



School Newsletter

Spring Term 2B

12/04/2019



Lots of exciting things have happened at Clifton in the second half of the Spring term.

As always, our pupils have been doing some great work, both inside and outside the classroom, over the last few weeks. Pupils continue to work hard in class on various subjects, covering topics from learning about money in Year 2 maths, the human skeleton and muscles in Year 3 science through to Year 4 trying out their skills as journalists in English.

As usual, pupils have had some great opportunities outside the classroom too, from the nursery visiting Twycross Zoo and Balsall Heath Library, Year 1 having a great day at Warwick Castle (although the weather wasn't very kind to us!), and Year 5 having a day at the National Space Centre which was 'out of this world'. Not only do we have lots of trips and visits out of school, but we also have visitors coming into our school – Reception classes had a visit from the Science Magician which they loved!

Year 6 have been revising very hard for their SATs but have also been able to do some great work as part of their 'Science Investigators' topic.

Year 1 put on a fantastic Easter festival assembly which I know many parents enjoyed.

Finally, please take a look at our latest attendance figures below. Once again, it is great to see whole school attendance above 96%. We do need to keep working hard on our persistent absence though!

Thank you for your continued support and enjoy the Easter break!

Nick Lambert

Attendance

Attendance so far this academic year is **96.36%**. - *This is really good. Let's keep it up!*

Unfortunately, persistent absence has increased from **6.86%** last half term to **7.06%** this half term. This really needs to improve. Attendance really is key to your child's attainment and it is important that they are at school in order to learn.

Nursery

This term nursery have had a fantastic time! We have celebrated Mother's Day with parents joining us for a special assembly where children performed songs and made cards. We have had two successful trips to Twycross Zoo and Balsall Heath Library - the children loved them, as did the grown-ups. We really appreciate all the parental support we have received and hope it continues next term.

Nursery have had lots of visits from different year groups to share books and the children have enjoyed making relationships with older pupils that they will continue to see throughout their time at Clifton.

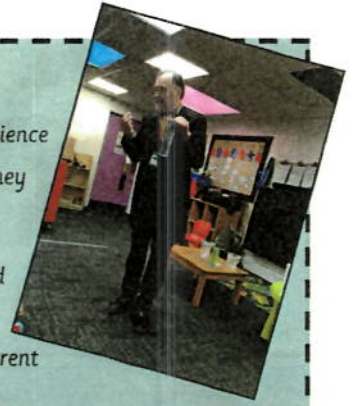


Reception

Reception have been conducting experiments for Health and Science Fortnight. They had a visit from the Science Magician who showed them how to make a rocket using a fizzy tablet and water to create an explosion. They then had a go at making their own rocket using cola and mentoes.



Reception have been reading 'Little Red Riding Hood' and they have really enjoyed acting out the story and dressing up as the characters. Some of the children have been drawing their favourite characters from the story and talking about the different ways the story might have ended.



Year 1

In English, we looked at the story of 'Beegu' by Alexis Deacon and learnt all about her adventures on Earth. We also wrote our own journey tales which were a fantastic read! We really enjoyed being good role models and writing a 'How to...' guide for being a good friend to Beegu. We were really imaginative when we pretended to be Beegu and we wrote a postcard to her mum. She loved hearing about all the wonderful things we had done.



We have learnt tonnes in Maths, starting with our length, mass and measure unit. We found out how long a metre is and we measured objects around our school using metre sticks. We had lots of fun using scales and other measuring equipment. After that, we learnt about fractions and numbers to 100.



We became 'Time Travellers' during our IPC topic and were lucky enough to visit Warwick Castle where we trekked to the top of the tower. Can you believe we climbed over 300 steps? We learnt lots of interesting facts about birds from around the world. Some of them flew right over our heads! We also learnt a lot about animals when we had lots of cuddly friends visit our school with the Animal Man.

Lastly, we have thoroughly enjoyed putting together our Easter festival assembly. We hope you all loved watching our performance and we wish you a very Happy Easter!



