



Dear Parents

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

Year 6 11+ success – 7 Academic Scholarships!

I am so pleased to make a special mention of congratulations to the Year 6 pupils. The term started with many away to interviews and assessments at a wide range of senior schools near and far. Just before half term, the results started to roll in – and what a fantastic crop of results have been achieved this year! The children have received offers from a number of highly prestigious schools, including Latymer Upper, City of London, Godolphin and Latymer, Hampton and Merchant Taylors' to name just a few. I am particularly proud to report that this year's cohort have also broken the record in terms of scholarships – no fewer than **seven** academic scholarships were offered to Clifton Lodge children with words of praise for all applicants on how they performed and how they held themselves at interview. A wonderful achievement! Many thanks go to the Year 6 Class teacher, Mrs Trivedi as well as Mr Beetar, for their hard work and dedication – none of this happens without careful planning, preparation and a relentless drive to encourage the children to achieve their own personal best. As our own school motto puts it: Optime!

Nursery Topic

At the opposite end of the school, our Nursery children started the term with a topic on winter, they thoroughly enjoyed the winter activities and learning about 2D shapes. They made snowmen with various shapes, using fine motor skills.



Rugby Success!

On Friday 26th January our Prep children participated in tag rugby matches against Ashton House School. Upon our arrival, the children warmed up and excitedly prepared for what would turn out to be riveting matches.

The Year 3s & 4s showcased their boundless energy and contagious enthusiasm during an exciting match. The game ended in an exhilarating draw, with both teams scoring an impressive 6 points each. It was a great display of teamwork and skill from both sides.

Aila (Year 3): “The whole experience was so much fun because we played against a different school.”

Miles (Year 4): “I loved every part of the game.”

The Year 5s & 6s demonstrated their excellent tag rugby skills during an exhilarating match. With fantastic teamwork and determination, they triumphed with a well-deserved victory, winning 6-3. The joyous expressions on their faces after the final whistle reflected their immense pride and satisfaction.

Sami (Year 5): “I felt confident, and it was such fun!”

Dylan (Year 6): “It was a great experience, and the opposition were friendly.”

Noah (Year 6): “Everyone played exceptionally well. The opposition had a talented squad, and both teams showed a lot of sportsmanship.”

It was a memorable experience for all: an afternoon filled with laughter, competitive spirits, and wonderful sportsmanship. Well done to all the Clifton Lodge pupils.

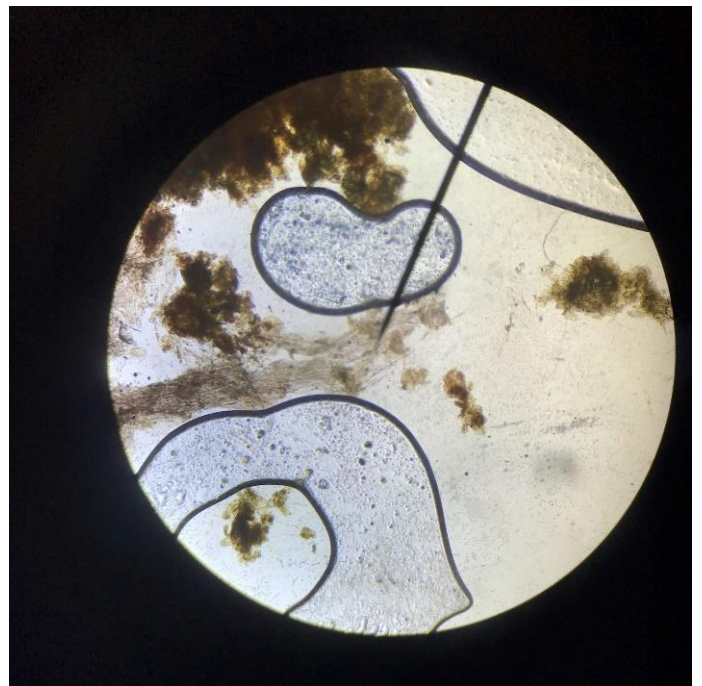
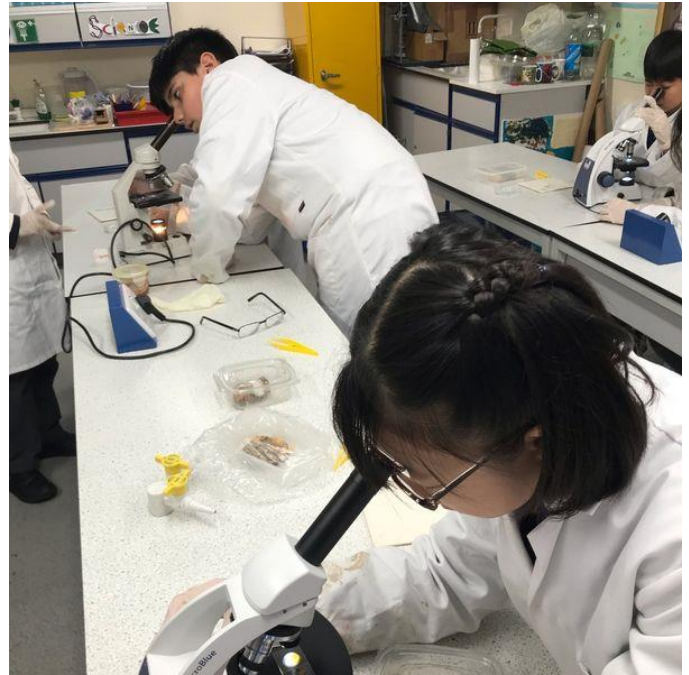


