



Year 6

What a busy term Year 6 have had! We would like to thank parents for their continued support throughout the year and would like to congratulate the children on completing their SATs examinations. We are all extremely proud of their mature and positive manner! This term in English, we are studying 'Rooftoppers' by Katherine Rundell. This is an exciting adventure story set in London and France. The children have written some amazing setting descriptions, non-chronological guides and narratives.

In Maths, the children have been applying their skills to answer reasoning and real-life problems.

Year 6 have been learning about the human body in Science. They have revised their knowledge and understanding of the human skeletal system and learnt about the main parts of the human circulatory system. The children are now able to describe the functions of the heart, blood vessels and blood. They have also learnt about the digestive system and have written an explanation text.

In DT, the children have taken part in the Hats for Headway Charity. Headway is the UK-wide charity that works to improve life after brain injury. The children learnt about the impact of brain injury and then designed and created hats to promote the charity.

Year 6 children ended the term in a calm and relaxing manner by learning how to sew an applique design. They learnt and explored a range of stitches and then planned and created their own applique design.



Health & Wellbeing

We held an amazing Para Sports Day on Wednesday, 25th May, with over 300 of our pupils and parents taking part in archery, wheelchair basketball and adaptive boxing. This was all part of our Commonwealth Games programme.

Clifton have performed brilliantly in the Greet League, sitting joint top! Well done to the team, Renel and Mr Muhsen.

The Girls Wildcats Football Club goes from strength to strength, with over 30 participants.

In June and July, we will be competing in Boccia and Kurling,

Football, Netball, Multi-Sports and will hold our huge Carnival on Saturday, July 2nd. We can't wait!



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

Monday 6th June



School Newsletter

Summer Term 3A 27/05/2022

Message from the Headteacher



As always, and as you can see from this newsletter, the children continue to work extremely hard in a wide range of subjects and activities.

As well as our usual focus on reading (with pupils working with a wide range of texts and books), Oracy (with hot seating in Yr1), and Maths (lots of basic skills work), the children have had lots of other opportunities. These include Yr5 learning about how plate tectonics influence earthquakes in geography, Yr 4 learning how to code in computing, and Yr3 visiting Compton Verney to support their work on 'The Stone Age'. On Wednesday 25th May, a large number of pupils took part in our Para Sports day – a great experience and one which everyone enjoyed!

We have also been doing a lot of work with and for the local community. On Friday 13th May we hosted an event for Balsall Heath Second Saturday. This is a series of family fun days that runs across Moseley Road Baths, The ORT Gallery, The Gap Project and The Old Print Works.

Providers set up in our playground and we invited parents to have a go at some of the activities with their children and encouraged them to participate on the Saturday. We gave out 100 wristbands for a free swim at Moseley Baths and a free drink at The Gap! There was also a Friends of Clifton samosa sale and a Deposit Closet run by our Family Hub Team. We also invited the Train and Play group to run sports activities for families on the Astro pitch.

Our Saturday football club continues to go from strength to strength. We now regularly have over 90 young people aged 5 - 15 from the local community coming to use the school site every Saturday. It has gone so well that the organisers (Bright Futures Association) want to use the school on Wednesday evenings for older teenagers during the rest of the summer term. If you are interested in your child taking part on Saturdays please contact the main office, where we can give you some additional information and an application form.

Finally, a huge well done to Yr6 and Yr2 for the way they approached their SATs this half term. After the break it will be the turn of Yr1 to complete their phonics screening check, and Yr4 to do their times tables check.

We are very proud of everyone for the work they have put in this half term!

I hope you have an enjoyable half term break. We look forward to the children returning on Monday 6th June.



Nursery



This half term, the children in Nursery have been busy working on their writing skills and they are really enjoying spending time writing cards, lists and writing their names on their work. To support their core strength, they have been doing lots of exercise and gross motor challenges with Mr Rose and we are seeing a big improvement in the children's balance and strength when engaging in physical tasks. In the Spring term, we planted lots of seeds and we are now seeing flowers and shoots beginning to grow. In our vegetable patch we have lettuce, cabbage, carrots and pumpkins

growing and the children are checking on them every day, watering them and seeing if there are any weeds. We are planning to use the things we have grown to do some cooking so we are becoming very interested in recipe books.



Reception



The children in Reception have been working hard in class this term and all the teachers would like to say well done and that we are all really proud of you. In Phonics, we have been continuing to learn Phase 3 phonics sounds which include digraphs, to help us read CVCC words like 'ring', CCVC words like 'shop' and CVVC words like 'goat'. We continued to apply our Phase 2 and 3 phonics knowledge to write short words and simple sentences.

This term, we have read the story 'Handa's Surprise' by Eileen Browne. To begin with, we used our language skills to talk about the taste and texture of different fruits such as passion fruit and pineapple. We talked about healthy and unhealthy foods and made a fruit and vegetable face based on art work by Giuseppe Arcimboldo. We then supported 'Handa' to write a shopping list to buy more fruit as the animals had taken them all! Linking to the story, we named different animals and their offspring to help us write a non-fiction booklet for the Nursery children. We have enjoyed celebrating the Queen's Jubilee and in preparation for this, we wrote invitations to the party, made crowns and finger painted the flag of Great Britain. We also loved celebrating Eid and writing Eid cards.

In Maths, we have been counting to, comparing, ordering and representing numbers to 20. We will also be looking at adding and subtracting within 20 and arranging, rotating and manipulating shapes. Please continue to use Numbots at home in the half term. We have been watching our sunflowers grow taller and have added them to our playground flower garden.

The Reception team hope you all have a well-deserved rest during half term and we look forward to seeing you all on June 6th.