Year 2

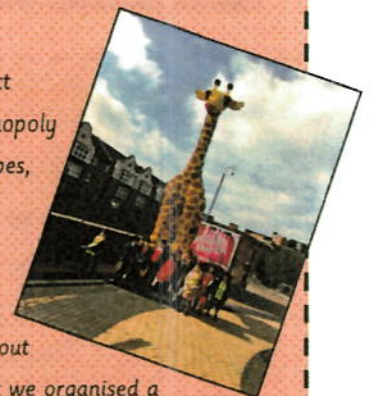
Year 2 are going places thanks to our IPC topic this term: A to B. We have learnt all about the history of different types of transport and created our own pictures in the futurist style that looked like cars in motion! Our science learning has seen us experiment with different materials to test their properties and for science week we created a complicated chain reaction. We were also overjoyed to visit Legoland in Birmingham, where we made cars and raced them down a track.

We're also now ready to count our fortunes, having learnt about money in maths. We can add and subtract money, make up values using different coins and calculate change. The children will be beating you at Monopoly in no time! We have now moved on to looking at shapes. We have learnt about different properties of shapes, including sides and vertices.



In English, we have written a wide range of different texts: recounts, letters, stories, explanation texts, blogs, posters – you name it, we've written it! We were inspired by World Water Day and our concerns about the issues people are facing around the world. We were so moved that we organised a charity Mother's Day sale, raising over £200 for Water Aid. We are extremely grateful for all of your amazing donations!

Have a lovely holiday! Don't eat too many chocolate eggs!



Year 3

This term, we have been working incredibly hard in our lessons.

In Maths, we have been learning about time. We have been telling time to the nearest minute using words such as 'past' and 'to'. We then moved on to understanding what AM and PM means in time. We have also started discussing digital times and using the 24-hour clock. It has been great fun!

In English, we have been focussing on the story 'Into the Forest' by Anthony Browne. Based on this story we then wrote our own quest tale using fairy tale characters. After this, we moved on to writing instructions on how to stay safe in the forest and created some amazing stranger danger posters. We have also started some persuasive writing focussing on deforestation.



In Science, we have been learning all about the body. We learnt about the human skeleton as well as the muscles and their functions. We then moved on to focussing on our lungs and how they help us to breathe. To help us understand this better, we created our own lung system using household items.

During our science topic, we had a lovely lady come from the RSPB to talk to us about nature and help us find some minibugs on the school site. It was great fun!



We have continued focussing on Aztec society and we have learnt how the Aztecs discovered cacao beans in Mexico. We found the Aztecs very interesting so we decided to create our own Aztec masks.

Year 4

In English lessons, we have read a character flaw tale titled 'The Heron and the Hummingbird', which is a Native American myth. We analysed the story and many of us noticed how it was similar to 'The Hare and The Tortoise'. After this, we were able to write our own character flaw tales. Towards the end of this term, we moved on to writing reports. After the "break in" that occurred in the last week of term, Mr Lambert asked Year 4 to put their report writing to the test and become real journalists.

We started maths this half term by learning about decimals, including in the context of money and measure. We compared decimals, learnt to use them in key operations and linked this knowledge to our previous topic on fractions.



In IPC, we have been learning about earthquakes and volcanoes. We have had great fun using a range of practical activities to help our understanding of why these two things happen. Our favourite activities were using shaving foam and crackers to represent the movement of tectonic plates, and making our own volcanoes using water bottles and Papier-mâché.

In Science, we have been investigating sound. We have looked at how vibrations travel and how sound can change depending on distance from the source or the amount of material that is vibrating. It has been great fun investigating sounds using elastic bands, metal coat hangers, shakers and string telephones.



Year 4 in Rainforest building have had their first half term swimming. Both classes are making good progress and are really enjoying their weekly swimming sessions.

Year 5

Year 5 enjoyed a trip to the National Space Centre that was 'out of this world.' We saw original spacecraft, moon rock and astronaut outfits before we programmed our own Mars buggy and carefully handled a moon landing.

