



Dear Parents

I can hardly believe that we have already finished the first term of this academic year. It has been so wonderful to be back in the Clifton Lodge family and I am already looking forward to the new year and all the excitement and opportunities it will bring for us all.

What an incredibly eventful term this has been with trips, special themed weeks and events happening virtually every week. For those of you who do not follow our Facebook or Instagram pages, I wanted to give you an insight into school life and events during November and December. If your child has any achievements outside school that you would be happy to share on our social media, please do not hesitate to let us know - we love to celebrate all our pupils' talents and interests.

Year 5 Trip to the Musical Museum

On Monday 7th November Year 5 visited the Musical Museum in Brentford for a fantastic experience. They learnt about various types of older musical instruments such as gramophones, theremins, and player pianos (pianola). A highlight for the class was the opportunity to use several of these different instruments. Here is some feedback from the children:

Itsuki: "In the Musical Museum, there were lots of interesting instruments like musical boxes, gramophones, pianos playing by themselves and a lot more!! I learnt awesome new facts about the history of music and more...I had loads of fun there, I could have asked more questions to find out more about musical instruments and extend my knowledge about music."

Anish: "I enjoyed seeing so many kinds of old instruments. Also, it really fascinated me to see the inside of those instruments. They were so complex! I learnt that even back then, things could be so advanced! I learnt that some instruments could be made up of not just bits and bobs but other instruments as well! Next time I will try to use the hand-sensing machine, the theremin."

Sam: "I really liked going to the music museum because I learned how a music box was made. It has a cylinder with spikes on it and the spikes rotated and hit teeth; that is how the music box makes a sound. If the spikes were long, they make a low-pitched noise and if the spikes were short, they made a high-pitched noise. I really liked playing "The Entertainer" on an 1800s piano! Overall I really liked the trip to the Music Museum."



Remembrance

In November, Clifton Lodge remembered those who have suffered or given their lives in war. Our pupils learnt about the significance of wearing a poppy and the importance of never forgetting all those who fought for our country. Together with our parents we held a special assembly at Christ the Saviour Church on Wednesday 9th November. This Remembrance Assembly included performances from our choir and Pre-Prep choir, whole school singing and a group recital of the poem 'Lest We Forget'. Our Head Boy & Girl also did a Remembrance reading to help us all reflect on the importance of this day. Thanks to everyone who took part and to our parents who joined us.



Year 4 Science in Walpole Park

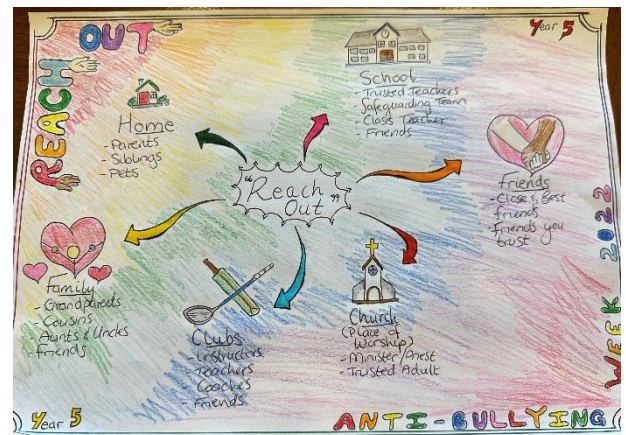
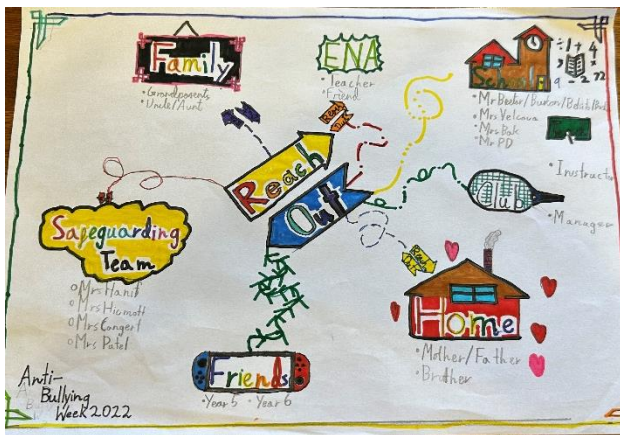
We are fortunate to have Walpole Park across the road from our school and on Friday 11th November, Year 4 moved their Science lesson from our Science lab to the park to enjoy some outdoor learning. The children had been learning about classifying animals and were there to search for invertebrates.

They found lots of minibeasts, including examples of annelids, molluscs, insects, and arachnids. Their findings were recorded whilst remaining respectful of the habitats of the creatures.



