



*'Bringing out the Best in Each and Every Child'*

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**Spring Term 1 Newsletter –  
Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January – Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February**

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year and welcome to the Spring term! We hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and that the children are feeling rested, refreshed, and ready to dive back into school life. It is hard to believe we are already a third of the way through Year 6! The first term flew by, and it was packed with exciting and enriching learning experiences. I was so proud of the children in the way they presented their Remembrance Assembly and the joy they brought with their superb Carol Concert in which they showcased their beautiful singing ability (a big thank you also goes to Mrs. Bond and Mrs. Wilkinson for all their help).

This term, we have very few activities outside of learning in order for the children to fully focus on achieving their very best. Having said that, we will be taking part in the Sportshall Athletics competition for schools in the area. This event will take place on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January (sorry for the short notice) and I hope you are available to transport your child to the event should they be selected to represent the school. I know they will do fantastically well, giving their very best and representing Clifton Primary School impeccably, no doubt make us all very proud throughout.

**English**

Our studies this half term in English will be on the texts: 'The Invention of Hugo Cabret' by Brian Selznick and 'Suffragette: The Battle for Equality' by David Roberts. The children will be using these texts as a stimulus to develop their own writing to help produce some magical and thought-provoking work covering skills in diary entry, journalistic writing, flashback narrative, speech, discussion, letter and film critique. This will be in addition to the reading and listening to our class texts of 'Malala' by Malala Yousafzai and/or 'Little Match Girl Strikes Back' by Emma Carroll. When writing, the children will continue to develop their skills by creating narratives, describing settings, characters and atmosphere, using appropriate structure and layout as well as integrating dialogue to convey character and advance the action.

**Mathematics**

In Maths, our focus will be Mental arithmetic, Place Value, Negative Numbers and Number Sequences, Coordinates & Geometry, Calculation, Fractions, Mental and written multiplication and division. As with all of our Maths learning, the children's recall of times tables facts continues to be key in their quick development and understanding of key methods/concepts. I continue to urge you to practice with them as much as possible so they can develop their mathematical understanding at a much faster pace.

**Science**

This term, Year 6 will be exploring the **Healthy Bodies** unit in science. Students will learn about:

- **The Circulatory System:** How the heart, blood, and blood vessels work.
- **Nutrition and Exercise:** The importance of a balanced diet and staying active.
- **Drugs and Sleep:** How substances and rest impact health.

Through experiments and discussions, we'll deepen their understanding of how to make informed health choices.

**History**

In History, the children will be learning about the interesting life of the Vikings with a particular focus on our key question of 'Is it fair to describe all Vikings as brutal invaders?' I am sure that the children will thoroughly enjoy learning all about the Vikings and will be able to share lots of interesting facts with you by the end of the unit.

**Physical Education**

Our P.E. lessons in year 6 continue to be on a Tuesday and Thursday. Any ear-rings or jewellery should ideally be

removed on these days or if your child is able to remove these themselves then that is also fine. However, the children are also able to wear the clear plastic safety version as well. This half-term, we will be focusing primarily on Tag Rugby and Dance.

## **Homework**

### **Reading**

As reading is such a key skill, we encourage all children to read regularly at home (ideally every day!) to support them in becoming skilled, efficient and interested readers who clearly understand what they have read. Although the majority of our children are generally fluent and accurate, opportunities to read with an adult remain important. To allow us to monitor the amount of reading completed at home, please encourage your child to complete their reading record every time they read and when you have read with your child please sign and comment on what they have read and understood.

### **Spellings**

Every week the children learn all about the spelling patterns, conventions and etymology of words in class and then have the opportunity to cement this learning when utilising the Spelling Shed app from home. This practice has shown to be very effective in developing children's spelling recognition and understanding. Therefore, I would urge you to encourage your child to practice no less than three times a week!

### **SATs**

In order to give the children every chance of success in their SATs test in May, booster sessions are now taking place every Monday, Tuesday and Friday to support our Year 6 students and help them reach their full potential. These targeted sessions will continue to focus on both Maths and English, helping children strengthen their understanding in key areas and address any specific gaps. The children have already made a great start to the sessions and are showing lots of enthusiasm toward their learning.

For a more in-depth overview of the learning taking place in class throughout the school year, please see the long-term overview on the school website.

**As always, we thank you in advance for your support and look forward to working closely with you throughout this term and sharing your children's successes with you.**

Yours sincerely

Mr. Stoney & Mrs. Wilkinson