

# Arkleston Advertiser

Edition 3 Session 2023 -24



## Message from the Head Teacher

It has been a wet and windy start to 2024 resulting in quite a few indoor playtimes. The school has been hit with incredible staff absences since the start of term, but as always, the team have rallied round and supported each other to continue to deliver a quality education for your children. **TEAM** is one of our school values and we recognise the importance of it throughout our school community. Our classes form a **TEAM** and the children are supported and encouraged to work together on a variety of tasks. This is evident when children perform at assembly and during our recent Scottish Afternoon. Each house is a **TEAM**. Children have been working together to line up in their houses at playtime, recognising the part that each individual plays whilst part of a collective. So far Hercules have won 2 extra playtimes and Trident have won one. Our school is a **TEAM**. Arkleston has a strong reputation within the community of Renfrew resulting in many of our children in P1 attending through a placing request. Our vision of 'The more we learn, the brighter we shine' is evident as we continue to build on the work that we do and adapt and change to meet the needs of our ever-changing school community. Our parents work with us as a **TEAM**. Without the support of parents, we would not be able to do the work that we do. We have a few parents who volunteer their time to support the children on school trips. We have had many parents this session speaking to the children about the jobs that they do, allowing children to connect learning to skills for learning life and work. We value the support that parents give to their child in their learning and in being prepared and ready to learn. The majority of parents support their child with their homework. Most importantly we value the support parents give us when we have to discuss a child's choices and actions. When school and home are on the same page, work together and support each other, then children will thrive. Our community is a **TEAM** and we are fortunate to have many within our community who give their time to the school to support the work we do. Thank you to everyone for being part of the team! "Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much."

## Dates for your Diary

Fri 23 Feb	Sparky Arky Day – Nurtured and Included Citizens – Own Clothes
Wed 20 March	P6 School Show (P5 Choir) Afternoon Performance 1.30pm
Thur 21 March	P6 School Show (P5 Choir) Evening Performance 6.30pm
Thur 28 March	Easter Assembly 9.30 Base 5 Parents Welcome
Thur 28 March	School Closed 2.30pm
Mon 15 April	School re-opens 9am
Fri 3 May	Healthy and Active Citizens Assembly
Mon 6 May	School Closed
Wed 15/Thur 16 May	Parents' Evening 3.30pm-6.30pm
Fri 24/Mon 27 May	School Closed



## Parent Council

The Parent Council has recently donated money to the school to assist with the library areas in the classrooms. This is an exciting project with Miss Clark and we look forward to seeing the final results.

We are also assisting the school in purchasing 2 storage containers and look forward to seeing these in the playground soon!

We are currently working on a short survey which will be getting sent out soon to increase parental engagement and awareness of what the Parent Council does. We will also be looking for your feedback on which areas you would like the Parent Council money spent on. Look out for this!

We are looking for your help when you shop next in Tesco Renfrew with the blue token. This is for the Mindfulness Project with an opportunity to win the top grant prize of £1500. Every little helps!

Our spring disco will be held in March. We are looking forward to this and watch this space for more information.

The Parent Council is run on volunteers and we are always looking for people to join. If you would like to get involved or know more about the Parent Council, then please follow us at [Arkleston Parent Council](#) on facebook or [@ArkyPC](#) on twitter for all our latest updates. You can also email us on [Arkleston@renfrewshire.npfs.org.uk](mailto:Arkleston@renfrewshire.npfs.org.uk) for more information.



## Pirates of the Curry Bean

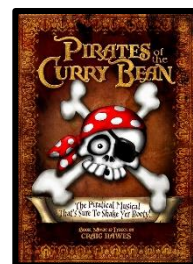
P6 pupils are getting excited about their upcoming school show. They have been auditioning for parts, learning their lines and designing their programmes.

This is always a fantastic opportunity for children to develop their character strengths. They will have to be brave when they perform, nerves are a normal part of the process. They will have to learn their lines, songs and stage directions. They will have to create the props and scenery to bring the performance to life and they will have to work together as a team to ensure that everything goes smoothly. The next few weeks will be very busy for them and we can't wait to see the final production.

P5 children will be supporting their friends in P6 as the choir for the show. They are also getting ready to learn the songs and work together as a team. It won't be long until it is there turn!

We hope that all children involved will be able to be present on the evening of Thur 21 March. We know that many children have clubs in the evening but would appreciate your support in allowing them to help their class team on this occasion.

