



Dear Parents

I can scarcely believe that we have reached the end of the Autumn term already and that it is Christmas next week. We have had such a fun-packed few weeks that it is proving quite a challenge to fit it all in on the pages of this newsletter. My warmest thanks to all the members of our wonderful community for making this first term such a success. I hope you enjoy looking through our memories of the range of activities and events that have gone on over November and December.

Remembrance Service

Thank you to all our families who joined us for our Remembrance Service at the Church of Christ the Saviour on Wednesday 6th November. This annual event reminds us of the huge sacrifice many made for our country. Our Head, Mr Belsito spoke of the importance of our school virtues when reflecting on the meaning of 'Remembrance' including, Justice, Fortitude and most importantly Love.

Thank you to all the children who performed so well, from our youngest in Reception and their poem 'I am a Little Poppy' to the beautiful singing from the choir and year groups. We also listened to poignant poem readings and a wonderful performance by our school band in the congregational song 'We Will Remember'. Thank you all for taking part in this important event and for donating to the Poppy Appeal where we raised over £200.





Nursery – Diwali Activities

Our Nursery children have been learning about celebrations, exploring Bonfire Night and Diwali. We had a wonderful surprise on Friday 8th November as Anvi's parents joined us to share their Diwali traditions. They read a story about the festival and the children eagerly asked questions and shared their thoughts. They showed high levels of engagement and curiosity. Anvi's parents then taught us how to use colourful sand to create Rangoli designs, such as flowers, hearts, and stars. They generously brought diyas for each child to take home, making the experience even more special. We are very grateful to Anvi's parents for taking the time to share their beautiful culture with us. The children had a fantastic time learning and creating together.



Anti-Bullying Week / Bigfoot Workshops / Odd Socks Day

This year's theme for Anti-Bullying week was 'Choose Respect'. The children had an exciting week, taking part in different activities every day. These included coming into school in odd socks to embrace their individuality and uniqueness and taking part in workshops delivered by Big Foot Arts Education. The workshops highlighted the importance of how to handle disagreements and differences of opinion without resorting to bullying. At Clifton Lodge the children have been learning to support each other to champion kindness, because being kind is not a sign of weakness but a mark of strength. This also links to our School Virtues of Love and Kindness and reflects our focus on family values at Clifton Lodge.



A.I.M. Higher Writing Day

Selected children from Years 5 and 6 had a fabulous time at the A.I.M. High Writing Day workshop delivered by the experienced author Coral Rumble, who is also an award-winning poet!

The children had a wonderful day listening to Coral perform her poems as well as learning about poetry and finally writing their own poem to share with others.

Eleeza Y6- "When Coral performed, I felt like I was in that place."

Grace Y5- " I think I would like to learn more about poetry."

Sami Y6- "I have had a great day and had fun writing a poem."

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



Nursery & Reception Trip to Ealing Cinema

Our youngest pupils in Nursery & Reception had a wonderful trip in November to the Ealing Picturehouse Cinema to see 'The Smeds & the Smoos', everyone had a great time.



Year 3 Trip to the British Museum

Year 3 had a great trip to the British Museum on 21st November, to explore and enhance their learning about the Ancient Greeks.

The class took part in a workshop that taught them how to act as detectives and look for visual clues in historical artefacts. For example, Ancient Greek artists would use pottery to convey the stories of their gods and goddesses. After lunch, the children had the chance to explore some of the exhibits and searched for the artefacts that they had been learning about.

Some quotes from the children:

Shreya – "The workshop lady explained the history of Ancient Greece really well."

Hashim – "It was great to spot the differences between the different styles of Greek art."

Kota – "I liked finding out what Greek pottery was used for."

Chuhang – "My best bit was listening to the story about Odysseus and the Cyclops."

Ruby – "It was funny when the lady in the workshop showed us that an artist turned Little Red Riding Hood into a dog."

Timothy – "I loved to see the Ancient Greek's armour."

Haruya – "I never knew that Greek pottery was so delicate and intricate!"

Gian – "The decorations on the pottery was really interesting to see."

Koen – "I loved looking at the decorations on the pottery."

Lily – "The figures on the pots looked so cool."

Rexley – "How amazing... Heracles killed a lion and wore his skin for a coat!"

Alaiya – "All of it!"

Victor – "The story about the Cyclops was incredible!"

Dominik – "I loved the whole museum!"



Performance of Cinderella Pantomime

A massive thank you to the Drama Studio London for visiting Clifton Lodge School on Monday 25th November in the afternoon to perform a Cinderella Pantomime for our pupils from Year 3 to 6. The children absolutely loved it! The costumes and acting were impressive as was the enthusiasm of all the talented performers.



