

Dear Parents

I hope you are all having a relaxing half-term break. We have had an incredibly busy start to the Autumn term and this newsletter will give you a glimpse of some of the activities that have filled the children's days at school. It is hard to believe that upon our return, we will already be heading towards Christmas!

We will also be working towards the completion of the transfer of Clifton Lodge from Cognita to Blenheim Schools. There has been much work going on behind the scenes to ensure the transfer is as seamless as possible and we are all genuinely excited to be a part of this move. When talking to the representatives from Blenheim over the past few weeks, it has been encouraging to hear of their admiration for Clifton Lodge's vision and aims which they identify as very similar to their own. This is a vision that we all worked on as a community a couple of years ago and I thought this would be a good opportunity to remind everyone of what we established.

Our Vision is simple: we nurture each child to be their best. Our size helps us to achieve this. A small, warm and welcoming school where everyone feels a part of the family is key to helping our children to flourish and thrive. All our staff want each child to achieve their own "best" and this is the basis of the School's motto, "Optime" which all pupils wear on their uniforms. Children join our family from a range of backgrounds with diverse strengths, talents and areas to develop and we aim to cater to all of these in an environment which is centred around the child. And at all times, we want children to adopt a growth mindset, where they develop resilience, curiosity and lifelong skills.

We are so very pleased to be bringing this ethos and our wonderful school into the Blenheim group and I will keep you all updated on how this is progressing over the coming weeks and months.

Nursery & Reception

The new children in Early Years have settled so well into school. They are now familiar with their new environment and continue to explore the resources, building friendships by playing and learning together. They are following daily routines, such as lining up, tidying up, class expectations, and joining in group activities. As they grow more confident and comfortable, they are developing a lovely sense of belonging and enjoyment in their school day.

The children have loved using blocks, Lego, and small world figures to build their own imaginative worlds. We also have painting, drawing, cutting, gluing, and playdough.

Outdoors, our children are riding bikes, digging in the sandpit, and throwing and catching using balls.

The home corner with dressing up clothes and puppets has been very popular. It is wonderful to see the children happy and becoming more confident each day in school.





Years 1 & 2 Trip to the London Wetland Centre

On Tuesday 16th September, our Year 1 & 2 classes had a wonderful visit to the London Wetland Centre. The children explored the wetlands, observed nature and participated in fun workshops. Year 1 participated in a Minibeast Safari Workshop, where they explored different habitats, identified the creatures found there and compared their structure and behaviour.

Year 2 took part in a Plant Detective Workshop, where pupils learnt about the different plant parts and what they need to grow strong & healthy. They also learnt the importance of plants on Earth.

Later, the children had time to play in the adventure playground which had a fun zip line! They also loved the rope-bridge, it was very wobbly!

Here are some pupil quotes:

Year 2

- “My favourite bit was seeing the Otters getting fed and seeing the Heron taking their fish.” Bella
- “I liked it when we got to play in the Adventure Playground and go across the wobbly bridge.” Sienna
- “I enjoyed eating my lunch in the observatory and talking about the wildlife.” Elessandra
- “My favourite part was walking across the obstacle course.” Aya
- “I loved the workshop about plants, where we learnt about the different parts of a plant and different types of leaves.” Eve

Year 1

- “I really enjoyed playing in the adventure playground and going through the tunnels. I loved seeing the feeding of the otters too!” Yusuke
- “I learnt a lot during the Minibeast safari - it was so cool to see so many bugs.” Shona
- “We saw loads of big birds and ducks!” Gabin





A.I.M Higher Workshop

A big thank you to North Ealing Primary School for hosting another A.I.M higher writing day on Monday 22nd September.

Clifton Lodge pupils were full of excitement during the workshop delivered by the author Margaret Bateson-Hill. She brought stories to life while showing the children how to craft exciting plots and create characters that truly leap off the page. The pupils loved discovering her writing secrets and couldn't wait to ask their own questions. Inspired and full of ideas, they left the workshop ready to add even more creativity and sparkle to their own stories.