We will send home ticketing information nearer the time.



Arkleston Primary School  
Cockels Loan  
Renfrew  
PA4 0EL  
03003000143

[www.arkleston.renfrewshire.sch.uk](http://www.arkleston.renfrewshire.sch.uk)  
Head Teacher - Ms C Crawford

This term we will be thinking about skills children require to be nurtured and included citizens within their community. We live in a diverse community, where many children face barriers to their learning for a number of reasons. We know that in our community people can still face discrimination. We want to educate our children so that they have a greater understanding of other people and the challenges they may face. In doing so children will gain a greater understanding of each other. When we have knowledge about each other it helps us to be a more compassionate community where the character strengths of the heart - be a friend, be kind and show love are shown on a daily basis.

## Languages Week Scotland

Primary 7 were lucky to participate in an event at Renfrew High School with our other cluster primaries to celebrate Languages Week Scotland. The activities provided by the high school allowed the children to immerse themselves in all things French, including the opportunity to sample some French cuisine, which they thoroughly enjoyed. A little French flag face paint rounded off their visit. Thank you to Renfrew High School for organising this event.



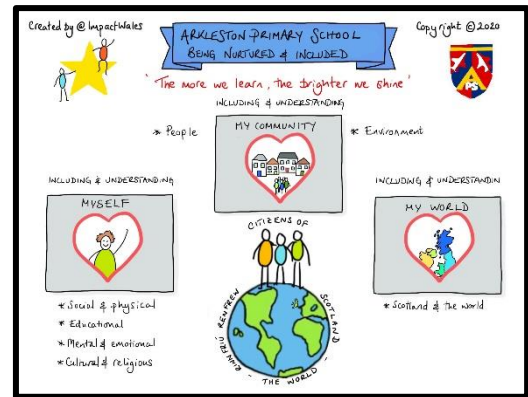
## Scottish Showcase

Thank you to the 200 visitors that came along to our Scottish Showcase event. It was a chance to celebrate the Scots language through poetry and song. Each base performed a piece to the delight of the audience, who were then treated to some haggis, neeps and tatties in the dining hall. Classes took time to think about Robert Burns and the history and heritage of Scotland. Well done to all of the children for being brave and learning their lines.



As well as celebrating all thing Scottish, we are aware of the different religions practised, languages spoken and cultural heritage of the children within our school. We currently have 4 main religions practised within our school. Sikhism, Islam, Christianity and Buddhism. We have been learning about these religions in class. We also have children who can speak many different languages. We currently have 14 different languages spoken by our community.

## Included Citizens



Mrs Zino came to visit our bases and shared with us information about being a Muslim living in Renfrew. She talked to the children about her family's religious practices and explained these traditions to the children. She brought in some religious artefacts that helped our children to gain a greater understanding of Islam.



We are grateful to her for giving up her time to support us.

Base 3 have been learning about Sikhism and Islam. They have been thinking about the mosque and the gurdwara and learning about some of the key articles of faith.



Base 5 were learning about article 22 and the importance of welcoming refugees to Scotland. The children made welcome packs and shared their love of Renfrew. This included Irn-Bru, Greggs and even the local chip shop! Claire Bury from the charity 'Refuweegee' came along to speak to the children about the people she helps, and the pupils loved hearing about the positive impact she has on the lives of many refugees. She will be taking P5's welcome packs back to her offices and we can't wait to hear about how the leaflets were received.





## Healthy and Active Citizens



**Article 15** – Right to meet with friends and join groups and clubs

**Article 31** – Right to relax and play

**Article 29** – The right to become the best that you can be

Mr Dougan our Active Schools Coordinator organised and ran several lunchtime and after school clubs last term, which were well attended. He sent a questionnaire out to parents to find out which clubs children attend out with school and this information has helped our P7 children to develop a plan with Renfrew High School Senior Pupils and our P7 pupils, who will be running lunch clubs for our children. We will initially offer the opportunities to children who do not participate in any clubs with active schools, or out with school. By doing so, we have the chance of increasing the engagement of all of our young people. Any spaces left will be offered to any children who wish to attend. All P7 children are qualified Play Leaders, having taken part in training with Active Schools whilst in P6. P7 children will use this experience to evidence their learning, which they will use as their submission for their Dynamic Youth Awards. These awards will be shown on their SQA Certification once they are at high school. This has allowed engagement to increase to 88% of children in the school having attended a club in or out of school by the end of term 2.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Lunch 12:30-1:00pm</b>	P4-6 Cheer P1-3 Basketball	P4-6 Lego P1-3 Football	P4-6 Dodgeball	P4-7 Choir P1-3 Dancing	P1-3 Board Games
<b>Afterschool Clubs run by Active Schools 3:00-4:00pm</b>	P1-33 Run, Jump and Throw	P3-5 Dodgeball	P1-3 Mini Kickers P4-7 Dance	P5-7 St Mirren Football 3.00pm- 5.00pm	P5-7 St Mirren Football 3.00pm- 5.00pm

