



Dear Parents

It has been such a busy and packed three months that it is hard to believe that we are now entering the final term of the school year. From the historic change of ownership to the Blenheim Schools Group, to our ISI inspection, the arrival of our wonderful Year 6 results and the beginning of an exciting stage of school facilities development, we have hardly had time to draw breath. We hope you enjoy looking through some of the activities the children took part in over the weeks and look forward to the Summer Term and its exciting end of year events including Sports Day and Speech Day.

Year 6 update

Since our last newsletter, we had a flurry of further results. Fresh offers came in, expanding the range of schools interested in recruiting our children and the tally of scholarships rose to seven. Another wonderfully successful year for the senior cohort of our school and a testament to all the hard work and effort they put in. Optime!

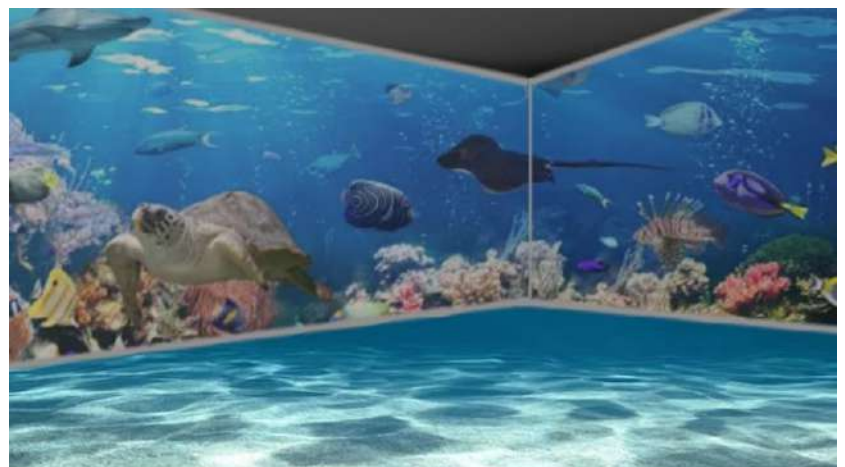
Building Works update

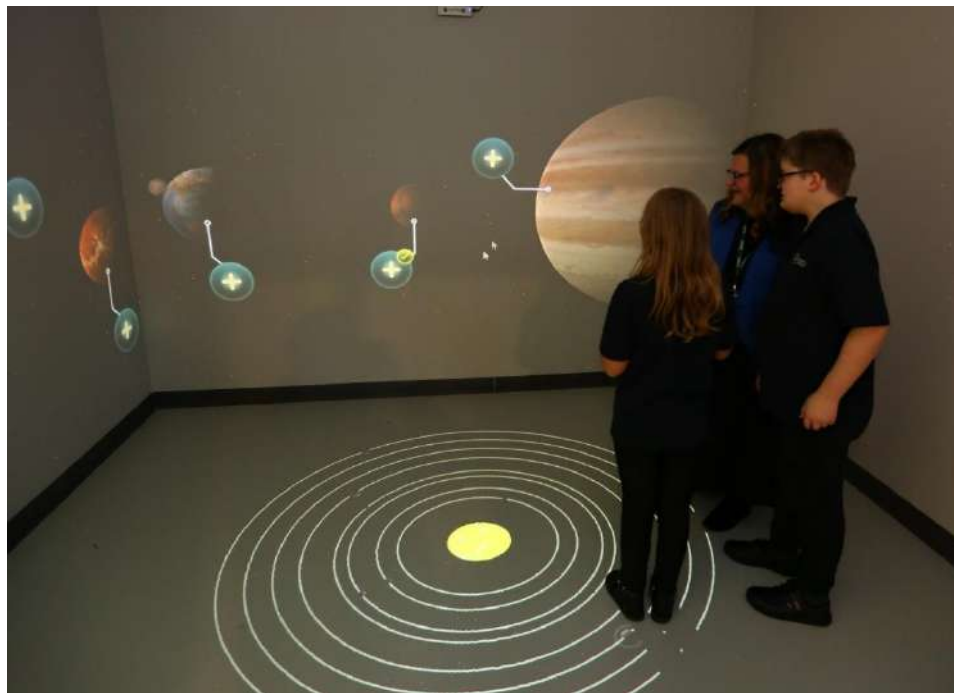
This Easter holiday we embark on an ambitious programme of developments to the school facilities. Over the next three weeks, the front façade of the school will be given a makeover, including the installation of a new bike rack and wooden storage units which will serve as a drop off point for children returning from forest school and outdoor learning in the park. The top floor of the building will also undergo significant works with the Science lab, Art studio and Music room getting complete overhauls and upgrades and the fitting of an Inclusion Room which will allow for group work to boost and stretch all our children as well as a soft space for thinking time.

