



Year 6

In English, we have been studying a variety of texts from Shakespeare's Hamlet by Andrew Matthew to Shackleton's Journey by William Gill. We have looked at Ice Trap! by Meredith Cooper as well as Explorers by Neliie Huang. The children have been writing a playscript, setting description, character description and a newspaper report.

In Maths, children have been concentrating on fractions, decimals and percentages.

Children have learnt to round, multiply and divide decimals. Children have learnt to understand fractions as decimals, fractions as percentages, order fractions, decimals and percentages and find the percentage of an amount. In Art, the artist focus has been Elizabeth Catlett. The children have created observational drawings. They were given descriptive phrases to draw the face of a suspect. Children have developed close observation skills using a variety of viewfinders eg variety of shapes and sizes, and can use different techniques for different purposes i.e. shading, hatching using a sketchbook.

In RE, we have been focussing on being respectful of suffering. Studying Islamic belief, Jesus' crucifixion, being merciful and forgiving, the Easter story and the importance of forgiveness.

Our Science topic covers the objective to working scientifically where we have carried out a variety of investigations. We have made detailed observations, understood how heat is transferred, investigated how heat changes over time, analysed data, identified acids and alkalis, measured the chemical properties of liquids and planned a test with repeated readings.

In PE, we have been learning how to play cricket. The programme provides a range of opportunities, challenges and activities for children to improve their striking and fielding skills.

Our PHSE unit is Human Rights where children have: revised British Values, understand what migration means, identified the reasons why people move from one place to another, the risks of being drawn into extremist groups or terrorist ideology, know what to do if they find themselves at risk and consolidate understanding of British Values.



Health & Wellbeing

What an end to the term! Our Gymnastics team won the School Games competition: thanks to Positive PE for all the training. Well done to all the pupils who have represented Clifton this term.

We also held an amazing Inclusion Day with Birmingham Wheelchair Basketball and the Make Change organisation delivering a brilliant day of wheelchair sport and Blind England Footballer Amir Azeem showing us how to play football from a visual impairment perspective.

We then had a visit from Sport England and the Daily Mile team to see all the brilliant work we do with running at the school.

As you may know, Mr Simpson is retiring at the end of this half term. We would like to thank Mr Simpson for all the competitions he has run as Clifton School Games Organiser.



Medical Appointments & Punctuality

There has been a large increase in the number of pupils missing school due to appointments. Please book any routine appointments outside of the school day. If an appointment must be during the day, please provide proof of the appointment and try to arrange this for early morning or late afternoon to reduce the number of lessons missed. Be aware office staff will be unable to collect your child from class after 3pm.

To help improve punctuality across the school please ensure all children are in their class by 8:50 each morning.

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

Tuesday 18th April



School Newsletter

Spring Term 2B 31/03/2022

Message from the Headteacher

Another great half term has seen all pupils at Clifton continue their learning with a great attitude and enthusiasm – as well as some excellent behaviour.

In the Nursery exploring mysterious eggs led to learning more about Easter and how eggs are an important symbol at this time of year. Continuing with the theme of Spring, Reception have been on their Spring walks to name flowers and learn about different plants. They have also been working very hard on their phonics, and are beginning to write simple sentences.

Year 1 have been learning about Easter and really enjoyed performing their assembly. I hope all parents and carers enjoyed them too! Not only have children been performing but Year 2 have also had the opportunity to watch a professional theatre group perform Jack and The Beanstalk! They had a great time!

This half term we have moved our swimming lessons to the Birmingham University swimming pool. What a fantastic opportunity for Year 3 pupils, we are already seeing some improvements in the children's swimming. Well done Year 3! Year 4 have had the opportunity to work with Professor McGinty and learn about the Ancient Egyptians – their beliefs, culture, and mummies. They have also been playing a lot of Times Table Rockstars. I hope they have challenged you!

