

Clifton-upon-Dunsmore Primary School Newsletter



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



Autumn Term Issue 2 - 11th September 2026

Telephone: 01788 542027 Email: admin3177@welearn365.com

HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

We have our first full week in school and everyone has settled in really well. I am delighted to have been awarding postcards to children who have been working exceptionally hard. When your child has collected 5 postcards, they need to bring them into school to show me, for a special prize. This includes postcards they have collected in a previous year. They are marked with a 'P' when the prize has been awarded.

Thank you to everyone who attended our Meet the Teacher sessions on Tuesday. They were very well attended, and we hope you found them helpful and informative. We will send out information about specific year group briefings and the workshops we will be offering to our Reception parents at an appropriate time

Parking Around School

Please may I remind families to park considerately around the school. In particular, please avoid parking on the triangle at the top of North Road, as this can prevent other vehicles from moving safely around the junction and block the view of families crossing with younger children and prams. Thank you for helping us to keep everyone safe.

Choir

Our school choir is open to all children from Year 2 upwards. We enjoy learning a wide range of music, including songs from popular musicals, which the children particularly love. We have an exciting programme of performances planned this term, including Harvest Festival, Remembrance Day, Advent, Christingle and our Carol Service. We will also be singing for residents at The Elms and visitors to Tuesday Teas. Children who join the choir should try to attend every rehearsal, as we sing in parts and may allocate solos to individual pupils. We are also hoping to bring out our bell plates again, and Mr Northedge will be introducing us to hand bells too! If your child would like to join, please contact the school office for further details.

Can You Help Us Rebuild Our Outdoor Stage?

Our outdoor stage is in need of significant repair. As many of the problems are caused by the foundations beneath it, we believe the best long-term solution is to remove the existing structure and start again with a new build. The stage is a valuable part of our outdoor environment. It gives our children opportunities to perform, play creatively and develop their confidence.

We would be very grateful to hear from any parents, carers or members of our school community who could:

- Help us plan or manage the project
- Help source or donate building materials
- Share building, carpentry or construction expertise
- Join a team of volunteers to help rebuild the stage

If you can offer advice, materials or practical support, please contact the school office. With the help of our school community, we hope to create a safe and lasting new stage for all our children to enjoy.

Thank you for your support.



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

	Pupil's Pupil	Class Pupil
Reception	Everyone for settling in so well	
Year 1	Everyone for settling in so well	
Year 2	Tommy	Aubrey
Year 3	Stan	Stanley B
Year 4	Toby	Tom
Year 5	Saavan	Parker
Year 6	Sianna	Leah

Attendance

The whole school attendance this week is 97.5% which is on our target of 97.5% - Well done.

Gold Award - Reception 100%

Silver Award - Year 4 99.2%

Bronze Award - Year 2 98.5%

Flu Immunisations Wednesday 16th September

Next week, the school immunisation team will be visiting to administer the flu vaccination. We strongly encourage all families to complete the consent form so that their child can receive the vaccine. A good uptake helps to reduce the spread of flu across our school community and protects vulnerable family members, including older relatives.

OUTSTANDING DINNER MONEY

We are currently owed **£358.90** for dinners.

Please ensure that your account is settled.



House Points
Congratulations to:

Yellow House

who have won this week.

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THIS WEEK IN SCHOOL

Pre-School - We have worked so hard this week. We have started rhyme time, focusing on 'Incy Wincy Spider.' The children have practised fine motor skills by using glue and little paper strips to create their own 3D spiders, they have also worked really hard at trying to join in with all of the actions. This week we have started our maths topic of colours looking at prime colours specifically. The children enjoyed mark making with the prime colour paints.

Reception - We have completed our first full week, and the children have embraced our new routines with growing confidence. We focused on making friends and building positive relationships, using the STEM sentence, "Hello, my name is... what is yours?" and "Stop, I don't like it." The children have learnt key classroom expectations with curiosity and independence. We read the story 'The Colour Monster' using emotional cards to help us express how we are feeling. What a fabulous week!

Year 1 - We have had another busy week of learning! In Phonics, we have been reviewing Phase 3 and building our confidence in recognising and using them. In Maths, we have been counting to 100 and beyond, making use of the patterns and structure in our number names. We have also been practising how to count collections of objects by organising them into groups of ten. In PSHE, we started our work on 'Feeling Special and Safe', thinking about what helps us to feel valued, happy and secure in our classroom.

