



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 and explored a range of non-fiction texts. During our writing lessons, we have written diary entries, letters and narratives. In grammar, we have been learning how to use colons and semi-colons and strengthening our skills in writing dialogue by using speech punctuation accurately.

In Maths, we have been enjoying learning about fractions. We have 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 has helped us to compare fractions and add, subtract, multiply and divide fractions. Year 6 are feeling quite confident with this mathematical concept!

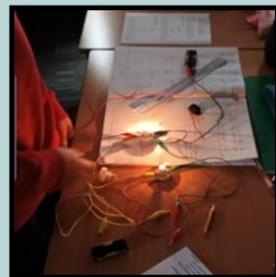
In History, we created a timeline to plot the key events that occurred during World War II. We learnt about the many countries that were involved and the impact it had on people's lives. During our studies, Year 6 discovered that Balsall Heath was affected by WW2. We found out that our local community 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 Gustave Caillebotte and used the local area as inspiration for our perspective drawings.

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.

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

This has been another great half-term of sporting success and increasing opportunities for our pupils.

In November, we recognised Anti-bullying Week, including planned curriculum lessons and a poster competition. Next term, the whole school will focus on 'Staying safe online.'

In PE, Year 3 have had an amazing time working with a Gymnastics coach and visiting the University of Birmingham Olympic sized swimming pool as part of 'The Big Swim'.

Years 5 and 6 have represented the school in basketball, netball, football and lastly, Athletics where we won the School Games event at Nechells Wellbeing Centre! Other

pupils have attended multi skills and Commonwealth Games festivals. Thank you to the Clifton School Games Organiser for delivering events for over 500 Birmingham pupils this term.

On Sunday 4th December, 37 Clifton family members took part in the Marvel Superhero Tri event at Dorney Lake in Windsor. Everyone had an amazing time!



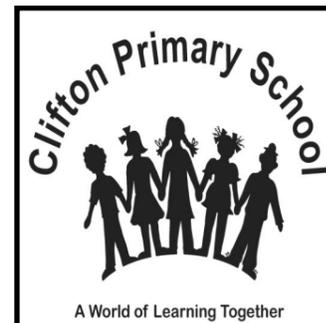
Dog Mentor Programme

We are pleased to announce that we will be joining The Dog Mentor programme and introducing our own school dogs. The Dog Mentor programme has built upon the benefits of the human-animal bond by providing the children with positive experiences around dogs that can help them educationally, developmentally, emotionally and socially. Over the last 10 years, The Dog Mentor programme has been proven to have a positive impact on children in all areas including self-esteem, behaviour, peer relationships and better engagement skills. These improvements then result in improved academic achievement.

Dr Allen will be bringing her dogs, Bella and Ruby, into school from January for two days a week. We envisage that The Dog Mentor programme will bring a positive influence into the school environment as a whole and look forward to the impact The Dog Mentor programme will have on our children. Full training will be given to the dogs and the staff that will work with them in order to ensure that the welfare of everyone involved is maintained as a top priority.



We wish you a well-deserved break and we look forward to seeing you all again on Wednesday 4th January 2023.



School Newsletter

Autumn Term 1B 16/12/2022

Message from the Headteacher



In my Newsletter at the end of the summer term I talked about our priorities as a school for the coming year. As you can see from this newsletter, all year groups are working very hard on these. Reception have been practising their Oracy skills to help them extend their sentences and make them more exciting. Year 2 have been writing information texts all about giraffes, with Year 3 writing instructions for some magic spells. Year 5 have been writing non-chronological reports on Ancient Greece.

In terms of Maths, Year 1 have been learning to add and subtract numbers up to 10 and at the other end of the school, Year 6 have enjoyed learning all about fractions – simplifying, converting and comparing.

There has also been plenty of learning outside the classroom. Years 3 and 6 have been studying Balsall Heath and doing local walks to find out about its history. Year 3 also had the opportunity to take part in the Big Swim, a national event which gave them the chance to meet champion swimmers.

We hope you feel you have been informed about your child's learning with our new style parents' consultations. We feel that these were a real success! Please let us know what you thought by giving any feedback to your class teacher or a member of SLT on the gate if that is easier.

It was good to be able to invite parents in to the many workshops we have held this term - so thank you to all of you who attended the workshops in EYFS, Year 1, Year 2, and Year 6.

