

Arkleston Advertiser

Edition 3 Session 2024 -25



Message from the Head Teacher

It has been a busy term and it is lovely to see the lighter nights and mornings approaching. It feels like it has been a long, cold winter, so as spring approaches it brings with it feelings of optimism and positivity. This term is our nurtured and included term, where we reflect on how we can support ourselves and each other to feel nurtured within our community. "Being a nurtured citizen within your community" means actively participating in and contributing to the well-being of your local area, not just by fulfilling basic responsibilities, but by actively engaging with others, showing empathy, and fostering a positive and supportive environment, essentially being actively "nourished" by the community while also contributing to its growth and vitality.

"It is okay, not to be okay". We hear this often, but do we know what to do when we are not okay? We know that there are many issues that can trigger mental health issues in adults. One of these is poor coping mechanisms. At Arkleston we use our Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies (PATHS) Programme to support children in learning strategies to put in their mental health toolkit. With referrals to CAMHS increasing by 22.4% in 2022, compared to 2021, it is essential that we all work together to help our Arky Stars to have good mental health. Good mental health for children is when they feel loved, safe, secure, and good about themselves. It's an important part of healthy child development.

As adults, we are the guiding lights for our children, modelling and demonstrating how to cope in a variety of situations. As adults we can find our emotions overwhelming, so it is not a surprise that our children do to. Together we are on a journey to help our children cope with life. All children are at different stages on this journey and some are already more resilient than others. We aim to show our children, "You're braver than you believe, stronger than you seem, and smarter than you think".

Dates for your Diary

Wed 26/Thur 27 Feb	Parents' Evening 3.30pm-6.30pm
Thur 6 Mar	World Book Day – Pyjama Day
Fri 4 Apr	Easter Service (Base 3 Parents Welcome 9.30am/Fairtrade Cafe)
Fri 2 May	Report Cards Due Home
Mon 5 May	Holiday – School Closed
Wed 14/Thur 15 May	Parents' Evening 3.30pm-6.30pm
Mon 19/Thur 22 May	Renfrew High Transition Days
Thur 22 May	Healthy and Active Assembly (Base 2 Parents Welcome 9.30am/Fairtrade Cafe)
Fri 23 May	Inset Day – School Closed
Mon 26 May	Holiday
Thur 29 May	P6 and P5 School Show (afternoon and evening)
Fri 30 May	Healthy and Active Sparky Arky Day



Parent Council

Thank you for your ongoing support. We have two new secretaries: Kirsty Daly and Karyn Martin who have taken up post in January. Thank you to Jennifer Dumbreck and Charlene McFarlane for their help in post.

The decision was taken to cancel the Valentine's Disco due to the low numbers last session. The events committee are currently arranging the next event for children and an event for adults. They are looking at a family event on the 27 March. More information to follow. Moving forward, there will be a no photo policy at discos with parents being informed in the disco letter and reminded that photos shouldn't be taken in the school. This is due to safeguarding concerns. It is nearly impossible to ensure that children do not appear in the background of photos taken in the school hall.

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 for more information.



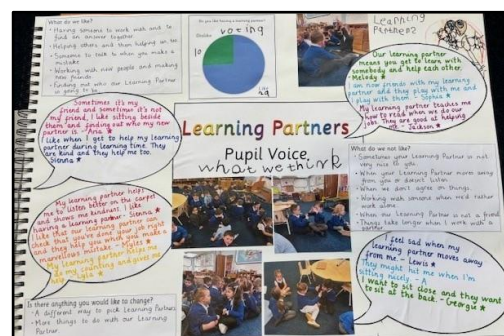
School Improvement Plan

I shared our school improvement plan priorities with you in September and it is available on our school website for your information. I thought that I would share some updates with you on our progress so far:

Priority 1 – Learning and Teaching – Assessing Learners

All staff attended training in August delivered by Shirley Clarke. This allowed us to reflect on our use of formative assessment strategies to support children in understanding their progress. You might notice in your child's jotter that there is less written marking by the teacher. We are advocating that verbal feedback is given in the moment during a lesson. This has a much higher impact on children.

