

Head's Newsletter

Summer Term 2024 – June/July

Dear Parents

I can hardly believe that the year has come to an end and I take great pride in looking back on all the achievements of the pupils this year. It is only right that we make a final mention of the record-breaking performance of our Year 6s at 11+, achieving no fewer than 7 academic scholarships and over forty offers from prestigious schools. We will miss them greatly and hope they come back to share with us their successes at senior school.



The calendar this summer has been especially packed with events, many of which you

have been able to join in with. We are so fortunate to be able to offer so many opportunities to the children to showcase their talents – on the sports fields, in music, drama or art. We love to celebrate their successes and nurture their talents. And these occasions are lovely ways for the Clifton Lodge family to come together and celebrate – it is what makes our school so special. No small wonder, then, that we have been recognised by the prestigious Independent School of the Year Awards as one of the best small schools in the country and have been awarded the coveted shortlisted status for 2024. We should all be very proud of our school.

Pre-Prep Trip to the London Wetlands Centre

Early in June, our Year 1 & 2 classes visited The London Wetlands Centre in Barnes for the day. The children enjoyed a Minibeast Safari Workshop where they learnt about the insects and small animals that live in the Wetland. They then went on a Minibeast hunt where the pupils were given equipment to catch the insects and analyse what they looked like.

After a picnic lunch, the classes played in the adventure playground, then saw the otters being fed with a member of staff giving the children some fun facts about them. Everyone had a wonderful day.

Alaiya: My favourite part of the trip was when we got to go and see the Otters and learn lots of things about them.

Max: I liked seeing how the otters got fed fresh fish in the water.

Parisa: I liked going to the adventure playground and going on the zip line.

Dominic: I liked the Minibeast Safari and catching loads of bugs and small animals and discovering their different body parts.

Yuna: I liked finding different types of beetles. Merrie: My favourite part of the trip was when we got to do some bird watching.

Shreya: I liked going to the Explorer Adventure playground.

Haruya: I enjoyed participating in the Mini-beast workshop and learning about all of the different types of Mini-beasts. I especially loved searching for them in their habitat with special tools.





Sports Day

Thank you to our wonderful pupils for showing such good sportsmanship at our annual sports day on Friday 7th June. We had near perfect weather, use of the wonderful facilities of Ealing Trailfinders Rugby Club and Andrew Quick providing a brilliant commentary throughout.

We are very appreciative of our parents for joining us and supporting the children and a big thank you to all the parents and staff who bravely competed in the tug of war and races at the end of the afternoon. I am sure you will agree it was one of the best sports days yet.















Running Club

We have had another enjoyable term of running club, the children have showed up every Thursday morning at 7:00am, running just under 5km, with lots of returning children and a new addition.

Once again, they have shown endurance, perseverance, great camaraderie and team spirit. Mrs Trivedi really loves leading the running club and will particularly miss the Year 6 runners when they leave at the end of the year. She looks forward to having some new runners join next summer.



Forest School

Our Nursery and Reception children have had a brilliant time at Forest School this term. From searching and identifying bugs, climbing on trees and high ropes to creating colourful prints using plants & leaves. It is so wonderful to see the children enjoying nature and learning about teamwork to do the tasks set. A big thank you to Usma and our staff for making these sessions so exciting for the children.





Early Year's Teddy Bear's Picnic – Family Time

There was great excitement in our Nursery and Reception classes as they prepared for our family Teddy Bear's Picnic in Walpole Park. In the morning the children made their own sandwiches in class to take along. Each child also brought a special teddy or soft toy. Once at the park, the children sat in a circle and each described their toy to the group. They then joined their families for a picnic and playtime. We are so fortunate to be opposite this wonderful park, thank you to all our families for joining us for such a happy event.







Nursery Visiting Tortoise

Our Nursery Class has been reading 'Dear Zoo' and each pupil wrote their own letter asking for an animal to visit the class. There was great excitement when a parcel arrived addressed to the Nursery, what could it be?! The children learned to care for the Tortoise who remained in our Nursery until the end of the term.



A.I.M High

Some of our children in Years 1 & 2 had an amazing experience at the A.I.M. High Writing Day workshop delivered by the experienced author Coral Rumble.

The children had a fantastic day learning to expand their writing skills, in poetry. The children learnt about different types of poems and how to structure and write their own poems.

Sasha Y1- 'I liked listening to the poet ready her funny poems.'

