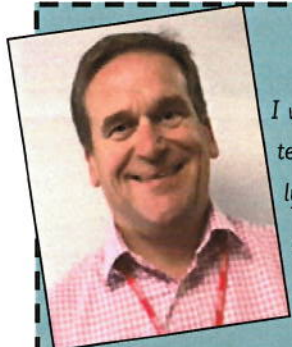


# School Newsletter

Autumn Term 1B 21/12/2018

## Message from the Headteacher



I would like to thank everyone – pupils, staff and parents – for giving me such a warm welcome during my first term as a member of the Clifton ‘family’. I feel as though I have got to know pupils and staff alike. It is also lovely to be able to chat to parents when I am out and about in the mornings and after school.

We continue to work hard to ensure that the school site is safe and secure. Next term we will be looking at adding a few more security features, especially onto some of our external doors. Please do not worry, the school will be as welcoming as ever! We are also hoping to widen the gate by the Woodlands main entrance, making it easier for those of you with pushchairs. A few parents have raised concerns about the traffic on the roads around school during school drop off and pick up times. I am in communication with the local councillor to see how we can improve this situation.

Of course our main focus remains teaching and learning to ensure children are making good progress in English and Mathematics, as well as having the opportunity to do all the other things that are so important for young children. It is a long list! Having looked at our timetables, next term we will be checking to try to ensure we are covering everything. We will also focus on marking, reading, handwriting and presentation in books, and maths in the Early Years.

I would like to thank all parents for your attendance at the various events we have had in school during this term. It makes a big difference to both staff and of course children that you are taking the time to enjoy assemblies, workshops and other events such as the Christmas Fair. It all helps to grow and sustain the Clifton community which I know has been very strong in the past. Thank you again.

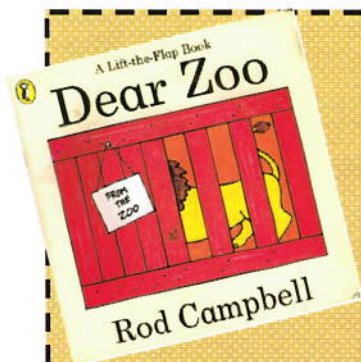
This term we are saying goodbye to Ms Finlay and Mr Burke. Ms Finlay has been successful in getting a promotion at a school in Devon and Mr Burke is retiring after an amazing 30 years at Clifton! We wish them both all the very best for the future.

I hope you all have a very restful and peaceful Christmas break and happy new year. Thank you again for your support this term.

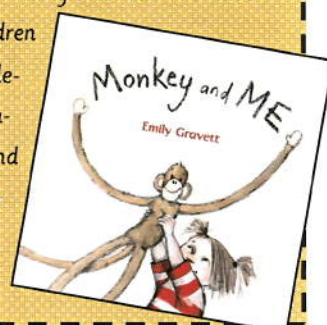
**Nick Lambert**

**Headteacher**

## Nursery



We have been working very hard this half term in nursery. We went on a trip to Hickory Dickory's with parents and children. Everyone really enjoyed themselves. The children particularly enjoyed the health and self-care week when we had the school nurse come to visit us and discussed road safety as well as washing our hands. The children have been getting really stuck into our Talk for Writing sessions. We have read 'Dear Zoo', 'Brown Bear Brown Bear', and 'Monkey and Me.' The children have the opportunity to take a new book home each day, which has really developed their love for sharing books. In addition to this, the children have enjoyed playing on the bikes outside and learning playground games, such as 'Ring a Ring o Roses' and 'In and Out the Dusty Bluebells.' It has been a fantastic term, we look forward to what the new year will bring. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the families of the children in nursery for the ongoing support you give. It makes a real difference!







## Reception

This term Reception have been busy learning about Christmas and performing their Nativity shows for their parents. They have learnt the words and dances to songs along with their lines which helped them to put on brilliant performances!

In Maths the children have been learning about addition and subtraction within 6.

In English the children have been reading "Goldilocks and the Three Bears" and have even created their own version of the story. The children have been learning their letter sounds and practising reading words in Phonics.

