

School Newsletter

Autumn Term 1A 25/10/2019

Message from the Headteacher

We have come to the end of a long half term and, not surprisingly, all year groups managed to do lots of exciting things, as you can see from this newsletter.

All pupils have settled in very well to their new classes and have been focused on their learning. We have noticed that the children are trying very hard with their behaviour and, of course, this has made a difference to their attitude and their learning.

We have, as always, had a strong focus on Maths and English. You will see that we use a wide range of texts to ensure that all pupils are developing their reading, including increasing their vocabulary, expanding their understanding of characters and improving their comprehension skills. In Maths, we are focusing on key learning to ensure that children consolidate basic skills in order to make the progress they need.

Don't worry! We are still making sure that all pupils get a broad and varied learning experience through our IPC, Science and PE curriculums. This includes planting seeds, how to stay healthy, learning new art techniques, conservation of the rainforests, investigating properties of materials, light and shadows and much, much more!

What a great half term for PE and sport! We have had some great awards including Abdullah in Year 4, who has won gold at the ICO World Kickboxing Championships! We can all be very proud of these achievements.

We have a very high take up of Nursery places here at Clifton which we are pleased about – but we still have some places left. If you know any parents who are looking for a place for their child please get them to call in at the office. We always receive more applications for children in January so these places will not be around for very long.

This year we are looking at increasing the amount of communication to parents and families through our school app and via email. Please make sure you have signed up and that we have the right email address and phone numbers for you.

Safina Aftab has been elected as a Parent Governor to serve for a period of four years. Well done and thank you!

Our whole school attendance is currently 96.97% and persistent absence is 7.9%, only 50 pupils. These are very good figures so thank you to everyone.

Finally, I hope you all have a restful and enjoyable half term break. Children return to school on Tuesday 5th November, following our training day on the Monday.

Friends of Clifton

We've made a great start to the new year. Over the next few months you will see outdoor reading structures appear in the playgrounds - the "Book Nooks" are funded by all your kind donations over the past year and will provide pupils an outdoor space to read at play time.

This term has also seen us fundraising for Macmillan, Moseley Swimming Baths and supporting one of the many talented Clifton students in getting to an international competition (which he won!).

We have welcomed four new committee members who are settling in nicely to our group, which is fantastic! If you have any ideas for us or a little spare time we would love to hear from you! You can leave us a message in reception or email friendsofclifton@cliftonprimary.bham.sch.uk

We would also like to remind you that Ladies Netball is continuing after school every Wednesday 3:30-4:40pm. Children who are pupils at Clifton are welcome to stay and join the kids club (£1 per child) whilst mums and carers play. All mums/carers/teachers are welcome to join - don't worry if you have not played before!

We look forward to an exciting year!



Nursery



Nursery have had a great start to the year. All of the children have settled well and are really enjoying exploring their new environment.

We have recently had a visit from Mr Dhir to talk about the upcoming festival of Diwali. The children helped to act out the story of Rama and Sita and have had a go at making diva lamps out of salt dough.

Our favourite story this term has been 'Where's Spot?' by Eric Hill. The children have been able to name all of the animals and even use the correct Makaton signs for them too!



Reception



The new Reception children have settled really well into their new classes. They have made lots of new friends and are having a ball learning about new ideas.

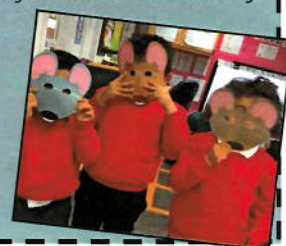
In English, we have been reading the story 'The Enormous Turnip'. The children have role played the story, retold the story and changed the story to make it their own. One of our favourites was 'The Enormous Pineapple'- imagine that! They have also tried hard to write their own names correctly.

In Maths, we have been learning about numbers to five. We have chased the three blind mice, rescued four little ducks by counting, recognising and writing numbers and helped the five speckled frogs cross the river by ordering numbers. Who knew counting could keep you so busy?

In our topic, 'Our World', the children have enjoyed talking about their families. They have shared pictures and created their own houses out of lollipop sticks. We also planted our own seeds and talked about how to look after them. We ended up with muddy hands, but it was really rewarding

On Monday 14th October our school took part in 'The Big Draw'. Reception used foam and ink to print leaves for our Reception tree. Come and see it in our Meander - it's unbe-leave-able!

On Sunday 27th October it is Diwali. We can't wait! In preparation for the special celebration, we have made Rangoli patterns, diva lamps and created cards.