At almost all stages, staff have introduced learning partners, which allow children to have opportunities to discuss their learning and thinking with their peers. Feedback from peers allows children to reflect on their learning and work towards a common goal.



Feedback from children in P1, shows that 75% of children like having a learning partner and find that this helps them with their thinking. These results are similar across other stages. We will continue to develop this approach next session.

Arkleston Primary School

Cockles Loan

Renfrew

PA4 0EL

03003000143

www.arkleston.renfrewshire.sch.uk
Head Teacher - Ms C Crawford

Nurtured and Included Sparky Arky Day

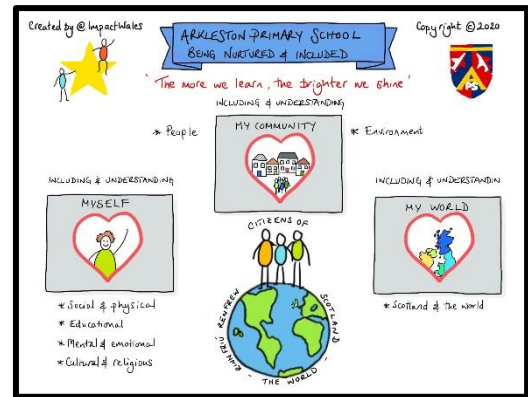
Sparky Arky Days are a chance for children to meet with their house friends from across all stages of the school, working on themes together to help to increase their knowledge, understanding and awareness. The Bases took part in Multicultural Dance, Music and Games for Mindfulness, Ramadan Decorations and Community Links with Renfrew North Church. The children had great fun learning many new skills.



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.

Included Citizens



Base 3 led an assembly for their invited guests that touched upon the theme of being a nurtured and included citizen. In preparation for their assembly the children visited Renfrew North Church and Glasgow Mosque.



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.

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.

Thank you to our community partners at the church and the mosque for making us feel welcome.



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

Activity is one way to support good mental health and we are fortunate enough to be able to offer a variety of lunchtime and after school clubs that children can attend, free of charge. These provide children with an opportunity to learn new skills and to utilise their character strengths in a new way.

Strengths of Action	Be Honest	Try	Be Brave	Be Happy	
Strengths of Community	Be Fair	Lead	Work In a Team		
Strengths of the Head	Be Curious	Learn	Be Wise	Create	Be Open
Strengths of the Heart	Love	Be Kind	Be a Friend		
Strengths of Meaning	Hope	Use Humour	Be Grateful	Be Spiritual	Appreciate
Strengths of Self-Control	Forgive	Use Control	Be Modest	Use Caution	Wait
Arkleston Primary School Character Strengths		How did I use my strengths? How can I demonstrate my strengths?			

At Arkleston, we use the language of character to describe the strengths we have and how we can demonstrate these in our daily lives. This helps your child to know themselves well.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
P7 Lunch Clubs 12:30-1:00pm	P4-7 Tennis P1-3 Dance	P1-3 Creative	P1-3 Dodgeball	P4-7 Choir P4-7 Football	P1-3 Book Club P4-7 Cheer
Renfrew High Sports Leaders Lunch Club 12.30-1.00pm		P1-3 Multi Sport			
Afterschool Clubs run by Active Schools 3:00-4:00pm	P6-7 Dance (3.00-3.45)	P1-3 Mini Kickers	P1-3 Multi Sport	P4-7 Handball	P5-7 St Mirren Football 3.00pm- 5.00pm

Swimming Lessons

P6 children have participated in 2 swimming sessions at the Paisley Lagoon Centre. Renfrewshire Council offer these sessions annually to every P6 child and it provides a basic introduction to developing basic swimming skills. It was great to see the different levels of skills that children have and the bravery of some children at the beginning of their swimming journey. I hope that the sessions have helped to boost children's confidence and maybe even inspired some children to pursue swimming as an extra-curricular activity.

