



St. Joseph's Primary School and Nursery Class



Celebrando La Lengua y La Cultura Españolas 20th –24th of March 2017

St. Joseph's Primary School in Blantyre, embraced the Scottish Government's 1+2 Approach to modern languages learning, by celebrating the language and culture of Spain through a dedicated 'Spanish Week' of events aimed at developing learners' use of Spanish language in real life contexts and awareness of Spanish culture in Spain and in Spanish speaking countries worldwide. Learners participated in a range of stimulating experiences and opportunities which supported them in their journey towards Global Citizenship by enabling them to deepen and extend their knowledge and understanding of Spanish: cities, food, music, dance, architecture, sport, famous people, festivals, film and media. Learners participated with huge excitement in an authentic sponsored charity Salsathon developing dance skills in a variety of dance style including the Salsa, Bachata and Merengue directed superbly by Shannon Shiell, Director of the Academia de Salsa UK Ltd, and ably supported by senior pupils of St. John Ogilvie High School. We extend a huge thank to Clare Carroll of SCILT, Scotland's National Centre of Languages, for her presentation on Spanish Festivals. The children thoroughly enjoyed parading in Spanish traditional dress. We are appreciative of the support of Jesus Garcia of Hamilton Academical Football Club who delivered a football workshop, discussed healthy lifestyles for sports training in Spain and provided autographs for the children. The La Taverna de Tapas food tasting experience hosted by Rebecca McLean and representatives of the Parent Teachers Association, provided scope for pupils to taste typical Spanish delicacies and snack type foods in context. We were delighted to welcome Andrea Malvido, South Lanarkshire Council Foreign Language Assistant, who provided the children with an invaluable opportunity to listen to and discuss familiar and unfamiliar Spanish texts with a native Spanish speaker. The children benefited greatly from input from Claire Burns and Fiona Nolan both Modern Languages Graduates, presenting on their experiences of living, working and studying in Spain. Margaret McGhee, former Depute Head, provided the children with an insightful overview of Spain as a traveller and detailed her journey through the Camino de Santiago, in celebration of St. James the Greater, Patron Saint of Spain. St. Joseph's Primary School are hugely fortunate to have forged so many fabulous links with external agencies and friends of the school which we hope will support the continued development in modern languages learning. We look forward to continuing to work with all linked agencies and to establishing future links with Spanish Nationals and Spanish run businesses within our local and wider communities and to e-twinning with our recently established Spanish partnership school located within the Málaga region of Spain.