Year 1

Year 1 have had a very busy and enjoyable half term! They have settled into their new classrooms very well.



In English, the children have been learning all about 'The Three Little Pigs.' They have used a story map to re-tell the story and have worked on describing characters and their feelings.

In Maths, the children have been learning to add and subtract numbers to 10. They have also been learning to name and describe 2D and 3D shapes.

This half term the children went on a maths adventure walk and had a great time looking for shapes, numbers, patterns and colours in



our local area. The children also took part in 'The Big Draw' and made a fabulous autumn scene!



Year 2

In Year 2, the children have made a great start to the term and have all settled into their new classes extremely well.

We have been busy in English exploring the story of Cinderella through character descriptions and instructional writing. We created our own magical pumpkins and even held a Royal Ball in the Woodlands Hall during which we all tried out some traditional ballroom dancing. We're not sure we're quite ready for Strictly Come Dancing just yet though!

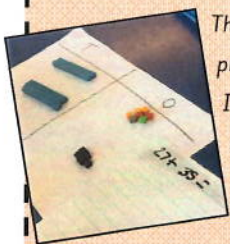
In Maths this half term, we have been adding and subtracting 2-digit numbers and securing our knowledge of place value. We've really enjoyed representing our numbers with equipment and drawings and have thoroughly enjoyed being introduced to Times Tables Rock Stars with Miss Hunt's assembly and her inflatable guitars! We can't wait to see how well they all do challenging each other.

Our IPC topic this half term has been linked to the theme of 'Super Humans'. We have enjoyed discussing different ways to stay healthy with the school nurse who visited each of our classes and we also designed and created our own healthy sandwiches in DT. Move over Jamie Oliver, we have some new chefs in town! We have also learnt lots about different food groups and the importance of staying clean.

It has been a busy half term, but we are really proud of how hard the children have all worked.



Year 3



The children have had a settled and productive start to Year 3.

In Maths this term we have been:

Reasoning with 4-digit numbers: Solve number and practical problems with increasingly large numbers; identify, represent and estimate using different representations.

Addition and subtraction: Calculate and estimate numbers with up to 4 digits using formal written methods; solve two-step problems, deciding on appropriate methods.

In English this term we have been:

Writing and analysing a journey tale focusing on openings and endings based on 'The Princess and the White Bear King' by Tanya Robyn Batt. We have also explored the features of persuasive writing and written our own based on the non-fiction texts we have read as a class. We have also looked at many examples of biographies, analysed their features and written our own about a famous person.

The Wider Curriculum this term:

IPC- Focusing on a variety of artists, making links to history and how art has changed through time. Year 3 have also had some fantastic Art sessions with Andrew Tims and learned many new techniques.



Science- We have been learning about how plants grow and what they need to survive. We have also been learning about the process of pollination and how seeds are dispersed.

Year 4

What a fantastic start to the school year! The children have been working hard on the Year 4 curriculum.

In Maths, we have been identifying the place value in four digit numbers; from this they have been able to order numbers. The children have developed an understanding of estimating by rounding to the nearest 10, 100 or 1000. They have also shown an understanding of how to add and subtract using a number of strategies.



During English this term, we have been studying the book 'The Lost Happy Endings' by Carol Ann Duffy. From this the children have been able to write their own losing tales. The children have been encouraged to use fronted adverbials, expanded noun phrases and exciting vocabulary in their writing. We have also explored the poems 'Tell Me Tiger' by Clare Bevan and 'Leave the Whales Alone Please' by Tony Bradman.

Our IPC topic is 'Saving the World', which focuses on

rainforests. At the start of the term the children enjoyed using their artistic skills to turn their classroom into a rainforest. We discussed the issues surrounding deforestation and how this can impact



our lives. The children compared themselves to a child who lives in the rainforest and studied sustainable ways of packaging food. We have been lucky enough to work with Mr Tims, our artist in residence; fantastic creative flare was displayed when making bird feathers out of felt. In Science, we have been studying states of matter. The children have enjoyed planning and carrying out experiments and discussing their findings.

The children have made a really positive start to learning their new musical instrument; they are showing patience and enthusiasm! They are also continuing to make progress in their swimming lessons.

We look forward to continuing the great work after the holidays!

Year 5

The children have had a settled and productive start to Year 5.

In Maths, we have been learning to reason with large whole numbers by understanding, comparing and solving number and practical problems to 1,000,000. We have been problem solving and developing mental strategies for addition and subtraction.

