

Clifton Primary School
Clifton
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20th January 2023

Dear Parents/carers,

School Council

This week saw the first meeting of our re-formed School Council. Children from each year group have been selected to represent their classmates and met to discuss what they would like to spend the Sponsored Walk money on. Matilda has taken on the role of Secretary and kept the minutes and the class reps all had more questions to take back to ask their classes. All of the children in school got the opportunity to vote on the new name for the group and Clif's Council was the most popular choice. This is a great way for the children to learn about democracy which is one of our British Values.

Our Class Representatives are Willow, Mia, George, Gabriella, Harvey, Matilda and Lo and different children will be chosen each half term.

Ten Thousand Daffodils

Today some of the Year 5 children spent the afternoon at Lowther Castle making clay daffodils for the 10 Thousand Daffodils project which has been organised to both celebrate the rich literary heritage of the Lake District and also raise money for local charities. The rest of Deer class will attend in mid March. The daffodils will be on display from 24 April – 24 June and can then be bought for charity.

[Ten Thousand Daffodils - A Charity Fundraising Ceramic Installation](#)



Moving to Write

Hedgehog Class are really enjoying their fortnightly Friday sessions with Rachel Hogarth. They have been making different shapes in a variety of ways to help develop hand eye co-ordination and their gross and fine motor which will all help support their skills for writing.



Cross Country County Trials

We are very proud of our cross country runners who braved the cold weather and put in excellent performances at the county trials on Tuesday afternoon. They showed grit and determination competing against the best runners in the county. A fantastic experience for such young people. They were all very proud to be the first to wear our new sponsored sports kit and looked very smart. Thanks to Acorn Marketing and Holland & Oxley for their generous sponsorship of the new kit. It will be put to very good use!



Outdoor Learning

This half term Hedgehog and Deer class will be doing Outdoor Learning on Monday afternoons. Please ensure your Nursery, Reception, Year 1, 5 & 6 children have appropriate clothing and footwear in school that is both suitable for getting mucky and keeping warm.

Deer Class went out in the woods on Monday afternoon and created shelters amongst the trees. Miss Simpson was really impressed with how independently and collaboratively they managed the task once Mrs Davies had given them a brief demonstration. Our programme of Outdoor Learning for all year groups is really developing the 7Cs of Clifton.



CAN YOU HELP? We have a reasonable stock of spare outdoor learning clothes and wellies but very little for older children. We would welcome any donations of suitable clothes/footwear in bigger sizes.

Spring Term Clubs

Miss Simpson will run a netball/hockey club for Years 3-6 on Thursdays 3.30-4.30

Mrs Newman will run a coding club (ICT) on Monday afternoons for Years 3-6 (3.30 – 4.30)

Mrs Brabant will run an art club on Mondays for all children from Year 1- 6

Mrs Collin will run a games club on Tuesday lunchtimes and Miss Coutts a lego club on Thursday lunchtimes.

Music

You should have recently received a questionnaire asking about your interest in music lessons and an after school music/singing club. Please return your responses as soon as you can so we can finalise arrangements. If you have expressed an interest then we will get back to you once we have more details.



Strike update

As you may have read or heard about in the news, the NEU teaching union has announced their decision to strike with the proposed dates being:

- Tuesday 1st February
- Tuesday 28th February
- Wednesday 15th March
- Thursday 16th March

We are currently gathering information from NEU members at our school to inform our planning and assessment of risk. This will inform decisions taken with regard to opening, partial opening or closure of the school on one or more of the above dates. The direction for schools is that they should remain open for all or some pupils if safe to do so. This means that decisions will be taken locally in individual schools and may look different in different settings. We recognise that parents and carers will appreciate the earliest communication with regard to our plans and we aim to be able to complete this process in time to provide as much notice as possible. We know that views on strike action can often differ, but we hope you know that our staff always go above and beyond for the children in our school and as a community, we are all able to respect individuals' decisions whether it is to strike or not.

Thank you for your support and understanding on this sensitive matter and we will update you as soon as we can.

Diary Dates

31st January – Y3/4 football at Beaconside 3pm

W/B 6th February – Child Mental Health Week

Tuesday 7th February – London Information Meeting for parents via zoom @ 7.00pm

16th February – Clifton School Gymnastics Festival at Penrith Leisure Centre – an informal opportunity to come and see what the children have been learning during their gymnastics lessons – time TBC

w/b 20th February – Half Term
 2nd March – Bag 2 School Collection (see PTA news below)
 6-8th March – London Residential (Deer Class)
 10th March – U Dance @ Sands Centre (Deer Class)
 17th March – Deer Class clay daffodil workshop at Lowther
 24th March – PTA Easter Bingo
 31st March – Easter Church celebration – 2pm
 7th July – Non Uniform Day for PTA Summer Fair tombola prize

Separate letters will be sent for all sporting events

PE at Penrith Leisure Centre will be taking place every Thursday morning until **Easter** so don't forget that children should come to school already dressed in PE kit.

Cost of Living - Support for Parent/Carers and their families

Cumbria County Council has committed 'Household Support Grant' funds to support families experiencing Food and Utility hardship. Families can access the information on the support available through the councils 'Ways to Welfare' website.

For further information follow this link <https://www.cumbria.gov.uk/costofliving/default.asp>

PTA News.

Next meetings –**Tuesday 7th March, 25th April & 13th June @ 7.00pm.** Please do come along and see how you can get involved.

PTA Events

2nd March – Bag 2 School collection
 24th March – PTA Easter Bingo
 30th June – Dino Drive (similar to Beetle Drive)
 8th July – Summer Fair

The PTA are planning a Bag 2 School collection for **Thursday 2nd March** so if you are having a clear out soon please save it for the PTA. They collect: men's, ladies' and children's clothing, paired shoes (tied together or elastic band around), bags/belts, hats, scarves/ ties, jewellery, lingerie & socks, soft toys, household linen including towels, curtains, bed sheets, duvet covers and pillow cases.

Term Dates

| Term | Start of term | Half term | End of term |
|--------|---------------------------|--|------------------------|
| Spring | Wednesday 04 January 2023 | Monday 20 February to Friday 24 February | Friday 31 March |
| Summer | Monday 17 April | Monday 29 May to Friday 02 June | Wednesday 19 July 2023 |

Bank Holidays – Monday 1st & Monday 8th May

School year 2023/2024

| Term | Start of term | Half term | End of term |
|--------|-----------------------------|--|---------------------|
| Autumn | Wednesday 06 September 2023 | Monday 23 October to Friday 27 October | Tuesday 19 December |

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