



# School Newsletter

Summer Term 3A 24/05/2019



Although this half term has been a very short one we have still managed to do lots of exciting things here at Clifton.

Firstly, I'd like to give a special mention to Year 2 and Year 6 pupils who have done their SATs tests. Teachers and pupils worked hard to prepare for these national tests. Everyone did their best and I know that they are happy it is all over! Year 6 pupils can now look forward to their last half term at Clifton and start getting themselves ready for secondary school.

Well done to our Nursery pupils who started this term. They seem to be settling in well and have been enjoying growing their own vegetables. Reception classes have been reading the story 'Handa's Surprise' and learning all about Kenya. Year 1 have done some exciting maths – learning how to add single and two digit numbers as well as learning all about money. Who would believe that pupils at Clifton can study Shakespeare? As you will read, children in Year 4 have been looking at two plays, 'Macbeth' and 'Julius Caesar'. We continue to enjoy learning from visits outside the school. In particular, this half term pupils in Year 3 have been to Compton Verney in Warwickshire, where they explored the Stone Age – they made shelters, bread and had a go at making a fire! As part of their Royal Shakespeare Company work children in Year 5 had a great visit to Stratford-upon-Avon to work with actors and see a production of 'The Taming of the Shrew'. As you know, we had a visit from Ofsted last week. It has been six years since the school was last inspected and there is now a different framework that inspectors use to judge schools. The inspection team said some positive things about the school and we are now waiting for the report. As soon as we have it I will let you know. Many thanks to those parents who spoke to the inspectors in the playground.

Finally, please take a look at our latest attendance figures below. I am very pleased to see that whole school attendance is 96.37%. Persistent absence has risen slightly though and we must work together to reduce this. I know we can do it!

Thank you again for your continued support and enjoy the half term break - Eid Mubarak from everyone at

## Attendance

Attendance so far this academic year is 96.37%. – *This is really good. Let's keep it up!*

Unfortunately, persistent absence has increased from 7.06% last half term to 7.39% this half term. This really needs to improve. Attendance really is key to your child's attainment and it is important that



## Nursery

This half term has been a short but busy and successful time in Nursery. We had some amazing children start in April and they've settled really well. We are so proud of all of our children for making good relationships with their peers and staff.

We've enjoyed gardening this term. We have been growing our own vegetables and soon we will be eating our own potatoes, carrots, beetroot, tomatoes and sweetcorn.

We have created dinosaurs from clay and developed our physical development by using lots of



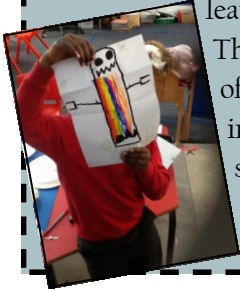
## Reception

In Reception, we have been reading the story 'Handa's Surprise' by Eileen Browne. We learned about the country of Kenya where the story is set and had a go at making African necklaces.

We have also been enjoying the lovely weather outside and have noticed the new plants that have begun to grow. Our strawberry plant now has lots of leaves and the mint is taking over our planting area!

The children have also become very interested in rainbows. We learned about of the colours

in the spectrum, learned to sing a rainbow song and created artwork inspired by rainbows. They have produced some lovely watercolours and even a folding rainbow robot!



all

## Year 1

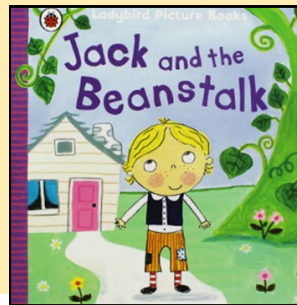
This term in English, we have explored the story 'Jack and the Beanstalk'. The children loved planting their own beans and we even had a competition to see whose beanstalk would reach the castle first. The children have been really imaginative and have created their own 'conquering the monster' tales. We have had some really brave characters in our stories; they defeated witches, snakes and dragons!

Maths has been so exciting; we have learnt to add single digit numbers and two digit numbers. Did you know 26 plus 5 is equal to 31? We loved using the dienes to help us become better mathematicians. We have also learnt about money. If you go shopping to buy some sweets during the holidays, maybe the Year One children could help you pay for them. They are fantastic at recognising and knowing the value of different coins.

We have learnt how to plant perfect plants this term. We completed a wonderful experiment to investigate which type of water would best help our beans to grow. The tallest plant to grow was watered with dirty water. The plant with tap water did not grow!

We had an adventure to the art room where we had two wonderful lessons with Mr Timms. Did you know we can all be artists? We just need to use our imagination!

We hope you have a lovely and restful half term and we look forward to seeing you the first week of the year. We cannot wait to see you back in Weston-Super-Mare! Eid Mubarak from all



of the staff in Year One.



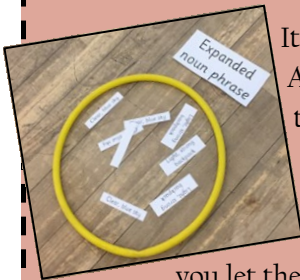
## Year 2

It has been a wonderful half term for Year 2. We started off the term by taking our Secret Agent Training (SATs) tests. The children tried so hard and we were immensely proud of them.

In Maths, we have been working on capacity, volume and mass. We expect the children have been helping you with the washing up and telling you all about the volume of the water in the bowl! Next time you go to the supermarket, make sure that you let the children weigh the fruit as they are experts

now!

In English, we have been reading 'Amazing Grace', by Mary Hoffman, and we all admired Grace's determination. It was amazing to see such budding actors and actresses. Set your child a challenge because, as Grace's Nana said, "If you put your mind to it, you can do anything!"