Shreya Y2- 'Coral has inspired me to read more poems.'

William Y2- 'I have learnt about how to write funny poems.'

The workshop supported our children to – Achieve, Inspire and Master.



EY Showcase

Congratulations to our Nursery and Reception children for a wonderful performance of Jack and the Beanstalk on Wednesday 26th June. We are so proud of the children, they did very well learning all the songs & dances and performing in front of an audience. Thank you also goes to the Year 5 pupils who narrated the performance and to the Early Years staff and Mrs Velkova.







EY Trip to Odds Farm

Our Nursery and Reception children had a wonderful time at Odds Farm Park on 28th June. They enjoyed a trip around the farm on a tractor & trailer, feeding the goats and piglets and a workshop about caring for the animals. Lunch was in a big tent followed by the opportunity to play outside where there were toy tractors and two playgrounds to choose from. Everyone came home tired but happy after a fabulous day out.

Here are some of the reactions of the children: Elessandra: "I liked feeding the piglets and goats." Isabella: "I loved it when the little hen nibbled my finger. It was funny and I did not cry!" Maria: "I liked to watch when the little goats were fighting for the milk!" Borna: "I liked to touch the rabbit, it was very soft." Jetlee: "I liked to play football on the big playground with Borna's dad". Hiroto: "I liked touching the rabbits". Ella: "The best was the tractor ride!" Amelia: "I liked the chickens." Alfie: "The slide was a bit high, but I really liked it!".





Year 6 Trip to Chessington

Our Year 6 class had an amazing time at Chessington on Thursday 27th June. It was a chance to celebrate together after all their hard work leading to the wonderful 11+ offers and scholarships. Mr Belsito joined the trip and everyone enjoyed perfect weather for a fun filled day.

Willow – "I absolutely loved watching everybody including the teachers get wet on the Monkey Swings! It was great!"

Anish – "I had a great experience and I loved challenging myself to ride the scarier rides. It was the BEST TRIP EVER!"

Angelo -- "The BEST TRIP EVER -- There wasn't enough time, wish we could have stayed."

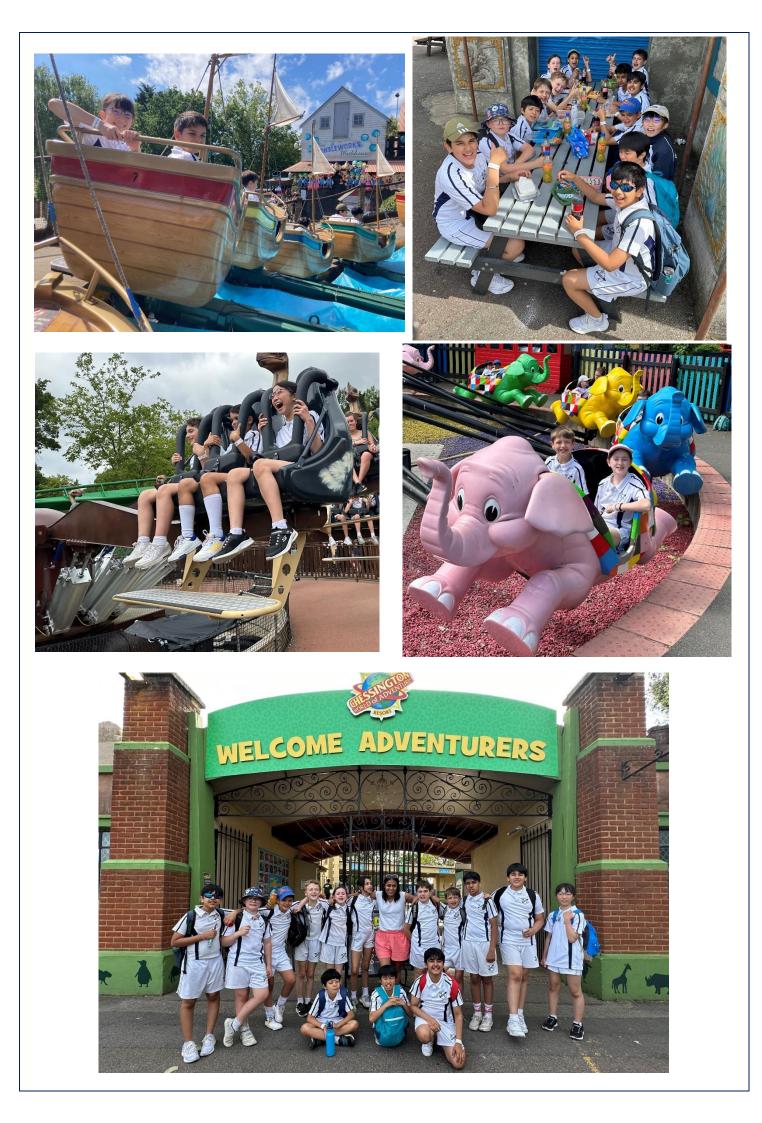
Alexander – "I had an amazing time, I loved all the rides and my favourite Vampire and Tiger Drop." Enara – "I'm really glad I went on Mandril Mayhem as it was the scariest ride at the park. It was a fantastic day."

