

Dear Parents

I would like to extend my thanks to all our pupils, parents and staff for welcoming me so warmly to Clifton Lodge. It has been nearly fifteen years since I was last here, but the school has retained it's friendly, family ethos and I already feel a part of this wonderful school community again.

What a busy half term it has been. I wanted to give you something of a flavour of what has been going on with a summary of the trips, school events and activities that have been keeping us all busy since September. We are immensely proud of all our pupils and their achievements and are keen to celebrate all their successes in and out of school.

First Week Back

The first few days at school, especially for our youngest pupils and their parents in Early Years, can always seem so daunting; all of our children, however, settled in very quickly and are thoroughly enjoying school life. Here are a few images from their first week at school:



Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

We were deeply saddened in the first week of term by the news that our much-loved Queen had passed away. We held a special assembly the day after the announcement to celebrate her life and give our pupils the opportunity to share their thoughts. During the following week, activities around The Queen's life and how to deal with death and grief were incorporated into many of the classes. It was a very moving experience sharing this historic week with the children.



Year 3 Pupils - 1-2-1 Devices

Our Year 3 pupils recently received their personal 1-2-1 devices for use at school and home to support their learning. There was great excitement in the classroom when they were handed out!



Nursery & Reception at Forest School

Our school virtues include 'Fortitude' and we start this focus early in our Nursery and Reception through Forest School in Lammas Park. This outdoor learning experience gives the children the opportunity to enjoy nature whilst doing simple tasks as a team. During the first session of this academic year, the children had a gentle introduction to the Forest School space. They loved having fun on the ropes, climbing up to the treetops, swinging in the hammock and exploring the great outdoors with their new friends.



Year 3 RS

Year 3 children started their RS unit on Christianity by looking at the wonderful creations around them and appreciating all the non-material aspects of life. They collected a variety of twigs, leaves, berries, conkers and acorns from Walpole Park and were asked to create a collage of one of God's beautiful creations. They made some beautiful images, perhaps you can work out which animals and scenes they have portrayed?



Year 6 Trip to Kew Gardens

Our Year 6 class visited Kew Gardens and took part in a workshop: Maths in the Great Outdoors. Pupils used the spectacular and stimulating grounds of Kew to solve mathematical problems, designing and carrying out experiments using estimation, measuring and geometry. This enabled our Year 6 pupils to develop their skills and use their mathematical knowledge by working together to solve problems and achieve common goals.



Global Be Well Day

This is an annual event for all Cognita schools where we join over 65,000 young people around the world to draw attention to the vital role of wellbeing in education. The theme this year was sustainability, with a special focus on nutrition and food. We started the day with music as the children came into school (and some impressive dancing from the pupils and staff!), an assembly on wellbeing and workshops with Smart Raspberry, who gave cookery demonstrations to Nursery and Reception classes. All the year groups enjoyed activities around the theme of nutrition including linking up with a Cognita School in Murcia, Spain where the children were able to ask each other questions about school life, hobbies and lunches in the different countries! Debates were held on nutrition and activities including wordsearch, colouring and crosswords together with creating their own 'fruit cards' based on nutritional values to play Top Trumps and Snap.

It was a wonderful, happy day celebrating wellbeing and learning about the importance of sustainability.



Harvest Festival Assembly

We were so proud of all our pupils who took part in our Harvest Festival Assembly at The Church of Christ the Saviour and grateful to the parents who were able to join us. I reminded our pupils to be thankful for all we have and to think of others who are less fortunate. At school this half-term we have been focussing on our School Virtue 'Love' which is so relevant to the Harvest Festival message. It is so important that our children recognise the value and importance of contributing positively to the lives of others not just in school, but in the wider community. Thank you to all the pupils and parents who brought donations into school for the Ealing Food bank.



