

Clifton Primary School
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14th March 2025

What a busy time it has been in school this week with lots of exciting opportunities to celebrate Science Week.

On Monday morning Hedgehog class enjoyed an NFU Live lesson down on the farm. It focussed on changes in the environment, biodiversity and how to look after the countryside. They earned badges throughout the session as they explored ways they can help at home – such as taking shorter showers and binning litter. They even learned some dance moves to remember the changes they could make. Definitely worth asking to see them if you have not already!

On Wednesday Hedgehogs ventured off to Walby Farm Park to continue their learning about farming, food and animals. Farmer Nick showed them all the different animals and how to care for them. They groomed the pony, collected eggs to put in the incubator and watched ferret racing. Luckily there was time to have some fun on the adventure playground too.

To end their Science Week learning Amanda McKirdy from Rural Crime Police came to tell Hedgehogs all about the ways in which farmers can keep their vehicles and livestock safe. They also learned about clues DNA can give us and what they can do to care for farm animals whilst out and about in the countryside.



On Friday, Years 2 to 6 enjoyed an exciting trip to the Life Centre in Newcastle as part of Science Week. They immersed themselves in a world of science, exploring the wonders of the universe. A highlight of their day was the planetarium, where they gazed at the stars and learned about constellations in an engaging presentation. A thrilling science show which demonstrated incredible experiments was definitely an unforgettable moment. Pupils were fascinated by the 'fire tornado' and the creation of smoke rings, showcasing the principles of physics and chemistry in action.

Our young scientists also enjoyed hands-on activities in the Creative Zone, Wow Zone, and Space Zone. Deer Class had an amazing time during a robotics workshop, interacting with a giant sized robotic worm. Meanwhile, Foxes class participated in a Bee-bot adventure, developing their coding

skills in a fun and interactive way. It was a fantastic combination of education and excitement, inspiring our children to dive deeper into the world of science!



School Garden Classroom



After much research and planning behind the scenes we are very excited to tell you that our application for a new garden room work space has been approved. This new addition will provide us with much needed extra space that all the children in school will benefit from. This will allow a calm, quiet space to for individual and small group work for a variety of different lessons and activities.

Now we are on to the next stages which will focus on raising the funds and constructing the building.

We are expecting the project to cost approximately £10,000 and we have managed to secure a donation of £1,000 from Jenkinsons. We will be working with the PTA to raise funds over the coming year but to keep costs to a minimum we are hoping the school community can help us out in a variety of ways.

Can you help?

- Buy a slat - £10 per slat. Please send donations in a named envelope to the school office.
- Business sponsorship.
- Ground works preparation
- Construction of the building (relatively straightforward according to Mr Brabant whose school have done it twice).
- Electrical work

IKEA

We are needing one more shelf for the library and have located a suitable one at Ikea. Is anyone going in the next few weeks and could collect it for us? It is only about 1m square. Please let Mrs Brabant know.

Parent's Consultation Meetings – Tuesday 18th & Wednesday 19th March

Please make an appointment using the links below. If these days are not convenient for you please speak to your child's/children's class teachers to make alternative arrangements.

If you have recently met with your child's teacher to discuss their progress then there is no expectation that you make another appointment but are welcome to if you so wish.

Hedgehog Class - padlet.com/n_coutts/nursery-reception-and-year-1-

Fox Class - https://padlet.com/n_coutts/year-2-and-year-3-

Deer Class - https://padlet.com/n_coutts/year-4-year-5-and-year-6-



Friday 21st March

Children can wear something red and donations of £1.00 are welcome to support this worthy cause.

Thankyou!

WORLD DOWN SYNDROME DAY



Friday 21st March is also World Down Syndrome Day and in honour of Cora we will be doing a special assembly in school to celebrate.

As well as wearing something red for Red Nose Day the children can also come in wearing lots of cheerful socks!!

There are some official World Down Syndrome Day socks that can be bought to raise money for Down Syndrome charities – available [here](#) until 16th March (deadline)

Decider Skills

Up to now they have learned about STOPP, It Will Pass, 'Right Now,' Name the Emotion, Opposite Action, 'Fact or Opinion,' Self Care and Values.

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.

We will hold a meeting for parents later in the term so we can share the skills with you in more detail.



Junior Bake Off

For students aged 9-15

Filming would take place from July 2025, but our **applications close on Sunday 23rd March 2025.**

Interested bakers can apply online at - www.applyforjuniorbakeoff.co.uk

PTA NEWS

100 Club letters were sent out last week. This is such a simple way to support School. Deadline for applications will be 25th March

FAMILY EASTER BINGO – Thursday 3 April @ 6.00 pm

Next PTA Meeting – Thursday 27th March @ School – 7.00pm

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

Hedgehog Class – Monday and Friday

Fox Class – Friday

Deer Class – Tuesday & Friday

The children in Deer Class will be having

gymnastics at the Leisure Centre on Tuesday afternoons for the next 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

PLEASE ENSURE ALL HEDGEHOG CHILDREN HAVE THEIR PE KITS IN SCHOOL FOR USE ON MONDAYS AND FRIDAYS.

Outdoor Learning

This half term it will be Fox Class and Hedgehog Class who do Outdoor Learning on Wednesday afternoons.

19th March - Fox Class

26th March - Hedgehog Class

w/b 31 March (date tbc) - Fox 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 Holme will be running a rugby club on Monday lunchtimes for children in Year 3-6. Children will need a spare change of shoes to get muddy.



Miss Wilson will be lead Choir club on a Tuesday lunchtime.

Sewing Club with Mrs Roberts on Fridays – there is a £4 charge to cover costs. It is open to children from Year 2-6. **There is no sewing club on 4th April. The 28th March will be the last sewing club until the Autumn Term.**

Art Club – there will be a lunchtime art club lead by Mrs Brabant and Harvey



Running Club (for all age groups) is on Thursday. Children will need a spare pair of trainers that can get muddy.



Dates for the Diary

18th & 19th March – Parent’s Evenings

Wednesday 19th March – Stay & Play

21st March – Red Nose Day

21st March – WORLD DOWN SYNDROME DAY

27th March – Year 5/6 Orienteering

27th March – PTA meeting

Wednesday 2nd April – End of term Spring Celebration in church @ 2.00pm

Thursday 3rd April – Stay & Play

Thursday 3rd April – PTA Easter Bingo @ 6.00pm

Friday 4th April – End of Spring Term. **School will finish at 3.30 but there will be no After School Club on this day.**

Looking Ahead

w/b 12th May – Year 6 SATs week

Tuesday 20th May – Sports Day @ 1.00pm

Thursday 22 May – Sleepover for Rec, Y1 & Y2

Friday 23 May – Beacon walk and cinema for Rec, Y1 & 2

2-9 July – Adventure Week

Wednesday 16th July – Year 6 Leaver’s Celebration

Friday 18th July – Talent Show & end of term

Separate letters are sent for all sporting events and trips

Job Vacancies

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](#)



TERM DATES FOR THE YEAR AHEAD

School term and half term dates for 2024/2025

Term	Start of term	Half term	End of term
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