



Year 6

Year 6 have been very busy this half term. In English, Year 6 have been exploring texts about World War I and II. In Whole Class Reading, we examined various poems set during both world wars, we identified the use of imagery and how poets use figurative language. During our writing lessons we have analysed a range of diary entries from many different perspectives and written some of our own. In Grammar, we have been strengthening our skills in writing dialogue and using speech punctuation accurately.

In Maths, we have been enjoying learning about fractions. We explored equivalent fractions through models and concrete representations, used our knowledge of common factors to simplify fractions, converted improper fractions to mixed numbers and mixed numbers to improper fractions which helped us to compare fractions, and added, subtracted, multiplied and divided fractions. Year 6 now feel quite confident with this mathematical concept!

In History, we created a timeline of the key events that occurred during World War II. We learnt about the many countries that were involved and the impact it had on people's lives. During our studies, Year 6 discovered that Balsall Heath was affected by WW2. We found out that our local community changed to support the war effort - Clifton School was an evacuation point and Moseley Baths turned into a temporary hospital. We also learnt about the bombing of the Carlton Cinema on Taunton Road, which we visited during our History Walk.

In Art, we explored the work of Georgia O'Keefe and appreciated her use of lines, tone and colour in her artwork. Inspired by her style, we used watercolours and pastels to create our own flowers.

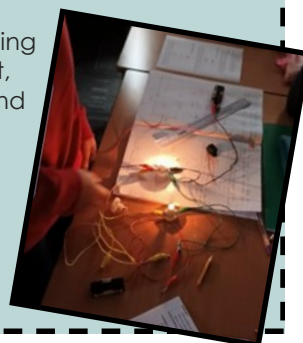
In Science, we have been learning about electricity. We know how to create a simple, series and parallel circuit using a range of components. We can also draw these circuits using the correct scientific symbols. Year 6 can also identify circuits that will or will not function and explain why.



In PE, children have thoroughly enjoyed learning and improving their skills in Athletics. We have developed our ability to sprint, jump and throw. Year 6, particularly enjoyed using javelins and competing against each other in our class competition! In Computing, Year 6 have been developing their skills in coding. We have been creating a range of games using Scratch.

The children have worked tremendously hard and the Year 6 teachers are proud of them. Merry Christmas,

everyone! We look forward to seeing you all in the New Year!



PE and Sport

What a 'super' school!

We've had an amazing term of Health and Well-being at Clifton. From a return to two lessons of PE per week and our brand-new kit, to getting back into School Games competitions, we've all tried so hard to keep active and learn new skills. The climax of the great work was an amazing trip to the Superherotri Triathlon on December 5th at Dorney Lake.

We took 60 staff, parents and pupils to the event, which celebrates the

end of a virtual competition where pupils with a range of special needs run 5km along with their 'Super Sidekick!' Despite

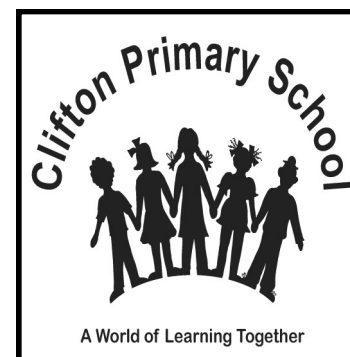
terrible weather conditions, you can see we had an amazing time and are keen to take part again in 2022.

We've already started to improve access to the school out of school hours with new clubs and session open to the community, including holiday clubs. We have even more planned for 2022, so watch this space.....



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

Tuesday 4th January 2022.



School Newsletter

Autumn Term 1B 16/12/2021

Message from the Headteacher



I said in my last newsletter that all the children had settled very quickly to their learning and that this had helped them make a very positive start to the new academic year. The support of parents and carers has made sure that pupils have continued to focus on their learning, with a great attitude and good behaviour, throughout this term. As a result, children continue to make progress in catching up on learning they have missed over the last two years.

As you can see from what year groups have been working on, every child has been able to not only focus on their English and Maths, but also enjoy a wide range of other subjects and topics. This ranges from designing pizzas in Year 1, being travel agents exploring different capital cities and countries in Year 3, through to studying WW2 in Year 6. These are just a few examples of the great work that Clifton pupils have been completing this Autumn!

In terms of some practical things, our beginning and end of day routines continue to be working well. Children are very calm when they start their morning lessons and I am sure this has helped their learning. Please may I take this opportunity to remind everyone that school starts at 8.50am and gates close at 8.55am.

Children continue to look smart in their uniform and are still enjoying coming into school in their PE kits. Thank you again for making sure this continues as we go through the year.