Choir performance at Filmworks

On Saturday 30th November our Choir and Arisa performed at the local Filmworks Centre, entertaining Ealing Christmas shoppers. The children all did so well, with very confident soloists and a wonderful piano performance by Arisa.



Nursery & Reception Nativity Play

Probably our favourite event each year! Well done to our youngest pupils in Nursery & Reception for an amazing Nativity Play, performed at St John's Church on Monday 2nd December in front of their families. The singing and dancing were terrific and the children really got us all into the spirit of Christmas.



Choir Performance at Ealing Broadway

Our choir gave Ealing Broadway shoppers some Christmas cheer on Wednesday 4th December, performing several popular Carols and traditional songs. The children received a very positive response from everyone and we were delighted that many of their parents came along to support them.



Pre-Prep Choir Performance at Threen House Residential Home

On the same afternoon as the Choir performance, our Pre-Prep Choir visited a local residential home, Threen House. We really enjoy this annual event, giving the residents a festive programme of Carols and Christmas songs. Thank you to Karen for an amazing Violin performance and to Sofia and Arisa for a wonderful keyboard duet.



ISA Christmas Banner Competition

Congratulations to Hinata in Year 5 who won 2nd place in the ISA Christmas Banner Competition. Well done to the 4 other pupils who were also shortlisted by us to enter the competition, Saki Y2, Tara Y4, Taiwo Y5 and Hiro Y5.



Whole School Christmas Carol Service

Thank you to our pupils and staff for making the Christmas Carol Concert at Christ the Saviour Church such a wonderful, festive celebration. We were delighted that so many of our families could join us and extend a big thank you to the parents, staff and pupils who did readings. We enjoyed performances from the Prep and Pre-Prep Choirs, songs from the Early Years Nativity and piano duets as well as traditional congregational Christmas Carols. It really put us all in the Christmas spirit.



Christmas Lunch

Chef Rohan and his assistant Marie produced a wonderful Christmas Lunch for pupils and staff on Thursday 12th December. They also decorated the dining hall to make the children feel festive



Father Christmas Visit / Wear a Christmas Jumper Day

Great excitement on 12th December when our children and staff wear Christmas jumpers and donate to Save the Children. Following a delicious Christmas Lunch, all our children visited Father Christmas. A very big thank you to our Friends of Clifton Lodge for decorating the room to give such a Christmasy feel for everyone.



Football Match – v Ashton House School

Clifton Lodge played two Football teams against Ashton House School on Friday 29th November. We split our teams into a 'blue' team and a 'white' team.

On Pitch A we had Clifton Blue vs Ashton House 1, it was a tough game and Clifton blue narrowly lost 2-1 with Ashton house having a strong defence.

On Pitch B Clifton White dominated Ashton House 2 with a remarkable 11-1 win! There were some great passages of play from the Clifton white, showing they could work well together as a team.

After the short break the two Clifton sides changed pitches and kicked off the final games. Clifton Blue went on to win their game comfortably at 3-0, showcasing a strong defensive performance. While Clifton White won 6-2 with some great teamwork and football skills on show.

Clifton White worked a lot better as a team with standout players like Lenny and Victor.

Clifton Blue had strong individuals, however really struggled to work together as a team, stand out players were Austin and William.

Everyone represented Clifton Lodge so well and there were plenty of positives to take away from these four matches!

Lenny said, "It was really fun and exciting because I didn't know who was going to win"

Jahnara said, "I enjoyed it because we were against another school, and they were very competitive."

Ayman said, "I loved it because I liked playing football with my friends".



House Competitions

Things really started to hot up on the last day of term when we held our end of term house competitions. Having loosened their vocal cords with some boisterous chants in the House meetings, the children got stuck into their Inter House Quiz and then Art competitions. We all came together at the end of the morning to hand out certificates and announce the round up of results. The current standings are:

1st Cass
2nd Ward
3rd Mayet
4th Northover

It's all still to play for as we go into the coming two terms!

Year 6 Senior Schools

The Year 6s have been hard at work this term preparing for a range of assessments and interviews for different senior schools; we are all so very proud of them. There are still a few more interviews and tests to go after the holidays – one last push!

Finally, another big thank you to our amazing Friends of Clifton Lodge for providing hot drinks and doughnuts on last day at pick up time – what a wonderful way to end the school term.



Wishing you all a wonderful Christmas and New Year and we look forward to seeing everyone back on Tuesday 7th January.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Belsito'.

Michael Belsito
Head