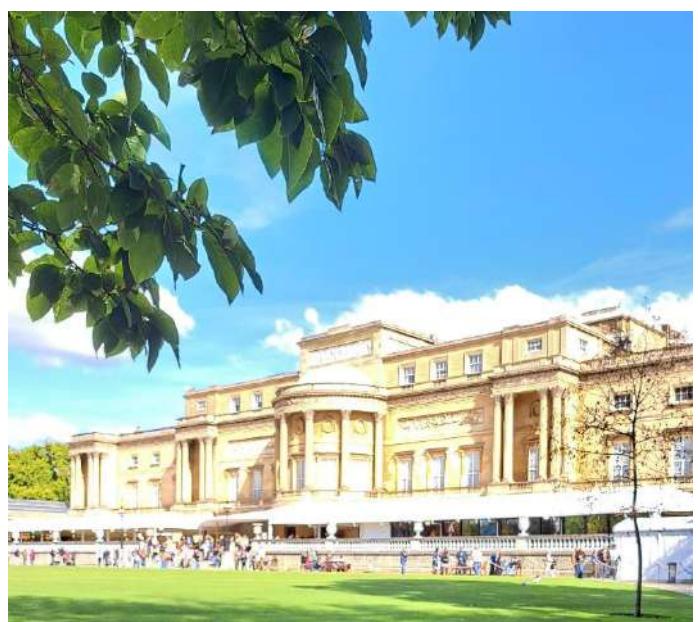
Year 4 Trip to Buckingham Palace

Year 4 had a fantastic day out at Buckingham Palace where they took part in the Behind the Throne workshop. After their classroom session, Year 4 explored the magnificent State Rooms and discovered fascinating facts about the monarchy. One of the highlights was relaxing on the luxurious sofas in the ballroom, just as generations of monarchs once did!

Rexley – “I learnt that one of the King's jobs is to invite people to the palace to give them medals.”

Ruby – “I really enjoyed the trip. I learnt a lot of new fun facts! ”

Rohan – “My favourite part of the trip was getting to go behind the barrier and sit right next to King Charles' throne!”



Gian – “I really enjoyed learning how to fold the royal napkin ready for state banquets!”

Koen – “I didn't know that the King wasn't as powerful as I had thought.”

Shreya – “I really enjoyed the ballroom because I learnt that Queen Victoria had special celebrations in that room.”



Global Be Well Day

This year, Cognita's GBWD theme was 'connecting', which links perfectly with our School Virtue of 'Love' which is our theme at Clifton Lodge this half-term. The pupils throughout the school did a range of activities including focusing on building relationships and working together. Year 1 and 2 prepared interview questions for Gerry, our school caretaker and Sadiq, our IT technician, they then took part in a Q&A session with the children.



All the Prep children (from Years 3 -6) walked across to Walpole Park to connect with each other.

They all had a sheet of questions that they needed to get answers for, each class was only allowed to ask children that were not in their class, allowing them to connect with each other! All the pupils had a great time. Later, the classes coloured in and decorated a quarter of a circle, they connected them altogether to make a display in the Prep corridor!

Quotes From Year 6:

Class quote: "It was fun to connect with the other classes and not just your friends, and it was great to be outside in the park."



Mohammad – "It was exciting."

Riko – "Joyful."

Shiori – "I enjoyed asking the questions and connecting with the other children."

Taiwo – "I like being connected."

Hinata – "I found it fun."

Shuma – "It was entertaining to find out what the other children can do."

Prep teachers – "It was fantastic to see all 4 classes connecting and communicating with each other in a kind and caring way."

Quotes from Year 5:

Aila: "Today has been great day

because it was such a fun experience going to park and learning about the other children."

Taozi: "It was really nice because going to the park was fun. It was great learning the favourite things of the other children. I feel like it helped me get to know my classmates better."

Ayman: "I have enjoyed today very much. I liked how I got to connect with the other children, and it has been a really good experience."

