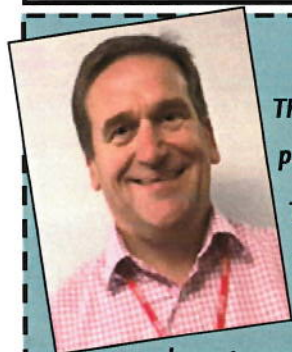




School Newsletter

Autumn Term 1A 26/10/2018



Message from the Headteacher

This is the first of our half-termly newsletters and I do hope you enjoy reading about what our pupils have been doing over what has been quite a long half-term.

This is also the end of my first half-term as the Head of Clifton and there are a few things that I would like to mention.

I have been very impressed by the way children have settled into their new classes and have got down to work. The children's behaviour is good with only a few times when behaviour has not matched our high expectation. Thank you to those parents who we have had to see as a result of behaviour issues – you have been very supportive.

It is also clear to me what a committed, enthusiastic and hard-working staff we have at Clifton and it is a real pleasure to have joined it.

The work of the staff and the support and co-operation of parents is what really counts when it comes to our children feeling happy, being safe and learning well.

I would particularly like to thank all parents for your support in making our new arrangements at the beginning of the day work so well. I have spoken to a number of parents in the playground to answer questions and queries and we as a staff feel these arrangements are now working well. Indeed, a number of parents are commenting on how they enjoy seeing the whole school community out in the playground at the beginning of the day. Obviously if any of you have any further questions, please come and find me in the playground as I am often out and about.

Thank you again and have an enjoyable break. I look forward to working with you next half term.

Nick Lambert

Headteacher

Nursery

In Nursery this half-term, we have been learning about turn taking, sharing and respecting each other. We have also been reading lots of stories and singing nursery rhymes. In our focus activities, we have been looking at numbers, mark making, talking about our feelings and creating some marvellous art work. We have really enjoyed exploring our local environment and learning about how the seasons change. Our first parent workshop about reading was very exciting and we loved working with our families.





Reception

In Reception this half-term, we have been learning our school rules and routines. We have also been making new friends, learning to share and helping each other. We have been reading and listening to lots of different stories including 'The Hungry Caterpillar'. In English we changed the story and made up a new one of our own. In Maths, we have been learning to recognise numbers and count. We have really enjoyed having our parents join us for our Inspire workshop about early reading. We have ended the half-term with a trip to the Sea Life Centre to learn all about the wonderful creatures of the sea.



Year 1



Year 1 have had a fantastic half-term. The children have all settled in to their new classrooms with their new teachers extremely well. We have been learning all about The Three Little Pigs. We re-told the story and then we changed the story to The Three Little Sheep. In Maths, we have been learning all about numbers to 10 and shapes. We really enjoyed our Maths Adventure Walk – we walked around our local area and hunted for shapes, colours and numbers. We have learned lots about different materials such as fabric, plastic, metal and glass. We even made scarves for our teddies!



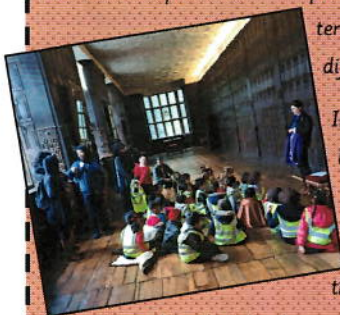
Year 2

Year 2 have made a really positive start to the term and all the children have settled really well into their new classes.

In English, we began by studying 'Cinderella'. We used this text to explore writing in a variety of different ways, including writing a letter, a diary and a recount. The children also used this text as a basis to write some amazing stories. At the start of term, we even had our very own Royal Ball! Perhaps the most exciting part for the children was our trip to Aston Hall where we dressed up and acted out the story of Cinderella. We made wands and masks which enabled us to bring the story to life. In English, we are now writing instructions. The children have really impressed us this week by writing their own set of instructions. We have also practised this in our DT lessons where the children wrote text about 'How to Make a Sandwich.'



In Maths at the start of term, the children reviewed their 2, 3, 5 and 10 times tables as well as their number bonds within 20. We have also reviewed and practised partitioning. The children really impressed us with how much they could remember from Year 1. We have focussed this term on using our number bond skills to solve more complicated equations within 100. We have also been looking at different ways of representing problems and have introduced 'bar-modelling.'



In IPC this half-term we have been learning about how to look after ourselves. The children particularly enjoyed the lesson on germs during which we did an experiment using glitter to see what could clean our hands the best. They also enjoyed the tasting lesson which looked at the different tastes, although not many liked the broccoli!

Finally, it has been wonderful to see so many children using Mathletics and Spellodrome. Please make sure you use these fantastic resources over the holiday. Children also have a half-term holiday homework pack to complete, as well

as reading their book every day.



Year 3

In Maths, we have been learning about number sense and exploring calculation strategies, place value and addition and subtraction. We will continue this after the half-term break.

In English, we read a fiction text, 'The Princess and the White Bear King' by Tanya Robyn Batt. In this wishing tale where the princess wishes for a crown. We also read a non-fiction text about David Cox who is a famous artist from Birmingham. This linked nicely with our IPC topic of 'Painting, Portraits and Famous People.'

