



Dear Parents

Welcome to another academic year at Clifton Lodge. It seems that the first half term has flown by so quickly and I hope that this newsletter will give you a glimpse of how busy the school has been in the first few weeks of the schools year. Having settled back into the school, I can now take stock of what a wonderful place this is to be and how much more we can achieve. I feel very fortunate to have the pleasure of leading this school and coming from a large junior school, I appreciate the advantages of such a small, friendly school with class sizes that enable us to really know and support all our pupils individually. I know, from my experience, this is not easy in the state sector where class sizes of 30+ are the norm, or indeed in some of the larger local independent schools. We really appreciate the nurturing environment we provide here at Clifton Lodge.

Over the course of the year, we will be looking carefully at what exactly makes the school tick, what we would like to achieve as a community and how we can be proud of our collective vision. In the next few weeks, I will be asking members of the Clifton Lodge family, the staff, the children and the parents for their input into our aims and vision for the school. It is so important that we all work together to ensure that we are the best possible prep school for our pupils, parents and staff.

Thank you for supporting our events in September and October, it is so enjoyable for the children to see their parents attend our celebrations and really brings together our 'Clifton Lodge Family' when we gather on these occasions. I look forward to seeing many of you at our events leading up to Christmas.

#### **Parent & Staff Social Evening**

Thank you to everyone who joined us for our wine & canape evening on Friday 8th September. It was wonderful to catch up with so many of our parents and get to know some of the new faces whose children have just started at Clifton Lodge this term. We hope you all enjoyed the evening.





## Perform Drama Workshops

Early in September, our Reception, Year 1 & Year 2 children enjoyed wonderful drama workshops from Perform.

The children went on an adventure around the globe through movement, singing and dancing. They learned how to say hello in different languages, finishing off with a stop 'Down Under' in Australia.

Everyone had so much fun; a big thank you to Olga for making the sessions so enjoyable for the children.

“My favourite part was flying to Australia and exploring the sites.” (Haruya Y2)

“I liked trying to find the missing boomerang and learning how to say hello in Māori.” (William Y2)

“My favourite part was when Bruce the crocodile saw us standing still like trees, when he was asleep, we were trying to find the boomerang, but every time he woke up we were still like trees.” (Alaiya and Freya Y2)



## 1-2-1 Devices for Year 3

Our Year 3 class has had a great start to the term. The pupils were so excited to receive their personal 1-2-1 devices which they will use at school and at home. They have already managed to access Teams and learned how to open, save and close word documents.

In Maths during the first week of term, the children were using concrete manipulatives to explore the place value of different 3-digit numbers. A good start to their mathematical learning in Year 3.





## Science Club

At the start of term in Science Club, the pupils explored the properties of Oobleck or to give it its proper term, Non-Newtonian Fluid. A Non-Newtonian fluid is a fluid that does not follow Newton's law of viscosity. In Non-Newtonian fluids, viscosity can change when under force to either more liquid or more solid. While experimenting with Oobleck students identified that normally solids have a definite shape whereas a fluid can change shapes because it flows. They really enjoyed the experience.



## Forest School – Nursery & Reception

Our Nursery & Reception children have been having a wonderful time at Forest School on Friday afternoons. Everyone has enjoyed the sessions and luckily the sun has shone for us most days. The children have climbed trees, swung in the hammocks and gone bug hunting. They have also had fun playing in the mud kitchen and making fun creatures out of clay, twigs and leaves. Forest School is so much fun! 😊🌳





## Year 6 Trip to Kew Gardens

On Monday, 25<sup>th</sup> September, Year 6 visited Kew Gardens for their Maths in the Outdoors workshop. The children had a wonderful day and the learning was fun. They mapped their way around Kew using directions, the children measured how far they travelled using a scale, estimating and measuring the girth and height of different trees and thinking how a right-angle triangle can help. They used a clinometer and measuring tape and also sampled the percentages of the different types of grass that can be found using a quadrant.

It was a very enjoyable day, blessed with sunshine, which ended with a play in the children's garden, a treetop walk, a visit to the hive and a walk through the Palm House.

Udham - I liked the hive and seeing all the different types of grass.

Zachary and Dylan - it was great to learn how to measure the height of trees.

Enara - Maths in the outdoors - best day ever!!





### **Eco-Schools Green Flag with Distinction Award**

Huge Congratulations to the Clifton Lodge Eco-Committee, on achieving an Eco-Schools Green Flag with Distinction. Achieving the accreditation demonstrates the school has gone above and beyond to improve our local community and protect our planet. The Eco-Committee has worked hard to find new ways to help our environment and educate our Clifton Lodge family on the importance of the climate crisis, they will continue to use their voice in school to support Eco initiatives and reduce the risk to our planet.





## Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September – Cognita Global Be Well Day 😊

One of our favourite days of the year at Clifton Lodge School! We started the morning with warm up exercises and a quick dance routine in the playground. The children then joined an assembly which was followed by activities in the classrooms. Year 2 focussed on healthy diets and had a wonderful array of fruit and vegetables on the tables for the children to create their own healthy kebabs, the Reception children made fruit smoothies. Our older years linked with another Cognita school in Spain to enable pupils to talk to fellow students about their experiences of school life. Pupils also learned and created around this year's topic of 'Digital Wellbeing' including staying safe online. Our Chef, Rohan made a super healthy lunch for the children, this was followed by an afternoon of sports, swimming or forest school. We hope all our pupils had a wonderful day.



