



Year 6

In English, we have been reading *The London Eye Mystery* by Siobhan Dowd. Children have used these texts to answer comprehension questions and write a non-chronological report, a persuasive leaflet, newspaper report, recounts, emails and a character description. In Maths children have been concentrating on Ratio and Algebra. Children have learnt ratio language, used scale factors and solved ratio problems. Following this, during the algebra unit the children have learnt to form expressions, use substitution, formulae, form equations and solve 1-step and 2-step equations. In History, children have learnt about early civilisations that gave much to the world. Year 6 have identified the

achievements of the early Islamic Empire and its impact on British society. They have made comparisons and devised historical questions about change and constructed informed responses, selecting relevant historical information. This half term, children have designed and made a Ferris Wheel. Children have explored a range of structures, sketched their design and used a range of construction material and equipment to create their Ferris wheel. In Art, children have explored Islamic Art, creating and printing their own geometric designs based on James Green. 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 a field. Children have learnt how to 'snap', throw and catch using an NFL ball. It certainly has been an exciting half term! In Computing, Year 6 have been studying a unit on understanding big data. This has covered what big data is, the impact on privacy and security of data and how data is used by others in both authorised and unauthorised ways. Students have also investigated ways that big data is used for global projects that benefit our lives.

Health & Wellbeing

It's been a really busy start to the year! This half term the whole school has been concentrating on Internet Safety with parents' workshops, assemblies and all classes' PSHE lessons focused on 'Keeping safe online.' As well as regularly completing the Daily Mile in school, pupils have started their marathon challenge as a way of supporting Mrs Allen and Miss Downer as they prepare to run the London Marathon on Sunday 23rd April. The school have taken part in a number of School Games events, including football finals and Year 2 multi skills. These are part of the Clifton School Games Organisation and our partnership with Aston Villa FC. We are always looking for parents and community members to assist in delivering even more health and wellbeing and sports opportunities for our school and community. It was great to see parents and carers at a meeting to discuss the ideas this week.



We are going cashless...

After half term we are going cashless. All payments will only be accepted via Parentpay.

Many of you will already be familiar with the system, but for those of you who need help with activating your account please get in touch with the school office. Parents without internet access are able to request a barcoded letter for specific items and pay using the Paypoint facility at any of your local stores where you see the Paypoint logo.

If you require any further help or assistance with regards to Parentpay please pop into the office or email us on enquiry@cliftonprimary.bham.sch.uk

Reminder: Please remember your child's book bag everyday!

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

Monday 27th February



School Newsletter

Spring Term 2A 17/02/2022

Message from the Headteacher



The children have had a very good half term. As well as our continued focus on reading, writing and maths you can see from this newsletter the huge amount of work that is put into providing pupils with a wide range of activities and experiences.

Year 1 have had the opportunity to watch chicks hatch and look after them as part of the Living Eggs project. Year 2 worked very hard and performed their Chinese New Year festival assembly to parents and pupils. Professor McGinty will be visiting again to work with Yr5 as part of their Romans project. This week Yrs 4, 5 and 6 saw a performance of 'Scrooge'.

All pupils have been focusing on keeping themselves safe online as a result of the work everyone did as part of Safer Internet Day on the 7th February.

I have a few reminders to all parents and carers. Please remember not to park on the yellow lines as this creates a risk for everyone at the start and end of the day. We are also seeing a number of parents parking on the corner of White St and Brunswick Rd, which makes that junction very dangerous for drivers and pedestrians alike.

We are also seeing some children in cars not wearing their seat belts. For obvious reasons please make sure your child is using their seat belt when they are a passenger in your car.

Finally, we are having quite a few children arriving late to school in the morning. Please remember that school starts at 8.50am with gates closing at 8.55am. Your child will register as late if they arrive after this time. Arriving late does have a negative impact on your child's learning and so it is very important that they arrive on time and ready for the school day!

Enjoy the half term break and I look forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday 27th February. Have a good break!