A big thank you to EYFS and Year 4 who have been performing the Nativity and the story of Christmas this week, I know the parents and carers who came to watch really enjoyed the performances.

Finally, we are saying goodbye to a number of staff at the end of this term – Ms Slade, who has been SENCO here for many years, will be replaced by Miss Van as SENCO for the rest of this academic year. Ms Gibbins, Miss M. Begum, and Mrs Davies are also leaving to pursue new opportunities. We wish them all the best!

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! We look forward to working with you all in 2023.

Mr Lambert

Nursery



Nursery have had a wonderful half term. They have settled well into the new routines and are developing in confidence more and more each day. We have been exploring the school grounds by going on a nature walk with our 'Journey Sticks', adding new leaves, flowers and colourful pipe cleaners to the stick to remind us of where we went.

The children all behaved brilliantly and were able to follow our rules of staying together and listening to the adults.

We have been learning about light and dark and the children have enjoyed discovering different sources of light. We have spent lots of time in the sensory room, using the torches, light boxes and glow in the dark toys. This has led to the children developing more understanding about times of day and they can now talk about the

things that people do in the day time and night time. We have continued to learn about different festivals and the children are now exploring Christmas and Hanukkah. The children have been decorating the Nursery with lights and trees and they are using new vocabulary to describe the decorations and ornaments that they play with.



Reception

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

In English, we have been practising our Oracy skills. We have been using the conjunctions 'and', 'so', 'but' and 'because' to extend our sentences and make them more exciting. We have also been using prepositions to talk about where objects are e.g. above, below, next to. In Phonics, we have been reading and writing Set 1 sounds. We are trying really hard to use our sounds to read CVC words.



In Maths, we have been recognising, counting, substituting, writing and arranging numbers to 5. We explored one more and one less and we made Christmas cards using 2D shapes.

We have also learnt about Bonfire Night, Children in Need, Remembrance Day and Anti-bullying this half term. We hope the Phonics Parent Workshop was helpful and that you are more confident when supporting your child with their reading and writing at home. Please use the sound cards with your child at home to practise saying and writing each sound. The website links we gave you include useful videos of Phonics lessons which your child can watch at home to practise reading and writing. Please support your child in completing the Christmas home booklet, encourage your child to read every day and help them sign in to Numbots (the log-in is in their reading diary). Thank you for all your support and we hope you have a relaxing break.

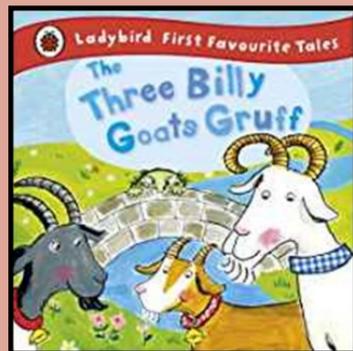
Year 1

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 that they have used to interview the Troll. The children have been busy writing their own version of 'The Three Billy Goats Gruff.'

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 their environment and discussed different ways they can sort these shapes as well as making repeated patterns.

In the Wider Curriculum, the children have been learning about our topic 'Brilliant Birmingham'. The children have learned about significant places in Birmingham and Balsall Heath. The children have explored these places on a map and have created their own map of the Clifton Primary School grounds. In Computing, the children have used the j2e software to create pictograms and bar charts. They have discussed the data they have recorded and have edited it.

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!

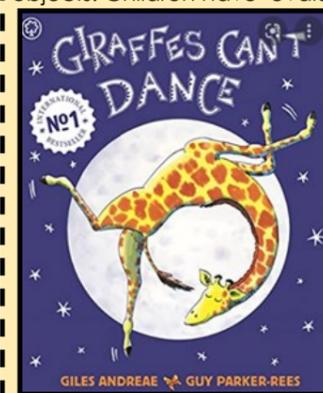
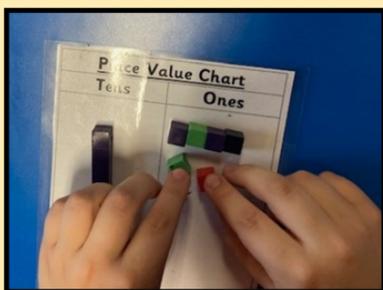


Year 2

The children have done us proud by working extremely hard this half term. In English, we have been exploring the story of 'Giraffes Can't Dance' by Giles Andreae.

