

Clifton-upon-Dunsmore Primary School Newsletter

'With open minds and loving hearts, we will achieve.'

Autumn Term Issue 1 - 4th September 2026

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HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

A very warm welcome back to school. I hope that you and your families enjoyed a restful summer break. It has been wonderful to see the children return and settle so positively into their new classes.

We extend a special welcome to our new pupils and families and look forward to getting to know you. There have been some exciting changes over the summer, including our new fences and gates. Please be assured that our usual drop-off and collection arrangements remain unchanged.

We are delighted to welcome our new staff joining us this year - Mr Northedge, Mr Page and Ms Rahman. We have exciting plans for the curriculum and new learning opportunities, which we will share over the coming weeks.

School Uniform - Please ensure that children wear the correct school uniform each day. Our uniform is an important part of our school identity and helps children feel that they belong to one team.

Please ensure all items of uniform are named so that we can reunite them with your child if they are left behind anywhere.

Shoulder-length hair must be tied back, and jewellery, smart watches and make-up should not be worn. Please refer to the Uniform Policy on our website for full details.

Allergies and Medication - Following new statutory requirements from 1 September, parents and carers must ensure that the school has current information about their child's allergies, medical needs, medication and emergency arrangements.

Please provide any required medication, together with written medical instructions and consent, and inform us immediately of any changes. Medication must be clearly labelled and within its expiry date.

Children are reminded never to share food and to tell an adult immediately if they think they are having an allergic reaction or have come into contact with an allergen.

Attendance Matters - Attendance in School is really important. Every day missed soon adds up and children can quickly fall behind resulting in them becoming less confident in class and more anxious about coming to school. Missed learning cannot always be fully replicated, and repeated absence can create significant gaps.

Attendance of 90% or below is classified as persistent absence. This is equivalent to approximately one day of school being missed every fortnight, while attendance of 80% represents around one missed day each week.

We recognise that illness can sometimes prevent a child from attending school. Even 5 minutes late every day over a year adds up to 3 School days missed!

We are developing some new initiatives in school to celebrate attendance giving everyone a chance to be successful at achieving 100% during a month, a half-term, a term or the whole year.

Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to a happy and successful year together.



Congratulations go to all of our children who live our Values throughout the week.

Pupil's Pupil Class Pupil

From next week we will find out who are
our star pupils

Attendance

Due to a technical issue with our new registration system, attendance figures for the first two weeks of term will be shared in next week's newsletter.

Meet the Teacher Meetings Tuesday 8th September

We would like to invite all parents and carers to meet their child's new class teacher on Tuesday 8th September. To support families with children in different year groups, the session will be offered twice: Session 1 at 3:30pm and Session 2 at 4:10pm, with each meeting taking place in the relevant classroom. During the session, teachers will provide an overview of the year ahead, share key information about the curriculum and routines, and outline their class expectations. We hope this will be a valuable opportunity to ask questions and help your child make a positive and confident start to the new school year.

OUTSTANDING DINNER MONEY

We are currently owed **£283.10** for dinners.

Please ensure that your account is settled.



House Points

House Points will begin
next week.

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THIS WEEK IN SCHOOL

Pre-School - What an exciting first week in Pre-School, we are proud of how well our children have helped their new friends to start settling in. We have been exploring the new routine and where everything is in the classroom. The children have done really well at remembering what 'STAR' means and have been able to follow our class rules. We have really enjoyed spending time outside working on gross motor skills using the bikes and scooters, we are very impressed with the children's skills and balance!

Reception - It has been so fantastic to see our new Reception class come into school so confidently. We have been practising stopping and listening when the staff say "STAR" and standing still in a line when we say "Soldier". The children are also beginning to understand our behaviour expectations in the different areas of the classroom, learning how caring is sharing, but it is also great to wait. They are practising how to use the resources carefully, share with others, take turns and tidy up after themselves. It has been a fantastic start to their Reception year. Well done Reception for being brave.

Year 1 - It has been fantastic to see everyone come into school so confidently and settle so well into their new routines. The children have been busy recapping their phonics and showing us how much they can already remember. In Maths, we have been exploring the properties of shapes and sorting them in different ways, using mathematical language to explain our thinking. We have also started looking at seasonal change, noticing what is beginning to change around us as we move towards autumn. Well done Year 1!

Year 2 - We have been settling into school and class this week. We have spent time sharing our holiday news and adventures. We have had lesson reminders about class and school rules and learning how to move and use our class environment and resource responsibly. We have been appointing class monitors to care for our class spaces. We have enjoyed whole school assemblies and we finished the week with a PSHE lesson about - Being Me in My World.

Year 3 - We have had a lovely first week together in Year 3. Despite it only being a short week, we have managed to pack a lot in! We enjoyed sharing our summer holiday highlights and we have written some great sentences about this. In PSHE, we drew our safe places and shared with the class how it makes us feel when we are in that place. Children should have all come home with a reading book after completing their reading test. On Tuesday next week, we shall begin our recorder lessons.

Year 4 - What a great start! We have settled in nicely to our new routines. The children have enjoyed sharing their holiday adventures and have taken the time to write a recount of their summer. In PSHE, we have discussed our early warning signs and created our network of safe people that the children feel comfortable talking to. We look forward to seeing you next week at our meet the teacher meeting.

