

Year 6



Year 6 have had a wonderful start to the year and have made very good progress. In English, we immersed ourselves into the world of Shakespeare! We studied the story of Hamlet by reading and understanding the playscript, performing scenes and writing our own version (which we also performed). Year 6 have also enjoyed the challenge of writing a balanced argument and have been extremely creative when writing their crime narrative. In Maths, Year 6 have really developed their

learning and understanding of decimals, fractions and percentages. The children have become confident in converting between the three to find fractions and percentages of amounts. In History, we have examined and compared the Mayan, Benin and Islamic Empires during 900AD. Children have explored the many achievements and contributions from these civilisations. It has been wonderful to discover what they have given to the world. Our DT lessons this half term took us around the world as we discovered the origins of coffee. The children tasted a range of coffees, experimented with flavours, and designed their perfect cup of coffee, delicious work! In Art, the children have explored Islamic Art, creating and printing their own geometric designs. They have also used a range of drawings skills to recreate art from the Benin Civilisation (900AD). In Science, we have been learning about



Living Things and the importance of classification. During this topic, Year 6 learnt about the animal and plant kingdoms, micro-organisms and the work of historical scientists. Children have also learnt to interpret and create branching keys to classify living things, ask questions and carry out investigations. In PE, NFL Flag Football has allowed Year 6 to take part in a competitive game and learn the skills of respect and resilience on the field. Children have learnt how to 'snap', throw and catch using an NFL ball. In Computing, Year 6 have been creating revision guides on J2e. They have used a range of media and formats to design informative documents.



Health & Wellbeing

Saturday morning takeover!

We have been delighted to see over 100 children from the community attend our Saturday morning football clubs in association with Bright Future Football Academy. The sessions have been really well attended and the Marcus Rashfords and Karen Carneys of the future have had a great time! There are still places available, so book soon.

Competitive Sport is finally back!

We have two fantastic teams who have worked hard developing their skills in Netball and Basketball. These clubs give our children the opportunity to have lots of fun and be active. We have recently begun to take part in competitive game play.

Our first basketball match was played against St Georges at their school. The 1st half we were behind with a score of 4-12 we then levelled up and in the last part of the 2nd half we took the lead 18-16. However, in the final three minutes we lost

the lead with the final score being 18-20. This was our first competitive game of the year and Miss Downer would like to congratulate all those who took part and send special thanks to all who supported the team.

We have several more matches against other schools arranged. The dates are:

14/03/22 - Clifton Vs Ark Tindal 10/03/2022 - Clifton Vs Ark Tindal

09/05/22 - Clifton Vs Harper Bell 19/05/2022 - Clifton Vs Harper Bell

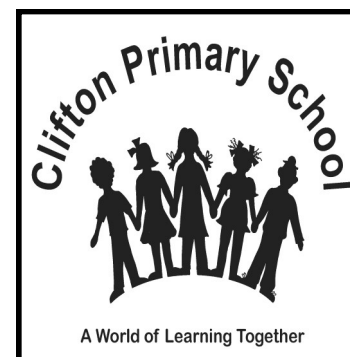
Further fixtures to follow.

Parents and pupils are welcome to come along and cheer us on! Best of luck to all those who will be involved in the games. **Go Clifton!!!**



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

Monday 28th February



School Newsletter

Spring Term 2A 18/02/2022

Message from the Headteacher



The beginning of this term saw us face quite a challenge in terms of staff and pupil absences as a result of positive Covid cases. I am pleased to say we have managed to keep any disruption to children's learning to a minimum. In the last three weeks, cases have dropped dramatically at Clifton so fingers crossed we are through the worst.

I want to thank everyone again for their support in helping us manage the impact of the pandemic.

As you can see from what year groups have been working on, as always, every child has been able to not only focus on their English and Maths. We continue to have a big push on reading, particularly children reading at home. Please remember to read with your child at home and bring their book bag into school. Thank you to all parents and carers who are reading with their child at home. Reading continues to be a big drive in school as well, from phonics Phase 3 sounds and tricky words in Reception through to Yr6 getting ready for their SATs in May – for the first time since 2019!

Children continue to enjoy a wide range of other subjects and topics as well – ranging from learning all about maps in Yr2 geography to learning about the digestive system in Yr4 science. Whilst we are still limited in the number of trips and visits we can run, we have started inviting visitors into school to support learning. This week has seen the Animal Man visiting Yr1 and Professor McGinty in Yr4, supporting their work on the Ancient Egyptians.

