

Year 6



Year 6 have been working extremely hard this half term across all areas of the curriculum.

In English, Year 6 have been exploring Antarctica and the journey of Ernest Shackleton. They have been using their persuasive skills to write adverts and have been creative with their vocabulary and grammar skills which they used to write a setting description and a narrative piece. Year 6 have also been developing their skills to write for a range of audiences and purposes, such as emails, blogs and newspapers.

In Maths, Year 6 have been learning how to read, write, recognise and convert all metric measures for length, mass and capacity. They have calculated the area and perimeter of rectilinear shapes and have built on their knowledge of calculating ratios using the correct notation. Year 6 have also been developing their skills of reading and interpreting data in order to draw their own line graphs.

In Science, we have been working very scientifically! Year 6 became Crime Scene Investigators and had to solve a crime committed in the Universe Building. Their investigations led them to ask questions, make observations, carry out several investigations, make predictions, consider fair testing, take accurate and repeated measurements and present and analyse data. They certainly have been busy this half term!

In Art, children continued their investigations as they sketched a detailed drawing of a possible suspect and then sculpted a model of them using clay.

In PE, children have thoroughly enjoyed learning how to play cricket. This competitive sport has developed their skills in catching, throwing, bowling, fielding and, most of all, working as part of a collaborative team. Well done, Year 6!

In Computing, we have been continuing to create a revision guide on J2e. The children have used a range of media and formats to design informative documents.



Health and Wellbeing

It has been a busy half term for PE and School Sport at Clifton. We have seen the return of competitive sport with lots of school matches taking place on site and at other schools. Miss Downer has run a brilliant set of Netball and Basketball matches, inviting other schools to attend, assisted by the City of Birmingham Rockets Basketball Club. The Year 3/4 football team played well in their first matches of the season at the Clifton and Bishop Ilsley SGO competition, and the Para Sport team finished a superb third in the Sportshall Athletics competition.

MOKI bands are back and your child will be wearing their activity bands in school to see how many steps they do each day. These won't be coming home at the moment, but please encourage your child to be as active as they can be and to walk, cycle or scoot to school. Pupils love wearing their new WOW Walk to School badges.

Thanks to Street Futures for running a brilliant Grandads' Club too! We have a busy summer ahead with more competitions, the build up to the Commonwealth Games and a disability sport awareness day!



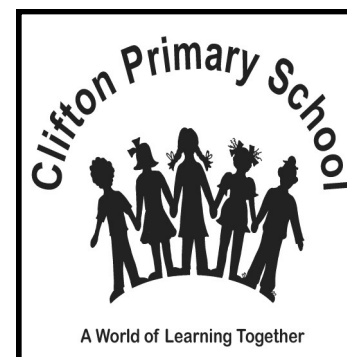
Parent Governors

We have welcomed two new parent governors to the governing body. Their term of office started on Monday 21st March 2022.

Our new parent governors are:

- Mr Shahban Ali
- Mrs Naima Mustafa Sharif Mohammed

We wish you a
well-deserved break and
we look forward to seeing
you all again on
Monday 25th April



School Newsletter

Spring Term 2B 07/04/2022

Message from the Headteacher

As I write this newsletter I can hear Year 1 singing beautifully as part of their Easter assemblies. It is great to be able to welcome parents back to watch children perform. I hope all Year 1 parents enjoyed watching them as much as the children have enjoyed participating in them.

As you can see from this newsletter, the children have been working incredibly hard on a wide range of subjects and activities. As you might expect at this time of year, our youngest pupils have been looking at growth by planting seeds and sunflowers, and working out what plants need to live and grow. Reception classes have linked this to texts such as 'The Enormous Turnip'.

In all of the other year groups, you can see how important stories are to the children's learning – from 'The Man Who Wore All His Clothes' in Year 3, to 'Oranges in No Man's Land' in Year 5. This all helps in our work to focus on reading – from whole class reading in classrooms, to reading at home with parents, carers and other family members. We continue to be grateful to everyone who is supporting their children reading at home.

Of course, teaching and learning in Mathematics also continues to be a priority for us. Weight and volume, 2D and 3D shapes, statistics, multiplication and division and fractions have all formed part of our mathematics curriculum this term.

Both pupils and teachers in all year groups involved in national testing or screening are working hard to achieve the best they can. Year 1 phonics, Year 2 SATs and of course Year 6 SATs. For the first time Year 4 will be completing their Time Tables Check, along with every Year 4 child in the country.

With all of this work on English and Maths we do not forget about the wider curriculum work that is so important to our pupils. You can see in each of the year groups the breadth of the experience that children at Clifton are getting. To support this, we are inviting more visitors into school and this term it has been the turn of Year 3, who had the chance to work with the Ministry of Chocolate. This was a great way of supporting the children's work on chocolate, and they became chocolate 'experts'!