## Bikeability

P7 children have begun their bikeability training. They will learn how to take care of their bikes and to make sure that they are road worthy. They will develop their skills in managing their bike whilst travelling and eventually will get the chance to put these skills to good use on the road. They will of course need to make sure that they have their helmet and bike lock with them each week. Mrs Orr will be leading the sessions.



## School Lunches

Several children have been complaining recently that they don't like school lunches and the office staff are making more phone calls home on a daily basis regarding this. Mrs Banaghan has done her best to adapt the menu to cater for some of the requests made by children e.g., having the sauce as an extra and not over things. She has started using pasta shapes instead of spaghetti as children couldn't manage to eat this without many using their fingers. She then had issues with children not wanting the sauce and pasta mixed, so she will keep this separate. The team are incredibly flexible but would appreciate it if you could chat to your child about the menu as many children are ordering a lunch and then wanting to swap it. Lunches are prepared for the number of children who order each item.

Over the coming weeks will be doing some tasters sessions to allow children with a packed lunch to try some of the lunch options. P1-5 children are entitled to a free school meal and it would be great to see more children benefitting from this service. There is hot soup available to all children every day. If you have any queries please check out the information on Renfrewshire Council's website.

## What have we been up to?

**Base 2 – Primary 1**, In Literacy we have been very busy. We have moved onto learning double sounds and more tricky words. We are becoming more confident in blending words when reading. It is tricky for us when we try to write these words, but we will get better. We have been doing a lot of writing this term. We started by learning how to label diagrams and we have also written our first story, with a beginning, middle and end! We are going to be better than Julia Donaldson, but for just now we are getting some support writing our stories. It is hard because we also have to remember capital letters, full stops, how to write tricky words etc. In Talk4Writing, we are learning the story of "The Sleepy Bumblebee!" We have been learning actions for some of the words in the story and all about bees too! In Numeracy, we can now tell the time when it is o'clock. We know what this is on analogue and digital clocks. We have also been learning about the seasons. We are now going to be practising adding and subtracting with 10 or even 15! We are looking forward to our Scottish Showcase and seeing everyone's models!



**Base 3** have been continuing to learn new double sounds and are just about to start with split diagraphs such as a-e and o-e. Our spelling test results are improving week on week and we are working very hard to write sentences with punctuation, such as full stops and capital letters. We have been enjoying Talk4Writing and have recently been learning 'Monkey see, Monkey do', which was appropriate as Honshu the monkey escaped from the Royal Highland Zoo. We followed this story carefully and were so relieved when the monkey went home after his travels that we made 'Welcome home' cards for him and sent them to the zoo. We are challenging ourselves to write paragraphs and extended sentences using the scaffolding in the room. In maths we have been learning addition and subtraction and have practised our skills with number bonds and fact families. We have been learning about doubles and halves and applying our skills independently to complete our jobs using our new task boards. We have started learning about arrays and having fun practising our chrome books skills to complete games online. We explored 2D & 3D Shapes and enjoyed our shape scavenger hunts to locate shapes and describe their properties. Our measurement topic saw us measure everyone in class as well as the senior leadership team. We had fun in the water tray exploring the capacities of different containers and then used our various measurement skills to make playdough!

**Base 4 - Primary 3** We are now in February and we cannot thank you enough for your support. This term the children will be exploring money, measurement, angles and more or less than. We will continue to recite multiplication tables and apply these to calculations. P3 are using Talk4Writing to support creative writing. We have had some excellent narratives and I hope you take time to read your child's work on Seesaw or at Parents' Night. Spelling words will continue to be issued on a Monday. We are currently reading *The Creakers* and complete weekly reading activities. Our topic this term is about building and maintaining friendships. We are currently making connections with our likes. We will also have a visit to the local church and care home as we prepare for our class assembly and reflect upon what it means to be a nurtured and included citizen of Renfrew. P.E will be on a Tuesday and a Thursday. Please ensure jewellery is removed or your child has tape to cover earrings. Homework will be active on a Monday. Homework jotters and reading books should be returned on a Monday morning. This will help us to prepare for the week ahead. We look forward to our base assembly on Friday 16th February at 9.30. Please ensure you have labelled your child's uniform. It is far easier to find the owners and return items quickly if they are labelled.