I hope you agree that this newsletter showcases some of the great work that Clifton pupils have been completing over the first half of this Spring term!

Thank you for your continued support, and do enjoy the half term break. Children return to school on Monday 28th February.

Have a good break!

Mr. Lambert

Nursery

This half term, we have been working on the topic of "Going Places". We have been reading books about journeys, making and following maps, and using programmable toys to follow directions. We have also been learning about China; it is one of the countries that celebrates Lunar New Year (1st February). We learnt about the types of food people eat, looked at photographs to see what the cities and towns look like, and built pagodas and Great Walls in the block area. We also tasted noodles, made dancing dragons and acted out the story of the Chinese Zodiac. In this story, twelve animals have a race to find out who the Lunar New Year will be named after. The children used this story in their Maths learning, and they were able to talk about the order that the animals came in, using words like "first" and "second." Mr Rose has started teaching gross motor skills every day, and the children are really enjoying taking part. All of the Nursery children have been practising exercises that develop their core stability, balance and coordination. We have seen big improvements in the children's movement skills when they play, and they are much more confident when using the equipment outside. The exercises have also helped to improve the children's fine motor skills, and we already have some children that can write their name!



Reception



This term, we have started to learn the Phase 3 sounds and tricky words. In English, we have read and imitated the stories 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt' by Michael Rosen and 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears'. The children have worked really hard to write short sentences using their sounds, and have continued to develop their vocabulary and speaking and listening skills by asking and answering questions using full sentences. In Maths, we have been adding two groups of objects together using numbers up to 8.

The children have also been exploring length, weight, capacity and time. We learnt about Chinese New Year by exploring how people celebrate in China and by making decorations. We listened to and retold the zodiac story and wrote sentences about the animals in the race. We also made a role play Chinese restaurant where the children took each other's orders and served them food.

Our topic this term was 'People Who Help Us'. We learnt a lot about different types of jobs, including police officers, firefighters, vets and doctors. The children had the chance to role play each job type, and we discussed what jobs we want to have when we grow up. Last week was 'Safer Internet Week'. We used stories to discuss how to stay safe online and what to do if you are feeling worried or scared. At Clifton, we encourage the children to 'Turn Off and Tell' a trusted adult.

We hope you have a lovely rest during the half term.

The Reception Team.

Year 1

Year One have had a great half term. In English, the children have been studying 'Lost and Found' by Oliver Jeffers. The children researched penguins and used their knowledge to write a non-chronological report. They have also used a text map to help them to retell the story. The children have also studied 'The Jolly Postman' by Allan Ahlberg. They have learned about the purpose and features of letters and have used this knowledge to respond to and write their own letters.

In Maths, the children have been learning a range of calculation strategies to help them to add and subtract. They have learned to use a number line and have drawn on their knowledge of number bonds to help them solve maths problems. More recently, the children have been learning about length. They have used the words 'short', 'shorter', 'long' and 'longer' to compare the lengths of objects. They have also used cubes, paper clips and a ruler to measure the lengths of a variety of objects.



In the Wider Curriculum, the children have been learning about their senses and about animals. The children have particularly enjoyed learning about their five senses and investigating and experimenting with each of these! The children have also learned about a range of animal groups. These groups include mammals, birds and amphibians.

Year One were delighted when the Living Eggs arrived this term. The children waited patiently for the eggs to hatch. The children and teachers couldn't contain their excitement when the first egg began to hatch and a chick appeared! Year One couldn't wait to come to school every day to see how the chicks were growing and changing. They have taken special care of the chicks. The Year One team hope you all have a lovely and well-deserved rest during half term and look forward to seeing you after the holiday.



Year 2

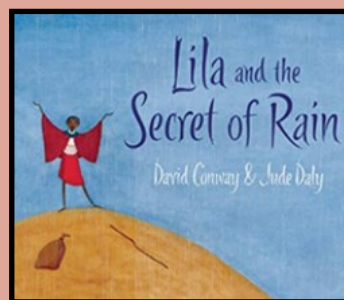
The children in Year 2 have continued to worked incredibly hard this half term.

