

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. Children have written some amazing setting descriptions, non-chronological guides and narratives, using all the grammatical features learnt this year.

In Maths, children have been applying their skills to answer reasoning and real-life problems. Even though the SATs are over, the children will be fine tuning their skills in calculation, fractions and percentages and linking these to real life problems they may face as they get older. We will also be looking at the early year 7 curriculum to ensure our children transition to secondary school as smoothly as possible.

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. Children are now able to describe the functions of the heart, blood vessels and blood.

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.

In PE, children have developed their skills in tennis. Learning to serve and aim accurately and effectively. Many children have also taken part in competitions in basketball, football and will be taking part in a cricket tournament next half-term.

The teachers in Year 6 wish everyone a happy half-term holiday!

Health & Wellbeing

Congratulations to all the staff, parents and children who have run marathons and shorter distances this term, including the London Marathon and the Sutton Coldfield 10km. It is fantastic to see so many people being active and raising money for Birmingham Children's Hospital.

Don't forget we have two 'mums runs' every week.

Clifton have taken part in football, rounders, basketball, and netball competitions this half term, with over 100 children representing the school. Congratulations to the football team who won their first matches in the Greet League last week!

This week Mrs Wood and Mrs Khatun took Year 5 pupils to a Womens' cricket match at Edgbaston Stadium to watch the Central Sparks against the Northern Diamonds, with children meeting the players!

We are looking forward to our holiday clubs and sports days coming up soon.

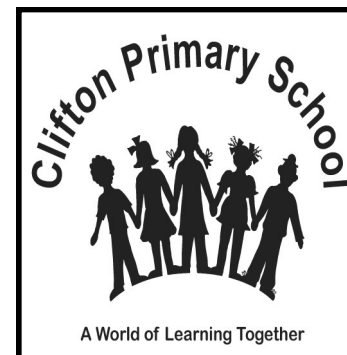


Clifton SGO

We have run two successful Primary sports festivals this term in Rounders and Tag Rugby, with over 150 pupils taking part. Next up is Tennis and Cricket! Our Secondary competitions start in June.

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

Monday 5th June



School Newsletter

Summer Term 3A 26/05/2023

Message from the Headteacher

It has been another great half term for learning at Clifton Primary School!

As you can see from what teachers have said in this newsletter, all our pupils have worked really hard this term on a wide variety of subjects. Staff are very proud of them.

There are one or two special mentions.....

-Well done to Yr6 who did their national KS2 SATs tests a couple of weeks ago. They showed great resilience and a fantastic attitude in the face of some pretty challenging papers.

-Yr2 have also completed their KS1 SATs – well done Yr2!

Our pupils are getting plenty of opportunity to participate in sporting events and competitions outside school. A very special mention to our basketball team who have not lost a game all season!

Well done and thank you to Yr3 for their lovely Shavuot Festival assembly!

Staff and parents have also been getting stuck in to events like the London Marathon, and the Birmingham Running Festival (10k at Sutton Park).

Don't forget that we also have organisations using our school site to run clubs and activities for children on Saturdays and Sundays throughout the year. If you would like more information please contact the main school office.

Finally, thank you to those of you I have seen on the gates wishing me good luck for my retirement! As you know Mrs Hemming and Dr Allen will be taking over as acting co-heads from September. We are obviously working together to make sure this transition goes as smoothly as possible. Any questions please do not hesitate to ask!

School starts again on Monday 5th June for all pupils and staff. Enjoy the half term break!

Mr N. Lambert

Nursery

This half term, we have been learning about how to be healthy and how to make good choices. Our group stories have been about helping others and using good manners. The children have loved listening to 'Please, Mr. Panda' by Steve Antony, 'The Elephant and the Bad Baby' by Elfrida Vipont and 'The Little Red Hen'. The children are now much more confident in saying "please" and "thank you" independently as they play together, and they are becoming more aware of how they can help their teachers and friends.

Our work on healthy food has taught the children which foods are good for our body and how these foods keep us healthy. We have learned that milk is really good for our bones, and now we drink all of our milk at snack time because we want strong skeletons!

