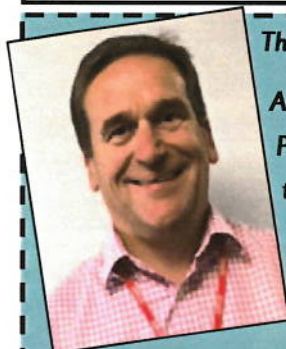




School Newsletter

Spring Term 2A 15/02/2019



The first half term of 2019 has been a very busy one!

As I am sure you will agree, our pupils have been doing some great work in the last few weeks.

Pupils continue to work hard in class on various subjects, covering topics from learning to tell the time in Yr1 maths, rocks and fossils in Yr3 science through to persuasive writing in Yr5 English.

Pupils have had some great opportunities outside the classroom too, from the nursery visiting the farm, reception going to the theatre to see 'The Tiger Who Came to Tea' and our Yr6 pupils having a fantastic experience in London.

Yr2 put on a great Chinese New Year performance and it was lovely to see so many parents enjoying the performance with us.

A big well done to Yr4 who have completed their swimming lessons with many children earning swimming badges.

Next half term, we are welcoming Miss van Vaerenberg as our Assistant Senco. She will be a great addition to our SEND team and will help support many children across the school. We are also happy to be welcoming back Miss Cummings who will be working in Year 3 when she returns after the half term break.

Finally, please take a look at our latest attendance figures below. It is great to see whole school attendance above 96% and persistent absence reducing.

Thank you for your continued support and enjoy the half term break!

Nick Lambert

Attendance

Attendance so far this academic year is 96.43% and persistent absence has dropped to 6.86%.

This is really good. 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.

Nursery

Wow! What a fun start to the Spring term we have had! We had quite a few new children start in January who have now settled in very well. Over the past half term, we have enjoyed visiting Venture City Farm where we were able to feed and pet lots of animals such as chickens, rabbits and sheep. We also enjoyed

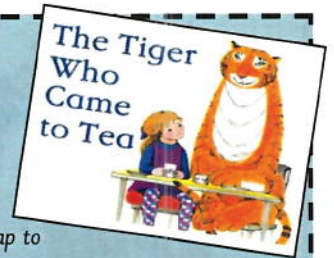
learning about Chinese New Year where we were able to try noodles and use chop sticks, watch the wonderful Year 2 assembly about Chinese New Year and find out all about the different animals that make up the different years. During the first half of the Spring term, we also met Twiggle and his friends and learnt how we can calm down when we get angry. We also learnt to give compliments to our friends.

We look forward to a fun time after half term too. Have a restful break.



Reception

In Reception, we have had a very busy and enjoyable half term. We began the term with a trip to the Town Hall to watch *The Tiger Who Came to Tea*. Everyone was blown away by the performance and thoroughly enjoyed themselves.



In English, we have continued to learn about 'The Tiger Who Came to Tea' by Judith Kerr. We have used a story map to retell the story and have had a go at creating our version of this story. We have also created our own menus for a café and have thought of questions to ask the tiger.



In Maths, we have been learning about addition and subtraction. We have been learning to tell our own addition and subtraction stories and have used objects and number lines to help us solve equations and number problems.

This half term, we went on a nature walk in the school grounds and thought about why there were fewer birds. Following our discussions, we decided to provide the birds with a food source and had a brilliant time finding out about and making bird feeders.

Year 1

In English, we discovered that penguins live in Antarctica whilst exploring non-fiction information texts. We have been focusing on the exciting story, 'Lost and Found' by Oliver Jeffers. We really enjoyed learning about how the boy wanted to help the penguin find his way home. Did you know we have been learning to use question marks? We also learnt to use an exclamation mark. How exciting! Year 1 loved unpicking the story of 'Lost and Found' in whole class reading where we put ourselves in the author's shoes. We now have 120 mini Oliver Jeffers at Clifton!



In Maths, we have been learning to tell the time to o'clock and half past. We have been explaining what time it is by using full sentences. For example, "The time is 11 o'clock because the long minute hand is pointing to the 12 and the short hour hand is pointing to the 11". We then moved on to ordering numbers to 50. Did you know, 47 is greater than 26?



Our IPC topic has been 'Animal Antics'. Year 1 were very excited to welcome some furry friends into our classrooms. We even got to see a chick hatch! Did you know, male chicks are yellow and female chicks are brown? How interesting! We have learnt all about amphibians, reptiles, fish, birds and mammals. What a lot of animals!