Children were able to write an information text about giraffes. They were able to think of interesting adjectives to describe the animals when writing a recount. Students also wrote a letter to Gerald's brother to persuade him to attend the next Jungle Dance. In Maths, 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 represented calculations by drawing them. Children are growing in confidence when answering problem-solving questions based on addition and subtraction.

In Science, the children have been investigating the properties of materials. They have identified materials that are absorbent and waterproof, and they have also identified how to change the shape of different objects. Children have evaluated toy vehicles and made their own moving vehicles. In Music, children have enjoyed playing the xylophone and listening to a wide range of music. During PE sessions, children have gained strength when completing a range of balances and jumps. It was so lovely to see you all at the Inspire Workshop. We hope you all have a wonderful break.



Year 3

Wow, we've had another jam packed half term in Year 3! As always, we are so proud of how hard all the classes have worked. Our Year 3 pupils are becoming really confident, thoughtful, hard-working and inquisitive children. They always amaze us with their thirst for knowledge.

In English, we have been writing instructions for some magic spells, describing the troll queen from our class book and we have created some amazing non-fiction pieces of work about polar bears and their habitats. The children have demonstrated a wide range of skills in order to achieve this.

In Maths, we have been trying really hard to deepen our knowledge of addition and subtraction and also multiplication and division. These are key skills that are studied in every year group across KS2.

In our Wider Curriculum lessons, we have been global citizens learning about the world around us and how we are all connected. Our local area study has been based upon Balsall Heath. Our pupils have studied some historical sources and used these to compare what the area now looks like in comparison. Did you know that Balsall Heath once had its own cinema?

We were also VERY lucky to be able to join in with the BIG swim this year. Meeting champion swimmer Michael Gunnings was a very special opportunity for 3C and 3U. After half term, we will be starting our new topic all about chocolate, so please save any wrappers that you have over the Christmas break.



In Year 5, we have had an enjoyable half term filled with lots of creative and engaging learning experiences. We have focused on Ancient Greece in our Wider Curriculum lessons which has led to some memorable activities. As part of our Art lessons, we have designed and created Greek pots using clay. The children then thoroughly enjoyed painting their pots, using Greek patterns and styles.

In History, we have been learning about the ways of life in two of Greece's famous cities – Athens and Sparta. We compared the lives of the children that grew up in the two cities and then compared our own lives to theirs.

We began our English topic by watching a film - Percy Jackson: The Lightning Thief – which was a brilliant introduction to the theme of Greek myths and tales. We wrote a non-chronological report about Ancient Greece and the children created their own story based on Theseus and the Minotaur.

Working hard in Maths, the children have been consolidating their knowledge of written methods in the four main operations: addition, subtraction, multiplication and division, as well as learning about square, cube and prime numbers.

In PE, we have been practising Athletics, including sprinting, relays, javelin and long jump. Two pupils were even chosen to represent the school in a city festival.

Year 5 have taken part in some amazing School Games competitions with Clifton SGO and Aston Villa FC. Congratulations to all those who have taken part in football, athletics and basketball competitions! Some pupils also went to a special Commonwealth Games event.



Year 4

Year 4 have worked so hard this term and we're all really proud of what they've achieved. They were thrilled to perform the Christmas assembly and enjoyed the church trip to find out about the nativity story. We were all very impressed with their level of interest and the quality of questions that they asked.

We have finished our work on the Amazon Rainforest and have written a non-chronological report in English. In Geography, the children have learnt about where the rainforest is and about the different layers of the rainforest. They have used atlases to locate the Amazon Rainforest, some of the countries that it goes through and the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn. Year 4 are still working really hard in their music lessons and are improving in ukulele, tabla and keyboard. In Computing, we have been learning about e-safety and how to behave online. This has merged with our PSHE lessons where we have been learning about anti-bullying and how to help people who are being bullied online.

We have been looking into the environment in Science and have learnt about the different ways that humans affect it. This has linked with our geography topic as we have been looking at deforestation as well as plastic pollution.

We have had an excellent term and hope you all have a good rest ready to start again in January. Enjoy the holidays!