Year 6 Science - Using microscopes to observe plant cells, animal cells and micro-organisms

This term, Year 6 are learning about 'Classifying Living Things' and over the past few weeks, they have been learning about the structure of plant cells, animal cells and micro-organisms.

Firstly, the pupils were tasked with growing some mould on various foods over about a week. Next, they observed a plant cell (onion), animal cell (inside of their cheek) and fungus (mould) under a light microscope.

The class learned how to use the microscopes correctly, such as starting out with the lowest magnification to improve the field of view. They observed the structure of the cells (cell walls, cell membranes, cytoplasm and nucleus for example). Furthermore, in terms of classification, they noted that mould is classified as a eukaryote, meaning its cells contains a nucleus and other membrane-bound organelles.



Nursery visit to Ealing Fire Station

We are so grateful to Ealing Fire Station for welcoming our Nursery class on the afternoon of Wednesday, 31st January. The children absolutely loved the experience of seeing the fire engines up close, trying out the equipment (especially the water hoses!) and meeting the real fire fighters.

Charlie – “I used the fire extinguisher to put the fake fire out.”

Ella – “I used the water hose, it was very fast.”

Eloise – “I enjoyed using the water hose and driving the fire truck. The fire truck was very big and loud.”

Alfie – “I went into the fire truck and put the helmet on.”



Reception Trip & Topic - The Solar System

The Reception class has been learning about the exciting topic of Space. The children explored all about gravity, the planets, stars, orbits and everything related to the Solar System. They also learned about life on the International Space Station which they found fascinating. To explore more about this topic, the class visited the Science Museum on Wednesday 7th February to see the Space Gallery and take part in a workshop. It was a wonderful day out and we are very grateful to the parents who came along to help.

Kosuke said: "I know how to get clean water on the International Space Station."

Shoma said: "I know about the Solar System."

Borna said: "I saw the big rocket."

Poppy said: "I know the names of the planets."



Safer Internet Day!

This year for Safer Internet Day the theme was 'Inspiring change, making a difference, managing influence and navigating change online'. The children had great fun exploring how they can make a difference to the online world and managing their digital footprint. They completed activities and even took part in a live lesson delivered by CBBC. This week we also celebrated 'Mental Health week', and the theme 'My Voice Matters' is about empowering children and young people by providing them with the tools they need to express themselves. The children took part in activities that made them feel empowered, which in turn has a positive impact on our wellbeing. Children who feel that their voices are heard and can make a difference have a greater sense of community and self-esteem.

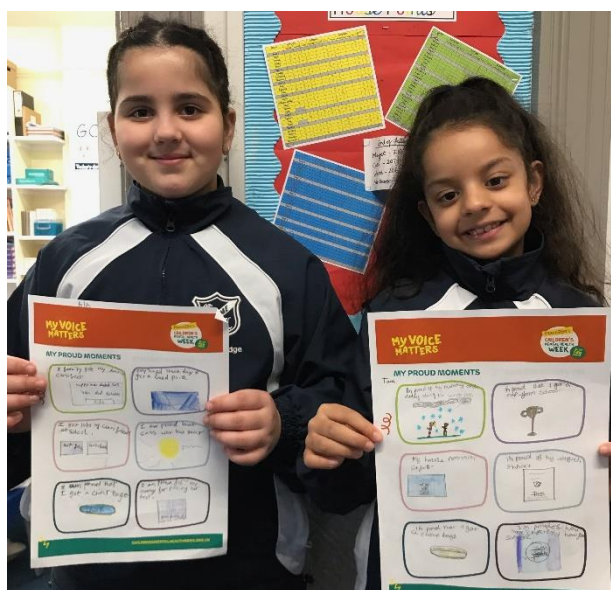
Here are some quotes from our pupils:

Sasha (Year 1): "The Digi Duck helped me understand how I can make the right decision online."

Theodore (Year 3): "Safer Internet Day taught me about all the technology from the past and what future technology might look like."

Laila (Year 4): "I have learnt about how I can be safe online and have a healthy digital footprint."