Year 2 - In Maths, we have looked at numbers from 1- 20, we explored their value in tens and ones and represented them on a place value grid and a part, whole model. In English, our text is 'The Hare and the Tortoise,' we learnt how to describe by using adjectives. In Science, we recalled our prior learning on different materials and explored objects around us. We labelled them with vocabulary words to show their properties. In History, WW1, we learnt about Remembrance Day and why it is commemorated. We ended the week with Art and PSHE 'Being Me in My World'.

Year 3 - We've had a really busy and exciting week. In Maths, we have been learning about tens and ones and using them to make and represent two-digit numbers using practical resources to help. In English, we read 'The Fox and the Stork' and then wrote our own retell of the story. In Science, we went on a rock hunt around school and had lots of fun looking for different types of rocks and talking about what we noticed. In History, we started learning about the Stone Age. We explored what life was like for people living in prehistoric Britain and found out lots of interesting facts about how they lived.

Year 4 - Year 4 have enjoyed perfecting their sentence construction and retelling the fable of The Ant and the Grasshopper. In Maths, the children have been securing their understanding of Place Value of numbers into the thousands. In Science, they learnt about animal classification and identified animals in a local habitat (we looked in the Friendship Garden). We have started learning about the Roman Invasion of Britain and created timelines.

Year 5 - Another fantastic week in Year 5! In English, we have used The Lion and the Mouse to write our own retells, focusing on using commas after fronted adverbials. We have also been working hard to make sure our handwriting is joined, neat and legible. In Maths, we have been exploring the value of digits in four-digit numbers. In Science, we introduced our new Space and Earth topic and learnt why and how the Earth orbits the Sun. The children had great fun reenacting the Earth's revolution! In PSHE, we discussed our goals for the year ahead and what we would like to achieve. Well done, Year 5!

Year 6 - It has been a busy week! We have completed our baseline assessments helping us to identify what the children already know and where they may need some extra support. In Science, we have been learning about shadows, investigating how they change according to the light source. In History, we went back to 1891, looking at pictures of different Victorian social classes and identifying differences between them. In English, we have started reading 'The Street Child,' learning about Jim Jarvis and his family. We wrote a text using persuasive language answering the question 'Would you like to be a child in the Victorian or the modern era?' We are looking forward to digging deeper into the characters of Street Child next week, linking perfectly with our History topic.

Dates for your diary

September

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

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 Monday, we began our new worship theme by exploring the Book of Psalms alongside our school Bible story of the Good Samaritan. We thought about how each of us is unique, with our own qualities and characteristics, yet we are all equally important—everyone matters. Using our Spirituality Tree, we reflected on the Wows, Ows and Nows within the story and considered how we can live out its message in our daily lives by noticing others, showing compassion and offering help when someone is in need.

On Tuesday, we enjoyed our first Hymn Practice by revisiting some of our favourite songs. We are beginning to think about our Harvest Festival and will be learning some new songs.

On Wednesday, Mrs Raffell launched our exciting new oracy initiative, Clifton Voice. She explained how speaking and listening skills help children develop confidence, support their wellbeing and build positive relationships. The children explored examples of effective communication and learned how to develop and extend their spoken answers. Each classroom now has a set of talking rules to help every child become a confident, thoughtful and articulate communicator.

During Thursday's assembly, we learnt about Paryushan, the most important annual festival in the Jain religion, which celebrates spiritual awareness. The children reflected on three important ideas:

- **WOW** – Notice: What fills you with wonder about the possibility that a damaged friendship can be restored?
- **OW** – Care: What troubles your heart when people, animals or the natural world are harmed?
- **NOW** – Act: What loving action can you take today – apologise, forgive, use peaceful words or protect a living thing?

The children enjoyed thinking about how small, kind actions can make a positive difference to others and the world around us.

On Friday, in our Congratulations Assembly, we had our first certificates awarded for children regularly showing our school values in their work and in their play around school. Our first Star Writers have also been given a certificate for demonstrating the skills of their weekly writing independently. This week we celebrated a number of birthdays - including one very special one.

With open minds and loving hearts, we will achieve.

Psalm 139:14

**"I praise you because
I am fearfully and
wonderfully made."**
Psalm 139:14

You are unique.
You are special.
You are loved.
You matter.



**NEVER PARK ON
THE ZIG - ZAGS!**

Please help to keep ALL our children safe - never park on our Zig Zags

SCHOOL KEEP CLEAR

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

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.