This half term began with lots of us celebrating Eid, and we had a lovely party together wearing our best outfits. The children have become more aware of their own customs and celebrations, and they were eager to tell us how they celebrated with their families.

In the week before King Charles' Coronation, the children learned about kings and queens, and we looked at footage from Queen Elizabeth's Coronation. The children were fascinated by the special clothes Queen Elizabeth wore and the Orb and Sceptre that she held when she was crowned. Following this, the children role played their own coronation. They used fabric to make cloaks and used role play resources as crowns.





Reception

The children in Reception have been working so hard in class this half term, and all of the adults are really proud of them. Well done!

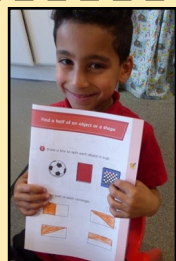
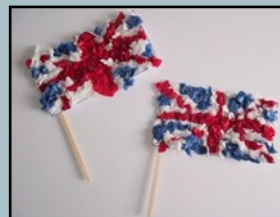
In Phonics, we have continued to embed our sound knowledge by writing words using our 'Fred Fingers' and we have been writing simple dictated sentences. We have also had a big push on reading and writing tricky words, such as 'they' and 'you'. Please continue to practise reading and writing these with your child at home and also encourage your child to read the books set for them on the 'Oxford Owl' website.

This term, we have been looking at books that are set in Africa and talking about the similarities and differences between England and Africa, such as 'Handa's Surprise' and 'Handa's Hen', both written by Eileen Browne. These books stimulated lots of different types of writing. We have written a shopping list for Handa, an animal fact book for Nursery and a lost poster for Mondie the hen, which we put up around the school. After reading 'The Enormous Turnip', we wrote instructions about how to make vegetable soup. We then used these instructions to make our own soup. It was delicious!

In Maths, we have been counting to, comparing, ordering and representing numbers to 20. We have also been adding and subtracting within 20. Please continue to use 'Numbots' at home in the half term holiday.

We enjoyed celebrating the King's Coronation and, in preparation for this, we made crowns and decorated the flag of the United Kingdom. We had a picnic outside with scones and sandwiches. We also loved celebrating Eid and writing Eid cards earlier in the half term. The Reception team hope you all have a well-deserved rest during half term, and we look forward to seeing you after the holiday.

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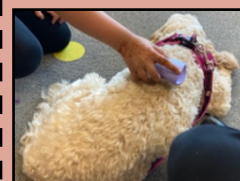
Year 1

Year One have had a fun and exciting half term. In English, the children have been studying 'Jack and the Beanstalk.' They have made beanstalks and used these to retell the story. The children have also got into character to think of questions the characters could ask one another, and they have used interesting adjectives to describe how the characters felt at different points in the story. 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.

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 used cubes and counters to help them to learn about sharing equally. Year One have especially enjoyed learning about fractions. They have enjoyed finding a 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. The children have retold the events from The Great Fire of London and have produced some amazing collages showing the fire. Year One were surprised to learn about all the factors that contributed to the fire spreading so rapidly through London.

Year One have also enjoyed learning about King Charles III and his coronation. They have had a great time taking part in the coronation celebrations in school.



Year 2

What an exciting half term we have had! The children wrote letters to our resident dogs, Bella and Ruby, persuading them to visit them in class. The children were very excited when Bella and Ruby agreed to visit. Mr Dhir and Miss Downer were really impressed with how all the children behaved during the visit. The children were able to groom the dogs and even give them a treat after they showed us a trick! Following Bella and Ruby's visit, the children wrote an information

text about how to look after dogs.

In English, we have been studying 'The Owl Who Was Afraid of the Dark' by Jill Tomlinson. The children have been able to use lots of descriptive vocabulary to write a character description. In class, the children were lucky enough to make and drink hot chocolate and they wrote a fantastic set of instructions afterwards.