Mr. Lambert

Nursery

This half term, we have welcomed some new children who are rising threes: this means they have turned three years old in the previous term. They have settled in very well and the established Nursery children have been very kind: showing them where things are and including them in their play. Nursery have started daily oracy lessons and the children have been trying hard to speak in sentences using the new vocabulary. Our story topic has been based on going to different places. The children have begun to show more awareness of positional language and some have started to use it while they play with small world toys. Our physical development work is going well. The children are loving their daily Jumbo Gym sessions with Mr Rose and we have seen a big improvement in how well children can balance and throw and catch bean bags. In our fine motor work, the groups have had a go at drawing lots of pre-writing shapes and some are now having a go at forming letters. This half term we have been learning about Lunar New Year which is celebrated in lots of East Asian countries. The children have explored the food, art and music of these countries, particularly China, and they loved joining in with some traditional customs such as making drums and performing a dragon dance.



Reception

In Phonics, we have continued to embed our sound knowledge of Set 1 sounds. We have been practising our letter formation, blending CVC words using Fred Talk and we have been spelling words using Fred Fingers. In English, our oracy focus has been talking in the past tense. We have looked at regular verbs like 'walked', 'talked' and 'skipped' as well as irregular verbs such as 'drank', 'ate' and 'slept'. We have used conjunctions to create our own sentences using the correct past tense words e.g. 'The bear ate the whole cake because he was hungry.' We have also focused on answering 'what', 'where', 'when', 'who', 'why' and 'how' questions using full sentences. In Maths, we have been comparing numbers to 5 and exploring the numbers 4 and 5. We have been working with



numbers up to 8 to add two groups of objects together and, this week, we have introduced the numbers 9 and 10. We have also reviewed measuring length, weight, capacity and time. Our topic this term was 'People Who Help Us'. We learnt about different types of jobs, including police officers, firefighters, vets and doctors. The children have role played each job type to expand their vocabulary and develop their speaking and listening skills. We discussed what we want to be when we grow up and why. We celebrated 'Safer Internet Week' by using 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 learnt about Chinese New Year by making lanterns and watching the Year 2 festival assembly. We also made a role play Chinese restaurant where the children took each other's orders and served them.



Year 1

Year One have had a very enjoyable half term. In English, the children have been learning about 'Lost and Found' by Oliver Jeffers. This story is about a lost penguin and a boy. The children have researched penguins and written a non-chronological report about them. The children have also learned about the purpose and features of letters. The children were very excited to write letters to our school dogs, Bella and Ruby. In Maths, the children have been learning 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 to count reliably to 50. They have grouped numbers into tens and ones to help them to count. In the wider curriculum, the children have been learning about humans

and 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 (mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians). They have learned about the characteristics and features of each of these animal groups and have sorted animals using a range of criteria. Year One were delighted when the Living Eggs arrived this term. The children watched and waited patiently for the eggs to hatch. 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. Year One also had a fantastic time when The Animal Man company visited: they thoroughly enjoyed seeing and interacting with the animals.



Year 2

What another fantastic half term we have had. The children worked extremely hard on the Year 2 Chinese New Year Festival performance. I think you will agree that the acting, singing, dancing and narrating were tremendous. We are so proud of all the children. In English we have been studying the book 'Lila and the Secret of Rain' by David Conway and Jude Daly. The children have used a range of adjectives, verbs, adverbs prepositions and subordinate clauses to write setting descriptions, character descriptions, a diary and a poem. The children also wrote their own interpretation of the story, using all of these features. In Maths, we have explored 2D and 3D shapes. As well as naming shapes, the children can identify the number of sides, edges, vertices and faces each shape has. More recently, we have studied money and counted in pounds and pence, made amounts of money and compared totals. The children are now able to identify the value of each coin and note. The children can calculate money and find change that needs to be given. In History, the children have been studying a range of famous people from the past who have had a significant impact on our lives. The children very much enjoyed learning about Florence Nightingale, Rosa Park and Nelson Mandela. The children also studied Pablo Picasso and created a piece of art work in the style of his work.