## Year 6 – Positions of Responsibility

On Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September, in assembly, the Year 6 positions of responsibility were announced and badges handed out to pupils. We had already chosen the Head Boy, Head Girl and Deputies at the end of the summer term, now was the time for the other roles. These included House Captains, ICT Lead, Librarians & Sports Captains. Good luck to you all in your important new roles and thank you for supporting the school with these responsibilities.





## Harvest Festival

On Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> October, our Reception to Year 6 pupils joined together at Christ the Saviour Church in Ealing Broadway to celebrate the Harvest Festival, giving thanks for all we have and thinking about those less fortunate than ourselves. Thank you to the parents who came along and to the families who contributed to our Harvest donations which have been given to the Ealing Foodbank.

We enjoyed singing from the Prep and Pre-Prep Choirs & from Years 3&4 and 5&6. We had group poetry readings and some wonderful piano playing as well as our first cello performance. Well done to all the pupils who took part and to our Reception children who behaved beautifully throughout the event.

Finally a special mention for Mrs Velkova, our Music Teacher, who worked so hard with the children to ensure they gave wonderful performances and thank you to Father Richard who was able to join us at the end to give a blessing.





## Cross Country Run

On Thursday 5th October Pupils from Years 5 & 6 attended the Cross Country trials at Berkeley Fields. All our children made a great effort, and parents got involved in warmups and race preparations. There were runners in the Yr5 boys', Yr6 girls' and Yr6 boys' races. Every runner put in a tremendous effort and represented Clifton Lodge well. Congratulations to Noah, who managed to place 7th in the highly competitive Yr6 boys' race; on the basis of this result, Noah has qualified for the London Youth Games and will be representing Team Ealing. All smiles on the journey back.





### **Maths at Merchant Taylors' School**

Some of our Year 6 pupils had the opportunity to visit Merchant Taylors' School on Friday 6th October for an afternoon of Maths.

The session started with a Maths trail, the children thoroughly enjoyed walking around the grounds and answering all the questions. This was followed by a Maths quiz, in their dining hall. 10 schools took part and we were delighted that Clifton Lodge came 4th overall. Well done Year 6!



### **Early Years Autumn Walk**

On Monday 9th October, our Nursery & Reception children walked to Walpole Park to enjoy the autumn scenery. The classes looked for signs of autumn and searched for acorns, conkers and different coloured leaves. They also learned how the leaves change colour at this time of year. It was a fun activity for all the children and we were lucky to enjoy lovely sunny weather.





## Year 2 Art

Year 2 have been learning about 'colour' in art and have explored 'colour mixing' with paint. They enjoyed mixing their own unique colours to create a 'colour field,' inspired by the artist, Mark Rothko. Merrie created an amazing 'gold' colour, which everyone liked very much. We are so fortunate to have a dedicated Art studio so that the children can experiment and develop with their Art work.





## Unicorn Theatre Trip – Year 5

On Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> October, Year 5 went to the Unicorn Theatre to watch a performance of William Shakespeare's "The Tempest". They had front row seats for the engaging and entertaining show. The audience participated enthusiastically, singing, dancing, and cheering on the actors as they performed. The class learned valuable dramatic techniques as well as interesting information about Shakespeare's work.

Afterwards the pupils went to Potter's Field Park where they discussed the characters and the performance. They used their senses to describe what they could see, hear, and smell, and imagined how characters from their class novel (Rudyard Kipling's "The Jungle Book") would react if they were shipwrecked and landed in London (in reverse of how Prospero and Miranda landed on a wild island).

The children also had a lucky viewing of Tower Bridge opening for a large ship to pass through. Most of the class had never seen this before and were very excited.

Here are some of the class comments:

Eleeza – "I would definitely recommend the play to everybody! I'm also very glad that I read the book ("The Tempest") – it is very descriptive and has lots of twists."

Taiyo – "I really liked this trip. I was impressed with their acting skills."

Arisa – "I enjoyed the trip very much. My favourite part was the 'CALIBAN' song."





## Languages & Cultures Week

Every year we celebrate all the wonderful languages and cultures represented in our school. This year our whole school week and lessons have focused on the amazing variety of languages and cultures around the continent of South America. We had a Salsa dance workshop as well as some special guest speakers from Latin America to talk about their country and culture. In addition, our Year 2 children learned a singing game from Guyana about the Essequibo River. On Thursday, everyone dressed up in their national / cultural costumes – thank you so much to our parents for supporting us. It was a fitting way to round up the first half term of the year which focusses on Love as our School Virtue – what better way to show the care and respect our children all have for each other and what better example for the world to follow.







### **Friends of Clifton Lodge**

Following the success of our first event in the summer, the Friends of Clifton Lodge held a preliminary meeting to discuss the development of the group. We have called the first AGM to be held on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> November at 7pm in the Brent Valley Golf Club. All parents are welcome to attend as we look to elect key roles and discuss ways in which the group can fulfil its aims of both fundraising for the children and fostering a sense of community among all families. We look forward to seeing you there!

### **Year 6**

A big “Good Luck” to our children in Year 6 as they embark on a busy half term of tests and interviews for their senior schools next year. You have all been studying so hard and we are very proud of you. Thank you to Mrs Trivedi and Mr Beetar who have been working with the children this term to prepare them as well as possible for the tests and managing any anxieties. One final push!



Finally, just before half-term, I was delighted to welcome Mr Joe Smith, Headmaster of St Benedict's School to visit Clifton Lodge. We will continue the strong relationship between our two schools and I look forward to working with him to secure the best outcomes for our Year 6 pupils each year.

Wishing you all an enjoyable half-term break.

Kind regards



Michael Belsito

Head

