

*P4/5/6*  
*Trip to The Scottish*  
*Parliament in Edinburgh*

Class P4/5/6 went to The Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh on the 15<sup>th</sup> of April. They met Alex Fergusson, the Presiding Officer of the Parliament. He showed them into one of the spare offices where there would usually be a meeting going on. It was quite lucky that they even got into one of the offices because Tuesday is the day when they have meetings and discuss about the Parliament.

Mr Fergusson took them to the main entrance and showed them a model of the Parliament. He talked about the building and that the architect ( Enric Miralles) was inspired by his favourite architect Goudie who designed lots of fancy buildings in Barcelona. Also, if you look at the building from up above it's meant to look like a tree. The Parliament Building would be the leaves while the strange hills in the grass would be the trunk.

On the tables there were machines which you would speak into. If you press the big button at the bottom it means that you want to speak. Above that button are the numbers 1-5. They are there if the MSP's are going to vote. If you press 2 it means NO, 3 ABSTAIN and 4 YES. You don't need 1 and 5.

Next Mr Fergusson showed them to the Debating Chamber. It was very magnificent. He showed them the mace that in 2004 the Queen had given the Parliament as a gift. The REAL gold and silver that it was made from came from Auchencairn and Wanlockhead. The silver from Auchencairn, and the gold from Wanlockhead.

After they all had a good look around the Debating Chamber Mr Fergusson showed them back to the office to have their lunch. After lunch Mr Fergusson had to go.

Then they split up into groups. Half of the class went with Mrs Hannay while the rest of the class went with Mrs Clark.

First Mrs Hannay's group went to the gift shop. In the gift shop you could buy recycled pencils, pencils, rubbers, books and sweets. While Mrs Clark's group went to the Main Entrance to look at the displays. There were phones which you listened into. You could hear extracts from recent debates, there was a model of the Debating Chamber and computer screens that showed the Parliament and told you about it.

After about 15 minutes they swapped over, so Mrs Clark's group went to the gift shop and Mrs Hannay's group went to the displays. After another 15 minutes they had to go.

I'm sure it was enjoyed by all.