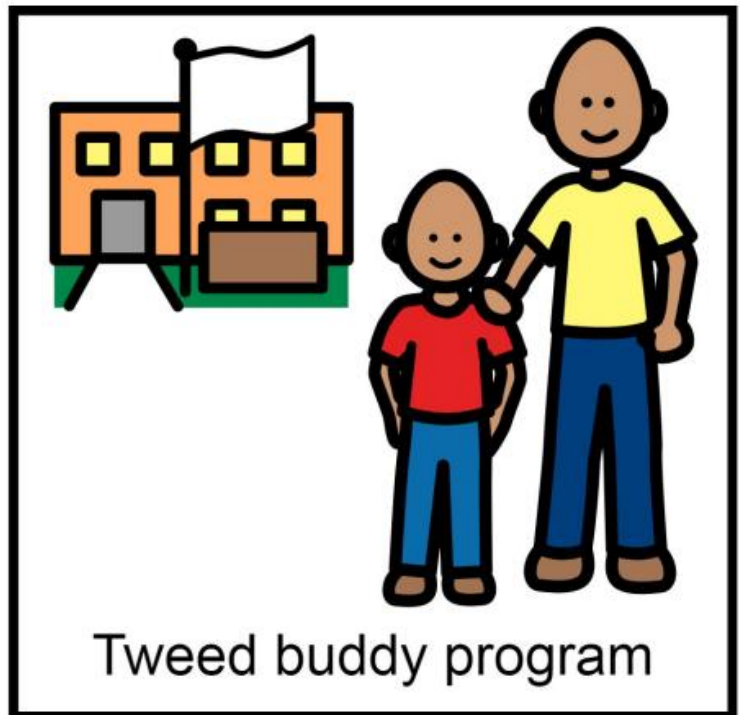
Tweed Class are setting up a buddy program, where they will be supporting pupils from S1 to S3 in school.

Each pupil in Tweed class started the project by identifying skills that make a good buddy. These included being kind, good at listening, and being honest.

Then they each choose a subject which they liked themselves and created an advert, which they delivered to staff.

Currently they are receiving email replies from staff who would like to “employ” them for their classes or specific pupils.

The buddies are looking forward to starting the program in the new year.



DYW – Developing the Young Workforce

Drones flying high in the hall!

Elizabeth, our DYW coordinator for Pilrig Park School has helped us organise for several classes to experience skills and some workplace visits.

At the end of October, David visited school with his drones workshop. This is always a big hit with pupils and every class had a shot flying drones in the hall!



Scrán Van

David from the SCRAN Van has been working very hard this term with some of our seniors who are thinking about choosing a career around preparation of food, hospitality or serving in a café. Delicious smells have been wafting up from the van and all our pupils are thoroughly enjoying making pizzas from scratch, and also chocolate chip cookies! Yum! Budding chefs in the making!



Tinderbox

Mel from Tinderbox Collective, came out to visit Green, Orange and Ness classes to show them how to create and play their very own computer game! The pupils showed off their creative skills by designing a character, environment and story! Technology and digital learning at it's best!



Meadowbank tour

Tweed and Forth Classes were invited to go to Meadowbank Sports Stadium and had an amazing time! They had a tour of all the facilities and a discussion about jobs, volunteering and future pathways with Meadowbank and Edinburgh Leisure.

It was a great opportunity with DYW, to learn about the world of work.



The Art Room

There has been a huge variety of skills and techniques being learnt by classes.

The BGE classes have been focusing on colour, shape and pattern this term. Orange and Red classes have been looking at the work of the artist Kandinsky and recreating his colourful circles in the form of a tree! It's nearly finished! Green, Yellow and Purple Classes have been using paint, chalk and collage techniques to explore simple shapes and produced some fantastic designs!



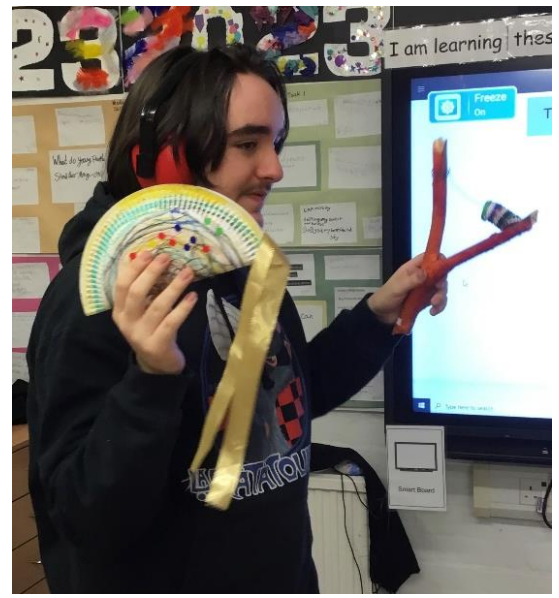
Ness Class are exploring various art materials and techniques including photography and painting. Their current project involves a photo taken by them and then the pupil does some painting around it – can you spot the photo?! They are learning to mix the colours so that they match as close as possible!