Year 1



Year One have had a fun and exciting half term. In English, the children have been learning about 'Jack and the Beanstalk.' They have used a text map to retell the story and have 'hot seated' the characters. The children were keen to think of questions to ask each other when they were 'hot seating'. This term, the children have used their knowledge of fairy tales to help them retell 'Jack and the Beanstalk' in their own words. The Year One teachers were very impressed with the quality of the stories the children had written. Well done!

In Maths, the children have been learning about multiplication and division. They have learned the terms 'equal' and 'unequal' to help them identify equal and unequal groups. The children have also used cubes and counters to help them learn about sharing equally. Year One have especially enjoyed learning about fractions. They enjoyed finding half and a quarter of various shapes and used a part, part whole model to help them find a half and a quarter of a quantity.

In the wider curriculum, the children have been learning about important historical events. The children particularly enjoyed learning about The Gunpowder Plot and The Great Fire of London. Year One were surprised to learn about all the factors that contributed to The Great Fire of London spreading so rapidly through London. They have retold the events from The Great Fire of London and have produced some amazing collages showing the fire.

Year One have also enjoyed learning about the Queen and her upcoming Jubilee. They have had a great time taking part in the Jubilee celebrations in school.

The children have also been learning about The Commonwealth Games and were very excited to take part in team sports activities in school.



Year 2

What a wonderful half term we have had with the children! It was lovely to hear all about their Eid celebrations and to be able to celebrate with them with a party.

In English, we have been studying the chapter book 'The Owl Who was Afraid of the Dark' by Jill Tomlinson. They have been learning about all the different things that can happen in the dark. As a result of reading the book children have written setting descriptions, a non-chronological report about owls and a thankyou letter.

In Maths, we have been learning all about length. Pupils have learnt how to use a ruler and metre stick correctly, measuring a variety of objects in cm and m. The children are able to identify what unit to measure in. They are able to compare and order objects and are becoming more confident when answering word problems using all four operations.

In Science, we have been learning about different habitats across the world and how plants and animals have adapted to their environments in order to survive. In PSHE, the children have learnt how to keep safe at home and outside – in the park and near the road. In PE, pupils have enjoyed practising their throwing and catching skills and playing games to reinforce these skills. All children in Year 2 had the opportunity to take part in our Para Sports Day, where we had some amazing visitors come to the school and talk to the children about how all different types of sports can be made inclusive. The children had the opportunity to try wheelchair-based activities; including basketball, boxing and archery.

We are immensely proud of all the children in Year 2 for successfully completing their Year 2 SATs. They have worked incredibly hard and have shown dedication, determination and resilience. Well done Year 2!



Year 3



It's been yet another action packed half term in year 3. The highlight, of course, has been our incredible trip to Compton Verney to spend the day learning how to be Stone Age settlers. The pupils safely learnt how to create fire, make cave paintings out of charcoal, build walls and shelters and also make bread. Many amazing memories were made for each class as well as lots of new skills learnt. We have also been lucky enough to take part in a special art project that celebrates what Balsall Heath means to us. Watch this space for more information on this.

In English, we have loved exploring the story of 'The Iron Man' by Ted Hughes, and have created robot fact files for our non-fiction study. The level of writing across the year group continues to improve each week. We are so proud of all of our learners and how far they've come since September.

In Maths, we have been busy learning all about fractions of shapes and amounts. We continue to learn our times tables as these play a huge part in our learning journey.

In PE, we have been learning how to play tennis; in Science, we have explored the topic of light; in PSHE, we have been discussing the idea of budgeting and spending.

Well done year 3 for always being fantastic pupils!



Year 4



This has been such a quick term! We've spent the past 5 weeks looking at lots of different topics and we've been looking forward to our work around the Commonwealth Games.

In Maths, we have been looking at money and decimals and Year 4 have been working really hard to apply what they already know to real-life situations.

Science has been all about classification of animals! We have had lots of fun using keys to identify different species and even had a go at making our own.

In PE, we have been learning golf. It is something none of the children have done before so it was lovely to see how far they came. There was some excellent putting and chipping on display.

In Geography, we have been looking at islands: what makes an island, some of the world's most famous ones, and we have also been placing them on a map using our coordinate skills. In Art, we drew an island and then painted it using sand to add texture.

Once they're finished, look out for the surprise when you open the pages and see what's inside!

In Computing we have been learning how to code.

We made our own version of the water cycle and put in all the instructions and codes to animate the various parts.

For the Commonwealth Games, each class in the school has selected a Commonwealth country to research. We have chosen four island nations to coincide with our topic in Geography.

Year 5

This half term, the year 5 children have worked fantastically; producing some amazing work and making good progress in their learning.

In Maths, we have been learning about decimals including how to multiply by 10,100 and 1000 and how to complete decimal number sequence problems. Year 5 are now more confident using complex numbers and have increased their knowledge of decimals and fractions.

In English, we have been focusing on many different SPAG rules which have helped children to improve their spellings and spell new Year 5 words. The children have been learning how to use modal verbs and determiners in their writing. There has also been a particular focus on reading and answering questions using the appropriate success criteria.

Year 5 have written a powerful playscript using our focus text 'Twelfth Night' by William Shakespeare.

Our IPC topic is 'What a Wonderful World'. The children have been learning about physical geography including reading OS maps and how plate tectonics create earthquakes. In Science, we have been learning about reactions. The pupils know how reversible and irreversible reactions create new mixtures. They have used everyday materials with some explosive results!

This term, Year 5 have focused on using 'scratch' to programme games. They have become increasingly confident in using scratch and have started using the programme more confidently. They have also completed additional work finishing an explanation video using iMovie software.

Thank you and well done for all your efforts this half term!