In Maths, the children have been learning their 2, 5, and 10 times tables. They have learned how to recognise and make equal groups, and have identified that multiplication is repeated addition. The children have divided by sharing objects into equal groups, using concrete manipulatives and pictorial representations. More recently, the children have interpreted and drawn tally charts, pictograms and block diagrams.

In English, we have focused on the story of 'Lila and the Secret of Rain' by David Conway. The children have written a non-chronological report about Kenya and written a diary entry based on the text. They have also been able to use information from the story to write an explanation text.

In Geography, pupils have been learning all about maps. They can now identify the countries and capital cities that make up the United Kingdom. They have also learnt about the continents. They can identify them on a map and have learnt what is special about each of them. They have also been able to compare the features of two contrasting places.

In PSHE, the children have been learning about how to stay safe online. We recapped the 'Turn Off and Tell' rule that we use when we see something we don't like online, and learnt about the importance of not sharing personal information online.



Year 3



What another busy half term it's been in Year 3! We started off the term by studying the story of 'Pandora's Box' in our English and Whole Class Reading

lessons. We have written our own stories and comic strips in the style of Greek myths, and we have used lots of drama techniques to help deepen our understanding of them.

In Maths, we have been learning how to multiply and divide 2-digit numbers in a variety of ways. We have lots of really keen mathematicians who are able to solve and explain their reasoning of some very complex problems. We have spent the last two weeks of the term exploring money and making sure that any gaps from lockdown are being recovered. Giving your children the opportunity to use real money is a great way to support them at home. We have also started our topic on chocolate in Wider Curriculum lessons, and we have been learning all about the history of Bournville and Cadbury World. We have also been using atlases to locate the countries that cacao pods grow in. It is such a fascinating topic, and we shall be continuing this next half term too. Our swimming lessons have continued each week and we are so proud of how far the four classes have come. We believe swimming to be a very valuable life skill and we love to see how confident the children are becoming. We are looking forward to more learning next half term.

Year 4



Year 4 have had a very busy half term! We have finished our unit on the Ancient Egyptians, made canopic jars and Egyptian necklaces, and had a visit from Professor McGinty! In Maths, we have been looking at multiplication and division as well as fractions and area. The children have worked really hard applying everything they've learnt to answer reasoning questions. In English, we have really enjoyed learning about the 'Firework Maker's Daughter' by Philip Pullman. We explored the story through drama and diary writing, and we finished the unit by rewriting the final chapter in 1st person. The stories were really exciting and engaging, and we loved reading them! In PE, we have been practising our football skills and learning about dance. We watched scenes from 'Cats' by Andrew Lloyd Webber and discussed how we could move like cats and express atmosphere through our actions and dancing without using our voices. We finished the term with a football tournament, and it was great to see how much more control the children had of the ball compared to the start of term. In Science, we have been looking at digestion and the different jobs of each digestive organ. We have been using scientific language and conducting lots of experiments. We have seen what type of drink is worst for teeth, made poo and even

experimented to see why we need to brush our teeth regularly. In Music, we have been continuing with our learning of the ukulele, tabla and keyboard. We can't wait to carry on with all of this super learning next half term!



Year 5

This term, the Year 5 children have produced some fantastic work and have shown a passion for learning. In Maths, we have been using a written method to multiply and divide large numbers as well as introducing fractions. Year 5 are now more confident in adding and subtracting fractions by finding the common denominators.

In English, we have been focusing on many different SPAG rules which have helped the children to improve their spellings and spell new Year 5 words. The children have also been learning how to use brackets and fronted adverbials in their writing. There has been a particular focus on reading and answering questions using the appropriate success criteria. Year 5 have written a fantastic persuasive letter and a newspaper report based on this term's books which is 'Varjak Paw' by S.F. Said.

Our Wider Curriculum topic is 'The Great, the Bold and the Brave'. The children have been learning about the Romans, Anglo Saxons and the Vikings, and have explored how they influenced the world we live in. This has also linked to our Oracy unit where children presented information about the Romans to the class. In Science, we have been learning about forces and the effect they have on the world around us.

This term, Year 5 have focussed on using the internet to aid their learning. They have become increasingly confident in using J2e and have started using spreadsheets more confidently. They have also completed additional work such as creating fact files on J2e% and completing their homework. Thank you and well done for all your efforts this term. Keep working hard and stay safe!