The National 3 class are working on a Design Brief to produce a Scottish design for a T Shirt. They have recently been learning how to use the App called 'Freeform' to produce some very creative ideas.



Clyde Class have just completed their Personal Achievement Award by preparing for and producing an in-house 'mini music' show. They made a range of musical instruments using recycled materials, planned their song choices, and then presented their show to the Red Class. Going by the positive feedback from Red Class, Clyde pupils were fantastic performers and are currently waiting to be signed by Sony Records!! 😊



The Music Department

What a term it has been for the Music Department in Pilrig Park School!!

We rehearsed, we sung, we played and had fun!!

And we have just had our fantastic concert where we shared our musical talents with Parents and Carers!

Thank you all for celebrating with us!! We can't wait for our next performance!



P.E.

Pupils participating in PE are developing and improving skills and techniques through practice and play in Volleyball and Tennis.



Our Young Ambassadors took part in some training courses. Sport Scotland's Competition Organiser Training was attended by one of our pupils at James Gillespie's High School in late October. Both of our Young Ambassadors took part in Active Schools Leadership Academy – Introduction to Coaching Children. They also participated in Disability Inclusion Training in December at Broughton High School with 25 other young people from across the city.



In November, the Pilrig Park Football team finished in second place in a tournament at Spartans FC. There were 4 teams participating. Everyone played well, showing good teamwork and sportsmanship.



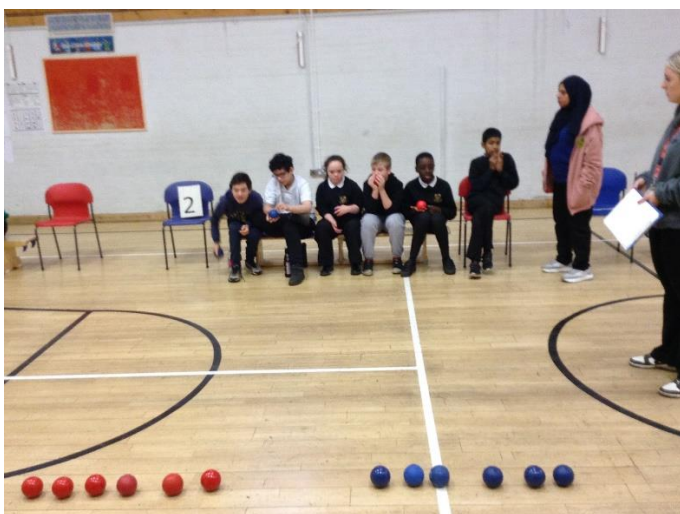
Peter Blair – Basketball coach from Boroughmuir Blaze Basketball Club has been in to run sessions with Yellow, Red and Green Classes.



Clyde Class took part in a Boccia Festival at Edinburgh College. Everybody did great, learned some new skills and had lots of fun.



Our Young Leaders organised and lead Christmas Boccia Festival at Pilrig Park School on Tuesday 12th December '23. All classes took part and have lots of fun. Young leaders did very well doing all the explanation, demonstration and praising.



School clubs

Lunchtime and breaktime clubs started this term.

Here are some of the highlights.

Breaktime – Girls Club

The group have been learning new skills like arts and crafts, well-being and dance.

The older girls have been helping with the younger girls.

They have enjoyed sloga, and mindfulness sessions too.



Lunchtime – Movie Making Club

One of the new lunchtime clubs that started this term is Movie Making. So far we have learnt how to put clips together into a movie using iMovie.

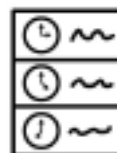
We also had great fun using the greenscreen to put ourselves all over the world, and even into Barbie Land.



Pupil Council



Pupil Council Agenda



1. School Lunches



2. Toilets



3. Silent Disco



4. Playground



5. Special Badges



The Pupil Council have had a very busy term working with Ms O'Hagan to focus on two aspects of our agenda – The Silent Disco and Special Badges!

In November we welcomed Ms Sawyer to our meetings to help us with a new Celebrating Success project which will see the introduction of 8 new badges and certificates in the school. These badges will celebrate many different areas of our curriculum and will culminate in a very special treat once all 8 badges have been collected!! We look forward to sharing our proposal with the school at the January assembly.