I want to thank everyone for their support in helping us manage the impact of the COVID pandemic. There has been a bit of disruption for some pupils and staff this term but we have tried to keep this under control as best we can. As I write this message, we do not know what the next few weeks will bring but I can reassure all parents and carers that every member of staff remains committed to providing the best possible learning for all Clifton pupils. By school and the community working together I know this can be achieved.

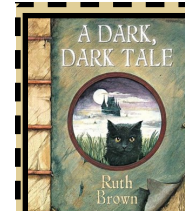
Thank you for your continued support, and do enjoy the Christmas and New Year break. Children return to school on Tuesday 4th January.

I look forward to working with you all again in 2022.

Merry Christmas!

Mr. Lambert

Nursery



The Nursery children have been exploring the topic of 'Light and Dark' this half term. We have looked at things that make light and played in our sensory room which is full of resources that create different lights and effects. We read the story 'A Dark Dark Tale' by Ruth Brown, and explored the different places that the cat visited in the book.

This half term has also seen us find out about the festivals of Diwali and Christmas. The children have helped to decorate the room with garlands for Diwali and then we decorated trees for Christmas.

It has been lovely discussing the different ways that we celebrate our own festivals and how our festivals have some similarities.



Reception



What a magical half term it has been for Reception! I think we can all say we were immensely proud of the children during their Nativity performance of 'Whoops a Daisy Angel'. They were so confident and they sang beautifully. The children really enjoyed performing for their parents. They have also loved getting into the festive spirit of Christmas and learning about how people celebrate this festival.

In English this term, we have read the story 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' by Eric Carle. We retold the story using puppets and prompts. We also had a very hungry visitor in our classroom who left biscuit crumbs all over the carpet.

We did some investigating and found it was the Gingerbread Man. Together, we came up with ways to catch the Gingerbread Man. When we caught him we dipped him into water, oil, milk and orange juice and predicted what might happen to him. Check out our Twitter page to see the results of our experiment. This inspired us to read and retell the story 'The Gingerbread Man'.

We have also been working hard on learning our Phase 2 sounds in Phonics to help us read and write CVC words. We used this sound knowledge to write "It is a" sentences and we wrote letters to Santa.

In Maths this term, we have been recognising, counting, substituting, writing and arranging numbers to 5. We explored one more by adding 'gumdrop buttons' to the gingerbread men and one less by watching a gingerbread man run away. We have also explored positional language and 2D shapes.

We celebrated a lot of other important festivities this term including Diwali where we made Diya lamps out of clay.

We also learnt about recycling and Remembrance Day.

Please support your child in completing the Christmas home booklet, encourage your child to read every day and help them sign into Numbots.

We hope you have a relaxing half-term holiday and stay safe.

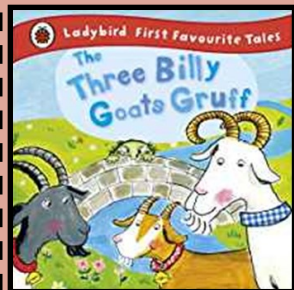
Year 1

Year One have had a very busy and exciting half term. In English, the children have been learning about 'The Three Billy Goats Gruff.' They have used a story map to retell the story and have written questions which they used to interview the Troll. The children have been busy writing a new version of this story called 'The Three Billy Sloths.' They have researched sloths in detail and were surprised to learn that sloths only have three toes!

In Maths, the children have been learning to add and subtract numbers within 10. They have learned several strategies to help them solve problems involving addition and subtraction. The children have also been learning the names of 2D and 3D shapes. They have explored these shapes in the environment and discussed different ways they can sort these shapes.

In Wider Curriculum, the children have been learning about plants and food from different parts of the world. As part of their Design Technology work, the children have thoroughly enjoyed designing and making their own pizzas. Year One especially enjoyed tasting pizzas to help them decide which toppings they would like to use on their own pizza.

In Song Practice, the children have learned to sing some Christmas songs. They have worked extremely hard to perform these songs using sign language. Well done, Year One!



Year 2

The children have done us proud by working extremely hard this half term. In English, we have been learning about the story of 'Giraffes Can't Dance' by Giles Andrea. The children were able to think of interesting adjectives to describe the animals in the story and act out the story before writing it. We have continued to focus on sentence structure and basic punctuation when writing.

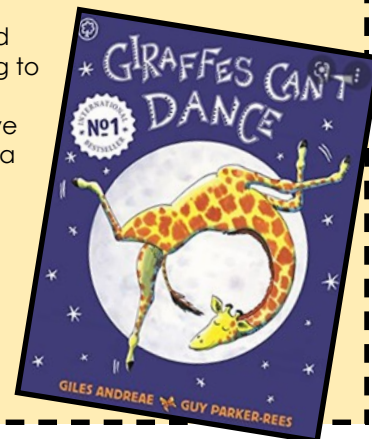
In Maths, the children have been using a range of techniques to add and subtract two 2-digit numbers crossing ten. They have used objects, such as dienes, and then represented numbers by drawing them. The children are growing in confidence when answering problem solving questions based on addition and subtraction. We have also been learning about money and recognising different coins and notes, identifying the value of each coin, as well as finding the total amount.