In the Summer holiday, we will move on to Phase 2 of the works. This will include the creation of a new School Hall which will not only house the serving of lunches but will also provide much needed space for a host of new events – whole school assemblies, class assemblies for parents, social events and lots more. Truly exciting. We will also be constructing a brand new, futuristic Immersive Room – a place where children will walk in and be “immersed” in an environment projected onto all walls – whether that be a journey through the stars in their study of Space, a walk alongside dinosaurs or ancient Egyptians, or an exploration of the oceans to enhance their learning in class. We will also be installing a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths) lab where children will extend their learning, using a selection of new resources to add to the discovery and exploration they will be making across their subjects. We will be enhancing our offering of outdoor learning with a new Forest School in our own playground as well as a decorative lift to the rest of the space. There will also be area changes to bring the School Office closer to the entrance to facilitate more convenient access for parents and visitors to office staff.

I am sure you will be as excited as we are by all of these investments which really put what Clifton Lodge will offer your children on a completely different level in relation to many other schools. Below you will see some examples of these facilities which have been installed in other OFG schools and which will be similar to what we will have when the works are completed.

[Immersive Room \(examples from OFG schools\)](#)





STEM Lab (examples from OFG schools)





New Playground and Forest School (examples from OFG schools)



Y4 Mindfulness

In Mindfulness Club one week, the group slowed down by making paper lotus crafts. Pupils enjoyed cutting and folding the paper strips carefully and adding their own decorations. It was a calm space to reset, talk quietly and simply enjoy doing something as a group.



Year 2

Our pupils have really enjoyed visiting the school library this year and choosing books. In addition, they had great fun constructing a wonderful house in the playground one break time!



Book Week / Science Week Launch

We kicked off a combined fortnight for Book and Science Weeks with a launch in the playground during a special assembly on Friday 27th February. Our Science and English Teachers introduced the activities that would be taking place over the next 2 weeks and Mr Bush demonstrated a rocket launch!



Reception Class - Biscuit Baking!

The children are learning about the Solar System and wanted to bake star biscuits to take with them on their journey into Space. They wrote a shopping list for the ingredients and then helped measure, mix, roll, cut and finally bake the biscuits. The children loved it!



Y1 & 2 Trip to The Royal Mews at Buckingham Palace

On Monday 9th March, Years 1 and 2 had a fabulous day visiting Buckingham Palace Royal Mews! It was a fun-filled experience where pupils toured the historic coaches and stables, discovering the magnificent carriages used in the Coronation procession. They had the opportunity to handle special objects and explore fascinating archival materials, learning about the many people, heads of state, and royalty from across the world involved in this incredible event.

The highlight of the day was bringing a coronation ceremony to life, with two lucky pupils chosen to role play and dress up as a king and queen—what a memorable moment!

