



Newsletter – 26th April 2024

Headteacher's Message

Good afternoon,

We are having a little trouble with our usual electronic newsletter so this week, we are sending the contents in this letter so you are up-to-date with all things Clifford Bridge. Highlights this week? Plenty! The Flame of Friendship arrived with our friends from Ernesford Grange and we had singing, dancing and the band performed for us all to have a great time. It was a special moment.

Next, we invited a visitor to school, who spent the day with us. The focus was upon attendance, why children enjoy coming to school and how we can further improve. I would like to share a snippet of his report with you, *"This is one of the strongest schools I have attended where the culture of the school clearly encourages belonging and connectedness. The ethos of the school is built around a child-centred, supportive and collaborative approach to all aspects of school life. Children have a love of learning and enjoy the curriculum they engage in."*

My final highlight of the week was the Year 1 Family Assembly. A huge well done to everyone who took part as you taught us lots about your Flight theme through singing, dancing and brilliant explanations. We loved it!

I hope you have a lovely weekend,

Mrs Morgan

Attendance

Whole School Attendance 95.80%

Best Class RG 99.00%

Why RG liked being in school:

Jiya - I like the marble run because you can build it high

Lyla – I liked playing with Olivia

Amelia – I liked the beans we planted

Yunus – I build a really high marble run

Jack W – I like playing with Logan and Jack

Lola – Me and Pheobe made a cake together

EYFS in the Spotlight

EYFS in the Spotlight This half term, Reception have begun an exciting new writing initiative called Drawing Club. At the start of the week, we begin by teaching the children some ambitious vocabulary that they could use in relation to a story we will be looking at together. We decide on a particular action to match the vocabulary and then practise saying the ambitious vocabulary alongside doing the action. Examples of the stunning vocabulary we have used in the last couple of weeks include: clambering, dinghy, scatterbrain and gargantuan! We then share the story or a film clip, joining in with the actions for the improved vocabulary. After that, Drawing Club is open! The children write three times during the week, writing about a character, the setting and an adventure that could happen – this is great because it allows their imaginations to run wild! Look at some of our amazing writing! Having enjoyed the story of Jack and the Beanstalk, we also planted some of our own beans. We watched a time-lapse of how beans grow their roots and shoots and are now excitedly watching ours break through the soil. We have also been excited to set up our vegetable patch in our outside area. Thanks to Mr Pittaway we have two lovely planters and plenty of compost; he even stepped forward for the unenviable task of collecting some manure to enrich the soil! Thanks Mr P! This week we have planted some sugar snap seedlings whilst we wait for our own to grow, as well as setting up a bean tent ready for our beans. Mrs Gilkes has given us some seed potatoes so we're looking forward to planting them too! All in all, it's been a busy and very productive couple of weeks!



Nursery

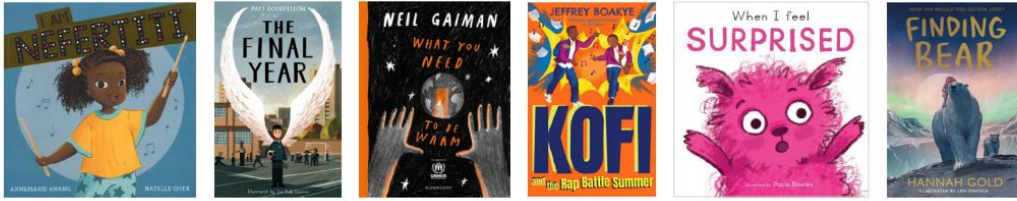
As it was Earth Day on Monday we have had a lovely week in Nursery learning all about how to help our world. The children have loved sorting the rubbish in our recycling centre, using both sides of the paper in the writing area and making lots of things out of waste material. We hope they haven't been too busy coming home asking you to switch off the lights and switch electrical items off at the plug but they have been very conscientious and keen to help save our planet!

We have created a fantastic montage of handprints to represent the world and we will be using this to make a display in the classroom. We have also been busy writing about what we love most in the whole wide world, planting cress and making a homemade marble run.

We hope our little eco-warriors carry on trying to help our world with everything they have learnt this week.



Reading: An Adventure that never ends



Read for Empathy Collection 2024

A guide to empathy-building books
For children aged 3–11

Why empathy?

Understanding and sharing emotions

Picture books, Early readers, Poetry, Non-fiction

Novels and Graphic novels

Top tips

@EmpathyLabUK

www.empathylab.uk

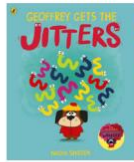
#ReadForEmpathy

Emotions

Being able to recognise, name and share your emotions is a key empathy skill. These eight wonderful picture books provide a springboard for helping children expand their understanding of, and vocabulary for, emotions.



