This Week at Clifford Bridge

There’s nothing like getting back into the swing of things! Our first full week of school has been a whirlwind that started on Sunday afternoon as we waved off our Year 6’s on their 4 night residential to Plas Dol Y Moch in Wales. Judging by the fantastic photos that the staff have been uploading to Facebook it looks like they have had a superb time, and even had some sunshine! Special thanks to all the staff who gave up their time to take great care of them all on this trip. I am looking forward to having all the staff and children back in school next week!

Mr Peet and Mr O-Sullivan performed a cracking assembly this Wednesday, where Roald Dahl’s ‘Revolting Rhymes’ were shared. The giggles coming from the hall were lovely to hear. Mrs Tarka’s ‘Animals Day’ on Monday raised over £200 for the upkeep of our school pets. We’re so proud of the little ‘zoo’ we are beginning to create at Clifford, and our guinea pigs, rabbits and tortoise all appreciate your donations in order to keep them happy and healthy.

On Wednesday evening, we held our weekly staff meeting. Amongst other important things, I asked teachers to reflect on their first few days with their new classes and share with each other their favourite moment. As teachers, we are in such a privileged position to be surrounded by the magic of childhood, every working day. Without doubt, it’s a really tough job but all of us have “wow” moments in our classrooms every single day and it was lovely to be able to pause and reflect on these together as a team. With their permission, I have typed up some of their ‘best bits’ and attached to this newsletter. I hope they make you smile as much as I did when I heard them.

Wishing everyone a superb weekend

Amy Husband

The School Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16.09.2019</td>
<td>After School Clubs start this week</td>
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<tr>
<td>16.09.2019</td>
<td>PTFA Planning Meeting - Everyone welcome</td>
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<tr>
<td>25.09.2019</td>
<td>Curriculum Evening Year 1 - Year 6</td>
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Best moments of our first week – from a Teacher’s perspective…

“The highlight of my week was when one of my little ones who was learning my name called me “Princess Dainty”. I explained my name was “Mrs Dainty”. After a pause he said “Can I call you Princess though?”. Brilliant!” – Mrs ‘Princess’ Dainty (Nursery)

“I have loved getting to know all my new Reception children. Their smiles are infectious and their cuddles prepare me for an amazing day!” – Mrs Dhillon (Reception D)

“Eric is new to Clifford Bridge and his first language is Romanian. He has an infectious smile that puts a smile on everyone else’s face. Today he said “Good Morning Mr Wilson” during registration; he had previously barely said a word. It was a special moment and really got me.” – Mr Wilson (Reception W)

“Year 1 were beside themselves with laughter on Tuesday as Skittles the tortoise visited our classroom. He made us all belly-laugh as he tried to make the great escape out of his tray. They were so excited and enthused, and wanted to start writing about him straight away. As I looked around my classroom I could see their little minds buzzing with ideas. I am so proud of how they’ve settled into Year 1 and taken everything in their stride.” – Miss Jones (1J)

“Hearing my new class ‘sing’ the register back to me so enthusiastically. “Year 1 are you here?”, “Yes we aaaaare!” The children all shone and were smiling from the moment they arrived to the moment they went home. I feel like a very lucky teacher!” – Miss Payne (1P)

“During a Philosophy-4-Children session, I asked my class “if you could change one thing about the world, what would it be?”. Their answers absolutely blew me away! “I would find a cure for illness”, “I would protect the environment and end pollution”, “I would keep families together”, “I would have everything made out of sweets!”. Hearing their thoughts made me excited for our future.” – Mrs Allen (2A)

“I particularly enjoyed our first PE session, especially our game of Jelly Beans. Their smiling faces beaming back at me has been my highlight” – Mrs Collett (2C)

“I have loved watching how lots of inspirational Y3 School Council candidates gave each other encouragement, especially to those who needed a little boost in their confidence. Kind actions speak volumes here.” – Miss Henry (3H)

“I find it amusing when children are so relaxed around me they accidentally call me mum!” – Mrs Tarka (3T)

“In answer to the question “What makes a good sports person?” Taylor wrote “energetic, teamwork, courage, sportsmanship and skillful”. He then looked straight at me and smiled.” – Mr Peet (4P)

“Talking about our feelings and making mistakes, and how we can learn from them. This week is the first time we have laughed as a class. Maybe they get me!” – Mr O’Sullivan (4O)

“Watching quietly whilst each and every child was on task, engaged and happy. They were creating their Theme front covers. It was a moment of “collective togetherness” without having to ask. It really made me smile.” – Miss Every (5E)

“I asked the children to think about things that could help them with their learning. They came up with such amazing ideas that I just had to write them down and create a display out of them, so that they’re always on show to be able to refer to” – Mrs Moore (5M)
We had an animaltastic day on Monday raising money for our school pets. In total so far (though money is still coming in) we have raised £225. This should hopefully keep us going for a little while but in the meantime please feel free to bring in any donations of sawdust, hay or vegetables which we use on a daily basis. Thanks again for your support and if you fancy looking after the pets in the holiday please see Mrs Tarka.

Pupil Council

This week the children have been voting for their new school councillors. Lots of children put themselves forward and gave great motivational speeches. Each class then voted for the girl and boy from their year group to be their school councillor. The results were very close but our new school councillors are:

Year 2 – Keira and Bodhi
Year 3 – Poppy and Charlie
Year 4 – Nancy and Freddie
Year 5 – Ashleigh and Charlie
Year 6 – Sanam, Kya, Emmanuel and Charlie
Wow! Our Year 6s have had a truly brilliant, magical and memorable experience and have been a joy to spend time with.

Everyone has overcome a challenge; whether it was: climbing up a waterfall in a mine; finding their way through a forest; completing the Dol-y-Moch dive; or making their own beds, every single one of them should be proud of themselves. We are certainly proud of them! Thank you Year 6.

Thank you to all the staff at Dol-y-moch, who were outstanding and inspiring to our children. Also to all of the staff from Clifford Bridge who gave up their time to make this happen (we all love it!)

What a week to remember! Well done Year 6 🐥🌟
Miss Hobday and Mr Seath