

Clifton Primary School
Clifton
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17th January 2025



On Thursday morning, the Clifton swimming team competed in the Eden Valley Sports Partnership's annual swimming gala. The children did an amazing job, not just of swimming, but also of supporting one another and cheering each other over the finish line - even those from other schools. Improvement in techniques and speed were observed from last years events. You made us all very proud!

Pupil Voice Conferences

We have decided to replace our School Council with half termly Pupil Voice Conferences which will enable all the children to share their views. This week each of the three classes discussed their ideas for school dinners, school clubs and playground activities. They have given us plenty to think about and we hope to put some of their suggestions into practise soon.



Well done to Ruby who has got through to the next round of the BBCs 500 Words story writing competition.

We thought you might like to read it for yourself.

Good luck in the next round Ruby!

Happy BIG birthday to Mrs Roberts today.
We hope you have a lovely weekend celebrating!

One frosty December day, Naomi and Quinn peered out into the powdery white snow, that branched out everywhere around them. Even though the mountains were covered in pearly-white snow, jagged rocks still peaked through the milky substance. The sky, which was dotted with soft, bouncy clouds, was a bright shade of sapphire blue and the sun, that hung low in the sky, glistened as bright as an emerald. The girls stomped through the crunchy snow past a sparkling, frozen-over pond that lay beside some bushy, evergreen trees and brambly, holly bushes bursting with ripe red berries. Suddenly, out the corner of their sharp eyes they saw a mysterious figure lurking in the obscure shadows. The mysterious man stared emptily with his remote, ghostly eyes into the chalky-white land, in front of him. His smoke grey hair looked abandoned and was covered with thick sheets of snow and frost. Below his crooked nose, clenched teeth were barely visible through shivering, cobalt lips. Sprawled across his face was a colourless beard streaked with white powder. The children stared at him with their inquisitive eyes wide open. As soon as their eyes met each other, a treacherous blizzard howled and swept them off their feet as they teleported to an unfamiliar land. As soon as their feet met the ground, they spotted the man, except now his curly black hair had been tamed and his eyes were filled with sparks of hope and happiness. They stepped closer to him realising they had travelled back in time. They watch as the man sailed across rapid seas accompanied by a ship's crew until they reached Antarctica. They watched as a storm battered his boat. They watched as the crew sailed home without him. They watched as he drifted off into the vast ocean alone, lifeless. They watched as he found himself a lonely island to drift onto. They watched as he lay there isolated for endless years, until they saw themselves find him. They saw the blizzard blow in, but this time, as soon as the snow storm started, they merged back into their bodies, in the right time and started digging the mysterious man to freedom.

Breakfast Club

Just a reminder that Breakfast Club starts at 8.00 am in the morning. Staff arrive slightly earlier to set up but are only able to admit children from 8.00am.

Job Vacancy

We are currently looking for a Clerk to Governors to join our school team (1.5hrs per week).

If interested, you can find further information about the role on our school website or please feel free to pop in the school office to discuss the role further.

[Clifton Primary School & Hedgehogs Nursery - Vacancies](#)

Decider Skills

Miss Coutts continues to introduce a new skill to the children at the start of each week and we are pleased that some children are referring to them in their everyday lives.

We will hold a meeting for parents later in the term so we can share the skills with you in more detail. In addition to STOPP, It Will Pass, 'Right Now' and Name the Emotion the children have now been told about:

Opposite Action skill encourages us to do the opposite to our emotional urge to react.



Opposite Action skill encourages us to do the opposite to our emotional urge to react. When we feel the “Fizz”, we have powerful physical sensations in our bodies that make us feel an urge to act. Emotion can cause us to respond without thinking. Those actions often have negative results and then the feelings will come back another time. We need to do things differently to get a better result.



Remember they might also mention ‘feeling the fizz’ which is a way of recognising that our emotions are having a physical effect on our bodies. The Decider Skills help us develop strategies to use when we feel the fizz.

PE LESSONS next half term are as follows.....

Hedgehog Class – Monday and Friday

Fox & Deer Class – Friday

The children in Year 2-6 will be having PE at Newton Rigg for the whole of Friday afternoon until Half Term.

Please can children come to school in their PE kits on these days. Please send PE kits in to keep on the pegs for Hedgehogs as changing time is a good opportunity to develop independence skills

On Friday 7th February – Nursery, Reception, Year 1, 2, 3 will go to Newton Rigg for PE as Deer Class will be in Manchester doing Young Voices.

Friday afternoon is busy and getting the children back to school on time after Newton Rigg is much easier if the coach can park outside school. Please do not park in the parking spaces on Friday afternoons – we will try to put out cones but it is not always possible. Thankyou!

Outdoor Learning

Deer Class have been working towards our Woodland Trust gold award by exploring the woods with our senses and developing our creative writing. Miss Simpson was delighted with the wonderful descriptive pieces the children had produced. Mrs Davies is sure we will be getting that Gold certificate very soon!



This half term it is the turn of Deer and Hedgehog classes to do Outdoor Learning.

Wednesday 22nd January – Hedgehog Class

Wednesday 29th January – Deer Class

Wednesday 5th February – Hedgehog Class

Wednesday 12th February – Deer Class

Please send a complete set of suitable clothing and, now the wetter weather is here, **wellies** and ensure all items are labelled with your child’s name.

Please be aware that shorts are not acceptable clothing for Outdoor Learning. The children are outside for a long period of time and the weather can be wet and cold. It can also be a health and safety risk when children are around fires and in nature with nettles/brambles etc.

Spring Term Clubs

Miss Wilson will be hosting Choir club on a Tuesday lunchtime. This week's session was well attended and the children really enjoyed learning the new songs.



Sewing Club with Mrs Roberts will return on Fridays – there is a £4 charge to cover costs. It is open to children from Year 2-6 and starts next Friday (17th January)

Running Club (for all age groups) is on Tuesday/Thursday. Come prepared for either day next week - children will need a spare pair of trainers that can get muddy.



Dates for the Diary

Wednesday 22nd January – Cross Country (next round for qualifiers)@ Casterton

Wednesday 29th January – Stay & Play @ 2.00 - 3.00

Thursday 6th February – PTA meeting

Friday 7th February – Young Voices for Deer Class

Wednesday 12th February – Stay & Play @ 2.00 - 3.00

Thursday 13th February – KS2 Dodgeball

Friday 14th February – Break up for Half Term

Separate letters are sent for all sporting events and trips

TERM DATES FOR THE YEAR AHEAD

School term and half term dates for 2024/2025

Term	Start of term	Half term	End of term
Autumn	Wednesday 4 September 2024	Monday 28 October to Friday 1 November 2024	Friday 20 December 2024
Spring	Tuesday 7 January 2025	Monday 17 February to Friday 21 February 2025	Friday 4 April 2025
Summer	Tuesday 22 April 2025	Monday 26 May to Friday 30 May 2025	Friday 18 July 2025

Remember you can keep up to date with events and photos on our Friends of Clifton Primary School Facebook page so please join if you have not already.

If you have any questions or feedback, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Nikki Brabant, Tasha Coutts & the Clifton Team