In English, we have read 'The White Fox' by Jackie Morris. We have learnt about Alaska and Arctic Foxes and written a Rags to Riches tale with a focus on descriptive language.

Our IPC topic has been 'The Time Tunnel'. Through this we have learnt historical terms and vocabulary, organised personal history, used a timeline to find information, understood how peoples' lives and experiences differ from generation to generation and categorised and compared changes over the years, with a focus on the Victorian Era.

We had a Victorian day in school at the start of the topic and it culminated in a visit to The Black Country Museum where we experienced a Victorian school lesson, walked down a Victorian mine and visited lots of Victorian houses and shops.



In Science, the children have been identifying, comparing and investigating materials and their properties. There have been lots of exciting and messy experiments going on!

PE has focused on basketball and athletics this term and the children have participated enthusiastically.

Year 5 made Diwali fireworks for The Big Draw from paper plates decorated with rangoli patterns. They were grouped together in colourful firework patterns. The children have worked incredibly hard to practise their Diwali festival assembly.

The singing, dancing, acting and narrating was amazing!



Year 6

We are really pleased with the excellent start the Year 6 pupils have made this half term. They are showing a positive work ethic and rising to the challenging Year 6 curriculum. All pupils look very smart in their new school uniforms. Thank you for your support.

We have been reading a range of texts including 'Frankenstein' by Mary Shelley, 'Shackleton's Journey' by William Grill and 'Journey to Jo'burg' by Beverley Naidoo. The children have developed a range of comprehension skills linked to these texts. They have also produced two excellent pieces of writing; a biography and a setting description.

In Maths this term, the children have focused on: place value, including reading, writing, ordering, comparing and rounding numbers, formal written methods for addition, subtraction, multiplication and division, mental maths strategies for addition and subtraction and multiples, factors, prime numbers, square numbers, cube numbers, common factors and lowest common multiples. We have also been practising weekly arithmetic tests and daily reasoning/SATs questions.

In IPC this term, we have been studying Myths and Legends. We have focused on the legend of Robin Hood, exploring medieval society and the feudal system. The children have developed their knowledge through creating Motte and Bailey castles and other exciting activities.

In Science, the key learning focus has been light, shadows, refraction and dispersion. The children have been immersed in the 'world' of working scientifically.

Homework – Your child will have five pieces of homework to complete each week, as well as daily reading and a weekly formal spelling test.

This is a reminder of the homework schedule:

Monday —Punctuation	Tuesday —Grammar
Wednesday —Reading Comprehension	
Thursday —Maths	Friday —Spelling



PE and Sport

It has been an amazing half term for PE and School Sport at Clifton Primary School.

Awards galore!—Clifton Primary has been presented with some significant awards for our commitment to physical activity and ensuring children are active. Firstly, we received our third successive GOLD School Games Mark, Modeshift Stars Silver and raised over £2000 for Moseley Baths. We were delighted to have come first in the 'Whole School Improvement Award' section in the Birmingham Primary PE and Sports Premium Annual Awards which recognised the work done across the school in terms of competition, leadership and SEND sport. We will continue to drive the health agenda forward and look for innovative ways to keep our families healthy! One of which is...

Dedicated Daily Milers—Earlier this term, the ITV and Sport Birmingham cameras and film crew came in to highlight the work we are doing to make children active every day. In the spotlight was our introduction of the 'Daily Mile' Scheme, which allows children to run or walk for 15 minutes every day, during curriculum time. We have already noticed the positive impact this has had on fitness levels, concentration in class and will now study its impact on academic achievement. A special mention to Miss Roachford, who was the star of the show!



Our very own World Champion!—After months of kickboxing hard work and dedication, Abdullah in Year 4 took part in the ICO World Kickboxing Championships in Scotland. He had already won the British and European championships in the last 12 months. After losing a tight quarter final on Saturday, he returned to the ring to win GOLD in the following categories: Martial Box Light 0-10 years, Male 20.1-25.0kg, Ring continuous 0-10 years Male 20.1-25.0kg. This is a fantastic achievement! Well done to Abdullah, his family and everyone at USKA Fight Factory for all their hard work and incredible success. Our very own World Champion!

Attendance

Attendance so far this academic year is **96.97%**. – This is really good.

Let's keep it up!

Persistent absence is currently **2.9%**. 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.

We wish you a well-deserved break and we look forward to seeing you all again on

Tuesday 5th November.