



Year 6

Year 6 have had a fantastic start to the year. Within the first few weeks children went to Ackers and had the most amazing adventure. Children experienced canoeing, skiing and orienteering for the first time!



In English, Year 6 started the year off with performance poetry, we explored a range of poems with lots of different themes. We have identified the features and developed our performances and Oracy skills. We have also created an anthology of poems - all written by our enthusiastic Year 6 poets! During this half term we have analysed formal and informal letters and then wrote our own. Our

letters included co-ordinating conjunctions, subordinating conjunctions and relative clauses all learnt in our grammar sessions. In Maths, we have been busy learning about place value and working with numbers up to 10 million. We have been representing, comparing and ordering numbers in a variety of ways. Year 6 have also been using formal methods to add, subtract, multiply and divide 4-digit numbers. It has been tricky, but we have all been up for the challenge!

In History, we travelled in time to discover how societies from the past lived. We explored Medieval Britain, Native America, Ancient Egypt and Ancient Greece. We researched each civilisation and found out where they lived, how they dressed, what they ate and how they entertained themselves. We made 3D models of Motte and Bailey castles, created a 'Horrible History' quiz and compared these societies through a debate. We have also had the opportunity to develop our artistic skills by designing our own mythical creatures and making our own puppets!

In Science, we have been learning about light. We now know how to draw a ray diagram, carry out experiments to understand refraction and explore the colours of the rainbow through dispersion. Year 6 have made periscopes and created a puppet show to develop their knowledge and understanding of how light travels.

In PE, children have thoroughly enjoyed learning and improving their skills in Basketball. We can all work as a team, dribble effectively and shoot with accuracy. It certainly has been fun!

In Computing, Year 6 have been learning about the internet and how it connects computers (and us!) together.



Punctuality Flow Chart

Another of our continuing priorities for the coming year is attendance and we now also want to focus on punctuality to ensure that all of our children arrive in good time to begin their learning in the morning. The diagram below outlines the procedures we will take if we have concerns:

If your child is late more than 3 times within a half term, you will receive a letter outlining the impact that this has on them and their learning and that it should not continue.



If the lateness continues in the same half term and there is 5 episodes, we will phone you to find out more information and offer support in the form of Early Help. If support is not required, we will expect your child to arrive on time every morning.



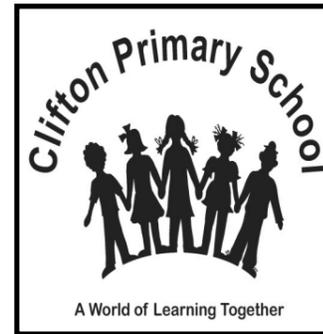
If your child still continues to be late, we will ask you to attend a formal meeting in school to discuss matters.



If lateness still continues, the school's safeguarding lead will become involved.

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

Monday 31st October 2022.



School Newsletter

Autumn Term 1A 21/10/2022

Message from the Headteacher



In my Newsletter at the end of the Summer term I mentioned our work as a school in supporting children to catch up on lost learning. I referred to our maths and reading results being our best ever. I can now give you some detail.

Our reading attainment at the end of Yr6 was 69% reaching the expected standard, within 5% of the national average. Our maths attainment was 83% reaching the expected standard, which is more than 10% above the national average. The progress scores for these subjects are also very positive, with both reading and maths being significantly

above the national average. Again, as I said in my summer term newsletter, it is on writing across the school that we must focus, and this is a central part of our school improvement for this year. Below are the key areas that we are working on as a school:

- To improve the teaching of Phonics in EYFS and KS1 to reach a higher Phonics screening result at the end of Year 1.
- Improve the teaching and learning of writing.
- Develop focused strategies to establish a good standard of oracy in EYFS and Key Stage 1 to allow children to reach higher standards of attainment by the end of Key Stage 2.

Our strategic plan also includes working more closely with parents and carers so please look out for more details!

All pupils have carried on from where they left off at the end of last academic year, with a very good attitude to work and school.

We continue to focus on physical activity and well-being for both pupils and the community. All classes are making good use of the Daily Mile circuit that we had painted on the playground floor over the summer. We are working with 'This mum runs' and now regularly have over 25 mums using our Daily Mile circuit every Tuesday.

We are hoping to increase this after half term.

Finally, may I take this opportunity to wish you all a good half term break and thank you for your continued support.

Mr N. Lambert

Health & Wellbeing



What a start to the year! We welcomed back our former pupils Doneo and Dre to perform some incredible kickboxing skills with their mentor from Aero-Kick Gym. The boys will shortly be competing in the World Championships. Good luck!