Year 3

We've had another fantastic half term in year 3. Our chocolate topic has been very popular with our pupils and we are excited to continue it into the next half term. We have used our chocolate topic to create new wrapper designs in Art using old, recycled wrappers. We also held a brilliant debate, arguing the question 'should chocolate be allowed in schools?'. After much research and discussion, we concluded that although chocolate is a tasty treat, we should be saving it for the weekend and not having it in school. In Science, we have been learning about keeping our bodies healthy, what muscles do and we even held an investigation to see if children with longer legs could run faster than those with shorter ones. Our chocolate theme has continued in English as we have written a balanced argument linked to our debate. We have also studied some Greek myths, with Pandora's box being our main text for our other English lessons. In Maths, we have been understanding more complex ways of multiplying and dividing 2-digit numbers as well as practising our weekly times tables. Don't forget to let your child go on Times Tables Rock Stars at home. It's such a shame that our swimming lessons weren't able to happen this half term, but all classes in Year 3 have now had sessions with some amazing sports coaches. This half term, we have been creating our own dances and learning how to perform as a group. We have some incredibly talented pupils in our year! Reading is still important and we have continued to practise this on a daily basis. Please remember to sign your child's reading diary as often as you can. If you would like to come and volunteer to hear some year 3 pupils read then please speak to Mrs Harris or Mrs Allen.



Year 4

We have had another brilliant half term in Year 4! The children have been learning how to be History detectives via our topic of Ancient Egypt. We have learnt all about the discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb: we have been looking at artefacts discovered there and discussing what they can tell us about life in Ancient Egypt. We have also created some prints of scarab beetles in Art using acrylic paint on polystyrene tiles. In Science, we have been learning about teeth and the digestive system. We kickstarted the year with a gloriously disgusting experiment in which we created a model of the digestive system. In English and Whole Class Reading, we have been reading 'The Firework Maker's Daughter' by Philip Pullman. The children have really enjoyed getting to know the characters and expanding their vocabulary. We have learnt how to use possessive apostrophes and inverted commas and had a lot of fun performing dialogues between two of the main characters in the book before writing them down. We have also written diary entries using metaphorical language to convey feelings and have just finished writing an exciting quest tale, in which our main characters defeat a terrifying monster to retrieve a lost object. In Maths, the children have learned various strategies for multiplying three-digit numbers by a one-digit number, how to measure the perimeter of a rectilinear shape and how to complete increasingly more complex reasoning problems. The children have also been practising their times tables and we now have a number of Year 4 'rock legends' on Times Tables Rock Stars! We have been dancing in P.E. and have been learning all about online safety in PSHE. We have continued to enjoy our weekly singing assemblies and music lessons and have also been getting to know the school's gorgeous new dog mentors, Bella and Ruby. Well done for all your hard work this half term Year 4!



Year 5



Year 5 have made a lovely start to the new year and have been working extremely hard. In Maths, children have been working on fractions. They have been able to use their knowledge of multiplication, addition and subtraction to work on some tricky questions. We have learnt to convert between improper fractions and mixed numbers, find equivalent fractions and compare fractions. In English, we have been reading Varjak Paw by S.F. Said. Children have also used this text to answer comprehension questions in Whole Class Reading. They have worked hard to learn lots of new language features and have written persuasive leaflets and letters. Children were also able to write their own mystery 'vanishing' tales! Additionally, we have closely focussed on a range of SPaG this term practising our spellings, punctuation and grammar. In PE, we have been practising our hockey skills. Some of Year 5 have represented the school in football tournaments. How amazing is that? We also love keeping fit in Year 5 and never forget our Daily Mile! In History, we continued with our topic of Ancient Rome. Children in Year 5 were fascinated to learn about how the Romans invaded Britain multiple times, but also did so much for Britain. In Science, we have been learning about forces. We carried out scientific experiments to investigate different forces such as up thrust, gravity, friction and air resistance. We have also learnt about different mechanisms such as pivots, levers and pulleys. In Art, children have explored different artists including Vincent Van Gogh, and have produced their very own sunflower paintings. We have also been able to use viewfinders in order to sketch a more detailed view of repeated patterns.