In Maths, we have learnt how to use a ruler and measure in centimetres. We have also been learning about fractions and recognising and finding halves, quarters and thirds of shapes and numbers.

In Science, we have been learning all about survival. The children have investigated what plants need to grow and survive and explored simple life cycles for plants, humans and animals. In PSHE, the children have been learning about keeping safe in the home and outside. We hope that they will be able to use this important information to keep themselves safe outside of school!



Year 3

This half term has been another busy one and our Year 3 children have continued to work their hardest. Our top highlight has been performing our Shavuot festival which took place this week. We were really glad that so many adults and families could come along to watch the assemblies. It's been a while since Year 3 have been able to perform to a live audience, so it made it extra special having so many friendly faces in the audience. It is clear that we have a very talented group of children who have lots of singing, acting and dancing abilities.

We also finished our last block of swimming this half term, and all of the teachers in the year group have been totally blown away by the progress that has been made. We would really encourage you to continue taking your child swimming as much as possible as this is a vital lifelong skill and our children have enjoyed it very much.



In English, we have been newspaper reporters and robot designers and all four classes have worked hard on making sure that every pupil has the opportunity to reach their full potential in writing. The same goes for maths as we have focused in depth on making sure our fractions and times tables knowledge is secure, in preparation for Year 4. Our history topic about scavengers and settlers has concluded with an exciting trip to Compton Verney (two classes will be going when we return). This trip is excellent in so many ways because it allows our children to gain a hands-on learning experience in a wonderful forest school setting. Have a great half term break.

Year 4

Year 4 have had another action-packed term, and all of the children have worked incredibly hard.

In writing, the children have finished studying 'How to Train Your Dragon' by Cressida Cowell and ended the half term by writing a suspense story. The children really enjoyed learning about how to make their writing scary for the reader, and the teachers loved reading the finished products!

Music lessons have continued, and the children are getting better and better at their ukulele, tabla and keyboard playing. We are very excited for the concert next term!

In PE, the children have been getting to grips with cricket and some of them have scored some impressive sixes! Don't forget that at the end of a term, PE days can sometimes change, so please make sure your child is in their PE kit on the correct day.

In Computing, we have been getting to grips with coding and made an animation of the water cycle to explain how it works. The children had great fun with this and wrote excellent computer code to make sure it worked.

Year 4 have also been practising their sewing skills. They sewed patterns to put onto an Egyptian collar and worked really hard designing them, making them and evaluating them. It was tricky, but they persevered and we're really proud of them.

Please make sure that your children keep practising their times tables. We have got the Multiplication Tables Check coming up, so even 10 minutes a day will be incredibly helpful to them. Have a lovely holiday!



Year 5

Year 5 have had an eventful start to the summer term, filled with learning and engaging experiences!

We have been busy learning about decimals in Maths; focussing on the addition and subtraction of decimal numbers. In addition to this, we have also been measuring, estimating and calculating angles in shapes.

In Reading, we have started reading a thought-provoking story called 'Oranges in No Man's Land' by Elizabeth Laird. We have been inferring the feelings of various characters in the book and practising answering a range of questions. We have also worked on finding word meanings in

context and using clues in the text to help us understand unfamiliar vocabulary.

As part of our English lessons, we have studied the poet Grace Nichols. We enjoyed re-enacting her famous rap (Lady Winter's Rap) and creating our own rap about summer, including features of poetry such as figurative language and rhyme! At the end of the week, we were able to perform our poems in front of the class, boosting our oracy skills. This term, we have also been learning about debates and practising our debating skills.

In PE we have focussed on striking and fielding, with some classes taking part in the Chance to Shine Cricket programme with Warwickshire County Cricket Club.

During our Science lessons, we have studied changes of state in solids, liquids and gases, including reversible and irreversible changes.

Our new and exciting Geography topic this term focusses on learning about the structure of the Earth, how earthquakes occur and the formation of volcanoes.

As part of our Art lessons, we have been learning about a technique known as Batik. We created our own patterns on fabric cloths using wax and then dyed them to create wonderful Batik styles.