Year 2 Quotes:

“My favourite part of the trip was seeing the horses called Maple and Holyrood. They were aged 7 and 8.” (Bella)

“I liked seeing the golden carriage that was used for the Coronation.” (Ade and Sienna)

“I learnt that each king and queen made a decision what to change or do for their coronation.” (Bria)

“I learnt that they still use carriages today from the olden days.” (Eless)

“I was to be a king and have my own coronation.” (Shoma)

“I learnt that one of the kings stole the Stone of Scone from Scotland and put it under the coronation chair.” (Aya)

Year 1 Quotes:

“I liked learning about how the kings get their crowns. I enjoyed being crowned Queen Ella. I didn't know that crowns were so heavy!” (Ella)

“I liked being able to go on one carriage! It was so cool.” (Shona)

“The golden carriage was so beautiful. I thought it was made with gold but it's actually wood!” (Gabin)

“I liked seeing the horses eat their lunch.” (Leo)

“I liked the Diamond carriage which had a camera on top and even heating and electric windows!” (Yusuke)





Year 5 Trip to the Globe Theatre

Our Year 5 class, who have recently begun studying *Romeo and Juliet*, had an unforgettable trip to Shakespeare's Globe in London. During the visit, the children explored both the outside and inside of the historic theatre, learning about when it was built (and rebuilt), the materials used to construct it, and why it was designed in such a unique way.

The highlight of the day was an exciting action workshop based on the prologue of the play. Pupils took part in a range of engaging activities, including performing a dramatic slow-motion fight between the Capulets and Montagues!

The children were fantastic representatives of our school and their families. They showed enthusiasm, curiosity, and a real commitment to our school value *Optime* – giving their very best. We are incredibly proud of them!

What the children said:

Aryan: "It was so fun and amazing, especially the slow-motion fight between the Capulets and Montagues!"

Aila: "I really liked the trip because I have always wanted to visit the Globe Theatre and I got to experience being in the stands."

Taozi: "I would love to do it again – it was so much fun!"

Finley: "It was amazing at the Globe Theatre, with old-style seats and standing area."



World Book Day

We stepped into a world of imagination for Book Day! Our Pupils dazzled us with their incredible costumes, showcasing creativity and effort that made choosing winners a real challenge. From Superhero teachers to 'The Tiger Who Came to Tea', our morning assembly was an unforgettable celebration of our School Virtues and the joy of reading. The children absolutely loved it!



Year 6 Buddy Activities with Early Years

Science Week has been full of curiosity and collaboration at Clifton Lodge! 🧪🌟

Our Year 6 pupils teamed up with the children in Early Years for a hands-on Science Week activity, exploring, experimenting and discovering together. The younger children loved learning alongside their older buddies, while Year 6 enjoyed sharing their knowledge and encouraging lots of great questions.

Now that their 11+ exams are finished, our Year 6 pupils visit Early Years twice a week to support with reading and classroom activities. It's a wonderful opportunity for them to develop leadership and mentoring skills, while building special connections with our youngest learners.

Well done to everyone involved for making science so fun and inspiring! 🌱📚

Early Years buddy reflections from Year 6:

Mrs Trivedi - "Year 6 have been helping out in Early Years since the beginning of the Spring Term. We help on Monday morning with their learning activities and then again we read to them on Thursday afternoon."

Keito "First my buddy was not listening to me at all, but now that he is used to seeing me regularly he listens well and I am really enjoying the time I spend with him."

Riko "I like going to nursery and look forward to the sessions, my buddy is a good listener and we have a lot of fun together."

Asher "It's really fun to connect with my buddy, even though his first language is different to mine. Reading with him is my favourite thing and I always try to use expression and animation to keep him engaged and involved."

Shiori "I really like playing with my buddy and seeing that she is happy to see me too is great. I like helping her with the activities on Monday. This experience has helped build my patience."

Hinata "I love playing with my buddy and making this friendship, and I wish we could be downstairs all the time."

Shuma "Even though I have a very energetic buddy, I am enjoying the time down there and the connection I have made with him. At the start it was hard and felt like being in the bottom of the learning pit but now I am at the top, helping him."

Megumi "Firstly, my buddy wasn't talking with me, but now we have become quite good friends."

Billy "At first it was a challenge to get my buddy to listen to me and concentrate on the activities we had to do but now I am happy he is my buddy and enjoy the time down there."

Taiwo "Having a buddy has been very challenging but rewarding, this is because I have learnt to accept that he may not always listen to me and I have learnt that sometimes I must be firm in a kind way. I am loving this experience very much."

