

Friday 28th November 2014

Message from the head:

Petition We are so thrilled that so many of you have signed our petition to widen Cliff Villas pavement. When we last looked there were 107 signatures. Please see the message below from Don and make sure you add yours!

Christmas Fair

We are busy getting ready for the Christmas fair on 12th December. Please let us know what you can bring or if you are able to help out. We already have some parents helping out—but we need lots more. Please let Sue in the office know if you are willing to get involved in any way at all.

Coffee morning

Please join parents on Monday morning in the Reception-area for a chat or a catch up, or simply to get to know other parents. We are hoping to make this a regular event.

Pupil Progress reviews:

This week we have reviewed the progress of every child in the school and agreed next steps. We are really pleased that so many of them are doing really well and thank the teachers and TAs for their hard work and support

Thank you to our beating heart!

On this, 'TA Appreciation Day' we'd like to say a huge thank you to our TAs. They are amazing and we wouldn't be able to achieve what we do without them. They are invaluable colleagues and friends to the teachers and essential to the emotional and educational growth of the children. Thank you to all of them.



Christmas Music Concert—17th Dec

A huge thank you to all those who returned slips to say their children want to take part in the Christmas Music Concert. We've had a fantastic response with over 90 children volunteering. There's no space for any more performers! Due to the huge demand we have to limit tickets to 2 per family of those taking part otherwise we can't fit everyone in the hall! The response to this event is a testament to Sue's drive to give the arts, and specifically music, such a high profile at Brecknock and also to Rod for the incredible music provision he provides. We're all very excited by this event and hope it becomes a staple in the Brecknock Calendar.

Maths Challenge

Well done to Freya, Ahmed, Zoe and Shalin who went with Monica to take part in a Primary Maths Challenge against other London schools at Hampstead Secondary School. The children were amazing and a real credit to us all with their endeavour and enthusiasm. A special mention must go to Shalin, who as a Year 4, was by far the youngest competitor from any school—everyone else was from year 5 and 6! They had lots of fun, and they should be very proud of themselves—we are!



Parent Academy

Don't forget about Parent Academy this week...

- **Green Group—Tuesday 2nd December 9am-11.30am**
- **Blue Group—Friday 5th December 9-11.30am**



Mathletics and Bug Club

Please encourage your children to use these from home. Thanks
www.mathletics.co.uk & www.bugclub.co.uk

Attendance Rabbit & Early Bird Winners

Autumn Term: 17th—21st November

Attendance KS1: **2H—97.04%**

Attendance KS2: **6G—98.89%**

Early Bird: **6C—0 lates**



The Next Friday Cake Sale is...



Thank You!!!

Friday 5th December—Richard House
Charity Cake Sale!



Last weeks cake sale—Reception raised £73.20

Widen Cliff Villas Campaign!

Those of you who follow us on Twitter will have seen this week that the school council campaign to have Camden Council consider widening the pavement outside our Early Years Setting and making Cliff Villa's a one way street took to the internet in the form of an online petition. We already have over one hundred people signed up to support us. If you don't already know about the campaign please go to the school website and read the letter School Council has sent to Camden. If you'd like to support the children in this campaign we'd really appreciate you adding your signature to the online form. You can see the campaign at this web address (there is a link on our twitter feed and on the school website).

<https://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/widen-our-pavement>



Punctuality

We'd like to say thank all the parents who have helped their children adjust to the new soft start. It has been going really well and feedback from children has been very positive. The soft start has meant teachers are able to start their lessons promptly at 9am with children settled and ready to learn. We do have a number of children who are not making it into school for 9am which means that when they get to their class the learning has already begun. This can lead to them being flustered and miss out on key bits of learning. For some, this unsettled start can dog them throughout the morning. We cannot stress enough how important being in and settled and ready to start at 9am is. Please, if you are one of the parents who is struggling to get your children to school on time, make a concerted effort to do so. We all know how much there can be to do in the morning, especially if you have a number of children to get ready. Sometimes, simple steps, like getting them up 10 minutes early can make all the difference. Thank you for all your support in making sure they are here on time to get the most out of their learning experience.

Dates for your calendar

8th Dec	Christmas Show for Nursery
8th Dec	Year 1 to Arts Depot to see 'Beegu'
9th Dec	Christmas Show for Year 1
10th Dec	Christmas Show for Year 2
11th Dec	Christmas Show for Reception
12th Dec	Christmas Fair
17th Dec	End of Year Music Concert (Goodbye to Sue!)
19th Dec	Last day of term—school closes @2pm
5th Jan	INSET day—school closed
6th Jan	Spring Term starts—children back

Author Study - Phillip Pullman

This year we have introduced an 'author study' into our literacy provision for each year. This then forms the basis of a literacy unit where the children really get under the skin of the writer and his or her style. The author the class studies changes every half term so that by the end of the year each class will have studied multiple texts by 6 different, famous children's authors. Yesterday, in assembly, 6G shared with us some of the writing they have produced as part of their author study on Phillip Pullman and based around his fantastic story, 'The Firework Makers Daughter'. We were so impressed, by not just the standard, but all the different genres of writing they presented to us, that we wanted to share some with you. This is just a sample of the different genres they've worked on using this study! It's proving to be really effective.