Xander – "It was fantastic day, I enjoyed Mandril Mayhem and the Monkey Swings, especially as everyone got soaking wet."

Phoebus – "It was a wonderful experience going around the park even though I am quite terrified of the rides and so my favourite ride was Tomb Raider."

Noah – "I really enjoyed Mamba Strike especially after the teachers told me that I had the funniest expression on my face all the way through."

Mrs T – "It was such a great way to end the year with all the children, they laughed and smiled from the minute we entered till the minute we got back to school. They encouraged and supported each other showing amazing team spirit! We missed ZJ though."



Cricket – Wins for Clifton Lodge!

On Friday 28th June, our Year 5 & 6 pupils played matches against Ashton House at Trailfinders. Both Clifton Lodge teams won, with 27 runs against 24 and 38 runs against 35. Well done to everyone who played, the teamwork was good and great sportsmanship was on display.

Jay – "It was really fun and everyone played their best."

Xander -- "We worked really hard and it was very enjoyable."

Sam - "It was a great experience to play against the other team, I really enjoyed it."

Eleeza - "It was an extremely enjoyable experience although the weather was really hot!"



Year 6 Drama Production

On the evening of the 2nd of July, our incredible Year 6 pupils took to the stage for their end-of-year production, "The Next Big Step," and what a performance it was! After much hard work and preparation, they delivered a show that thrilled the audience.

From the first scene to the finale, the students' acting, singing, and dancing were wonderful. Their talent and dedication shone brightly, causing much laughter, cheers, and even a few tears among the spectators. Each pupil brought their characters to life with enthusiasm and skill, making it an unforgettable experience for everyone involved.

We are immensely proud of our Year 6s for their commitment and creativity. They all had a wonderful time and truly showcased the spirit of teamwork and perseverance. A huge thank you to all the parents, teachers, and staff who supported and cheered on our budding stars.

Bravo, Year 6, we are so very proud of them all.





American Independence Lunch

A big thank you to our Chef, Rohan and his assistant, Marie for a wonderful 4th July celebration lunch.



Winning House Trip On Thursday 4th July, a group of very excited pupils from Northover went on the winning house trip to the cinema, followed by Pizza in Walpole Park and delicious ice-creams to complete the day. Well done everyone.



LAMDA Awards

A massive well done to our cohort of Lamda pupils, ranging from year 1 to year 6, who gained the fantastic results of 10 distinctions and 3 merits between them in their recent Lamda exams. These results are a testament to the pupils' hard work and determination and will boost their confidence in their communication skills, speaking in public and interview techniques - all of which are part of the Lamda syllabus. Congratulations to them all.



Friends of Clifton Lodge - School Disco

A huge thank you to The Friends of Clifton Lodge for giving all the children a wonderful time at the school disco. Despite the rain, it was very popular with all the

year groups and a great end of term event.





Speech Day

Thank you to all our pupils who made this year's Speech Day so uplifting. We were very impressed with the level of performances, especially from both choirs and the individual soloists. Congratulations to all the cup and award winners and to our new Head Boy, Head Girl and Deputies for the next academic year. A big thank you to Mrs Sally Flowers, Headteacher at North Ealing Primary School for joining us and handing out the prizes this year.





ISA Art Competition

Huge congratulations to Tara in Year 3 who won 1st Place in her category in the recent ISA Butterfly Art Competition 2024. We are so proud of Tara and all our other pupils who entered the competition.





Wishing everyone a wonderful summer break. We look forward to seeing you on the first day of the autumn term: Wednesday 4th September.

Kind regards

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Michael Belsito Head