Year 3 had a great Global Be Well Day. In the morning, the class played some wellbeing games on their recently acquired 1-2-1 devices. The children are progressing with learning how to use them really well. 😊 Afterwards Year 3 joined the other Prep classes in Walpole Park to play a game of 'Find Someone Who'.

Quotes from Year 3:

Kloe – “I liked answering the questions about wellbeing.”

Dominic – “The connecting games on the computer were fun and I was happy that I came first in one of them.”

Caspian – “The Blooket health game was good because we got rewarded with gold in the game.”

Walpole Park – ‘Find Someone Who’:

Parisa – “I enjoyed asking the other year groups about themselves.”

Maria – “I found out that lots of my friends also like maths.”

Kento – “I like science and so do my friends in other year groups.”

Dominic – “I didn’t realise that so many people can swim really well!”

Sosuke – “Some of the Year 6s are really good at reading books.”



Harvest Festival

A big thank you to all the parents who joined us at the Church of Christ the Saviour to celebrate our Harvest Festival. We are also so grateful for the generous food donations which went to the Ealing Foodbank to help those less fortunate than ourselves. Well done to all the children performing at the service, it was a very joyful event.





Years 5 & 6 Trip to Greenwich

On 9th October, our Year 5 and 6 pupils stepped aboard history with an unforgettable visit to the Royal Museums Greenwich including the Cutty Sark and the National Maritime Museum. From climbing the decks of the world's last surviving tea clipper to exploring what life was like for sailors on the high seas, the children were captivated at every turn. Interactive activities and hands-on exhibits brought their learning about exploration and trade to life. It was a day filled with curiosity, teamwork, and plenty of awe as pupils imagined the adventures of this legendary ship's voyages around the world. Year 6 were also able to stand on the Greenwich Mean Time - Prime Meridian Line, having one foot in both the Eastern and Western Hemispheres. Very Cool!

Aleksandra - "I loved looking around the Cutty Sark, where I found out that the sailors had to eat 'Hard Tac' which were biscuits made from just water, salt and flour so they would last."

Blake - "It was a thrilling day out and my favourite part was being on the deck of the Cutty Sark, where I felt like a pirate."

Mohammad - "I love that we were able to stand over the Prime Meridian Line and have one foot in the Eastern and one foot in the western hemisphere."

Shiori - "It was a fun day and I loved learning all the interesting facts about the Cutty Sark, especially that it was one responsible for bringing tea to England."

Riko - "I enjoyed wearing a replica of the rain hat a sailor would wear on the Cutty Sark."

Ayman: "When I walked into the maritime museum it felt like stepping into a giant, old treasure chest. I saw different stuff like sailor outfits, playing cards and even a real anchor. I really felt like a real explorer."

Haru: "I really enjoyed both museums and I learned interesting facts about the ship (Cutty Sark)."

Taozi: "I loved the Cutty Sark because we got to see what travelling the world took back in olden days. The Maritime Museum was so nice as well, and we learned where some people were from."





Languages & Cultures Week

Leading up to half term, we held our annual Languages & Cultures Week, with children and staff coming into school on the Thursday wearing traditional dress. At Clifton Lodge we are so fortunate to have a wonderful community of different cultures from around the world and it is always exciting for the pupils and staff to share their traditions and costumes with the whole school.

Activities through the week included a passport to Europe in which each class chose to host a different country. The pupils went class to class, receiving a 'stamp' from each country. In the Prep classes, we had Italy, Spain, France and Greece. The classes included food from each country for the pupils to sample and individual teachers celebrated their cultures by sharing song, dance and traditions with the pupils.

Year 2 learnt a short song in Polish about a happy green cucumber. It is called 'Zielony ogórek'. They practised a few times and then performed the song together! In Year 1, Keima's dad came in to talk about Germany. He prepared a very interesting presentation and taught some German words to the children. They also learnt some interesting facts about Hamburg and Munich where his family is from and even had a go at guessing the meaning of some compound words.

Here are some of the pupil quotes:

Dominic – "It was cool to find out about Spain's traditional sport of bull fighting."

Sosuke – "Painting beautiful tulips from The Netherlands was my favourite activity."