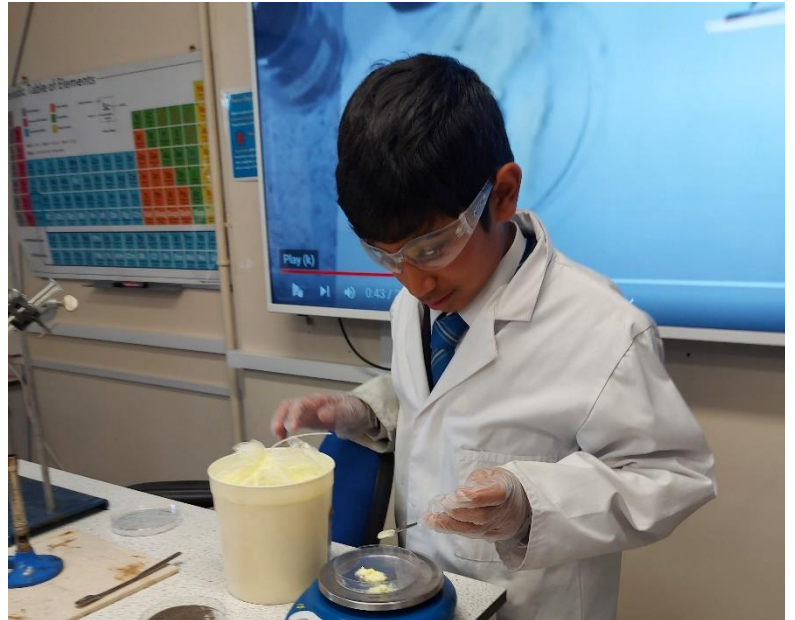
Japanese Club

In Japanese Club the pupils learned to make origami Cranes. They enjoyed learning about another culture and asked lots of thoughtful questions. They learnt that in Japanese folklore, it is believed that folding 1,000 origami Cranes grants you good fortune in the form of a wish from the Gods, eternal luck or happiness, or lifelong health. They were quite tricky to make but they looked beautiful.



Year 6 Science

Our pupils in Year 6 really enjoy their Science lessons, especially when experiments are involved! One week they conducted an experiment where they chemically bonded iron and sulphur to create Iron Sulphide. The experiment demonstrated the difference between a mixture and a compound. It is great to see the children putting their learning into practice.



Ealing Schools XC Cross-Country Competition

Some of our pupils took part in the first fixture in Barclay Fields alongside many other schools. A big well done to all those who took part and represented Clifton Lodge so well. Noah in Year 5 came fifth in his race and was called up to represent Team Ealing in an upcoming youth competition – we are so proud!



Individual Pupil Successes

We love to celebrate our pupils achievements inside and outside of school. Noah in Year 5 won the 9 year old race in the Ealing Mini Mile on Saturday 24th September, with a new personal best of 6.02 min. Congratulations Noah, what a great achievement.



Congratulations to Freya in Year 1 who achieved a distinction in her Grade 1 Piano examination. Freya is the daughter of our Piano Teacher, Harry Nowakowski-Fox so the musical talent certainly seems to run in the family!

Years 3 & 4 Trip to Kew Gardens

Our Year 3 & 4 pupils visited Kew Gardens. The children had a fabulous day, exploring the wonderful gardens. They climbed the Treetop Walkway, had lots of fun in the Children's Garden and learnt how to become Plant Hunters in their afternoon led session.



Reception Maths

In Maths, our Reception Class children have been learning about making patterns, comparing amounts (more or less), heights (taller or shorter), lengths (longer and shorter) and sizes (bigger or smaller). The children really enjoyed the activities, as you can see from the pictures:



Languages & Cultures Week

The week before half-term we celebrated the wonderful diversity of languages and cultures at our school. Our children focussed on respecting and appreciating their own and others' cultures. Lessons were based on the amazing variety of languages and cultures around the Oceania continent. In addition, on the Wednesday, pupils and staff dressed in cultural outfits, learning about Black History, supported by African Drumming and a Caribbean inspired lunch. It was so heart-warming to see children celebrating the rich diversity of cultures in our school with a sense of respect and family.





And finally, huge congratulations to our Year 2 Teacher, Ms Jess Carlon and her husband Luca. Their baby son, Matteo Carlo was born on 30th September.



We hope you have enjoyed this brief insight into school life and wish all our families a relaxing half-term break.

I look forward to seeing you all back at school on Monday 7th November.

Kind regards

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

Michael Belsito

Head