Anti-Bullying Week

Anti-Bullying Week ran from Monday 14th to Friday 18th November with activities every day in school. On the Monday, pupils in Years 1 to 6 received wristbands and our younger children had stickers with the nationwide 'Anti-Bullying Week' slogan of 'Reach Out'. We always encourage our pupils to identify and speak out if they should encounter any unkindness or bullying. In class pupils watched an introductory video and completed activities on the subject of bullying. On the Wednesday we had 'Odd Socks Day' when children came in wearing non-matching socks to celebrate our diversity and understanding of others. On the last day of our Anti-Bullying Week, the children came into school wearing yellow with a donation to Children in Need. Mrs Hanif held an assembly to share and celebrate the children's work done during the week. We were so impressed by the maturity of our children at Clifton Lodge and the thoughtfulness and creativity they applied to the work they produced. Our Chef, Rohan made a special 'cake for kindness' for the children at lunchtime on the Friday. Our focus on kindness continues throughout the school year with character points and our School Virtues which include 'Love,' 'Justice' and 'Self-Control'.



Y2 Ancient Egyptian Workshop

On Monday 14th November we welcomed Portals To The Past into Year 2 for an Ancient Egyptian Day. The children immersed themselves into the lives of Ancient Egyptians which started with studying a map and talking about the weather and culture in Egypt at that time. The class then took part in 3 workshops: measuring with royal cubit rulers, information hunting and looking at artefacts.

In the afternoon, the pupils learnt about mummification and acted out a little play with the children taking on the roles of slave, pharaoh, queen, food tester, priests etc.

The children had a wonderful day; here is some of their feedback:

- “I really liked the dance because we did actions.”
- “I really liked play acting the queen.”
- “I enjoyed measuring other people with an ancient Egyptian ruler called a Royal Cubit.”
- “I enjoyed the information hunt because we learnt all about ancient Egypt.”
- “Today was fantastic because it was so fun and we could dance.”



Year 1 – ZooLab Workshop

On Wednesday 16th November, Year 1 had a very exciting visit from ZooLab. This really brought their Science Topic to life as the pupils learnt about classifying animals and how some animals are predators and some are prey. They even learnt about camouflage. It was wonderful for the children to see and touch some of the animals. The class had to be very gentle and quiet so that the animals did not think they were predators and frighten them.

Here is some feedback from the children:

"We saw how the frog that was on the side of the tank had very sticky feet so he could climb trees".

"We were so excited to hold or touch the huge African snail".

"We even got to touch a cockroach".

"We were amazed at how many feet the millipede had!"

"The most exciting thing was holding and stroking a snake!"



Bigfoot Arts Education Workshop

Following on from our Anti-Bullying Week, Bigfoot Arts Education came into school on Tuesday 22nd November to give interactive anti-bullying workshops to Year 1 to Year 6 pupils. The aim is to encourage children to respect themselves and each other at school, in their homes, in the community, and online.



Pre-Prep Choir visit Threen House Nursing Home

To contribute to our local community, our Pre-Prep Choir visited Threen House Nursing Home on 30th November to sing to the residents and staff. In addition, there were piano soloists to entertain everyone and provide some festive cheer. The residents were so touched, they asked for the children to come back and sing again! It is such an important experience for the children to feel they are giving back to the community and brightening up someone's day.



Early Years Nativity

On Monday, 5th December, our youngest pupils performed a wonderful Nativity play in front of their parents at St John's Church. The Nursery & Reception children did so well, learning all the songs and actions; it was such a festive treat for everyone. Thank you to India and Tofunmi, our Head Girl & Head Boy who narrated the play. A big well done to our Early Years staff and Mrs Velkova, our Music Teacher for practising with the children. We hope all our parents enjoyed the Nativity, one of our favourite events of the school year.



Japanese Club

To consolidate the pupils learning about Japan, Japanese club walked to Wasabi and bought lots of snacks including sushi, onigiri and dorayaki pancakes. Before eating the food, the club showed gratitude by saying "itadakimasu." The children have had so much fun learning about Japanese culture.



School Choir – Singing in Ealing Broadway

On Wednesday 7th December, Clifton Lodge School Choir entertained our local community in Ealing Broadway shopping Centre. They sang a range of Christmas songs and carols and attracted quite a crowd. We were delighted to bring some festive cheer to Ealing Broadway and thank our parents who came along to support us.



Last Week of Term

We have had a very busy final week of term with a visit for our younger children from Father Christmas, a delicious Christmas lunch, Christmas jumper day and class parties. To get into the festive spirit we even managed to provide some snow! The term culminated with a wonderful Christmas Carol Service at Christ the Saviour Church with beautiful singing and traditional readings. It was a lovely opportunity for our Clifton Lodge family to celebrate Christmas together.



House Points / Character Points / Choir Certificates / Fencing Certificates
Congratulations to all the pupils who received certificates in the final assembly of the year.





Charity Fundraising – January-December 2022

We teach our pupils the importance of giving to others who are less fortunate than us, as part of our School Virtues and are delighted to confirm that we have raised over £4,000 since January 2022. Thank you so much to all our families who have supported the good causes this year.

On a final note, a big well done to all the Year 6's for their hard work in preparing for their 11+ exams and interviews, there are still a few more to go but nearly there!

We hope you have enjoyed this brief insight into school life and wish all our families a relaxing and joyful Christmas.

I look forward to seeing you all back at school on Thursday 5th January 2023.

Kind regards

Michael Belsito
Head