**Primary 4 -** We have hit the ground running in January as Primary 4's first few weeks have been exciting and busy. In Literacy, we have made writing our focus this term and have started our new talk for writing story 'The Stone Trolls' and have enjoyed developing our writing, using interesting language and vocabulary to describe a character and their setting. We have been enjoying creating our own text maps, making changes to a story and learning our actions as we work towards creating our own suspense story! We are continuing to learn our new sounds each week whilst engaging in active spelling activities which we have enjoyed carrying out. We have loved reading our class novel *The Creakers* and carrying out activities based on our spooky novel. We have been developing our reading in class and at home, utilising our reading strategies to help us understand a text and read independently. We have been focussing on using summarising, identifying the main ideas of a text and skimming and scanning to help us understand a text better. Within Numeracy, we have finished our money unit and are now currently learning about measure including length, weight and volume. We have been enjoying working independently on our numeracy grids and carrying out various tasks related to our learning. We have had an enjoyable start to P.E. this term as we focus on gymnastics. This term we have been focussing on the character strength of community 'working in a team' and developing our gymnastics skills and being able to develop control and fluency of our body when we move, allowing us to perform and join different gymnastic skills in sequence. We look forward to more lessons in which we can work as a team and independently in continuing to develop our gymnastic skills and work with various equipment and apparatus in doing so. Finally, we have been exploring children's rights and the different articles in the UNCRC, ensuring we show respect for those around us and their rights, linking it to our topic of building and maintaining friendships. We have been focussing on learning about the different articles in the UNCRC and the importance of each one. We enjoyed our class visit to the local church as we have been learning about aspects of different religions and the importance of respecting other's beliefs. As we continue into term 3, we will be developing our knowledge of the human body and describing the position and function of major organs, alongside explaining the importance of daily hygiene routines. We look forward to another fun-filled term learning and performing in our class assembly.

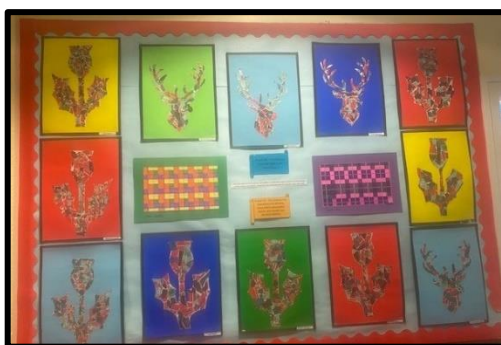
## What have we been up to?

### Base 5

Base 5 are looking forward to a very busy term! We started the term by looking at Scotland's place in the world, Scottish inventors and the history of dance. In P5, Numeracy and Maths we will be multiplying and dividing decimals by 10, 100, and 1000. We will also be multiplying and dividing a decimal by a single digit and look at the relationship between fractions, decimals and percentages. In P5/4 Numeracy and Mathematics we will be dividing hundreds tens and units and tens and units by a single digit. We will also be working on factors of numbers and looking at the relationship between fractions, decimals and percentages. We really must know our tables for this work! Later this term we will look at money and basic function machines and find values of symbols and operators in expressions (the beginnings of simple 'equations' with letters!) In Literacy we will be reading the novel 'The Titanic Detective Agency' which tells the story of the ship and some of the stories of its passengers.

Our citizenship topics this term will cover 'The Scottish Wars of Independence' and 'The Titanic' where we will look at the passengers who were on board from Renfrewshire. Fun Fact: Did you know that Robert the Bruce's daughter, Marjory, lived in Renfrew Castle and there is a street in Renfrew named after her? We will also be preparing for the Easter Assembly which takes place on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March. We created some fantastic thistles and tartan to celebrate our Scottish heritage.

The most exciting event that Primary 5 have to prepare for this term is the School Show. Primary 5 will be the 'choir' for P6 in their school show 'The Pirates of the Curry Bean'.