Thank you for your continued support, and do enjoy the Easter break. Children return to school on Monday 25th April.

Have a good break!

Mr. Lambert

Nursery

This half term, we have been learning about 'Growing and Changing'. In Nursery, we have been planting seeds and beans and watching them grow. The children have learned how to care for plants, and they now know that plants need water, sunlight and air to grow properly. We also planted herbs, and they are growing quickly in our new garden area outside. Next half term, we will be using the herbs in our cooking activities when we make bread, pizza and salad. We are now learning about Easter, and the children have been really interested in different types of eggs. We made "dinosaur eggs" out of bicarbonate of soda and "hatched" them with vinegar and water to reveal the baby dinosaurs inside. We have also looked at chicks and learned that they hatch out of eggs. We even made our own chicks in the playdough area!





Reception

As the weather has improved and the sun has made an appearance, Reception have been excited to learn about Spring. We made a start on our flower garden: the children helped to remove all the weeds, and they churned the soil. We have planted lots of wild flower seeds, and we hope they start to grow soon. We have also planted sunflowers seeds and have had a competition to see which sunflower grows the tallest. This linked well into our English lesson as we had retold 'The Enormous Turnip' story. The children gave instructions about how to plant cress heads, using time connectives and clear sentences, and wrote their instructions down using simple sentences. The children have taken their cress heads home to look after in the Easter holidays. In English, we have also retold the story of 'Little Red Riding Hood'. We have been using the pronouns 'he', 'she', 'her' and 'him' and have written simple CVC sentences, including some longer words as a challenge.

In Phonics, we have revisited the Phase 2 sounds and Tricky Words, and the children have been practising segmenting and blending. We have started to learn Phase 3 sounds and Tricky Words, and we will be continuing this next term.

In Maths, we have been working with numbers to 10, representing them and exploring number bonds using bead strings, tens frames and Numicon. We have also been naming 3D shapes and talking about their properties.

We have enjoyed celebrating Mother's Day, the festival Holi, World Book Day and Easter. We have also begun to talk about the forthcoming Commonwealth Games that are being held in Birmingham; we did some relay races during PE, and the children really enjoyed this experience. The Reception team hope you all have a well-deserved rest during half term, and we look forward to seeing you all back after the Easter Break.

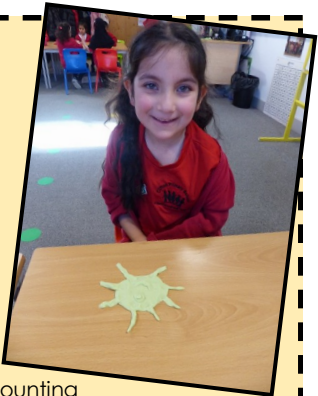


Year 1

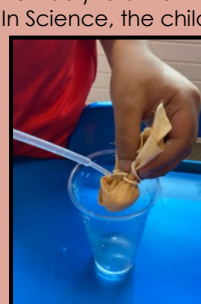
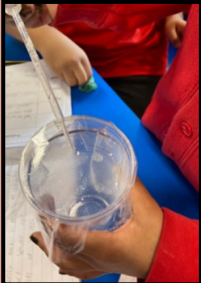
The Year One team are very proud of how well the children have worked this half term. In English, the children have been learning about instructions. They followed instructions to make their own play dough. The children then remembered the steps to help them write a play dough recipe. The children have also been learning about 'Beegu' by Alexis Deacon. This story is about an alien called Beegu who accidentally lands on Earth. The children have used a text map to help them retell this story and have used interesting adjectives to describe Beegu, her spaceship and planet. Year One have remembered lots of facts about space and have used these in their writing.

In Maths, the children have been learning about weight and volume. They have used the words 'heavy', 'light', 'heavier' and 'lighter' to compare the weight of everyday objects. They have also used a balance scale to weigh a variety of objects. More recently, the children have learned to count reliably to fifty. They have practised grouping objects into groups of tens and ones to support them with counting to fifty. The children have also practised counting in twos and fives. They have counted pairs of objects to twenty and groups of five to fifty.

In the wider curriculum, the children have been learning about the world's oceans. They have learned the names of the five oceans and important facts about each of these. The children have particularly enjoyed learning about which animals live in each of the oceans. Following this, the children had a great time designing and making a junk model of a marine animal. To end the term, Year One have been learning about the Christian festival Easter. They thoroughly enjoyed performing their Easter assembly for their families and the Year Two children.



