Clifton Lodge

Head's Newsletter

Spring Term 2026 – Jan-Feb

Dear Parents

The first half of this term has simply flown by and I hope you enjoy looking through some of the activities the children have enjoyed over the past few weeks. It is always wonderful seeing how much learning they manage to do in such a short space of time.

Year 6 Results

We must start off with huge congratulations to our Year 6 pupils. The term started with a flurry of interviews and assessments for a wide range of senior schools. The children put a lot of work into preparing, even coming into school during their Christmas holidays to refine their interview technique. All the efforts paid off as we found out just before the half term break. The children received a host of offers from a variety of prestigious senior schools including St Paul's, Hampton, Wetherby Pembridge, John Lyon, St. Benedict's, St. Augustine's Priory, Notting Hill and Ealing, Kew, Queens Gate, St Marylebone and Francis Holland. Four scholarships have been offered so far for academics, sport and music. This is a wonderful batch of results yet again and our thanks go to the team of teachers, particularly Mrs Trivedi and Mr Beetar, who encouraged our children to strive to achieve their best – Optime!

Blenheim Schools

Clifton Lodge School Embarks on an Exciting New Chapter with Blenheim Schools

Over the Christmas holidays, several staff were hard at work making final preparations for our historic move from Cognita to Blenheim Schools. A huge thank you to those who worked so tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure as smooth a handover as possible.

We are delighted that our school has joined Blenheim Schools. This partnership is built on a foundation of shared values: a dedication to academic excellence, compassionate pastoral care, and the belief that every child deserves the environment they need to flourish. As a member of Blenheim Schools — a network celebrated for its innovation and commitment to student wellbeing — we look forward to an even brighter future for our pupils.

One of the things that most pleased me about the move to Blenheim was the synergy between our aims and ethos. At Clifton Lodge, our vision is to nurture our children to achieve their best – whatever that might be. We want to provide a warm, safe environment, cater to the individual learning needs of our children no matter their starting points, and encourage a growth mindset so that each child achieves their own personal best. This aligns very closely with Blenheim's vision and we look forward to working with them to offer a unique education to our children.

As part of this plan, a number of important investments will be made in the school over the coming months. These improvements to our facilities are not only cosmetic (even though that is much needed!). In our next academic year our children are going to be able to avail themselves of some truly unique opportunities such as an interactive "immersion" room, STEM lab, refurbished specialist rooms and inclusion hub. We will be looking at the outdoors for our learning with investment being made into our playground and plans to expand our forest school offering. More details on the full programme of works to follow, but the direction is truly exciting and our children will be the beneficiaries. An inspirational new chapter is beginning at Clifton Lodge - watch this space!

A.I.M Higher Day

A big thank you to North Ealing School for hosting another A.I.M. Higher day with author Karl Nova who has an award-winning book called ‘Rhythm and Poetry’.

Karl spoke about how poetry can be found in everyday experiences and it is all about being aware of your surroundings and emotions.

The first exercise was to describe something without using the word with the other children guessing what the object was. A brilliant example was ‘what is white and round and served at a table with no seats’ the answer was ‘a ping pong ball’!

The focus then went on to personification and the children were asked to write poems using human characteristics to describe objects such as ‘the floorboards moaned beneath his feet’.

It was such an engaging, fun and interactive session. Our pupils absolutely loved it.

Kota: "We did personification poems and some riddles, it was great fun. We learned that Rap stands for 'Rhythm & Poetry'. We were also taught some new literary devices to use in our creative writing."

Victor: "I really enjoyed doing personification".

Shreya: "I really liked it when the author told us his childhood story and it was very funny!"

Sport – Hockey

Since the start of term, pupils in Years 3 to 6 have been developing their hockey skills in both PE and Games lessons.

Our pupils have worked hard to improve core skills such as ball control, passing and dribbling, while also being introduced to new techniques.

Lessons have focused on using athletic movement and stick control in game-like scenarios, encouraging creativity and decision-making.

The children have built on their understanding of space on the pitch, applying learning from football in the Autumn term by keeping their heads up and passing effectively into space.

A key area of development has been confidence, particularly for those new to hockey, with pupils now playing more positively, embracing challenges and learning from mistakes.

Billy: "I have really enjoyed playing Hockey this term and love going to Trailfinders".

Miles: "The coaches are great at Trailfinders, I am enjoying learning new skills in Hockey".

Nursery & Reception Music Lessons

Our children in Early Years have weekly Music lessons with our wonderful specialist teacher. This term, they are learning about Pitch: high, low and middle sounds. On the chime bars they are learning to use both hands and alternate between left and right. Also, playing notes that move in steps from low to high or high to low. The children have learned a song about a friendly Zebra, Zappy who is climbing up and down his ladder to mend the roof (he often has to climb down because Zappy is quite forgetful and forgets his hammer, then his saw etc!).