Billy (Year 4): "I had so much fun creating my Digital Defence Squad member!"



Chinese New Year - Year of the Dragon

On Friday 9th February our pupils and staff enjoyed a wonderful, themed school lunch celebrating the Chinese New Year. This year is the Year of the Dragon which symbolises power and luck.



Pen Licences for Year 3

Just before half-term, at the end of our Friday assembly, four children in Year 3 were awarded a Pen Licence.

Children get awarded a Pen Licence for consistently good, legible handwriting across all subjects and for making sure that their work and exercise books are always neatly presented.

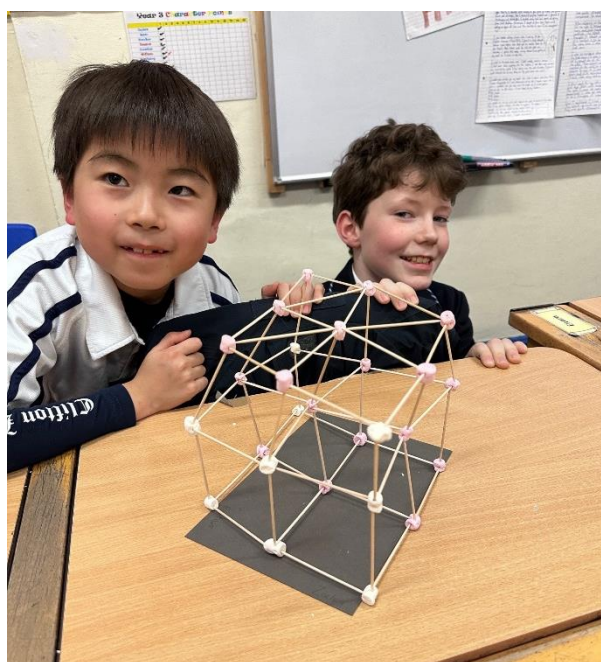
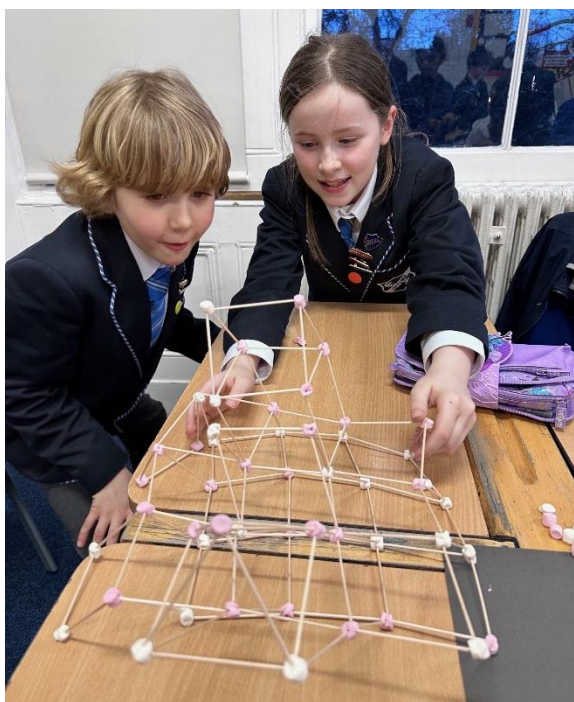
Congratulations to Kai, Kensuke, Ryotaro and Tara.



Art & Construction Club

For the final session before half-term, the children in the Art & Construction Club were tasked to build 3D structures using sticks and marshmallows.

They found that the small marshmallows and cocktail sticks worked the best!!



Arisa & Karen Yamamoto

Huge congratulations to our musical stars, Arisa (Year 5) and Karen (Year 1) Yamamoto.

Both achieved Gold Prizes at the London Young Musician Awards with Arisa also awarded the Characteristic Performance Special Prize. What a wonderful achievement!

In addition, Arisa won the ISA Young Musician Competition 2024 (junior category) representing Clifton Lodge. Arisa performed Chopin's Fantasie Impromptue at the Jacqueline du Pré Music Building in Oxford. This competition pitted Arisa against children from independent schools across the country and the North London Regional Ambassador herself contacted me to comment on what a special achievement this was given the exceptionally high standard.

We are so proud of you both and look forward to following your future successes.



Friends of Clifton Lodge

Huge thanks to the newly formed Friends for continuing with our drive to build community. The next fundraising event is a Quiz Night on the evening of Friday 1st March; please do join us for an evening of fun.

I hope you have enjoyed looking over the events of these past few weeks and are as proud as we are of all the accomplishments of the children at the school. Just a brief reminder that the Voice of the Parent survey is still open for the next couple of weeks and a big thank you to those parents who have already taken the time and left such lovely comments. I hope you enjoy the rest of the holiday and look forward to seeing you all on 19th February.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Belsito', with a stylized, cursive script.

Michael Belsito
Head