We have developed a great programme of after-school clubs, many of which will be

starting next half term. Our Wildcats football and gymnastics provision goes from strength to strength.

Competitively we have performed in the SEND ten-pin bowling, basketball and netball matches and we are delighted to have entered competitions through our new relationship with Aston Villa FC.

We are again looking forward to taking part in the SuperHerotri triathlon in December both at Lake Dorney and in the 'at-home' spectacular.



Nursery



The Nursery children have settled in well and they have quickly adjusted to the new routines and experiences of being in school. We have enjoyed learning lots of new songs and they have been practising naming colours and animals while reading stories like 'Brown Bear, Brown Bear, what do you see?'. We have done lots of work on building confidence and independence and we are encouraging children to wash their hands and put on their coats without help. This is working well and lots of children are able to put on their coat and even dress themselves in fancy dress when they are in the role play area. As the weather has changed, we are starting to talk about the season of

Autumn and what we see. The children have enjoyed going on an Autumn scavenger hunt, finding conkers, acorns and leaves and we have started to explore pumpkins by cutting them open and looking inside. We discovered that it's very stringy inside and the seeds are very sticky.





Reception

Reception have settled very well into their new classes. They have made lots of new friends and they are having a great time exploring the environment and learning new ideas.

In English, we have been learning lots of nursery rhymes. Our favourite rhymes are 'Incy Wincy Spider' and 'Row, Row, Row your Boat'. We are continuing to learn new nursery rhymes weekly and these will be sent home every Friday. Please practise them with your child.

We had a hungry, wiggly visitor creep into our classroom who ate some of our fruit. It was The Very Hungry Caterpillar which inspired us to read the story book. 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 Very Hungry Tadpole'.

All the children have tried very hard in our Phonics lessons to learn Phase 2 sounds. So far, they have learnt the sounds m, a, s, d, t, i, n, p, d, n and g and they have had a go at writing them. This has helped us to hear initial sounds in words and blend short words.

The children have also been practising pre-writing shapes and some children have started to practise writing their name. We are encouraging the children to hold their pencil using a tripod grip and form each letter correctly.

In Maths, we have been matching and sorting objects by colour, size and shape and making our own patterns. We have compared amounts and explored height and length and encouraged the children to use the correct vocabulary. For example, 'longest' and 'shortest' for length and 'tallest' and 'shortest' for height.

In our topic 'All About Me', the children have enjoyed talking about their families and creating their own houses. We have been on an Autumn walk, collecting leaves and acorns to make hedgehogs and leaf rubbings.

We finished the half term by watching 'Beauty and the Beast' in an amazing theatre performance. The children and adults loved it! We hope you have a lovely half term break.



Year 1

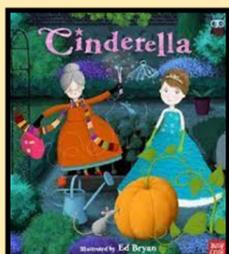
Year 1 have had a very busy and enjoyable half term. They have settled into their new classrooms with their new teachers very well. In English, the children have been learning all about 'The Three Little Pigs'.

They investigated which material would make the best house by making their own houses from straws, sticks and blocks. The children agreed that the blocks made the best house. The children have used a story map to re-tell the story of 'The Three Little Pigs' and have also written some fantastic descriptions about the story characters and how they felt at different points in the story.

In Maths, the children have been learning to count, order and compare numbers to 10. They have worked extremely hard to learn to use inequality signs when comparing two numbers.

Year 1 have used 'Charlie Crocodile' to help them remember that Charlie always eats the greatest number. Earlier in the term, the children went on a Maths Adventure Walk to look for shapes, colours, numbers and patterns in the local area.

This half term, the children have learned about clothes from around the world. They have investigated a variety of materials and have talked about their properties and uses. In Design Technology, the children have been busy designing and making a scarf for their teddy bears. The children have researched and evaluated a variety of scarves and fabrics and have used this knowledge to help them with their own designs. Take a look at some of their fabulous creations.



Year 2

What a wonderful start to the new academic year we have had! The children have adapted brilliantly to their new classes and are making lots of new friends. The children are becoming much more settled and follow routines in Year 2 well.

In English, the children have been studying the story 'Cinderella'. They have been able to sequence the story and write simple sentences for each section as well as writing their own invitations, thank you letters and diary entries. The main focus has been on ensuring children use capital letters at the start of sentences and for proper nouns as well as using full stops at the end of their sentences.