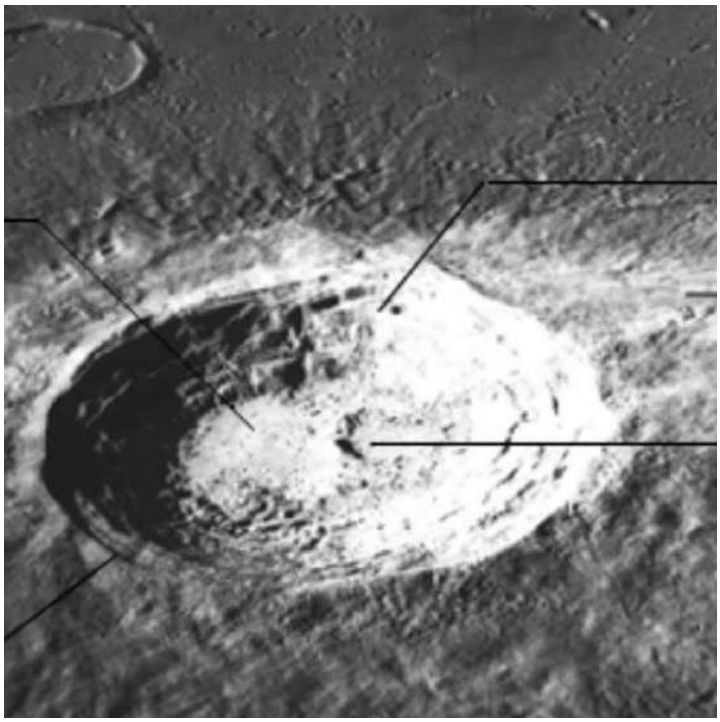
The children had lots of fun and learnt to play descending and ascending melodies on the chime bars in time with the piano, using both hands. Well done Early Years!

Science Club

One of our most popular clubs, the children love experimenting and learning more about Science after school. This term, the club has been looking forward to the Artemis missions to the moon and have been discussing the lunar surface.

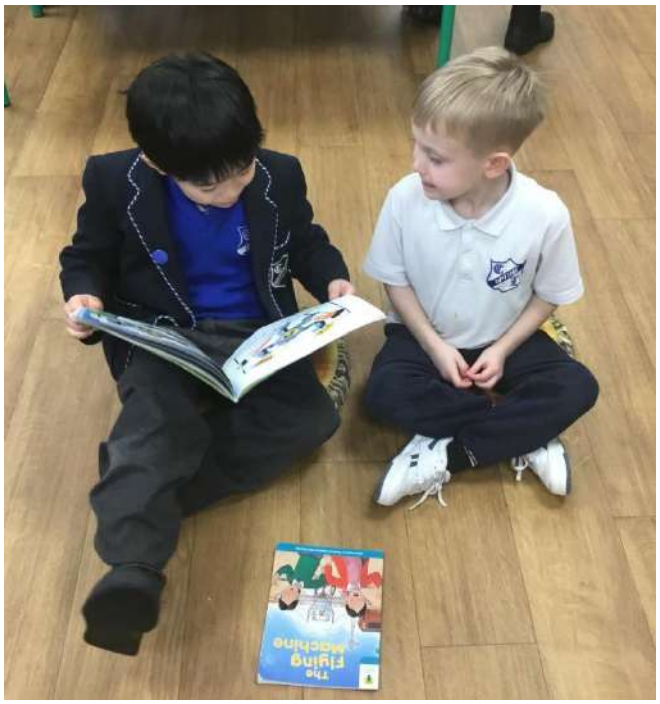
Before half term, the pupils reconstructed how meteorites would have made craters on the moon with the help of the NASA Artemis website.

The children filled roasting trays with a mixture of ingredients including flour, sand, and coffee powder. Then, using a range of objects of different sizes, they dropped them from a height to observe the impact and compared their craters to the real ones on the moon. There was great excitement in the Science Lab!



Buddies

Building confidence, friendships, and a love of reading 📚 our Reception and Year 2 reading buddies launched before half term.



Crazy Hair Day

A big thank you to our Friends of Clifton Lodge who organised a fun 'Crazy Hair' day for the children. Some of the designs were incredible and so creative. The pupils were so excited coming into school to show their friends.

Year 4 Trip to the London Transport Museum

Year 4 had an amazing time on their trip to the London Transport Museum for the 'Time Travellers' workshop on Wednesday 11th February. The children journeyed through over 200 years of transport history in London, learning how people once travelled by boat across the River Thames and discovering the creation of the very first bus. Using their critical thinking and curiosity, the children explored how transport has evolved and debated which modes of travel work best in our ever-growing city.

Lily: “I liked learning about the old transport. I learnt that the original bus was called the omnibus”.

Timothy: “I enjoyed learning about how the transport system in London has been developed over the last 200 years. For example, South Kensington has an open-aired platform on the circle line because it was the original platform used for the Metropolitan steam train route”.

Kota: “I liked the stamp trail that we had to do around the museum. Also, on the original omnibus, mothers used to hide their babies under the seat so that they didn't have to pay. I managed to fit and hide perfectly!”

Ema: “In the past, people used to use boats to get to work across the River Thames. This wasn't very practical as people used to drop their belongings in the river when it was very rough”.

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Chinese New Year

Just before the half term break, Clifton Lodge celebrated Chinese New Year with a special themed lunch. 2026 is the Year of the Horse, beginning on February 17th 2026, and symbolising vitality, freedom, and adventurous energy. People born in this year are believed to share traits like passion, hard work, independence, and dynamism.

Early Years Dance Classes

Anna Davydova, our specialist Dance & Ballet teacher comes into school once a week when the children are not attending Forest School. They absolutely love the lessons, learning through movement, music and dance. Here is the class in action just before half term.

Early Years Family Time

Last Friday we welcomed our parents with children in Nursery & Reception into the classrooms for some activity time with their children. The pupils get so excited when their families are coming into school, it was a lovely end to a busy half term.

Friends of Clifton Lodge

Thank you to the Friends of Clifton Lodge for braving the weather to serve hot chocolate and doughnuts for parents and children as they left for the half term break – it was a wonderful way to start the holiday.

Sienna – Street Dance Success
Just before Christmas Sienna in Year 2 competed in a Street dance examination for her Saturday dance club Ealing Street Dance Academy.
She did very well and achieved 86% resulting in her receiving a certificate as well as her first trophy! Sienna was very excited and pleased as she had been practising very hard for it. Well done, Sienna, we are so proud of you at Clifton Lodge School.

I look forward to seeing you all again next week.

Kind regards

Michael Belsito
Head