## Year 1

Year 1 have had an amazing half term.

The children have been working really hard and this has reflected in the fantastic progress they have made since the beginning of the year.

In English, we have been learning about the stories 'The Billy Goats Gruff' and 'How to Catch a Star'. We re-told the original stories and then we invented our own versions.

In maths, we have been learning how to add and subtract numbers within 20 using a range of methods.

We've learnt about plants and seasons this half term as well as, food from other parts of the world. We even made our own pizzas and decorated cakes and biscuits!

In addition, we really enjoyed our cinema experience in the school hall where we ate popcorn and watched 'The Incredibles 2'.



## Year 2

Year 2 have had a really exciting half term.

Our IPC topic has been 'People from the Past' and we have learned about so many amazing people, from the courageous Rosa Parks to the selfless Mary Seacole. We kicked it all off by dressing up as notable folk from history: Cleopatra, Charlie Chaplin, Princess Diana, Albert Einstein, Leo Messi, Frida Kahlo...even the Beatles' John Lennon made an appearance.

In English, we have been focusing on the curious tale of 'Who's Afraid of the Big Bad Book?' We really enjoyed joining Herb on his journey through a number of fairy tales that he himself had upended. Have you ever tried reading upside-down words? Harder than it looks! We have also written biographies of famous people and even had a go at writing our own autobiographies.

In Maths, we have covered a variety of different topics. We have learnt to measure length in metres and centimetres. Did you know, for example, that Mr Sawyer is not 3m tall? Or that Miss Shafiq's head measures a whopping 59cm? We then took a look at graphs, creating our own pictograms and block diagrams to represent different data. Finally, we have moved on to learning about multiplication and division, in which we are tackling some really tricky problems.

A few weeks ago, Year 2 had the opportunity to go on a trip to the cinema to see the hit film 'Peter Rabbit'. It's safe to say the film got very positive reviews from our little critics and even the teachers couldn't help but laugh at the zany shenanigans.

All that's left to say is we hope you have a very pleasant holiday, a merry Christmas and a fabulous New Year!







### Year 3

**Maths** - Children have been exploring addition and subtraction as well as presenting data.

**English** - We have been reading Oscar Wilde's, 'The Selfish Giant' and writing Non-chronological reports about Big Cats.

**IPC** - We took part in the Into Film Festival and went to watch Captain Underpants at Touchwood Solihull.

We also went to RAF Cosford as part of our 'Around the World' topic. We saw some planes, got to go into an army helicopter and made rockets in the workshop.

**Science** - We have been studying light. We explored the different colours that make up light, as well as how shadows are formed by setting up puppet shows that children performed simple stories in.



### Year 4

In English lessons this half term, we have read a book called 'The Promise', which led to the children writing their own finding tales. We have also looked at persuasive leaflets, and we are creating our own for Dudley Zoo. During guided reading sessions, we have been comparing poetry with an environmental theme.

In our maths lessons this term we have covered a range of topics. We started with multiplication and division, looking at both mental and formal written methods. Our second unit has focussed on discrete and continuous data. This has included both interpreting and creating our own pictograms, bar charts and time graphs.

We have continued with the topic 'Saving the World', about the rainforests. This term this has included investigating products that come from the rainforest and researching and debating the use of palm oil. We have also used the website <https://www.globalforestwatch.org/> to investigate the changing use of forest land around the world. In our last week of term, our DT project has involved making our own rainforest birds!

Our science topic this term was 'Human Impact'. During this topic we have looked at how human behaviour can change our environment and also have an effect on animals. We have discussed litter, waste, plastic pollution and also looked at how we have an impact on the food chain.

We have been very lucky with our trips this half term. Year 4 went to both the cinema to watch 'Hotel Transylvania 3' and Dudley Zoo in the same week! We had a great time seeing a range of animals, including those from the rainforest, such as orangutans and lorikeets, which even landed on our heads!



### Year 5

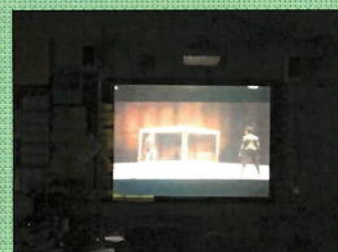
Year 5 have had a busy and fun-packed half term. They moved into English and maths sets and got to know their new groups and teachers.