Year 5 - What a fantastic first week we have had! The children have settled into Year 5 incredibly well and have already made a brilliant start to the year. This week, we have shared and discussed our class rules and expectations, helping to ensure that everyone feels safe, happy and ready to learn to the very best of their ability. In English, we have been practising using punctuation, adverbs and adjectives correctly to create more complex and interesting sentences. In Maths, we have recapped some fundamental arithmetic strategies to help strengthen and build on our mathematical skills. Well done year 5, an excellent start to the new school year!

Year 6 - What a fantastic start to the new school year! Year 6 have settled in brilliantly and have been busy recapping key learning, taking part in team-building activities and getting used to their new routines and expectations. It has been wonderful to see everyone working together, building confidence and making such a positive start to their final year of primary school. I have also really enjoyed settling into my new role, getting to know the children and seeing them grow in confidence already. Well done, Year 6!

Dates for your diary

September

8th - Meet the Teacher Class Meetings 3:30 and 4:10

14th - School Council - Class Campaigns begin

16th - Flu Immunisations

21st - School Council - Candidate Campaigns begin

25th - School Council Elections

October

5th - Harvest Festival

12th - Bikeability

19th - Careers Week

20th - Parents' Evening

22nd - Break up

23rd - Teacher Training Day

26th - 30th - Half Term

November

2nd - School Reopens

December

18th - Break up

January

4th - Teacher Training Day

PTA



The PTA will be arranging their AGM very soon - please do support them in the valuable work they do for our school and our children. More details to follow.

High 5



If any child begins to feel anxious or uncomfortable during play, we encourage them to calmly and confidently let the other child know that they are no longer enjoying the situation. This should always be done in a firm but respectful manner. If the issue continues, children are encouraged to seek support from an adult on the playground, who can help resolve the situation appropriately, rather than trying to deal with it themselves, using other means.



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WORSHIP

This year we will be continuing to reflect on our Christian Values through our Worship.

On Wednesday, Mrs Bernard welcomed the whole school back and we met our new Teachers and Teaching Assistants. We thought about our memories from the Summer Holiday and what we are most looking forward to achieving during this year. Mrs Bernard introduced us to our new Spirituality Tree which helps children explore and express their spirituality. Its four roots represent our relationships with ourselves, with other people, with the world around us and with God or something greater than ourselves.

Throughout the year, children will use the Tree to reflect on Wow moments that inspire wonder, Ow moments involving hurt or difficulty, and Now moments when we consider how we can respond and make a positive difference. This supports children in developing open minds, loving hearts and a deeper understanding of themselves and others.

On Thursday, Mrs Sefia led our first Jigsaw assembly and introduced each class to their new Jigsaw we also thought about how we all work TOGETHER to make our school community grow.

On Friday, we had our first Congratulations Assembly where we reminded ourselves of some of the school rules and talked about some exciting opportunities coming up. We encourage the children to become pupil leaders and there are a range of roles they can take on including: Active Ambassadors, Peer Mediators, Art Ambassadors, Reading Buddies, Eco Warriors, Writing Ninjas, Values Ambassadors and School Council. We will share more information with the children on how to apply for these roles in school.

Throughout this year, our collective worship will explore lessons from the Book of Psalms and connect them with our school Bible story, The Good Samaritan. These stories and reflections will encourage children to consider how they can show love, kindness and care towards others.

We will also learn about important feasts and festivals celebrated within the world's major religions. This will deepen the children's knowledge and help them appreciate both the similarities and differences between Christianity and other faiths.

Our school values—Friendship, Truthfulness, Forgiveness, Respect, Thankfulness, Compassion, Community and Perseverance—guide how we learn, behave and care for one another. They help us put the message of the Good Samaritan into action and live out our motto: "With open minds and loving hearts, we will achieve."



Smart School Council Update

School Council Elections 2026

We are excited to announce that our School Council elections are coming up! This is a fantastic opportunity for pupils to share their ideas, represent their classmates and help make a positive difference in our school.

We would like to let parents and carers know about the important dates:

 Monday 14th September – School Council class campaigns open.

 Friday 18th September – School Council class vote.

 Monday 21st September – School Council candidate campaign.

 Friday 25th September – School Council election.

 Monday 28th September – The new School Council team will be announced!

We wish all of our candidates the very best and look forward to seeing lots of enthusiasm, creativity and fantastic ideas throughout the campaign.

Reading Millionaire

Who will be our next Word Millionaire?



Keeeeeep Reading!

Teacher Training Days for 2026 - 2027

Tuesday 1st September 2026

Friday 23rd October 2026

Monday 4th January 2027

Thursday 25th March 2027

Monday 7th June 2027



Nuts and Eggs - Important Reminder

We have children in school with severe nut and egg allergies. To help keep all pupils safe, please do not send any food items into school that contain nuts or egg products, including items such as egg sandwiches.

We would also like to remind children to not share food with others, as they may not be aware of the ingredients.



Allergies

We have children with severe, life threatening allergies to **NUTS** and **EGGS**. Please do not send food containing these items into school.