Be More Dog
Caroline Crowe & Carlos Vélaz
A really clever, fun book about a dog, Sam, whose superpower is happiness. The boy in the story feels sad and worried when his dad leaves for work, but it really helps to play with Sam and learn from his exuberance and joy.
Floris Books



Geoffrey Gets the Jitters
Nadia Shireen
Anxiety plagues so many children, and this beautifully dynamic book helps explore how to express, understand and overcome worries. Geoffrey meets his jitters who tell him what they hate and what makes them disappear. Hilarious and profound.
Puffin



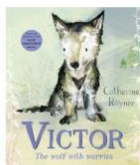
Blue
Sarah Christou
A gentle, tenderly illustrated picture book, personifying the feeling of being blue. The turning point comes for the main character when she starts talking about her feelings, sharing them with a friend, at home, at school, even at the hairdressers.
Faber



I Will Swim Next Time
Emily Joof & Matilda Ruta
Water feels really scary to the child in this magnificently illustrated story. So scary that sea swimming is out of the question. Gradually, an understanding mum encourages progress, until the joyful ending when 'water is my special place to be'.
Floris Books



When I Feel Surprised
Illustrator Paula Bowles
A really helpful board book for the very young in which a charming pink creature explores what surprises them. Sometimes even unwelcome surprises can turn into loads of fun, while others are straightforwardly lovely, like giving presents.
Child's Play



Victor, the Wolf with Worries
Catherine Rayner
Victor is worried he's not wolfish enough. Best friend Pablo encourages him to share his feelings, even when he's scared to. As the worries recede Victor starts to feel fierce and brave now he knows how to handle his emotions.
Macmillan Children's Books



Beneath
Cori Doerrfeld
Finn is struggling with horrible moods, and grandfather takes him on an exploration, looking at what happens beneath the surface of things. The natural world metaphors help Finn see that connecting to people can help, if you look beneath first appearances.
Scallywag Press

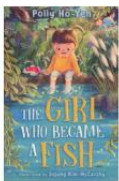


The Spaces In Between
Jaspreet Kaur & Manjit Thapp
Living in a city can spark a whole range of tricky emotions from panic to shyness. This thoughtful non-fiction text explores the spaces in between, which can help. It's full of ideas for spaces offering calm and interest and positive human connection.
Big Picture Press

3

Early readers and graphics

Early readers



The Girl Who Became a Fish
Polly Ho-Yen
Illustrator Sojung Kim-McCarthy
Little Ita has moved to a new town. She's afraid of so much, including the river. Gradually she is drawn to the magic that happens when her hands enter the water, and the change in her feelings... A gentle story, great for understanding emotions.
Knights Of



Dimple and the Boo
Pip Jones
Illustrator Paula Bowles
Dimple the gnome is finding life hard. Only the Boo seems to understand but is SO unruly! A deceptively simple little book, whose central character is dealing with anger and upset in a way many small children will relate to.
Barrington Stoke



Bear and Bird: The Picnic and Other Stories
Jarvis
Bear and Bird go on a picnic, talk to a flower and paint masterpieces. A funny, upbeat exploration of the misunderstandings friendship can bring. A great short read-aloud book, with potential for discussions about jealousy and competitiveness.
Walker Books



Budgie
Joseph Coelho
Illustrator David Barrow
Miles is entranced to find a lost budgie, which sadly dies. It emerges that it belonged to their irascible neighbour, who comes round on hearing the news. As they share their love of the bird, Miles discovers that Mr Buxton is actually rather wonderful.
Barrington Stoke

Graphics



Finding My Voice
Aoife Dooley
Frankie is autistic. Her new secondary school isn't an easy place to be. She is bullied and fearful. But Frankie learns the importance of being herself and not judging others, as she makes a new circle of friends and, together, they triumph in the *Battle of the Bands*.
Scholastic



It's Her Story: Irena Sendler
Margaret Littman
Illustrator Sara Luna
A true story of courage in World War Two Poland. Irena, a Catholic social worker, supported Jewish families in the ghettos and rescued babies and children. An inspiring picture book graphic story of empathy driving human beings to take extreme risks to save others.
Sunbird Books



Illustration © Paula Bowles

5

Keep an eye on empathylab.uk for extra resources

Novels



Until the Road Ends Phil Earle

Peggy is evacuated from war-torn London. Her beloved stray dog Beau is left behind, and heroically rescues people from the rubble. When Peggy's parents are killed, Beau knows he has, somehow, to find her. Powerful insights into wartime emotions, from an animal's perspective.

Andersen Press



Jamie L.D. Lapinski

Reading is powerful! This novel helps us really understand the experience of being non-binary. Jamie is at a turning point, forced to choose between going to a girls' or a boys' school. They fight to be heard, for their experience to matter. Hugely positive.

Orion



Fablehouse E.L. Norry

Fablehouse shelters children in care from a society unable to accept their skin colour. Troubled Heather finds a strangely compelling cairn, and a magical escapade unfolds. A thrilling adventure with profound insights into how children in care feel and the power of friendship.

Bloomsbury Children's Books



Cosima Unfortunate Steals a Star Laura Noakes

Illustrator Flavia Sorrentino

Cosima is disabled and lives at the Home for Unfortunate Girls, along with three best friends. Although they long for a real family, they're deeply suspicious of Lord Francis Fitzroy's plan to adopt them. Funny, moving and featuring joyous, authentic representation.

HarperCollins Children's Books



Kofi and the Rap Battle Summer Jeffrey Boakye

Kofi is a beguiling character, a young boy with a head full of dreams and big ideas that sometimes lead him into trouble. In this joyous coming-of-age story Kofi learns how good friends and a loving family can help him use his creative talents for good.

