



'Bringing out the Best in Each and Every Child'

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Year 6 Newsletter

Autumn Term 1

Wednesday 4th September – Friday 18th October

Dear Parents / Carers,

Welcome back! I hope you have all had a truly enjoyable Summer regardless of the mixed bag of weather we have had!

I will start by saying how happy and excited I am to be teaching my new class how I am looking forward to being their Year 6 teacher. It is an honour to be their teacher in their final year of their Primary school journey and I look forward to a fun, busy, productive and successful year. There is lots of fun to be had but also lots of hard work to be done with lots of learning needed in preparation for that next big step into 'High school'. Oh, how time flies!!

I would like to start with a reminder that we are straight into the thick of things with the children taking part in Bikeability on Monday 9th & Monday 16th September. Bikeability is the most current cycle training programme designed to equip the children with the practical skills and understanding they need to cycle safely on today's roads. Please make sure you have signed and returned the relevant permission slips and informed us if your child will need to borrow a bike.

Reading:

All the children will be given a reading book this week and time is set aside each day for them to be able to read their book in addition to the guided reading sessions we will be completing daily. They will have a 'Home / School Folder' to keep their books in and should bring this to school each day. I will be explaining to them that it is their responsibility to write/record in their reading journals as and when they read either their school reading book, library book or even a book that they are enjoying at home.

Independent reading remains extremely important at Clifton, especially in Year 6, and so I hope that you will continue to support your child with their reading and encourage them to pick up and read books of their choosing whenever possible.

Spellings:

In addition to practicing a list of spellings on Edshed that will change on a weekly basis, your child will receive a full list of all the spellings (personal to them) that they will need to practice over the coming year.

It is very important that they practice those spellings regularly as they form the statutory spellings that children of their age should be able to spell confidently. All of the KS2 spellings (Years 3-6) can also be found on the Year 6 page on the School Website. Children who are having difficulty with their spellings will be given additional support but all of the children will be tested on their spellings over the course of this half- term so your support with regards the children learning these is very much appreciated.

Maths/Timestables

During the first week or two back in school, the majority of our focus will be on these main aspects of the children's Mathematics. Knowing their 'times tables' and recognising numbers to one million is paramount to them being able to access so much of the Maths taught in class as these are very much the fundamental skills needed in order for them to improve, especially at their mental arithmetic skills. I appreciate that not all of the children will know all of their 'times tables' and for some it is more challenging than for others but a great amount of support and encouragement will be provided throughout the year.

Please can I ask for your help in continuing to both support and challenge your children at the speed with which they are able to recite their 'times tables', both as multiplication and division questions. An excellent website for the children to go on to test themselves, as well as challenge family members, with regards the key fundamentals of Mental Arithmetic, is below. The children can also access times tables practice games on Purple Mash.

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk › maths-games › hit-the-button>

Homework

Homework will involve the children working hard to improve spellings, times tables practice and reading. This may alter as we move through the year and will be dependent on whether there is a need for additional targeted practice in any areas of learning. Year 6 can be a highly stressful year for the children with all the responsibilities they are given, SATs and the knowledge that they are moving onto high school at the end of the year. Therefore, they will need lots of support and encouragement throughout.

Any children who are struggling with their homework will naturally be provided with support in school but it is the hope that all the children will be able to attempt the work that is given to them.

They will be reminded that it is their responsibility, and not that of their parents, to complete the homework they are given but help and support is clearly appreciated.

Thank you in advance for your support with the Homework that the children will be doing.

P.E.

Our P.E. lessons in Class 8 are on a Tuesday and a Thursday. We love seeing all the children look so smart in their kits on these two days and they very much enjoy their PE lessons. 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 fine. However, they are also able to wear the clear plastic safety version as well. This half-term, we will be focusing primarily on 'Team Games' and 'Athletics'.

Topic Work:

Foundation subjects will be treated as more standalone subjects with the emphasis being that the children develop a greater depth of understanding in each particular subject area with an overarching theme. The theme that we will be digging into in depth this half term will be 'Survival' by looking at the varying biomes on planet Earth.

As the children produce work on our topics, it will be recorded in their Curriculum Journals! Any support that you are able to give, if and when it is required, will be greatly appreciated as always eg. research on specific aspects.

School Trips:

Our residential trip this year will be taking place at Borwick Hall (<https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/outdoorededucation/our-centres/borwick-hall/>) on the 25th-27th June 2025 which will be a lovely wind down and reward for the children at the end of their time in Year 6. If we can provide the children with safe, educational and enjoyable experiences outside of school then we will very much aim to do so throughout the year.

A further trip is planned in line with the children's learning and details of this will be sent out when the trip has been finalised.

Film Clips:

In Year 6 we may watch short clips and films to support our topics and there may be the odd occasion where we even just watch something for fun. The majority of these will be classified U but in the event that something we watch is classified PG I would like to ask your permission for us to be able to watch these still. If you have any objections to your child watching PG rated films or TV clips then please make me aware of this either verbally to myself or Mrs Wilkinson or in writing and I will limit the things that we use.

Clifton Core Values:

We are once again going to fully embrace our 'core values' with regards life at Clifton and although these important qualities have always featured within the ethos of our school, we will be celebrating, promoting and rewarding these values continually within school. We will encourage them all to lead by example in all of the 6 key areas:

- Relationships
- Resilience
- Reflectiveness
- Resourcefulness
- Responsibility
- Respect

We look forward to sharing with you all just some of the ways in which your children reflect these values in their daily lives at school. The children have shown great enthusiasm in volunteering for and taking on jobs and extra responsibility in and around school which has been fantastic to see. Please have a chat with your child as to what extra role they may well have taken on; these will continue to be given out/shared throughout the year.

SATs

Yes, this is SATs year, and they will be taking place once again in May next year. Clearly this will remain a key target for all concerned. I guarantee that we will be working extremely hard as we head towards May. However, as with every year, this should be a fun, exciting and productive year for your children here at Clifton as is possible, with the children achieving to the best of their ability. The less worry, stress or concern there is over SATs the better. By the time the children get to May, we have no doubts whatsoever that the class will take the tests completely in their stride and do us all very proud. More information will be provided about Yr6 SATs and the relevant booster/support classes I will be setting up later in the year. Tests or no tests, we will be making sure that your child continues to work to the best of their ability throughout this year and is as ready and prepared as they can be for their move to High School next year.

We hope this information helps you understand more of what lies ahead and we also hope the children have enjoyed their first few days back at school. We look forward to a wonderful year with them and also meeting yourselves as we progress through the year.

Yours sincerely

Mr Stoney & Mrs Wilkinson