In Maths, the children have been learning the place value of digits in numbers to 100. They have learnt to write the numbers in both numeral and word form. We have used lots of concrete materials such as diens, to represent a number. Pupils are able to use less than, greater than and equal to in sentences when comparing numbers as well as using the symbols for these comparisons.

In PSHE, pupils have learnt how to stay healthy, including a healthy diet, staying clean and the importance of exercise. Children were able to demonstrate how to clean their teeth by acting this out. In Geography, pupils have learnt about the four countries that make up the United Kingdom and their capital cities. They have also been learning songs to help them remember the names of the continents. I hope they have shared this with you at home! They have been able to compare their lives with other people in other countries. We also went on a walk around Balsall Heath and the children used their directional and positional language to describe the route that they took. In RE, the children have learnt about the importance of following rules and have also explored ways in which they can stay calm when they are feeling angry or worried.

We are very proud of the way the children have started Year 2 and look forward to the rest of the year with them.



Year 3

What a fantastic start to Year 3 we have had! The pupils have settled into the new routines and new building very well. Moving from Year 2 to Year 3 is a big leap and we are really proud of how well they have coped.

In English, we have been working really hard to use neat joined up handwriting in all our books. We have been practising this every day and as teachers we can already see a big improvement. We have also been studying the story 'The Selfish Giant' by Oscar Wilde. We created a new beginning to the story.

In Maths we have been focussing on our place value knowledge, ordering and comparing 3-digit numbers, filling in missing numbers on a number line and learning our times tables.

In our wider curriculum lessons, we have been artists all half term and have created paintings, sculptures and digital artwork in the style of some famous artists. Anthony Gormley has been one of our favourites and pupils loved creating clay people in his familiar style. We ended our topic with a brilliant Year 3 art gallery in each of the classrooms. We have some very talented pupils in our year group! I wonder if any of them will become artists in the future?

Swimming has been another huge success and pupils have shown us just how brave and hardworking they can be, both in the classroom and outside. We can't wait to continue our learning journey together next half term.



Year 4

The children have settled into year 4 brilliantly!

In English, we began the year practising our performance poetry skills. The children learnt how to read poetry varying their tone, volume and speed in order to have an impact on the audience.

We have been reading 'The Lost Happy Endings' by Carol Ann Duffy in whole class reading and have been working on our descriptive skills in English lessons through writing character and setting descriptions based on the book.

In Maths, we have been learning about place value in numbers up to 10,000, learning how to compare numbers and also how to round to the nearest 10, 100 or 1000. We have also reminded ourselves of how to use addition and subtraction column methods and have begun to add to our understanding of reasoning problems.

In the Wider Curriculum, our topic this term is 'Saving the World', which is all about tropical rainforests. In Geography, we have been learning how to use an Atlas to identify where places are and have managed to locate some of the biggest rainforests located between the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn. We have also created lots of beautiful artwork, first working together to make a rainforest display in the classroom and then studying the work of Henri Rousseau, sketching parts of his paintings and then creating our own paper collages based on his work. We had a brilliant time meeting some jungle creatures at Dudley Zoo.... Keep your eyes peeled for some pictures in the next newsletter.

In Science, we have been learning about states of matter and have completed a number of interesting experiments including investigating gases, ice and making oobleck.

The Year 4 children have been building their strength and conditioning their muscles in gymnastics. We have worked on improving our balance and creating gymnastic shapes using our bodies.

In Computing, we have made fact files about animals on J2E. We have designed an eye-catching layout, inserted images and embedded a video from the internet.



Year 5

Year 5 have had a really busy term, enjoying a huge range of activities and learning experiences. We started the term by experiencing what it would be like in a Victorian classroom when teachers dressed up and delivered education in the style of the 1800s! Continuing the Victorian theme, we have just visited the Black Country Museum where we experienced silent cinema, a Victorian Church school and playground games. It was amazing to see how people in the Midlands lived over 100 years ago!

As a special treat, we also took part in a photography project where pupils learnt how to use a camera to capture a portrait of a person, using lighting, props and the zoom function. We look forward to seeing the results published in Balsall Heath soon.

In English, we have read 'The White Fox' by Jackie Morris; an incredible tale of the relationship between an Arctic Fox, an Inuit Boy and his family. We have also studied non-chronological reports and have begun to create suspense in narratives. In Maths, we have developed our knowledge of place value. We finished the half term with our Diwali assembly this week. Wow, what a start to the year!