In December we welcomed DJ Cuddy and Chef Vennelle to one of our meetings! Together we planned the entertainment and food for our Silent Disco on the 15th December. We think you will agree from the many photos below that a FABULOUS time was had by all!

Our focus for next term will be revisiting the work we did last session on our new school menus and improvements in our playground and toilets. We look forward to sharing our progress with you in the Easter Newsletter.

Enjoy the holidays! We are looking forward to a rest!!!

Pilrig Park School Pupil Council



Parent Council

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

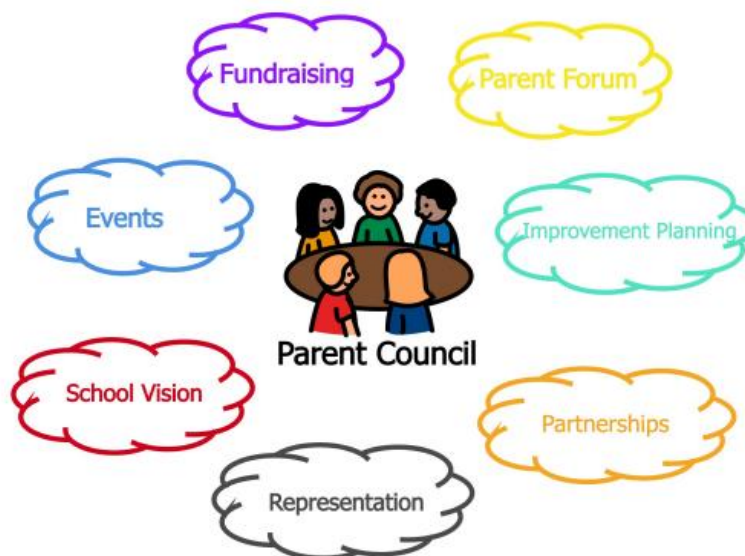
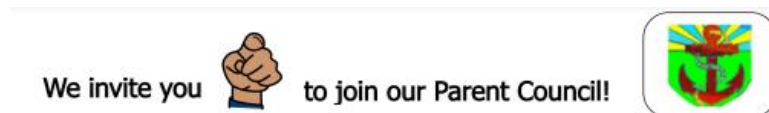
Parent Council business may include:

- 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 would like to invite parents and carers willing to be part of The Parent Council this school year to contact our school office.



**Relationships, Sexual Health, and Parenthood (RSHP)
Parents/Carers Information Session: Wednesday 10th January 2024, 3.30 – 5.00pm**

13th December 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

In January 2024 we will be launching the Relationship, Sexual Health, and Parenthood programme (RSHP). Your child's classes will begin the RSHP programme which is a key element of the Health and Well-Being curriculum. The programme will be gradually developed throughout the school as an integral part of the curriculum and will be delivered in an honest, objective, balanced and sensitive manner.

The RSHP curriculum is designed to allow children and young people to develop their social skills and their understanding of how to maintain positive relationships with a variety of people. They can make informed decisions about their thoughts, feelings, attitudes, values, and beliefs when developing relationships. The RSHP programme will introduce learners to use the proper anatomical terms for the different body parts. Learners will develop their understanding of physical changes including puberty and how these can affect emotional responses in themselves and others. They will also understand the complex role and responsibilities of being a parent or carer.

Parents/carers are children's primary educator and RSHP education is best taught in partnership with them and the school. We believe that is important for parents/carers to understand the content of the lessons their child will receive so they are able to reinforce and consolidate learning at home. This will also ensure that terminology used at home complements the child's learning at school.

As with all other curricular areas, parents/carers can help with their child's progress in RSHP by speaking to their child about their learning. Hence, we have planned a parents/carers information session to share details about the RSHP programme with you. As we begin to deliver the RSHP programme, we would like to invite you to attend an information session on **Wednesday 10th January 2024 from 3.30pm to 5.00pm**. We will present details about the delivery and content of the RSHP programme and discuss any issues or concerns.

Please return the attached reply slip to say if you will be attending the session. Childcare facilities will be provided. Pupils can stay on at school at 3.15pm on the day and then go home with their parents/carers at 5.00pm.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Farida Ali
Principal Teacher of Curriculum

**Relationships, Sexual Health, and Parenthood (RSHP)
Parents/Carers Information Session
Wednesday 10th of January 2024 3.30pm to 5.00pm**

I / we will be able / cannot attend the RSHP parents information night.

I / we will require our son/daughter to stay on at the end of the day.

Pupil Name _____ Class _____

Signed/Name _____ Date _____

Please return the slip to the school office, reply to the groupcall or email farida.ali@pilrigpark.edin.sch.uk