Year 2



In English, the children have enjoyed reading 'Amazing Grace' by Mary Hoffman. They watched the pantomime of 'Jack and the Beanstalk' and wrote a recount about the theatre experience they had in school. The children have written letters to persuade, and they thought carefully about the persuasive vocabulary they could use in their letters. In Whole Class Reading, the children have been learning how to answer inference questions, using clues from the text to support their thoughts and opinions.

In Maths, the children have been learning about 2D and 3D shapes. They can now name different parts of shapes, count the sides and vertices on 2D shapes, and identify and count faces, edges and vertices on 3D shapes. They have also been learning about fractions, in particular $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{1}{3}$ and $\frac{1}{4}$. Children have learnt that the denominator (the bottom number) tells them how many equal groups there are, and the numerator (the top number) tells them how many groups to count.

In Science, the children have taken part in many investigations to help them explore the properties of materials. The children have tested how absorbent a material is, whether a material is waterproof and how stretchy a material is. The children have also investigated ways in which we can use a force to change the shape of a material.

In Computing, we have used J2e5 to create a slide show of all the different materials we have found around school. The children have drawn images, taken photos and uploaded them to use in their slide show.

In PSHE and RE, the children have been celebrating differences and identifying the communities they are a part of. They have also been thinking about how wonderful our world is and thinking of ways in which we can look after it. We hope the children have a wonderful rest over the Easter holidays.



Year 3



As always, our Year 3 pupils have been superstars this half term. We are very impressed to see how engaged and enthusiastic they have been with their reading. They certainly look very smart coming into school with their red book bags. Reading unlocks learning in all subjects which is why we think it is so important.

In English, we have been reading 'The Man Who Wore All His Clothes' by Allan Ahlberg. We've loved discovering the key characters of this story and have written some lovely character descriptions and diary entries to go with it.

In Maths, we have been deepening our understanding of statistics and length. We have some very talented pupils who can convert different units of measure and also find the perimeter of some shapes. We have also continued to learn our times tables.

In our wider curriculum topic of 'Chocolate', we have learnt about where cocoa beans are grown and why these climates are so important. We were lucky enough to have a workshop in school where our pupils became 'chocolate experts'. Hopefully their chocolate creations made it home in one piece!

We love swimming in Year 3 and are very hopeful that the pool will re-open again soon. I know our pupils really love going into the water and miss not being able to go. In our other PE lessons, we have been exploring dance inspired by shapes and the weather. We have also continued to focus on Internet Safety in Computing, alongside creating several pieces of digital art. In Science, we have been learning about different types of rocks and how fossils are formed.

We look forward to starting our new topic 'Scavengers and Settlers' after the Easter break.



Year 4



In PE, the children have been exploring outer space in Dance. They've really enjoyed this, and it's been lovely to see them challenge themselves by using multiple bodies to make an alien. We have also been practising cricket and learning the skills necessary to play games.

In Maths, we have finished units on multiplication and division, fractions and decimals. This is the first time Year 4 have met decimals, and they have done really well grasping the new concept.

This term in English, we have been reading 'How to Train Your Dragon' by Cressida Cowell. The children have been really engaged with it and have written excellent diary entries, jokes, book reviews and riddles.

In Geography, we have been studying volcanoes and earthquakes. We finished by creating our own volcanoes and making them erupt. In DT, we have been making earthquake-proof buildings to fit in with our theme of the earth moving below us.

In Science, we have been learning about sound. This unit has been full of experiments, and the children now understand how sounds are made, how they travel and how they end up in our ears.

We had a lovely email from Professor McGinty too, he said: "I had a great time. It was good to see the children were obviously really enjoying the topic and all had something to input during the workshops." He had a brilliant time and so did we!

In Computing, we have been making our own audiobooks based on 'The Firework Maker's Daughter' by Phillip Pullman which we studied last term.

Have a lovely Easter Holiday, and we'll see you in the Summer Term!

Answers:
- There are no stairs
- 'wrong'

Year 5

Year 5 have shown great enthusiasm in their learning this term.

In Maths, we have completed our fractions unit. We have learned lots about equivalent fractions, adding and subtracting fractions with different denominators, and finding fractions of amounts.

In English, Year 5 started their new text 'Oranges in No Man's Land' by Elizabeth Laird. They have thoroughly enjoyed reading this book, and they loved exploring the characters' feelings throughout. They were able to make links between the book and what is happening around the world which has led to some fantastic group discussions.

In Science, we have been exploring our new unit 'Our Place in Space'. Year 5 have loved learning about the solar system and now know lots of new facts. At the start of the unit, Year 5 had many questions such as 'How do we have day and night?', 'Why do we have seasons?' and 'Where is the moon?' They can now answer these questions with much more confidence. Their favourite part was describing the phases of the moon using Oreo biscuits! The children have also created a display by designing pictures of the planets in the solar system and writing facts to match them.

