

# Head's Newsletter

Summer Term 2025 – Apr-May

## **Dear Parents**

It is hard to believe that we are entering the last half term of the school year. Time seems to have flown by, with so much packed into the school weeks - we have had residential trips, adventures in Hampton Court, visiting councillors and parents to name but a few of the activities. We hope you enjoy looking over our memories of the first half of the summer term.

## **A.I.M Higher Writing Day**

Pupils from Years 3 & 4 had an amazing time meeting the author, Cliff McNish. During their visit, they focused on how to construct an engaging story and create strong, memorable characters. Cliff shared valuable tips and techniques that inspired the children to think more creatively about their own writing. They were excited to learn from a real author and asked lots of thoughtful questions. The skills they gained from the session will help support and improve their writing in the future. Thank you so much to North Ealing Primary School for hosting this event.



#### **ISA Art Competition Results**

Congratulations to Julie in Year 4 who received the 'Award for Attention to Detail' in the most recent ISA Art Competition. Julie received her certificate at a Friday assembly together with 3 other selected

participants from Clifton Lodge, Aila, Hiro and Haru. Well done to you all.





Julie Year 4 Hiro Year 5 Haru Year 6 Thank you to everyone who took part - your artwork showed wonderful imagination.





Julie Year 4



## Year 3 & 4 Cricket Success

Years 3 and 4 Cricket Success! Well done to our Year 3 and 4 pupils who played brilliantly in their cricket matches against Ashton House School. Out of six matches, Clifton Lodge came away with an impressive four wins! The children showed great skill, teamwork, and sportsmanship throughout. A big thank you to all the parents who came along to support!









## **Cllr Nick Denys Visit - Democracy in Action!**

We were delighted to welcome Nick Denys, Hillingdon Councillor, who visited our Year 5 and 6 pupils to talk about democracy and the power of choice. As part of the workshop, the children worked in groups to design their own menus and then took part in a ballot vote to choose the most popular one. The top two 'parties' - who ended up in a tie, then amended their menus and presented their final ideas to the class in a bid to win those all-important final votes. It was a brilliantly competitive afternoon, filled with energy, creativity and enthusiastic participation. A huge well done to our Year 5 and 6 pupils - you really brought democracy to life!



## Year 5 & 6 Residential Trip to Osmington Bay

Our Year 5 & 6 pupils had a wonderful time on their PGL residential trip. They took part in numerous activities including sailing, the giant swing, survival skills, the vertical wall climb, abseiling, street surfing, aeroball, football and games on the beach! During the week the children bonded so well in their teams, helping each other out and enjoying every moment and opportunity that the centre provided. They arrived back on Friday tired and happy. Here are some of their quotes:

Year 5

Aleksandra: - PGL was a lot of fun! I really enjoyed the climbing the Trapeze and jumping off. I liked spending time with friends in the rooms too.

Asher: - I loved staying at PGL. All of the activities were really fun. My favourite activity was the vertical challenge! I got the fastest time of 32 seconds!

Blake: - I really enjoyed so many moments at PGL. My favourite moment was jumping off the trapeze.

Shiori: - Even though the sea was cold, I enjoyed Raft Building and all of the activities. I had so much fun.

Miles: - PGL was excellent and exciting. It made me so happy, challenged and proud that I could overcome some fears!

## Year 6

Jay: - PGL was thrilling, and I had the best time ever, my favourite activities were Jacob's ladder, The Vertical Challenge and Raft Building.

Arisa – PGL was amazing as we got to experience so many different activities. I loved that we got to see our last year's groupie Tamsin and my most favourite activity was The Giant Swing.

Eleeza– PGL was an amazing experience, with lots of thrills and plenty of adventure seeking and bonding with all my friends in Year 5 & 6.

Sofia: I loved PGL as it had so many challenging activities that you wouldn't normally get to experience. I was excited to see all the old PGL groupies from last year, especially Tamsin who remembered us all. My favourite two activities were The Giant Swing, and I loved the Keel Boat sailing.

Haru: I think PGL was the best trip ever!!!I loved all the activities we did; my favourite was the Trapeze. I loved that we got spend time with Year 5 as well as Year 6 and loved learning all the new songs and dances.

Kosei: It was really fun, and I got experience things that I had not ever done in Japan. My favourite activity was the wall climbing!





