Year 3 and 6 were lucky enough to have the Hobgoblin Theatre perform the story of Perseus and Medusa in our school! Not only was it fun to watch, but half way through, they stopped, split the children into groups and got them really thinking about the characters and themes in the story. The quality acting supported the children's learning and understanding of the story. We can't wait to act out our own myths and write about them!

Perseus & Medusa!



Excerpt from a narrative Outcome by Rhiannon



Shaking uncontrollably I pulled myself up with bleeding hands using my final piece of strength. In front of me stood a grotto with harsh barren walls with a bolt of bright light coming from the inside. Traumatized, I stepped into the deathly, dark unknown with the wind slapping my battered, ghost pale face. The air got thin. The more I walked the more my blistered feet couldn't take it; sooner or later I would be burnt to a crisp. There was a pulsating roar that shook the floor. Was this the end? A wide carpet of lava laid itself around my transparent feet, sending a shiver down my spine. There was a triumphant boom in the distance. This was it. My doorway of hope. I couldn't control the feelings inside of me. There was sparks of fire before my eyes that danced through the suffocating air past my deaf ears. The grotto was alive. Angry and alive. A whirlwind of fury erupted out of nowhere, a ball of fire with a face of evil stared upon me with laser like eyes. I gulped hard. "By what right have you to come to my grotto?" Razvani questioned. "Um...Mr Razvani, I...I am here to collect the R..R..Royal Sulphur", I stuttered. "Ha Ha Ha", he laughed, "You? The Royal Sulphur...don't you know what I do to innocent children like you?...I kill them!" I looked at him with blood shot eyes full of horror. I was not safe here. Not at all. "You may think I am a little girl but I am not. I will be a world famous firework maker." I held my head up high. "I have already mastered the amazing Java Lights, dazzling shimmering Coins, also some colourful tumbling demons!" I exclaimed. There was an awkward silence..."If you think you are worthy enough to become a firework maker, then you must walk into the blazing flames," Razvani commanded. A terrible chill gripped my stomach as I stared into the flaming fury of hell.

A speech written for 1 of the characters—By Ali (and performed brilliantly in assembly)



He tells Chulak about the three gifts, Mount Merapi and the Royal Sulphur, but not me! This is a disgrace! My own father! I can't believe it! I can make the amazing Golden Sneezes and beautiful Java Lights. So what if I'm small and a girl! I don't want to be an unknown, stupid dancer. I want to be a world famous Firework maker who everyone talks about. I choose my own destiny! You want me to be a child all my life well that's not happening! The royal Sulphur will be mine. I'm going to prove to father I can be a real firework maker. No matter how steep the hill, how long the river, I will go to the top of Mount Merapi and show everyone I'm not just a little girl. Wait until I pull that string and ignite those wonderful dragons. The won't believe it. I'm willing and ready for the journey ahead. Father has done this too so why can't I? You surely think I can go to mount Merapi don't you Chulak but if you don't then I'll prove you wrong! You watch and see. You'll see.

A letter from Lila to her father by Freya



Dear Father, Mount Merapi—Razvani—The Royal Sulphur—I know it all. You told Chulak, not even your daughter, how can I trust you again? The only thing in my life that I want to do is be a firework maker and you didn't tell me what I needed to do to become one? You go to finish your apprenticeship, why can't I? I mastered the jaw-dropping Java Lights, the glistening, shimmering coins. I even invented tumbling demons. What more do I need to prove? I am going. I am going and you can't stop mw. I am going to prove you and everybody else in the town that I am not just a little girl, that I'm a firework maker. I don't care if my hair goes frizzy and look like a chimney sweep and that I won't have a husband. I am going to live my dream of being the most incredible, jaw dropping, world famous firework maker! I am not coming back. When you see my fireworks in the shop don't say I didn't warn you. Remember the time I made tumbling demons our number 1 seller? You can run your own business that I'm not part of! Your daughter that you're going to miss, Lila.

A persuasive speech written to advertise a firework by Saara The Gunpowder Plot!



Gather round, here is your once in a lifetime opportunity to buy my eye popping, glistening, colourful, jaw dropping, ear piercing firework. Once you get your hands on it, you won't want to buy another ever, ever again. Think about it, would you want to throw away an opportunity as good as this? It's beyond mankind, human, any thing you've ever seen before! When you hear this you probably think that this is any old firework, but you my friend are wrong, very wrong! This is no ordinary firework. First it bangs up in to the night sky, then shortly after three different fireworks fizz up beautifully in different directions, and Guy Fawkes' name appears in the middle of the sky and that's only the beginning of things! Next his face appears and money falls out of the sky. I know, I know, free money, absolutely amazing, but that's not all, not all at all. Once this amazing firework is it up into the sky it claps, fizzes, bangs and whooshes, anything you want it to do. Once your started you won't be able to stop! It's a dream come true, you'll think you're in heaven! Yes, yes, it's actually true. The Gunpowder Plot. In stores now for a limited time only!

Golden Book Awards and this weeks winners are...



Selina & Najma—Class 1M, Art & Sumiyah—Class 1T, Adam & Hadil—2B, Belle & John—Class 2H, Dren—3F, Megan—3N, Anfal—4M, Hadi—4W, George—5M, Ihsan—5W, Anisa—6C, Haythem—6G