Kloe – "I loved learning a Bulgarian dance in my music lesson this week."

Maria – "The Can Can dance was so much fun when we travelled to France."

Kento – "The Italian food was so delicious, especially the salami."

Caspian – "In Greece, we ate some olives. It was only my second time eating them."

Parisa – "We got Poseidon's blessing in Greece and drank a touch of salty water. It was crazy!"

Bria – "I loved trying all the different food."

Sienna – "My favourite food was the focaccia bread from Italy."

Esma – "I liked learning about different countries in Europe."

Ella – "I liked learning Bulgarian and Armenian dancing."

Bella – "I learnt that Paella is from Valencia where Ms Martinez comes from."





Mr Trieu

A huge thank you to Timothy's father, Martin Trieu, who completed the Ealing Half Marathon and raised an impressive £360 for the Friends of Clifton Lodge. We are so grateful for the wonderful offer to raise funds for our children and equally impressed by his time of 1:45 - who knows, there may be scope for a Team Clifton Lodge for next year's event!

FOCL

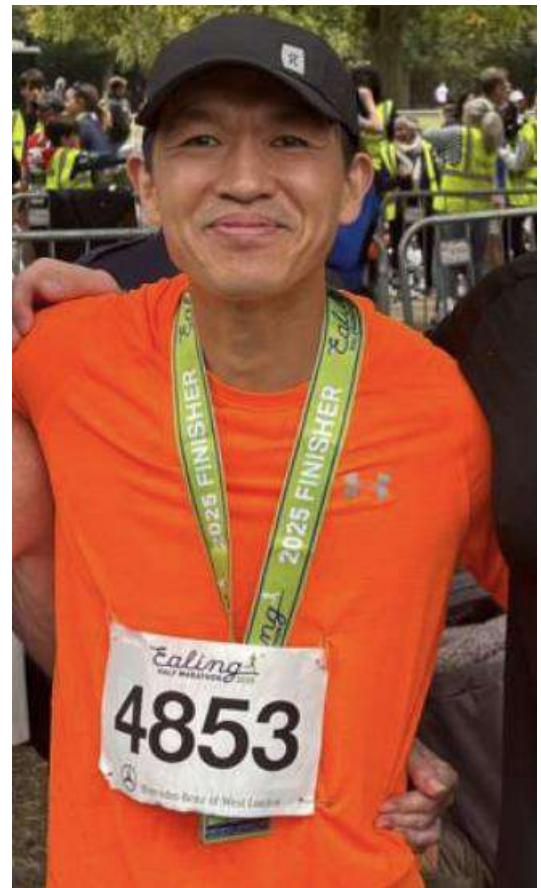
As ever, many thanks to the Friends of Clifton Lodge for their time this term. The uniform sales are a regular event now and so very useful; please remember to make contact during the term if you would like to enquire about any items you may need. Thanks to those parents who were able to make it to the AGM last month. I know there are many events lined up, particularly as we head towards Christmas, where any help would be much appreciated. Please do let us know if you would like to support.

Sienna

We are so proud of Sienna who has raised £885 for The Little Princess Trust

The charity relies solely on the generosity of its wonderful supporters to help them give Hair and Hope to so many children and young people with cancer each year. The Little Princess Trust provides real hair wigs, free of charge, to children and young people who have lost their own hair through cancer treatment or to other conditions such as Alopecia. The charity is also one of the largest funders of childhood cancer research in the UK.

Sienna, who is 6 years old, had been growing her hair for over 2 years. She was inspired by a friend who donated her hair to The Little Princess Trust and thought that rather than having it cut every so often, that she could do some good and help such a wonderful cause. In July, she had her hair cut so it could be donated. Well done Sienna from all at Clifton Lodge School.



Year 6

We wish all of our Year 6 children the best of luck as they embark on their season of assessments for senior schools. We are proud of every one of them and we thank their teachers Mrs Trivedi and Mr Beetar for their work in preparing them for the challenges of the tests and assessment activities.

Wishing you all a relaxing half-term break.

Kind regards



Michael Belsito
Head