In Science, we learnt about how our gardens grow. This involved labelling the parts of the plant and understanding their individual functions. We then moved on to learning about the life cycle of a tree, the production of a fruit and pollination.

In IPC we learned about 'Painting, Portraits and Famous People', looking at different styles of paintings and landscapes. We also had a trip to Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery which was great fun!



In Science this term, we have been studying states of matter. This has involved identifying the properties of solids, liquids and gases. We have also spent time observing the properties of gases through practical experiments. Finally, we learnt about evaporation and condensation and their role in the water cycle.

In Maths, we consolidated our knowledge of place value. We then learnt about addition and subtraction. We focussed on finding and using the most efficient methods using known facts. We learnt how to use the formal written method for solving addition and subtraction. At the end of this term we started our multiplication and division unit. We have studied the mental methods to solve problems, as well as known and unknown facts. We are looking forward to learning more about the formal written methods after half-term.

Our IPC topic at the moment is 'Saving the World'. We have learnt about rainforest animals, locations of rainforests and threats to the rainforest. We have also created our own rainforests in the classroom and recreated the sounds and movements of the rainforest in our music and dance lessons.

We were very lucky to go on a trip to Ackers Adventure Centre. This allowed us to invest some time in team building and develop our health and wellbeing. For a lot of the children, it was an opportunity to partake in activities that they have never done before such as skiing and archery.



Year 5

In English, the children have enjoyed writing stories and diaries based on stories from 'The Chronicles of Harris Burdick' by Chris Van Allsburg. It has been great to see the progress the children have made using relative clauses and parenthesis in their writing. To support writing, the children have explored these stories in Guided Reading; making predictions and analysing the use of the author's language and how it impacts the reader.

In Maths, the children have become confident with knowing the place value of 6 digit numbers. They have become more confident with rounding to the nearest 10, 100, 1,000 and 10,000. They have used their rounding skills to make estimations before adding and subtracting these larger numbers. We have recently moved onto reading graphs and tables. The children have become more confident with identifying the increments on the x and y axis which has helped them to become more accurate when reading information on line graphs.

In IPC, they have been learning all about the Victorians. They have enjoyed learning what a Victorian classroom was like as well as creating art work influenced by William Morris. We do hope you enjoyed looking at the displays during Parents' Evening; the children worked so hard on them! We also visited the Black Country Museum. Here the children were lucky enough to explore Victorian homes, as well as having a guided tour of the mine. The children were brilliantly behaved and really did us proud.

In Science, the children have been exploring the properties of materials and have planned and carried out investigations. Most recently the children investigated how viscous different materials are; it was a rather messy experiment! We hope you enjoyed the Diwali festival assembly. The children worked extremely hard on choreographing the dances, practising their singing and working on their acting skills. We are extremely proud of them!



Year 6

Wow! We are all very proud of the settled and confident start to this term. The pupils have worked extremely hard and are making excellent progress.



We started the term with an amazing trip to Woodlands Adventure Centre. This linked to our Myths and Legends IPC unit on Robin Hood. The staff and pupils enjoyed canoeing, archery, the terrifying zip-wire and an army style assault course. Although we were all very wet and muddy by the end of the day it was tremendous fun.

We have been learning about light and shadows in Science. The children ended this unit with an amazing shadow puppet show.



In English, we have been reading about the heroic British explorer Ernest Shackleton. The children have discovered many interesting facts about his life and the Antarctic and have written descriptions, a narrative adventure and a biography.

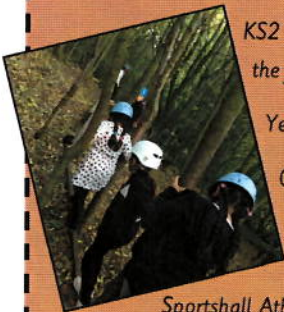
In Maths, we have been developing mental maths skills and formal written calculations. This has helped improve their Arithmetic test scores.

We'd like to thank all the parents who attended our Inspire SATs and homework workshops. The children have been given their new homework books to start over half-term.

PE and Sport

Congratulations to the Year 5 Basketball Team who recently came 4th in the Clifton School Games Basketball competition at Nechells Leisure Centre. They played extremely well and only lost to a really strong Harper Bell School Year 6 team in the semi-finals.

All pupils in Year 5 are taking part in a national online competition in Athletics. Each week they are recording scores in three different athletic events and will receive medals and stickers for their achievements. Please make sure your child has their PE Kit in school everyday.



KS2 Girls took part in a football competition here at Clifton with Harper Bell and St Matthews Schools, narrowly missing out in the final to St Matthews (6-5).

Year 4 recently enjoyed a visit to The Ackers, getting involved in outdoor activities like skiing, rock-climbing and canoeing.

Clifton pupils have been taking part in weekly Boccia matches, in addition to their school games events. Everyone has had a great time so far, including Mr Lambert!

The next School Games Partnership events are: Panathlon and Football (for B/C teams, Sportshall Athletics, Hockey and Dance).



Attendance

Attendance this term is **96.40%**

This is a really good start to the year. Let's keep it up!

Please remember that attendance is key to your child's attainment and it is important that they are at school in order to learn.



We wish you a well-deserved break
and we look forward to
seeing you all again on
Tuesday 6th November.