School Improvement Plan

Priority 2 – Health and Wellbeing – Engagement of Learners

Staff use the Leuven Scale to measure children's level of engagement in learning at multiple times throughout the year and we noticed that 8% of learners had a lower level of engagement to their peers. Teaching staff have all participated in two sessions of training with Renfrewshire Educational Psychologists focusing on the theory and practice behind non-violent resistance. The emphasis is on connection, repair, adult presence and responding with prepared and compassionate statements to distressed behaviour. This has seen levels of engagement increase by 4% so far this session. Brian Donnelly has also been working with individual children to support their levels of engagement in learning.

What have we been up to?

Base 2 – Primary 1, In Numeracy, we have been enjoying learning about addition and subtraction, and different mathematical topics such as fractions and shape. We have been learning to identify halves and quarters of a shape and half an amount. We have been investigating properties of 2D shapes and 3D objects, sorting by criteria such as if they can roll or stack, and how many sides and corners they have. We will next be moving on to look at time; reading time at o'clock or half past, on both digital and analogue clocks. After March we will look at money, position and movement. In Literacy, we are busy learning some double sounds such as 'ch', 'ng' and 'wh'. We will continue to use our magnetic bounds to segment, blend and read new words using our double phonemes. Primary 1 will be taking a reading book home weekly for homework. This will help us to reinforce our knowledge of sounds and tricky words that we have been learning in class. We will be practising writing a sentence independently by sounding out each word. We will be enjoying reading in our library corner and have enjoyed a trip to our local library! Primary 1 will reinforce their knowledge of sounds through our daily jobs and play. We are excited to play some Literacy games on the Smart Board to help us with our spelling. We will be busy bees this term! We have been learning a new story in our Talk for Writing called, 'Take a Walk Little Bear'. We will be learning to retell the story using actions to help us remember important parts and create a class story map, where we will use pictures to help us retell the story. We will then have a go at creating our very own story maps. We plan to innovate our class story map together. We will also be practising some sentence writing based around our Talk for Writing story. Primary 1 are excited to learn about Katie Morag, finding out what life is like on a Scottish Island and comparing it to our town of Renfrew. We will be learning about the Scottish Artist John Lowrie Morrison and painting our own beautiful landscapes. We will be taking part in gymnastics activities in P.E this term, practising balancing, jumping and rolling. We will also be learning a traditional Scottish ceilidh dance.

P1 maps of Renfrew and the Isle of Struay



Base 3 – Primary 2 - Another busy and fun term so far in Primary 2. We have been exploring our feelings using the **Big Bright Feelings** books by Tom Percival. This has linked in with our daily feelings check ins in the classroom and we have been developing our social skills of empathy and friendship further through this. In maths we have been looking at repeated addition and how this links to multiplication tables. We really enjoyed our special games afternoon with some grown up helpers and learned lots of new games- from dominoes and snakes and ladders to bingo and charades. These games are now part of our daily provision and we have a special designated games area in which to play them. Thank you again to our grown-ups and we hope to do this again before the Summer. For our Scottish Showcase, we performed 'Dinnae Mak Me Laugh' - we learnt lots of new Scottish slang words and found it funny to talk about 'pickin' yer neb and flickin' it aff'. We made yummy shortbread with Mrs Liddle's support and then compared this with Rehmat's mummy's pakora. Both Scotland and India hold food in high regard for celebrations.

We enjoyed playing games with the grown ups



We enjoyed tasting Rehmat's mum's pakora



Base 4 - Primary 3 - In Literacy, we will be reading *The Creakers* and using this to develop our summarising skills. We will also be exploring questioning to develop our comprehension skills. In **Talk for Writing**, our focus will be on **instructional writing**, where we will learn about sequencing and using bossy verbs to give clear directions. In **Numeracy**, we will be working on **time, multiplication, division, and money**, building confidence in these important skills. We have introduced a class shop, kitchen and theatre to enable the children to provide opportunities for them to practice their skills in handling money. As part of our **Nurtured and Included** assembly, we planned visits to the **Mosque and North Parish Church**. These trips helped us to learn more about different religions and beliefs, promoting understanding and respect. We will also be focusing on **friendships** through our PATHS Programme and how to ensure that everyone feels included. We are exploring habitats in **Science** and building our own microhabitats to support animals within our school grounds. **PE days** will continue to be on **Monday and Friday**. Please ensure that children remove their jewellery or if earrings cannot be taken out, please cover these with tape.