Faber



The Mystery of the Missing Mum Frances Moloney

In his hilarious voice, Jake shares the hunt for his missing mum. We gradually realise he's striving to blank the memory of her hospital admission. A moving, readable novel helping readers understand the struggle of living with a parent with mental-health problems.

Puskin Children's Books



Where the River Takes Us Lesley Parr

Jason's brother Richie tries to keep things going after their parents' death, but he's getting into big trouble. Set in Wales, this story has beautifully drawn relationships and a thrilling adventure as Jason and friends race to win £100 for sighting a big cat...

Bloomsbury Children's Books

8

Poetry and non-fiction

Poetry



My Heart is a Poem Mandy Coe, Laura Mucha, Debjani Chatterjee and 17 others

Illustrators Annalise Barber, Mariana Roldán, Masha Manapov, Nabila Adani

A poetry collection all about feelings – joy, sadness, fear. Wonderful poets articulate how it feels to be embarrassed, or hurt, or ache to get picked for the team. Poetry has a remarkable power to encapsulate and resolve our myriad human emotions.

Little Tiger



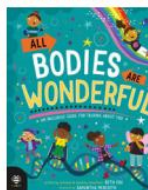
What You Need to be Warm Neil Gaiman

Illustrators Oliver Jeffers, Yuliya Gwilym, Nadine Kaadan, Pam Smy, Daniel Egnéus and eight others

Neil Gaiman's extended poem is based on thousands of replies to his question 'What are your memories of being warm?' It's a simply beautiful offering of warmth to people who are cold or have had to flee their homes.

Bloomsbury Children's Books

Non-fiction

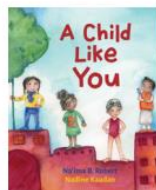


All Bodies Are Wonderful Beth Cox

Illustrator Samantha Meredith

A beautifully positive celebration of the diversity of human beings. It covers science, emotional well-being and our relationship with each other and the world we inhabit. Empathy permeates all aspects of life in this fascinating, reassuring and life-affirming book.

↳ small publishing



A Child Like You Na'ima B. Robert

Illustrator Nadine Kaadan

Empathy can spark a determination to challenge the wrongs in our world. A terrific picture book about four real-life children who campaign for change – for instance to save the planet and combat child slavery. A stirring read!

Otter-Barry Books



Lift the Flap: Questions and Answers about Refugees Katie Daynes & Ashe de Sousa

Illustrator Oksana Drachkovska

What happens when home isn't safe any more? This highly topical, well-written text answers many questions about the refugee experience, taking an inclusive, thoughtful stance. Younger children will enjoy the interactive, visual approach, and will learn a lot.

Usborne



Our Story Starts in Africa Patrice Lawrence

Illustrator Jeanetta Gonzales

A celebration of Africa's history and African woman told through the empathetic conversation Tante Janet has with Paloma, who is uncertain of her place in the world. Tante Janet helps Paloma develop a sense of pride in her identity and heritage. An inspiring picture book.

Magic Cat Publishing

6

Wellbeing

I spoke with the staff at school about progress and how this is never linear. There are peaks and troughs in everyone's stories and every child's learning. That is what makes life interesting, the ups and the downs. One of the skills that we teach children here is a 'give it a go' attitude and to practise the skills that we are learning. I found a cute little poem about how practice doesn't always make perfect, and that is ok. More than ok.



50



'Practice makes perfect' requires a correction,
There's more to improvement than reaching perfection.

Some people who practise will never be perfect,
And don't mind at all, and they still think it's worth it.

Some practise for purpose, some practise for pleasure,
Some people get better, some don't even measure.

No, I'd rather tell you that practice make progress,
Forget about perfect and follow the process.

There's more to a mountain than reaching the top,
There're vistas and wonders wherever you stop.

So enjoy what you do, keep your passion intact,
And if you see progress, you're on the right track.

51

Have a great weekend,
Cara

Birthdays

Birthdays 15th April to 28th April

Leia P

Eva H

Lacie-Anne H

Cass T

Nathania S

Nathan H

Reynold C

Chimkasimma M

Alexander J

Yah, Yaa M

Tommy-Jai N

Victoria O



Merits

Year 1 – Kirat S & Lilly C

Year 2 Scarlett J & Erin H

Year 3 – Daniel M & Ayah H

Year 4 – Preet K & Mofeoluwa O

Year 5 – Kendrick d & Kian J

Year 6 – Damian P & Isabella R

The Sticky Question of the week is:

Can you cheat if you don't know the rules?

Remember to try and answer with your thoughts in a full sentence!

Mrs O'Driscoll

Think outside of the box:

Here is your puzzle of the week:

The day before yesterday Freda was 17. Next year she will be 20. How is this possible?

The answer to last week's question is:

The letter 'M'.

Come and let me know your thoughts!

Mrs O'Driscoll



Community Achievements



During Easter Half Term Averley had a double achievement moving up to Level 3 in swimming and smashing her 15 Metres all within a week of moving up a level. Well done!