Like all year groups, Year 5 have been learning through their reading and this term one of the books they have been studying is Varjak Paw. It's good to see they are reading it and exploring the characters. Year 6 are making final preparations for their SATs, which take place in the middle of May. They are studying a variety of texts and in Maths have been concentrating on fractions, decimals and percentages.

Well done everyone, great work!

Thank you for your continued support. Please remember that Monday 17th April is a training day, so I look forward to welcoming pupils back on Tuesday 18th April.

Enjoy the Easter break!

Mr. Lambert

Nursery



This term, we have been learning about growing and changing. We began by talking about how the season is changing from winter to spring. We regularly discussed what the weather was like and have noticed that it is getting warmer and sunnier. After reading the story of 'Jasper's Beanstalk' by Nick Butterworth, we explored how to grow plants and flowers. We explored seeds, beans and bulbs and chose which ones we would like to plant.

The children have been very excited to see their plants growing and have been asking questions about why the beans are growing faster, and taller, than the gladioli and daffodils. In our outside area, we have been clearing the flower beds of old leaves and turning over the soil to get ready to plant our seedlings. The children can now use the water butt independently to get water to fill their watering cans. We hope that by the end of spring, we will see lots of beautiful flowers! To celebrate Science Fortnight, we explored a mysterious egg. The adults made a special "egg" using bicarbonate of soda and the children have explored how to make it "hatch" using water and vinegar. They loved it when the egg started dissolving and bubbling and we discussed whether it was "melting." As the egg dissolved, the children began to guess what was inside. At first, they thought it was a snake but, once they saw some legs, they began to think of what else it could be such as a crocodile or dinosaur. The eggs have led into learning more about the festival of Easter; eggs are a symbol of Easter because they represent new life. We have provided eggs and toy chicks for the children to explore their counting and sorting skills. We will then move onto decorating eggs with different patterns.



Reception

As the weather has improved and the sun has made an appearance, Reception have learnt about spring and made a start on our flower garden. The children helped remove the weeds and churned the soil ready to sow the seeds next term. In class, we have planted sunflower seeds and made cress heads. We held two experiments to find out if plants grow better in the light or dark and which water would help cress to grow. In Oracy lessons, we predicted what we thought would happen. Surprisingly, the cress with the paint water grew the best, however, we decided it would not be safe to eat. We have been on spring walks around school to name flowers and have been talking about plants that have adapted to different environments, such as cactus in the desert.

We have been comparing objects and animals by saying what is similar and different about them using a full sentence and the conjunctions 'because', 'and', 'but' and 'however'. We have loved learning about animals in Africa and how they have adapted to their environments.

In Phonics, we have continued to embed our sound knowledge by writing words using our Fred Fingers and are beginning to write simple sentences.

In Maths, we have been working with numbers to 10, representing them and exploring number bonds using different resources. We have been naming 3D shapes and talking about their properties. We also made pattern fruit kebabs. They were delicious!

We have enjoyed celebrating World Book Day, Mother's Day and Easter by going on an Easter egg hunt. We have also been interested in learning about Ramadan.



Year 1

This term, in English, the children have been learning about instructions. They followed instructions to make their own playdough. The children then remembered the steps to help them write a playdough recipe. The children have also been learning about 'Beegu' by Alexis Deacon. The children have used a text map to help them retell this story and 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 weights of everyday objects. They have also used a balance scale to weigh a variety of objects. More recently, the children have learned about length, using the words 'long', 'short', 'longer' and 'shorter' to compare the lengths of everyday objects. They have used a ruler to measure everyday items to the nearest centimetre.

In the wider curriculum, the children have been learning about the world's oceans, the names of the five oceans and important facts about each of these. The children have 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 of Easter. They thoroughly enjoyed performing their Easter Assembly to their families and the Year Two children.