Artwork inspired by our visit to the church and the mosque

What have we been up to?

Base 5 are looking forward to a very busy term! We started the term by looking at Scotland's place in the world, and it's history of music and dance. In Numeracy and Maths, we have been learning about digital and analogue time and have now moved on to working on faster recall in our multiplication tables. We will also be learning to multiply and divide 2- and 3-digit numbers by 1 digit. We will also be looking at ordering fractions, fraction walls, simple equivalent fractions and the relationship between fractions, decimals and percentages. In Literacy we will be reading the novel called 'One Dog and his Boy' which tells the story of a boy who is desperate for a dog. Can the boy and the dog stay together? Our citizenship topics this term will cover 'The Paisley Mills' and 'The Vikings in Scotland'. Did you know that there was a Viking battle here in Renfrew in 1164? We will learn about the Vikings who came to the West coast of Scotland led by a Viking Warrior called Somerled. The children have been very interested in finding out about the history of the mills in Paisley and the working conditions of the children who worked there. We have created posters and fact files and designed our own version of the Paisley Pattern. We are looking forward to welcoming Miss Reid and Miss Gray to our classes on 3rd March. She has been in to visit our class but will be joining us for 5 weeks before the Spring break.

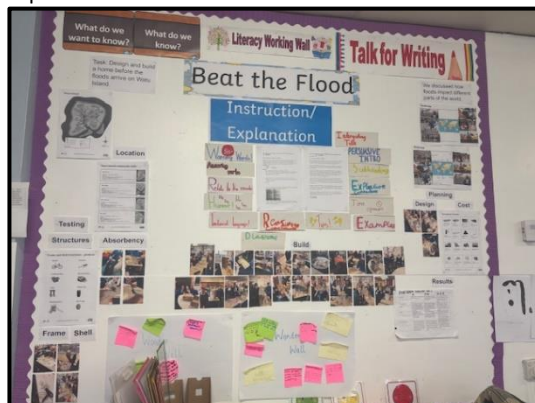
Primary 5 - In Numeracy and Maths, we will be looking at money and basic function machines and finding values of symbols and operators in expressions (the beginnings of simple 'equations' with letters!)

Paisley Pattern Designs



Base 6 have begun a new class novel entitled 'Rooftoppers' by Katherine Rundell. This adventure story is set between England and Paris during the Victorian era and follows the quest for a shipwrecked orphan to find her mother whom she believes is still alive. This novel is rich in fabulous description of characters and setting. To link in with our novel study we have been researching French culture whilst revising French language basics. We hope to recreate a French café scene which we can use to practise our conversations in a role play situation. We have started our new topic on prehistoric times and began with a video on the evolution of man. This raised lots of interesting questions which we will use to help focus our studies. We will be studying the Ice Age, Stone Age and Bronze Age, looking at timelines and the development of permanent settlements and communities. We are hoping all this learning will prepare us for our school show after the Easter break. Watch this space...

Base 7 - Since last term we have had plenty of performances including our Christmas Assembly 'Elf' as well as reciting 'Embody Lost a Jacket' at the Scottish Showcase. We have been learning about Global Warming and Climate Change, linking to Global Goals and Children's Rights. Through this topic we have made links with Fairtrade, learning about carbon footprints and understanding how the actions of others impact the global climate. Whilst learning about climate change, we explored the impact of flooding. Collaboratively we created junk models through a STEM project to 'Beat the Flood' with some success! Our Beat the Flood project was the basis of our writing this term which focused on explanation/instruction writing. Throughout the project we made notes on all the different steps, whilst learning what makes a good explanation/instruction text and finally produced our own instructions to create a flood-proof house. In literacy we have also been looking at the difference between fact and opinion and how to edit our work, uplevelling it. In numeracy, we have worked on factors, multiples and primes, using our knowledge of multiplication and division to help us calculate the lowest common multiple and highest common factor of at least two numbers. More recently, we have been learning skills for life and work, looking at money. This has included identifying the most cost-effective offer, the benefits and risks of different types of banking as well as profit and loss and elements of creating a business plan. With Mrs Smith we have worked on speed, distance and time which has included some outdoor learning. We have nearly finished our gymnastics block in gym and have pushed ourselves to try different skills out with our comfort zone. Finally, we have just started our lunch clubs again, improving our leadership skills!