## Year 3 & 4 Trip to Hampton Court Palace

On Tuesday 20th May, Years 3 and 4 visited Hampton Court Palace to bring their learning about Henry VIII and The Tudors to life. There were 2 workshops, the first session was Investigating Henry (VIII). The children were led by a Tudor scholar to search for evidence to prove or disprove questions about Henry VIII. Questions included, was Henry a powerful king? And was he happy at Hampton Court? The pupils demonstrated excellent knowledge and investigative skills and learned some new facts too. The children then visited the famous maze and gardens with 3 teams competing to get to the centre of the maze first. It was quite a challenge, but with some excellent teamwork and communication skills, everyone made it to the centre.

After a picnic lunch in the beautiful sunshine, we had the second session, King Henry's Court. This followed the Tudor route and was led by a costumed presenter in the role of 'the bodyguard'. The session encouraged children to use the palace as a primary source. They explored the notion of hierarchy and status within the Tudor court and how these are reflected in the buildings of the palace. The session developed their historical enquiry skills, highlighting that we can use architectural features and furnishings to understand the rank and status of those who would have used and occupied the lower and upper parts of the palace. Some quotes from the children:

Year 3

\*Alaiya – My favourite part was Investigating Henry because we learned new things that we hadn't learned at school

\*Ema – The maze was very mysterious. We kept ending up in the same place over and over again.

\*Hashim – The two people dressed as Tudors were so interesting and taught us lots of new things.

\*Lily – I liked seeing the pictures of Henry's wives on the walls.

\*Haruya – I loved the investigating Henry activity and holding the different artefacts.

\*Rohan – It was great seeing the actors dressed up as people from Tudor times.

\*Kota – The court was amazing because it told us what Henry used to be like.

\*Gian – The fountains in the gardens were really nice.

\*Rexley – I enjoyed the gardens and the maze in the

sunshine.

\*Shreya – All the nature around the gardens was lovely.

\*Dominik – I really liked the whole trip, but my favourite

bit was the old paintings in the palace.

\*Ruby – I loved all the gardens, especially the one with the fountain and rocky path.

#### Year 4

\*Ayman – I loved getting lost in the maze. It was

challenging and lots of fun.

\*Aila – The rose garden was so beautiful.

\*Tara – Sitting in the huge hall where the kitchen staff ate was amazing!

\*Lenny – I enjoyed having a picnic lunch outside in one of the gardens

\*Julie – I loved the maze, it was so interesting!













#### Year 4 Art

As a part of their learning about Art from Around the World, Year 4 have been looking at different art styles from India. Mrs Kalsi [Tara's mother] came into school to share her knowledge and expertise in the art of Henna. The children enjoyed practising Henna patterns and designing Mandala patterns. They were also able to watch Mrs Kalsi apply a henna design to Tara's hand. Many thanks to Mrs Kalsi for sharing her time and knowledge. The children enjoyed the activities very much.











#### Emma – Year 5

We are so proud of Emma who won 1st Prize in the Grade 4 Violin/Viola category at the Ealing Festival on Saturday, 10th May. Emma played the Spring Song by F. Bridge with her teacher, Ulyana Dawson accompanying her on piano. Many congratulations Emma.



## Caspian – Year 2

Huge Congratulations to Caspian who was cast as 'Sorrow' in the award-winning production of Madama Butterfly, at Richmond Theatre. His role involved being on stage for 25 minutes, in front of an audience of 850 people.

Caspian's quote:

"It was exciting to be on stage for my first time, in front

of 100's of people. I was shy but I did it! I had so much fun being with my mum behind the stage and in the dressing room. Madame butterfly was so loud and had lovely make up." Caspian's Mother:

"Such a proud moment for our family! Caspian's first theatre performance in Madama Butterfly was incredibly special—and what a powerful and emotional production to be part of. Caspian's experience on stage and my experience behind the scenes with him was amazing. The wonderful team at Stagecoach guided us both through the process and were a fantastic support in building him up and keeping me calm. It is a huge accomplishment for Caspian and hopefully the start of an amazing journey in the arts."



### Friends of Clifton Lodge Ice Cream Sale

Many thanks to the Friends of Clifton Lodge who organised a much-appreciated ice cream sale on the final day of the half term. It was a wonderful opportunity for everyone to join together before setting off for the holiday and the weather was helpfully warm and dry.



Wishing all our families a relaxing half term break. The final half term of the year promises to be even more fun-packed with Sports Day, Speech Day, end of year productions and trips to keep us all engaged. We look forward to seeing you all back next week.

Kind regards

Michael Belsito

Head