Year 2



This term, in Science, the children have enjoyed learning about different habitats and how different plants and animals have adapted to their environments in order to survive. They have explored the terms 'living', 'non-living' and 'once lived' and have also explored in detail habitats such as, woodlands, rainforest, coastal, and marine. In addition to this, in their DT lessons, the children have had the opportunity to create their own bug hotel using a design criteria. In English, the children have been studying the book 'Amazing Grace' by Mary Hoffman. They have written a diary entry in role as the main character, Grace, and have included their thoughts and feelings. The children have written a persuasive letter and have thought carefully about their vocabulary choices. They have also watched the pantomime of 'Jack and the Beanstalk' after which they wrote a recount about the theatre experience they had in school.

In Maths, the children have been learning their times tables. They have explored what multiplication and division look like and the different strategies they can use to help them solve a problem.

In PSHE, the children have been exploring the similarities and differences between themselves and others and the different communities that they are a part of. They have discussed the positive and the negative aspects about being a part of a group and how this makes them feel. In RE, the children have been learning about how wonderful our world is and thinking of ways in which we can look after it. They have also explored how people of different faiths look after the world and show respect towards it.

Year 3



A highlight this half term is the fantastic swimming that has taken place since we have moved to the University of

Birmingham's pool. Not only are the facilities outstanding, but the confidence and skills gained in our pupils over just a few sessions has been incredible. I would really encourage you to try and take your children to a swimming pool over the Easter break.

In English, we have been working hard learning how to use speech marks in our writing. We have planned and written a new chapter for the book 'The Man Who Wore All of His Clothes' by Allan Ahlberg. We have also written an explanation text for harvesting a cocoa bean. Alongside the amazing chocolate workshop that each Year 3 class took part in, this concludes our topic on chocolate. Next half term, we will be learning about how Stone Age people lived: a wonderful history topic.

In Maths, we have been learning all about fractions, mass and capacity. We have had lots of pupils ask us about telling the time. We would love for you to spend some time on this at home before we introduce it to them after the holidays.

In Science, we have been rock, fossil and soil experts. Our pupils have loved learning all about igneous, metamorphic and sedimentary rocks. Our Art lessons have been very popular as we have been using materials to create some 3D art known as weaving. In DT, we made some excellent chocolate themed t-shirts and we have some pupils who now have a new found love of mono printing. I hope they have all made it home safely for you to admire.



Year 4

Year 4 have had another brilliant half term. In writing, we have started reading 'How to Train your Dragon' by Cressida Cowell and the children are really enjoying learning all about dragons, writing their own stories and getting immersed in Viking culture. In history, we have continued to learn about the Ancient Egyptians and had a fantastic time with Professor McGinty. He taught the children all about Ancient Egyptian beliefs, culture and mummies.

We found him hilarious and are really grateful to him for coming in. In Art, we have made scarab beetle prints. In Science, we have been learning all about sound and how it travels. The children have really enjoyed taking part in lots of activities and experiments which have given them a better understanding of how sound and the ear work. In PE, the children have been learning how to play golf and perfecting their

putting skills. They have been really focussed and enjoyed learning a sport they haven't tried before. Next term, we will be focussing on cricket!

Last week, we had a sports inclusion day and some of the children got the opportunity to take part in wheelchair basketball and blind football. As well as this, each class had some children who represented them in a gymnastics competition.

Mr Rose has organised another Y4 interclass football tournament which everyone is very excited about!

Thank you for your continued support at home. It is vital that the children play as much Times Table Rockstars as they can and keep reading every night. It was lovely to speak to so many of you at Parents' evening and we wish you a restful holiday.



Year 5



Year 5 have made a great start to their learning this term and have shown enthusiasm throughout.

In Maths, we have completed a multiplication and division unit in which children learned how to use the written methods more confidently. We have also made a start on multiplying fractions

In English, Year 5 have continued studying Varjak Paw by S.F. Said. They have thoroughly enjoyed reading it and exploring all the characters involved. We have discussed key words in context and how it impacts on the reader. We have also written a letter, a diary and a suspense story.

In Science and IPC, we have been exploring our new unit 'Our Place in Space'. Year 5 have loved learning about the solar system and learning many new facts. To begin with, 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.

Year 5 also loved creating their Science display by designing the planets in the solar system and writing facts to match them. It has been a very successful unit.