**Base 6** we are busy preparing for our upcoming show, 'Pirates of the Curry Bean'. Pupils auditioned for the various parts and the cast list is now complete. After the February weekend, we will be all signing, all dancing to learn all our lines, songs and stage directions for our performances in March! We simply cannot wait! Our recent performance of 'The Ballad of Janitor MacKay' was the ideal preparation for learning lines and performing to an audience. Ticket information will be coming out soon. In numeracy and maths, we have been learning about measurement and exploring the links between fractions, decimals and percentages. As always, we have been working hard on our grids to extend and develop our thinking and understanding. In Literacy, we have been working on creating a story on the theme of 'Defeating a Monster'. Using the model text, 'Smaug' we have explored the quality adjectives and adverbs required for description and are about to make a start on creating our own monster and setting for our hot task. We have enjoyed our work on gymnastics during PE and have developed our own routines and sequences to model our skills in balance, inversion, flight and rolling. In art, we have explored the work of Scottish artist Andy Peutherer and have designed our own representation of his painting 'Sky Boat Song' using oil pastels, chalk pastels and paint. We have also been busily designing front covers for our show programmes as well as a logo to represent our production name, 'Piratical Productions'. To continue our link with our connected classroom in Hong Kong, we wrote back to our friends telling them all about our Christmas and New Year celebrations and asking about how they celebrate the Lunar New Year. We carried out our own research on the festival and produced posters to detail what we have learned. We were surprised at how many similarities there were with our Hogmanay celebrations as well as the differences in our cultures.



**Base 7** are nearing the end of their class novel 'Divided City'. We have looked at conflict amongst religion and discrimination and identified changes within society throughout the years. We have used our class novel to form different types of questions and worked closely with friends in class to create and answer questions. We have also moved onto learning about dialogue and including this in our writing pieces. Primary 7 have worked collaboratively and showcased their PowerPoint skills by creating a resource fit for purpose which was shared with younger children throughout the school. We looked at Global Goals and focused on what children within Arky can do to support global warming. After using our creativity to look at fundraising ideas, we came up with a variety of ideas which raised money for our connected school in Uganda- thank you to everyone who guessed the birthday and guessed the number of sweets in the jar! We received letters from a different connected school in Taiwan and have written letters in response to their questions. We can't wait for their reply. We have been busy during Maths and Numeracy. We have been learning about skills required for life, learning and work. We have compared prices of supermarkets and based this around a budget. In addition to this, we looked at bank statements and have started to look at word problems that involve budgeting. We have continued focusing on fractions and thought carefully about what type of jobs we would need to apply this knowledge too. This led us onto looking at percentages too. Being Grateful and Appreciation. We have nearly finished our gymnastics block in gym and have pushed ourselves to try different skills out with our comfort zone. Finally, P7 are continuing to work towards their Dynamic Youth Award and are about to begin our bikeability lessons which we are looking forward to!

# What do the pupils have to say?

Love means my friends including my in their games.

**Cole P1**

Love is my dog.

**Myla P1**

Love is my friends playing with me.

**Daniel P1**

Love is playing with my sister.

**Lexi-Jay P1**

Love is playing with my brother.

**Duaa P1**

My friends love me.

**Harrison P1**

Love is playing tig with my cat.

**Archie P1**

Love is being nice to people.

**Aoife P1**

It means being kind to people.

**Aurora P2A**

It means to help your friends in class.

**Christopher P2B**

It means caring about family.

**Seerat P2B**

Love means people help you when you are sad.

**Maleya P2B**

When you love someone you respect them.

**Lucas P3**

When you care for someone and you treat them well.

**Mirabelle P3**

You look after someone that you love, even when they are unwell.

**Mia P3**

You treat them with kindness and care.

**Angus P3**

You will love and protect them and always want to be with them. **Harrison P3**

Love means kindness and friendship.

**Kirsty P5**

Giving people gifts and spending time with loved ones.

**Miley P5**

Love is being kind and caring.

**JoJo P5**

Love is talking to people in a nice way.

**Ayla P5**

Love is building stronger bonds with people.

**Struan P5**

Love is spending time with friends and family.

**Poppy P5**

## Question

What does the character strength of love mean to you? ❤️

**Ms Crawford**

Article 12: Your right to express your thoughts and opinions



Love means family.

**Ashton P7**

Love means watching Leeds playing football.

**Harry E P7**

Love means spending time with my family and friends.

**Kyle P7**

Love is giving hugs to family and friends.

**Jack P7**

Love is respecting people.

**Riley P7**

Love means asking people how they are and checking in with them.