What do the pupils have to say?



Play with everybody, and be nice even if you don't know them. **Cara P1**
Don't leave anyone out or say I'm not playing with you. **Amina P1**
Be kind to everybody. **Lewis P1**
You can play with more people at a time. **Abigail P1**
You play with them and you can be their friend. **Lyla P1**
If someone is feeling lonely, you can go over and play with them nicely. **Charlie S P1**
Even if they're not your best friend, you can still play with them. **Sienna P1**
You can make people happy by letting them join in with your game and not making them feel left out. **Eric P1**

Welcome others and smile at them.

Eilidh P2

If someone is upset be kind.

Lily P3

If you are doing a dance, ask people to join you.

Evie-Rose P3

If someone needs time on their own, give that to them and talk about things later.

Frankie P3

If someone looks lonely invite them over for a game.

Camden P3

If someone is upset speak to an adult.

Emaan P3

If someone is alone in the lunch hall you can ask them to sit beside you.

Leo P3

If someone is sad, you can tell them a joke to try and make them laugh.

Ayat P3

If we are working as a team we always let people share their ideas and give their opinions someone's learning partner is off I always offer to work with them.

Ella P4

If someone is having a problem with their work I like to help.

Olivia P4

We always make visitors and new pupils welcome in our school.

Jamie P4

We always try to make sure people don't feel left out when playing games.

Mia P4

Question

How do we make sure that everyone is included in our school? ❤️

Ms Crawford

Article 12: Your right to express your thoughts and opinions



Having a group of friends to do things with.

Lucas P7

Include people in play at lunch and break.

Roshni P7

By asking other people to join group work.

Taylor P7

By working with progress partners, working with different people.

Robbie P7

We play with our buddies and help them in the playground.

Jamie P7

We provide lunch clubs, everyone gets a chance to join a club.

Carly P7

We teach or show others how to do something.

Kai P7

We include everyone in group tasks and activities in class.

Lucas P6/5

The containers we have make sure everyone can find something they like to play with.

Darcy P6/5

On Sparky Arky Day we get a chance to mix with other people and make new friends

Antonia P6/5

We treat everyone fairly and allow pupils to join teams, after school clubs and represent their class.

Aaron P6

The teachers also make sure everyone feels included in the class and in school.

Zoeya P6/5

There are playground zones to match everyone's personalities and interests.

Saurav P6

I try to check in with people if they look like they are feeling a bit sad.

Katie P4

If a new pupil joins the school I always try to be friendly to them.

Anaya P4

I try to include everyone in our games in the playground.

Sara P5

Respect children who have had a diagnosis.

Sara P5

We celebrate festivals from different religions.

Liam P5

In our Newsletter, we celebrate all our achievements.

Cooper P5

There are different options in our lunch hall for children who might be vegan or gluten free.

Corran P5

We help new children settle into our school by taking turns to look after them. We will find out about the country they have come from, if they are new to Scotland.

Alfie P5

We help children who are autistic feel included by playing games and supporting them with tasks. **Jace P5**