In Maths, we've been working hard on fractions, co-ordinates and measures, and in English we have read an amazing text called 'The White Fox' by Jackie Morris, writing stories and arguments as a result.



We are all very proud of the dancers who represented the school at the LV3 Dance competition at Birmingham Hippodrome - the first time Clifton has ever reached this stage! We also sent players to the Y5/6 hockey festival and the boccia and new age kurling competition at Sutton College. We are looking forward to handball, rounders and cricket festivals next term.



Year 5 also took part in a regional travel summit, stormed their way to 3rd place in a Birmingham Maths competition and worked tirelessly to create a chain reaction during Health & Science Fortnight as well as some brilliant DT work. Phew..... what a term!



Year 6

The text Year 6 have been exploring this term has been centred on the magical city of Paris. The two main characters explore the rooftops in a desperate attempt to find Vivienne Vert, whilst being chased by the evil Miss Eliot. This will be our final text before SATs. 6UP enjoyed their reading time with the nursery, where the children enjoyed sharing stories.

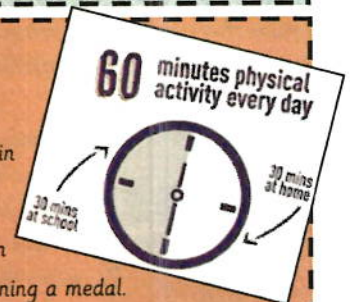
We have started our fast-paced revision programme in Maths and the children are now experts in fractions and multi-step problem solving. All classes have been excelling and responding well to these extremely engaging lessons.

Our IPC and Science lessons have merged to form our new topic – Science Investigators. The children have carried out a range of observations and experiments in order to find the culprit of a serious crime at Winterbourne Manor. After fingerprint analysis, they were able to have sufficient evidence in order to charge a suspect with the crime. All children showed fantastic detective skills throughout the topic.

PE has also been a highlight this term for Year 6. We have been practising handball and rounders and applying our skills with an inter-class competition! 6UW have continued with their NFL coaching and are thoroughly enjoying it.

PE and Sport

School Games Partnership - The competition programme for the partnership has seen primary and secondary schools contesting various sports including boccia, archery, hockey and sportshall athletics at local Level 2 and in Citywide Level 3 events.



Dance - Pupils from Clifton competed in the city finals for dance at the Birmingham Hippodrome. They performed their routine fabulously but unfortunately missed winning a medal.

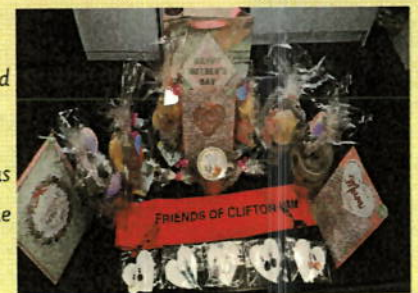
PE & School Sport - Pupils are regularly taking part in competitions against other schools in a range of sports. The new PE timetable is being introduced so that each pupil should have 2 hours per week of PE and Physical Activity in addition to 30 minutes per day outside of school. Parents, please encourage your family to undertake 30 minutes of activity per day to help with health and wellbeing?!

Friends of Clifton

It's fair to say it's been a busy (but exciting) term for Friends of Clifton. Our 'ladies only' relaxation morning for International Women's Day was a great success. We were fortunate to have a trained yoga teacher and masseuse from our local community join us. The yoga session was so popular that we are working with school to bring the sessions back on a regular basis.

We would also like to thank the children for being so good at the Mother's Day sale - we raised over £300 for the children and hope to share with you soon where the money will be going.

Over the next few months, we will be looking for parent volunteers to get involved in various activities. If you have some time to spare and would like to get involved, please leave your name and number for us in reception. Thank you, and remember to follow us on twitter!



Family Support Drop-in Service

Tuesday's 8:30 - 9:30 am in the Ocean Building Family Hub

Please come and see Ms Stocker or Mr Dhir if you wish to seek advice, support or guidance for any issues affecting you and your family.

We wish you a well-deserved break

and we look forward to seeing

you all again on

Monday 29th April.