Year 2

Another half term is in the books and what a half term it has been!

The biggest highlight for many was our Chinese New Year festival assembly performance. Our little thespians did us proud! We loved learning the story of the Chinese Zodiac race and some of the fascinating traditions of the Lunar New Year. Who would have thought that the rat would be the winner? Such a clever character!



In English, we have been writing suspense stories. To do this, we have been using such features as dramatic connectives (such as 'In a flash') and showing character's reactions ('Plop froze in fear'). The teachers struggled to sleep after reading all these chilling tales!

In Maths, we have studied time and fractions. We were so impressed with how well the children did learning to tell the time. Ask them at home to tell you what time it is – we bet they'll know! The children absolutely loved finding fractions. Some children even managed to find fractions such as $\frac{1}{7}$ and $\frac{3}{4}$ of different numbers. Wow!

In IPC, our topic has been Treasure Island. In this, we learnt to speak the way of the pirate. If your children ever threaten to send you down to Davy Jones' Locker, watch out! We have also had the chance to create our own pirate ships. We had to test different materials first to see which would be best. It's a good job pirates didn't build their ships from paper!

Year 2 have earned themselves a lovely week of fun and relaxation. Stay safe and we'll see you soon!



Year 3

In English, Year 3 have been exploring Greek myths as inspiration for writing. In reading, we have been discussing Shakespearean texts. Macbeth has been our favourite!



In Maths, Year 3 have spent the last half term looking at multiplication and division, including scaling integers.

In Science, Year 3 have been learning about rocks, fossils and soils.



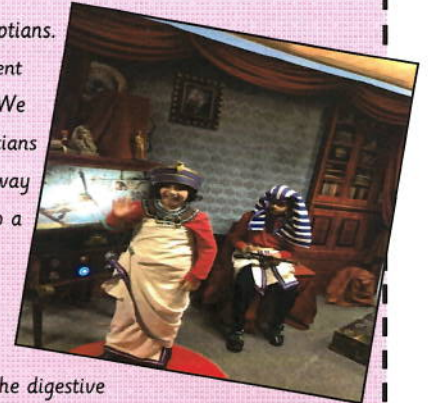
This half term, our IPC topic has been 'Chocolate'. We have designed our own chocolate bars, both flavours and branding after being inspired by our trip to Cadbury World, Birmingham.

Year 4

In English this half term, we read an ode poem titled 'The Wind' by Robert Louis Stevenson. After analysing the poem, we used lots of descriptive vocabulary and personification to create our own ode to the rain. We moved on to writing a suspense tale based on 'The Firework Maker's Daughter' by Phillip Pullman.

In Maths lessons this half term, we have covered a range of topics. However, as a new initiative to consolidate key skills, we have been covering basic skills such as addition, subtraction and multiplication using the column method. This has been a huge success in enabling our children to be more confident in tackling the four operations. We have also been learning in depth about fractions, including finding fractions of amounts.

In IPC, we have been learning about the Ancient Egyptians. Year 4 have loved this topic and found out how Ancient Egyptians lived and how Pharaohs were mummified. We were very shocked when we learnt that Ancient Egyptians thought the brain was a useless organ and threw it away during the mummification process. We were treated to a visit from Professor McGinty which we really enjoyed. Here is a web link you can use to find out more:
<http://www.profmcginty.co.uk/frameset.htm>



In our Science lessons, we have been learning about the digestive system. We began by learning about the different types of teeth and their use. The children have discovered the route our food takes through our bodies as it is digested. We learnt about how our bodies take up nutrients from food. We also learnt about food chains and how energy flows from producer to consumer.

Year 4 in Ocean building had their last session of swimming this week and we are very proud to say that many children earned swimming badges. Despite the cold weather, we are happy that children made a great effort to bring in their kits and learn this important life skill.

Year 5

This half term, Year 5 have been getting in touch with their creative side. From Van Gogh to Paul Klee, the students have deepened their understanding of different forms of art such as realism, cubism and Japanese art. We have drawn self-portraits in a cubistic manner and painted them using mood colours. The children clearly enjoyed their collective work on Van Gogh's 'Starry Night' and we think it looks better than the original! Do you agree?

Don't worry about sharing food at your next pizza party. Year 5 can share anything equally thanks to their new understanding of fractions. We developed our understanding by converting mixed fractions into improper fractions and connecting our knowledge to real life situations. We then widened our understanding by converting these fractions into decimals! Give it a go and test yourself. What is 0.75 as a fraction? Can you simplify this?