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

- Alfie G P1 won a football trophy for setting a new record by scoring 6 goals. Jackson P1 got a trophy at football because he scored a goal. Alfie K P1 scored 4 goals in football. Jessica P1 got a medal for football. Hamish P1 was proud of himself as at football he scored some goals. Evan P2 achieved player of the week in football. Harrison P2 won a trophy and medal for football. Charlie P2 achieved a football medal and trophy. Logan P3 will be taking part in a football tournament in February. Joshua P3 achieved a medal in football training. Rueben P3 won a medal and a trophy in his football tournament with Erskine Football Club. Reed P3 won a medal from a tournament in Govan for top scorer. Lucy P4 won two trophies for football. Katie P4 moved up a group in football. Blake P4 won a football trophy playing against Burnley. Theo P4 won a football tournament and the team got two trophies. Carley P4 got a trophy and medal at football. Freddie P5, won 6 trophies and 7 medals for football at a presentation recently. Jace P5 is captain for his football team in the very first match of the season. Harley-Jay P6/5 won a gold medal in his football league. Allie P7 moved from Livingston to Hamilton football team under 13s. Kai P7 signed for Sons of Struth FC under 13s.
- Millie P1 started Brownies and got her first badge. Anna P1 won a dancing trophy and a Rainbows certificate and a tool badge. Georgie P1 got her camping badge at Rainbows. Grace P2 achieved two badges in rainbows. Archie P2 joined Beavers. Aoife P2 got a fruit and veg badge at rainbows. Ava P2 achieved five badges in rainbows. Finn P2 achieved a new badge at beavers. Aaron P2 had good listening in Boys' Brigade. Maya G P5 became a Second in Brownies. Willow P7 achieved her chef badge in Scouts.
- Aria P1 won 2 trophies from dancing. Abigail P1 won a medal for dancing. Sophia P1 got a trophy from dancing for doing some good dances. Riley P2 moved up a level in dancing. Sarah P3 moved up a class in dancing and is now attending competition. Marli P4 won dancing medals. Mia P4 got a certificate for cheer. Olivia P4 won badges for cheer, modern, tap and disco dancing. Carly, Libbi and Abbie M P7 went to Newcastle for a dance competition and came 2nd. Miley P6 has participated in two Rock Star cheer competitions and won 2x first place medals at the Steve Walls Classic in Dundee. She also got first place at BCA at the SEC in Glasgow.
- Myles P1 got a medal for Taekwondo and a red belt. Emaan P3 won a taekwondo medal for 'Best Punch'. Kamran got a blue and red stripe in Tae Kwon Do.
- Lucas P6/5 got his first belt in MMA.
- Cameron P1 won a gold medal at dodgeball club. Seerat P3 gained her blue stripe in Taekwondo.
- Isla P1 won a trophy for swimming. Cole P2 moved to level 2 in swimming. Eilidh P2 has moved to the seals at swimming. Lily P3 moved up to Dolphins in swimming and can now swim a full length of a pool. Orla P3 moved up to Swordfish in swimming and can swim two lengths of the pool. Ayat P3 got an award for swimming for excelling in swimming. Joshua P3 has completed swimming lessons and can now swim independently. Kingsley moved up a group in swimming.
- Jaime P1 got a medal in gymnastics. Ellie P6 has been invited into the competition class at 'Eagle' gymnastics. Her specialty is tumbling and beam. Millie P6 mastered her round off back handspring.
- Hope P2 moved up a level in trampolining.
- Kelvin P2 has started guitar lessons.
- Mirryn P2 starred in a 'Sleeping Beauty' pantomime. Evie-Rose P3 performed in a pantomime in December. Mirren P6/5 was cast in the role of 'Alice' in the stage show of Matilda. Lola and Ella P6 have moved into the advanced class in PACE where they are currently rehearsing for 'Peter Pan' which they will perform in Easter. Lola will play 'Smee' and Ella is a fairy and a 'Lost Boy'.
- Robyn P3 gained another netball award for always working hard in training.
- Blair P3 has started attending the gym for circuits and games.
- Frankie P3 is undertaking Parkour and is making great progress in making jumps independently.
- Avaya P4 got a Level 4 certificate for skiing. Aria P6 was skiing in the Glen Shee mountains with her family.
- Matthew P6/5 hit over 120 yards in golf.
- Isabelle P7 got a scholarship for the High School of Glasgow, after going for interview and doing exams.
- Struan P6 won a silver medal at an 'ALLSTARS' competition in Ravenscraig Sports Centre.
- Amelia P6 entered a writing competition, she is awaiting the results.

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