**Abdulrehman P7**

Love is listening to what people are saying.

**Calum P7**

Love is sharing things and looking after our buddies.

**Gracie P7**

Love is taking care of the people you love.

**Sophie P5**

Love is helping your family.

**Zoeya and Daanish P5**

Love is feeling special to someone.

**Bonnie P6**

Love makes you feel safe.

**Amber P6**

Love is being understood by the people around you.

**Carly P6**

Love makes you feel warm, happy and like the most important person in some else's world.

**Ella P6**

Love is people who are really close to me who would be willing to help me if anything was wrong.

**Quinn P6**

Love is someone is caring towards me.

**Jouri P6**

Love is someone you can trust.

**Abbie M P6**

Love is someone who can respect your rights.

**Cristiana P6**

Love is caring for family and friends. **Lucas P4 and Antonia P4**

Love is showing respect to others and their rights. **Rayan P4**

Love is when we share and care for others, providing compliments and sharing with one another. **Sara P4**

Love is helping charity and others. **Mirren P4**

Love is giving hugs and showing kindness to one another. **Rizan P4**

Love is being kind to one another. **Maja P4**

Love is being a good friend and showing kindness.

**Muhammad P4**

When you love someone you respect them.

**Lucas P3**

When you care for someone you treat them well.

**Mirabelle P3**

You look after someone that you love, even when they are unwell.

**Mia P3**

You treat people you love with kindness and care.

**Angus P3**

You will love and protect them and always want to be with them. **Harrison P3**

## Arky Stars: Article 29 – Your right to be the best you can be

- Logan P7 played in a league cup. Theo P3 achieved a medal for his commitment to football. Cole P1 got a certificate for scoring an amazing goal. Freddie P4 won a trophy for player of the week at football.
- Thomas P7 has gained his grade 1 clarinet and Cameron P7 has gained his grade 2 clarinet with merit. Ben P7 won student of the year for guitar. Ayla P5 has learned how to play a song on the piano. Willow P6 has moved on early to one-to-one guitar lessons.
- Harry P7 has learned how to play card games.
- Mirrin P7 has her first kick boxing fight on Saturday. Haadi P3 achieved a gold medal and a silver trophy for competing in a karate competition. Theo P3 got a bronze medal for participating in a competition for mixed martial arts. Rayan P4 achieved a certificate for achievements in Taekwondo. Dylan P4 achieved a red belt at kickboxing.
- Gracie P7 is now a Scottish Cheer Instructor.
- Ayla and Jo-Jo P5 took part in a dance show at Renfrew High. Darcy P4 has joined a new dance academy. Isla P3 received lots of badges for cheer, disco and modern dance at her dance show. Lucy P3 achieved best dancer and got 5 badges to recognise her success. Isabella P3 competed in a dance competition for cheer and disco and got several badges. Olivia P3 achieved badges to recognise her commitment in cheer, modern, disco and tap. Aoife P1 has moved to level 2 in dancing. Amber P4 achieved a round off backhand spring in cheerleading. Abbie M P6 passed her dancing exams in freestyle and pom. Carly P6 passed her ballet exams.
- Miley P5 has joined a new gymnastics academy and Millie won a medal at a gymnastics competition. Mia P3 won a medal for achieving a front walk over in gymnastics. Avaya P3 achieved a silver medal for a competition in gymnastics. Katie P7 went to Dundee for a dancing competition.
- Jamie P3 got a medal for his participation in Dream, Believe and Achieve. Mirren P4 won star of the week at drama school. Bonnie P6 is doing well in her acting classes. Poppy P5 won a medal for being the best at acting at her drama group.
- Quetzali has moved up a level at swimming and got a certificate. Archie P1 moved up a level in swimming. Sara and Ava P4 won certificates for excellent swimming.
- Corran P4 has learned how to ice skate and Sophie P5 has learned how to roller skate.
- Zoeya P5 has learned how to draw people.
- Jacob P4 is moving up to cubs this month.
- Jouri P6 has moved up a new level in Arabic classes.
- Tyler P7 ran a Junior Cross Country race today at Kirkintilloch and came first (by a good margin). He is now running at school year group and was awarded medals on the podium. His running is going from strength to strength and his 5k PB is down to 19:14. He came second in the recent Renfrewshire Schools Cross Country event at the KGV.

We are very proud of the achievements of our pupils, staff and school community. Well done Arky Stars!