In English and Guided Reading, we have been studying Greek myths. The children wrote their own 'Conquering the Monster' tale having looked in detail at 'Theseus and the Minotaur'. They have worked hard on developing characterization and dialogue in their writing. We have started looking at non-chronological reports and the use of bullet points, colons and semi-colons. We were really lucky to watch a live screening of 'Romeo and Juliet' by the Royal Shakespeare Company. It was an amazing experience for both children and staff! We also visited the cinema to watch 'Goosebumps' and the children were brilliantly behaved.

In maths, the children have been working on multiplication and division. They have multiplied and divided whole numbers and developed a secure understanding of the relationship with place value. The children have used times tables facts to derive other multiplication facts and the corresponding division facts. We have explored a range of calculation strategies to multiply and divide with increasingly large numbers, including the formal written layout. Through a range of problem solving contexts, the children have explored how to represent problems using models and started to select a suitable strategy.

Our IPC topic this term was 'The Great, the Bold and the Brave', focusing in particular on the Ancient Greeks. We have learnt about: the Greek gods and goddesses; democracy; Athens and Sparta; Alexander the Great; Ancient Empires and even designed a board game based on the 12 labours of Hercules! In art, the children designed Greek pottery, and made a mosaic of a Greek god. They used sketching skills to draw a Greek god or goddess and learned how to draw a Roman street using perspective.

In science, the children have been learning about forces and we are looking forward to some fun filled, interactive, science sessions in the final week of term!





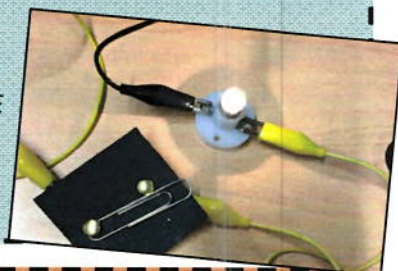
## Year 6

Year 6 have had a really busy half term. All the Year 6 teachers would like to say how proud they are of the children's positive attitude and the excellent work they have produced. This has included: looking at electricity in Science, mastering all aspects of fractions in Maths and producing some thought-provoking pieces of writing in English.



In IPC, we have been exploring the effect of World War 2 on Balsall Heath. We looked in-depth at some local events, including the bombing of the Carlton Cinema. We have also been studying a range of texts linked to the theme of World War 2 including: *Rose Blanche* by Ian McEwan and the war poet Laurence Binyon. The children produced some excellent poppy pictures using a variety of media. In the final week of term, we will produce a news report covering key aspects of life during World War 2.

Some additional highlights have included being whisked back to the Jurassic era on our cinema trip. Despite the scary moments, fun was had by all! Many of the children have become fantastic hockey players by developing expert skills in their PE lessons, and resulted in an exciting inter-class tournament.



## PE and Sport



This half term has proved to be incredibly successful for School Sport and our participation in School Games.

We have run successful competitions so far this term with 20 schools (primary and secondary) taking part in a range of sports from basketball to Dance. Clifton Primary (Dance) and Harper Bell (Basketball and Sportshall Athletics) successfully lead the primary schools taking part together with Small Heath, Ark St Albans and St Georges the leading secondary participants. These schools will represent the Clifton partnership in the Citywide Level 3 competitions after Christmas.

Our dance teams have done extremely well. For the **first time ever Clifton Primary** won the level 2 dance competition. The Year 4 and 5 team danced their way to first place and the Year 6 team achieved second place. This means that we have qualified for the finals at the Birmingham Hippodrome Theatre next term.

Our Year 5 and 6 Sports Hall Athletics team have performed really well in the Clifton SGO competition. A big congratulations to all of our **Panathlon team** who finished in the top three in a regional competition.

In PE, Years 3 and 4 have been focussing on Gymnastics, ready for a competition next term.

Year 6 have been practising their hockey skills.



## Attendance

Attendance this term is 96.64%.

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  
**Monday 7th January**