



Dear Parents

This first half term of the new year has flown by, but it never ceases to amaze me how many things the children can cram into such a short time. I hope you enjoy looking over the activities the children took part in over the past few weeks.

Year 6 results

I must start with a huge congratulations to our Year 6 cohort. This term started with many interviews and assessments, with children even coming in to school during the Christmas holidays to prepare and refine their interview techniques. All their hard work paid off in spectacular style: the children were awarded places from a range of senior schools - John Lyon, Kew House, Notting Hill and Ealing, St Augustine's, St Benedict's, Wetherby Senior, Wetherby Pembridge, Ada Lovelace and Twyford. Of these, no fewer than 9 scholarships were offered for excellence in Academic studies, Music and Drama – this is another record broken for Clifton Lodge and we are so very proud of all the children, without exception. Now comes the tricky part to choose which school offer to take, but how wonderful to be in this enviable position! Of course, none of this happens without a lot of planning, preparation and hard work from the teaching staff and we extend our special thanks to the Year 6 teacher Mrs Trivedi as well as Mr Beetar for their efforts to get the children over the line and to achieve their best – Optime!

Friends of Clifton Lodge

Many thanks to our active Friends group who put on another very popular hot chocolate and doughnut sale at the end of school on Friday. This is a lovely way to start the holiday and we look forward to more exciting events over the coming weeks. If you feel that you can spare any time to help the team, please do reach out.



Chinese New Year

We celebrated Chinese New Year at Clifton Lodge with a wonderful themed lunch and activities in the classrooms.

In Year 3 the pupils learned how different countries around the world celebrate the Lunar New Year.

The children designed a snake as it is the Year of the Snake in the Chinese Zodiac.

Finally, Chuhang's mother shared some beautiful New Year posters with the class which they used to decorate the classroom.



Nursery – Trip to Ealing Fire Station

On 29th January, our Nursery class visited Ealing Fire Station as part of their 'People Who Help Us' topic.

The children were excited and engaged as they explored the Fire Station and met the firefighters. The highlight of the visit was when the firefighters showed the children the fire trucks and explained the different equipment they use to keep us safe.

The children eagerly asked questions about how the fire trucks work, and the firefighters gave clear and simple explanations. Some children even had the opportunity to try on firefighter helmets and jackets, which they absolutely loved!

This outing provided an excellent opportunity for the children to connect the concept of 'People Who Help Us' with real-life heroes in our community. They were fascinated by the equipment and loved hearing about the firefighters' work, and some even talked about wanting to be firefighters themselves one day!





Reception – Trip to the Science Museum

Our Reception class went to the Science Museum on Tuesday 6th February and attended a workshop on Space. The children got ready to go into Space and the shuttle was launched. Reception learned about what astronauts wear, the water filter system on space shuttles and what it would be like to live in space. They explored the space gallery and saw a giant sphere that turned into the planets, Sun and Moon. It was out of this world!

Riko – “My favourite thing at the Science Museum was to see the planets and a rocket.”

Michal – “My favourite thing was to see the solar system.”

Aria – “I love space!”



Global Canvas Art Competition - 2025

Our pupils were introduced to the Global Canvas 2025 Art Competition in their Art lessons. This is an annual international art contest run by the David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation to encourage creativity from young people, displaying thought and concern for our planet's environment and the incredible wildlife that inhabits it.

We had some wonderful entries and subsequently, to celebrate and share the effort of all those taking part, the Eco committee asked the children to bring their projects into school, to showcase them as a part of an Eco-committee assembly. Well done to you all, we were so impressed by your creativity and art skills.



Early Years Dance Classes

We have introduced specialist dance classes on Tuesday mornings for all the children in our Nursery & Reception classes. The children are working on a basic understanding of what dance is, which parts of the body are used in dance and which steps to use. They are discovering the shapes they can make and also recognising different dance styles. So far, the children have started to work on Flamenco and Tango, that includes clapping of hands and stamping the feet!





Safer Internet Day 2025

Last week, our school joined others nationwide to celebrate Safer Internet Day 2025, the largest global online safety campaign. This year's theme, 'Too good to be true? Protecting yourself and others from scams online,' focuses on teaching children and young people how to identify and avoid scams and highlights available support. It is important that you talk to your child regularly about the benefits, as well as the risks, of the online world, and give them space to ask questions and talk about anything that worries them. You do not need to be an expert to help keep your child safe and you can visit <https://saferinternet.org.uk> to find some great tips and resources on how to do this.

The children participated in activities throughout the day to enhance their knowledge of online safety and Year 4 also took part in a live lesson run by CBBC.



Year 6 Buddy Sessions

Our Year 6 pupils have begun their weekly buddy sessions with the Nursery children as part of their post 11+ programme. Both sets of children are thoroughly enjoying the weekly sessions.



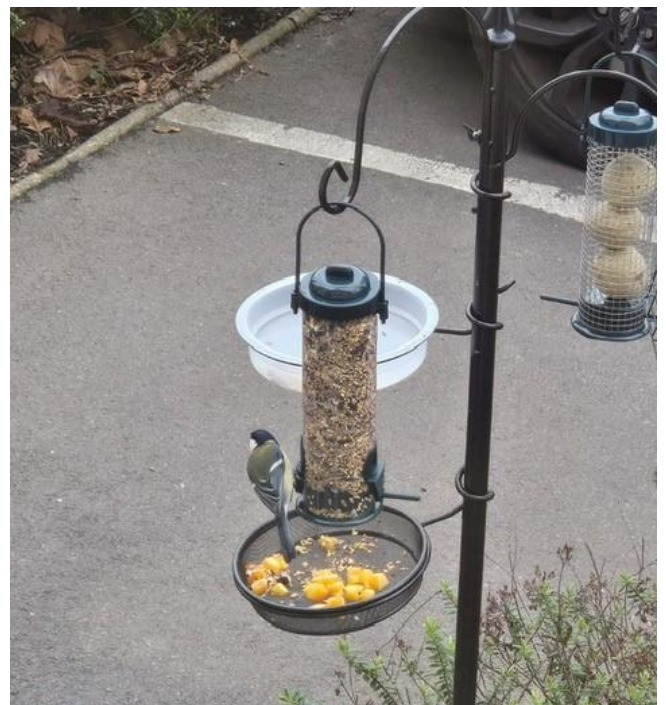
Garden / bird feeding

We are excited to share some wonderful news from our School Council and Eco-Committee! Both groups have been working together to enhance our school garden and promote sustainability.

So far, they have planted a variety of fruits and vegetables, including cherry tomatoes, radishes, and strawberries. Additionally, beautiful flowers such as daffodils and tulips have been added to brighten the space. We are hopeful that the produce grown in the garden will be used in our school lunches in the near future.

As part of their efforts to support local wildlife, the team has also added a bird feeder to the garden. We're thrilled to report that we've already had visits from Parakeets and Bluetits, which is a great sign of a thriving natural environment.

We're so proud of the work the School Council and Eco-Committee have done and look forward to seeing the positive impact this has on our school community.



Crazy Hair Day for Friends of Clifton Lodge

On Thursday 13th February, children and staff came into school with crazy hairstyles to raise money for our Friends of Clifton Lodge. The children loved it, thank you Friends of Clifton Lodge!





We look forward to seeing everyone back at school on Monday 24th February.

Kind regards

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

Michael Belsito
Head