## Aspire Club

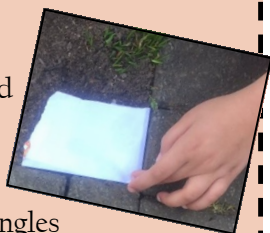
I would like to introduce you to these excellent young men who have been working on manners and etiquette over the last term in Aspire Club. They have been learning to be respectable and punctual role models to all the other pupils across school.

Mr Rose (Learning Mentor)



### Year 3

In Maths, we have been learning all about shapes, angles and measure. We learnt about the different properties of 2D shapes particularly focussing on counting how many right angles they each have. We also made our own right angle finders and found angles around the playground.



In English, we have been reading 'The Iron Man' by Ted Hughes. It has helped us to write a diary entry from the perspective of the main character. We have also made our own adverts to attract people to come to different beaches, similar to the one in the story. We linked our English lesson to art by sketching the Iron Man and using white and black chalk.

In IPC, we had a fantastic opportunity to explore the life and times of Stone Age Britain. We created cave paintings and designed our own Stone Age tools and settlements. We then moved on to learning about the Bronze



### Year 4

In English lessons this half term, we have been looking at two Shakespeare plays, Macbeth and Julius Caesar. The children have really enjoyed using drama to get to grips with the story and understand the characters. Our writing has included writing a prophecy in a playscript format and a blurb to recommend one of the plays. We have also been reading a non-fiction text about William Shakespeare's life.



In our Maths lessons this term, we have been learning about decimals, area and perimeter and converting measurements. We have also continued to practice basic maths skills, including times tables, with our weekly superhero challenges.

In IPC, our topic has been 'Islands'. We have located different islands using atlases and Google Maps and learnt about how they are formed. We have also looked at how artists have been inspired by islands, and created our own island sunset artwork. These turned out really well, and the children are all really proud of their work!

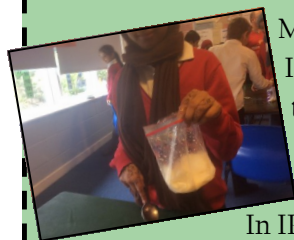


### Year 5

Year 5 children have had a short but enjoyable half term. In English, the children have used rehearsal room techniques, used by actors at the Royal Shakespeare Company, to learn all about The Taming of the Shrew, 'Twelfth Night' and 'A Midsummer Nights Dream' by William Shakespeare. Predictions have been made, diaries have been written and settings have been explored. The children were lucky enough to go to Stratford-upon-Avon to watch 'The Taming of the Shrew' on stage and had the opportunity to meet the actors and ask them some brilliant questions. Over the half term, some children were also lucky enough to work with facilitators from the RSC on a trial project focussing on 'The Merchant of Venice' and they created some amazing trailers about the play.



In Maths, children have been learning a range of techniques to support them with adding, subtracting and multiplying decimal numbers. They have also been practising arithmetic skills and reasoning strategies, and learnt how to convert units of measure.



In IPC, the children have been learning about the natural world. They have created fact files about biomes and created posters about natural disasters that occur across the world.

In Science, the children have carried out a range of investigations to find out about reversible



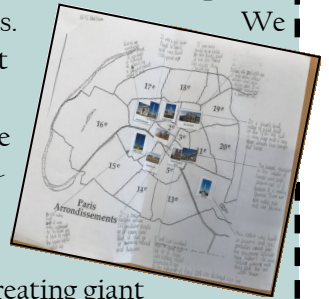
## Year 6



What a busy term Year 6 have had! We would like to thank parents for their continued support throughout the year and ensuring that all children attended. After a year of hard work, SATs were finally completed in week 3. All Year 6 teachers are proud of the mature and positive manner in which the children responded to these challenging tests. We are extremely confident that the children will have achieved their best possible results.

At the end of this very important week, the children celebrated with a creative arts day linked to France. The children created visual maps and researched the famous landmarks of Paris. They looked at the great artist Henri Matisse and used famous Paris landmarks to create a Matisse-inspired montage. In the afternoon, they worked on team building challenges creating giant Eiffel Towers out of newspaper and sellotape. Well done 6UP for creating the tallest structure! They ended this exciting day by tasting authentic French food.

We are looking forward to our charity fundraising day on Friday. The children will be creating hats and selling cakes to raise money for the Headway charity. Last year we



## PE and Sport



Another busy half term for PE at Clifton. In PE, pupils have been playing golf, cricket, tennis and athletics. We began our Golden Mile programme of health and fitness and continued to provide a great range of clubs after school.

We are so proud to be one of the sites chosen by the Football Association to become a 'Girls Wildcats Centre', working with Nelson Mandela School to provide this brilliant community opportunity.

In school sport, Year 4 have taken part in the Chance to Shine cricket sessions and played brilliantly in the festival at Kings Heath Cricket Club. Year 5 took part in the tag rugby festival. Pupils across the school have taken part in SEND boccia and football sessions. Importantly, Clifton took part in their first ever swimming gala at Bluecoat School. The pupils made a real splash! We are looking forward to many more School



## Friends of Clifton



This term we have been busy making plans for the future. As well as raising money to purchase items for the school (this term we are helping to give one of the intervention rooms a boost with bean bags, a rug and some new games), it is important to us that we begin to look at new ways of supporting families. After half term we will be arranging a coffee morning to get your ideas - plans for a food and clothing bank are in the pipeline

but we want to hear from you about what else could support your family.

As always, Friends of Clifton welcomes ideas and volunteers (as much or as little time as you have) - please do send us an email at [friendsofclifton@cliftonprimary.bham.sch.uk](mailto:friendsofclifton@cliftonprimary.bham.sch.uk)

## Family Support Drop-in Service

Tuesday's 8:30 - 9:30 am

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

We wish you a well-deserved break

and we look forward to seeing you all again on