Fancy visiting London? Well if you're not sure, a read of our English work and you'll be itching to see all the wonders London has to offer. Using our skills in persuasive writing, Year 5 wrote a non-fiction text titled 'Visit London.' Through the use of rhetorical questions, a friendly manner and facts intended to fascinate the reader, Year 5 were able to compose a piece of writing which will have you checking those train times in no time.

In Science, we have been experimenting with materials and finding different ways to separate them, as well as looking at how they dissolve and evaporate. One particularly notable lesson was when we observed what happens when you mix oil with lemonade. The lemonade, due to its density, travelled to the bottom of the cup, causing the oil to rise to the top. Add salt and watch the lemonade create carbon dioxide bubbles!

What a fantastic half term we have had! We definitely deserve a rest.



Year 6



The children in Year 6 are continuing to work extremely hard and are making great progress. In English, we have been reading 'The London Eye Mystery' by Siobhan O'Dowd. To coincide with this, we went to London to take a trip on the London Eye, just as the characters in the story did. Everyone had a wonderful day and got to see lots of famous sights such as Big Ben, Buckingham Palace and



Downing Street. The children were an absolute credit to the school and behaviour was terrific. The trip on the Eye was incredible – we could see views across the whole of London and it helped us to comprehend the book even further. Alongside reading this book, the children have written a newspaper report about the mystery.

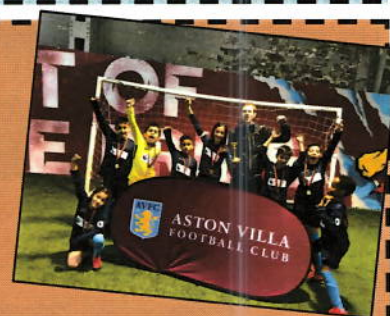
We have also been looking at classification of the living kingdoms in science and some famous scientists.

In IPC, we have been focusing on empires prior to 900AD, including the Mayans, the Islamic Empire and the Kingdom of Benin.

6UW are really enjoying their American Football course in PE and the rest of the year group have loved playing tag rugby.

PE and Sport

PE and School Sport - Congratulations to all the pupils who have represented Clifton in School Games events this term. We have competed in dance, gymnastics, football and sports hall athletics. Particular praise should go to the dance team, who won the LV2 competition and have qualified for the finals in March at the Birmingham Hippodrome. Two dance teams will represent the school in 'The Great Big Dance Off' on Monday 25th February at the New Alexandra Theatre.



Sport outside school - At Clifton, we are always looking for opportunities for pupils to take part in physical activity outside of school.

Here are two great opportunities: 'Tennis For Kids' is an amazing LTA national initiative, where parents pay £25 for their children to have six weeks of top quality tennis coaching from a specially trained coach, and also receive a free tennis racquet, tennis ball set and a personalised t-shirt through the post!! An amazingly low cost for such a great opportunity!

Cannon Hill Park Tennis are running two sessions per week of 'Tennis For Kids'.

Wednesdays, 4.30-5.30pm, for 6-10 year olds, book here:

<https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/CannonHillPark/BookCourse/9615c8b4-45d2-4d11-8852-e315e21488cb>

Saturdays, 9.00-10.00am, for 4-6 year olds, book here:

<https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/CannonHillPark/BookCourse/9ceea0d-ea6e-48db-b29b-4cff7435632f>

Please contact Stuart Maidment from CHP Tennis for further information on 07772 833660 or at Stuart.Maidment@EdgbastonPriory.com

Lordswood Tennis Club - Kids' camps run from 8.30am-5.30pm each weekday during half term, with loads of fun sporting activities: tennis, football, cricket, hockey and many more!! They have flexible ways of booking - you can book a standard day from 8:30am-9:00am to 4pm, or a half day (either start or end at 12.30) and you can also choose to book a late pick up each day until 5:30pm! With a full day including late drop off costing only £30 or the standard day at just £25, it is also great value! To book, please head to:

<https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/lordswoodtennisclub/Coaching/Camps>

If you have any questions regarding the camp, please contact Dave Sunburk via email (davesunburk18@outlook.com), or you can contact him by phone (07517853635).

**We wish you a well-deserved break and we look forward to
seeing you all again on
Monday 25th February.**