Blake "I have enjoyed having a buddy, that listens well. At first I was a little impatient but I have learnt to be more understanding. My favourite part is the learning activities on Monday because I get to teach him new things and miss maths!"

Mrs Otero (Teacher) "I have been super impressed with Miles and the way that he consistently interacts with his buddy, always in a kind and caring manner and demonstrating modelling how to complete activities, this was particularly evident in the rocket making activity."



Science Week

Science Week at Clifton Lodge School reached an exciting finale as pupils gathered for our Rocket Launch Assembly. Each class proudly presented their rockets, which were judged against a series of criteria including design, creativity, and performance.

The highlight of the assembly came when the rockets were launched, soaring high up into the sky to the delight of all the children and staff! 🚀

Highest Rocket: Year 2
Straightest Flight: Year 1
Best Engineering Design:
Nursery
Best Artistic Design:
Reception
Best Rocket Name: Year 3
(Super Blaster)
Best Scientific Explanation:
Year 4
Best Teamwork: Year 6
Best Audience: Year 5

Throughout the week, all our pupils worked on their own individual Science projects exploring the fascinating theme of Space. From planets and stars to rockets and galaxies, the children produced some truly creative and impressive work.

On Friday 13th March, we were delighted to welcome families into school to view the projects and celebrate the children's achievements. It was wonderful to see the pupils proudly sharing their learning and enthusiasm for science.

A huge well done to all our young scientists for their curiosity, creativity and hard work! 🌍🚀

Year 3 Trip to the Tower of London

Year 3 had an unforgettable trip to the Tower of London!

During our visit, we were guided around the tower by a 'prisoner' named Lady Catherine Grey, who brought history to life with fascinating stories about the tower and the people who once lived there.

The children impressed us with their enthusiasm and knowledge, especially when discussing events like the Princes in the Tower and Richard III—topics they've been exploring in school.

Here's what some of them had to say:

- ✦ Kloe – "Seeing the Crown Jewels was spectacular!"
- ✦ Maria – "I liked the White Tower in the middle because it had lots of winding steps."
- ✦ Caspian – "Lady Catherine Grey told us so much about the Tower of London! It was cool seeing more modern, taller buildings around the city too."
- ✦ Parisa – "There was a game where you had to choose a material and test how good it was for building."
- ✦ Andri – "I enjoyed all of it, especially learning about former criminals."
- ✦ Kento – "Some of the history videos were very interesting... and a bit scary!"
- ✦ Sosuke – "I loved seeing all the soldiers around the tower!"
- ✦ Dominic – "The Crown Jewels looked so shiny and expensive!"

A fantastic day full of learning, curiosity and excitement – well done Year 3!





Year 6 Trips to Churchill's War Rooms & Westminster Abbey

On the 2nd and 18th of March, our Year 6 pupils had the fantastic opportunity to visit the Churchill War Rooms and Westminster Abbey as part of their World War II history topic.

Both trips were truly excellent, giving the children a chance to deepen their understanding of key events, people and experiences from WWII while bringing their learning to life beyond the classroom.

Here's what some of our pupils had to say:

- ✦ **Shiori** – “I really enjoyed both trips, especially the Churchill War Rooms because of the interactive activities. I also loved exploring Westminster Abbey and going into places others weren't allowed!”
- ✦ **Billy** – “Without exaggerating, it was the BEST DAY OF MY LIFE! I learnt so much that I've even convinced my parents to take me back!”
- ✦ **Taiwo** – “I preferred the Churchill War Rooms because it felt like I was in WWII. Westminster Abbey was interesting too, and the park afterwards was perfect in the sunny weather.”
- ✦ **Ayla** – “I enjoyed answering questions and learning new facts from our funny tour guide. Seeing real artefacts was amazing!”
- ✦ **Grace** – “The Churchill Room about Winston Churchill was my favourite—so interactive and engaging!”

✦ **Ileksandra** – “I learnt so many new things! Did you know artefacts at Westminster Abbey were protected during the war? Richard II’s tomb was covered with 60,000 sandbags!”