In our Wider Curriculum lessons, the children have been learning all about significant people from the past, such as Queen Elizabeth, Florence Nightingale, Amelia Earhart and Rosa Parks. The children have been able to sequence and compare events in their lives. The children have also drawn a portrait of Rosa Parks and created a piece of art in the style of LS Lowry.

In Science, the children have been investigating how we grow as we get older. Pupils have identified what babies need in order to survive, ordering the life cycle of a human as well as identifying the difference in each stage.

In Music, the children have enjoyed playing the xylophone and listening to a wide range of music.

During PE sessions, the children have gained strength when completing a range of balances and jumps.



Year 3

As always, we have had another busy half term. We have really enjoyed being able to go swimming each week and, although we've had some nervous swimmers, we are so proud of the brilliant determination and hard work that they have put in. We can't wait to see how much more progress they make next half term. We have also been lucky enough to have recorder lessons in 3S and 3C. Those classes have thoroughly enjoyed learning an instrument and it appears that we have some really talented musicians in our year group. Year 3 have also been having some art lessons with our resident artist – Mr Clarke. They have been combining their geographical knowledge with 3D sculptures.

In our English lessons, we have spent some time looking at the story of 'The Selfish Giant' by Oscar Wilde. This story has helped the children to write some brilliantly persuasive letters and even more impressive stories. We have also been looking at some rhyming poems and Aesop's fables in Whole Class Reading.

In Maths, we have been focusing on our addition and subtraction knowledge and developing a greater understanding of multiplication and division facts. Our weekly times tables test helps to strengthen this skill.

In our Wider Curriculum lessons, we have been travel agents exploring different countries and capital cities. Pupils have used this knowledge to help create some fantastic online presentations during our computing lessons. Next half term, we will be delving into the world of chocolate in both our geography and history lessons!



Year 4



As ever, Year 4 have had a very busy half term. They are progressing well with their musical instrument lessons and have enjoyed making gymnastic routines in groups in PE. In Art, they looked at the work of Henri Rousseau and made their own jungle collages in the style of his work. We were all surprised to find out that despite focusing his art on the jungle, he had actually never been and did it all from his imagination! In Maths, the children have spent time doing addition and subtraction, as well as looking at perimeter. Next term, they're going to be looking in detail at multiplying and dividing by 10, 100 and 1,000.

In English, the children have looked at the book 'The Promise' by Nicola Davies and have written stories based on it. They have also written newspaper articles and made leaflets linked to our work in geography.

Year 4 have been lucky enough to go on two trips out of school this half term. The first one involved them going litter picking around Balsall Heath so that they could help to tidy up the local area and do their bit to help the environment. For the second, they went to a local church to learn about the Nativity and how Christians worship. The children were very well behaved and we received this message from someone from the church after the children had returned:

"I really enjoyed having the children and staff in at St Anne's. They are a real credit to your school; they were wonderfully behaved and I was very impressed by the quality and insightfulness of their questions. I was particularly impressed with how well they coped with lack of heat in the church building, it definitely wasn't designed for cold December days!"
We hope that the children have a lovely holiday, and we look forward to seeing them in the new year.

Year 5

All the children in Year 5 have worked extremely hard this term.

In Maths, the children have been learning how to multiply and divide by 10, 100 and 1000. They have been able to use their knowledge of place value to do this. We then moved on to finding the perimeter and area of a shape.

In English, we have been reading a variety of Greek Myths that have linked nicely with our history topic this term. As always, the children have worked hard to learn lots of new language features and have understood the purpose of writing a story. With this knowledge, the children were able to write their own 'Conquering the Monster' tales, taking inspiration from other Greek Myths.

In Computing this term, we have been creating our own presentations which the children have really enjoyed. We were able to carry out some research and plan on J2e5. We then transferred the information to our PowerPoints and presented them to the rest of the class. The presentations turned out amazingly!

This has again linked to our History topic this term which was 'The Great, the Bold and the Brave'. The children in Year 5 were fascinated to learn about the history of Ancient Greece and the differences between life then and now. They learnt about the introduction of Democracy and the Olympic Games. We have been working hard to improve our oracy and presenting skills. We even made our own clay pots in the Art Studio.

In Science, we have been learning about mixtures. We carried out many scientific experiments to find out the rate at which solids dissolve and whether all solids were even soluble. We learnt lots of new vocabulary such as 'soluble', 'dissolve', 'saturated' and 'solution'.