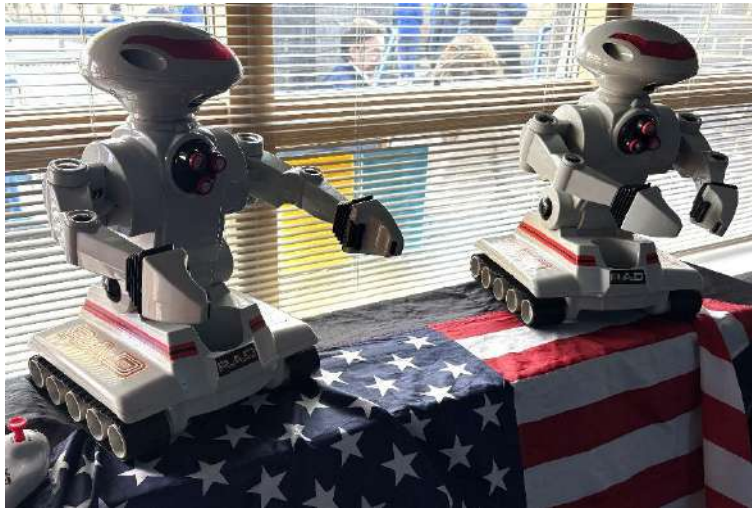
A memorable and inspiring experience for all—well done, Year 6!



A.I.M High

The children at Clifton Lodge had a great time attending the A.I.M. Science Day workshop delivered by Russell Bark, who has a passion for science and space exploration. The children explored themes such as planet rotation, tilt, day and night and seasons in using interaction as well as exploring how gravitational forces work and shape planets, suns and moons. They also had a great time forming an interactive model to explore planets of the solar system and specific features of each planet.

This was a great space learning experience!



Nursery & Reception Trip to Bekonscot

Our Early Years children had a truly magical day on their trip to Bekonscot Model Village!

From exploring the beautifully detailed miniature world to spotting tiny trains, buildings, and people, the children were full of excitement and curiosity at every turn. A real highlight of the day was taking part in the workshop, where the children got hands-on, dressing up and let their creativity shine.

Here's what some of the children had to say about their day:

Reception

Aria – “I liked the workshop when the children were dressing up as characters from the story.”

Cecily – “I liked the little houses. I thought the circus model was great.”

Artie – “I love trains, so I liked seeing the model trains travelling around the village. I liked the blue one best.”

Nursery

Louis – “I liked the trains.”

Alice – “I liked taking my packed lunch to the model village.”

Rinka – “I liked dressing up (for the workshop).”

It was wonderful to see so much enthusiasm, teamwork, and imagination throughout the day. We are so proud of how well the children represented our school!

Thank you to all the staff and parent helpers who made this memorable experience possible.





Whole School Spring Concert

On Wednesday we held our annual Spring Concert. We were treated to wonderful singing from both choirs and individual year groups. Our Early Years pupils delighted everyone with their performance of "I'm a Little Chick", bringing smiles all around.

The concert also showcased talented piano and guitar soloists, along with the school band, who accompanied many of the songs beautifully. We ended on a high note with a lively medley of ABBA songs from the Prep Choir.

A huge thank you to all our pupils and staff (especially Mrs Velkova) for their hard work, and to the parents who came along to support. It was a truly wonderful celebration of music and talent.





Friends of Clifton Lodge

Thank you to the Friends of Clifton Lodge for organising the Easter Bonnet Competition together with Mrs Trivedi and for the Easter Egg Hunt in the afternoon. The children had such a wonderful time.



And finally, we said goodbye to Mrs Keating & Mrs Ward who have both worked at the school for 17 years! On Thursday the children did their own farewell to them with poems and songs in the playground, together with lovely cards from each class. As a community, we owe them a massive thank you for all that they have given to the school and for all the care they have shown to us over these past 17 years. We will miss them!



I look forward to seeing you all again on Monday 20th April for the start of the summer term.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Belsito'.

Michael Belsito
Head