

JOHN CLIFFORD SCHOOL BULLETIN

NATIONAL STORYTELLING WEEK



Next week in school we will be celebrating 'National Storytelling Week', taking part in some of the free activities available to schools. National Storytelling Week 2026 is a celebration of oral storytelling, reading and writing for pleasure. Attached to the bulletin is a resource to support with storytelling at home, which we hope you will enjoy alongside your child(ren).

TOPS TIPS FOR READING AT HOME

- 1. Take breaks while reading** - Your child doesn't have to read an entire book in one go! Any time spent sharing or talking about a book is beneficial.
- 2. Build reading into your child's daily routine** - Find a regular time for reading in your child's day, so that they can begin to expect it as part of their routine.
- 3. Encourage your child to follow their interests** - Let your young children choose the books they read. You can do this by keeping books on a shelf they have regular access to, or presenting them with two to three books and letting them choose.
- 4. Create a cosy place in your home** - With your child create a 'reading corner', which can be any size you like. Let your child decorate it with their favourite books and soft toys, so they look forward to going there to read.
- 4. Use technology together** - Using apps to read e-books, listen to audiobooks or sing nursery rhymes.
- 5. Encourage your child to be the author** - Build writing and drawing into your routine at home by helping your child tell a story. When telling stories, children are practising important language skills, such as past and future tense and transition words.
- 6. Share stories using the pictures in the book instead of the words** - Pictures are a great support for young and struggling readers. They are enjoyable to look at, capture children's attention and help them make sense of what they are reading.

READING CHALLENGE!

Every child will come home with a reading challenge - take part next week to be entered into a prize draw!



National Storytelling Week

2-8 February 2026

Mrs Roberts challenges you to a minimum of 5 reads next week. This can be listening to someone read you a story, reading to yourself or to a family member.



Return the slip to your class teacher to receive a sticker and to be entered into the prize draw to win a new book!

Book title/chapter Parent/carer initial	Book title/chapter Parent/carer initial	Book title/chapter Parent/carer initial	Book title/chapter Parent/carer initial	Book title/chapter Parent/carer initial

Storytelling games to play at home

ABC story-making

Create a story together from thin air! You'll need two or more players. One person starts with a sentence beginning with "A," the next continues with a sentence starting with "B," and so on through the alphabet. Take turns adding sentences to see where your story goes.

Now, bring your story to life with sound. Can you add a rhythm, sound effect or background beat to match what is happening? Let the words become the soundtrack to your imagination!

Story-making with objects

Collect 6-8 random small objects in a box or bag. You can use anything - a teddy, a coin or a fork. Take it in turns to pick an object without looking and use it to make up a story together. For example, if you take out a teddy, you could say, "Once upon a time, there was a tiny bear who..." Then, take out another object and decide what happens next: "Once upon a time, there was a tiny bear who found a shiny, gold coin. He picked it up and..." Build a story using all the objects.

As each object appears, think about what it sounds like in real-life, or what it might sound like in your imagination. Could the teddy hum a tune or could you say "mmm" as if you're enjoying food when you pick up your fork? Layer these sounds to create the perfect soundtrack to your story.

CELEBRATE SUCCESS!



HIVE POINTS THIS WEEK



498

650

722

601

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Congratulations to
HEATHER with 98.6%
attendance



NUMBER DAY - FRIDAY 6TH FEBRUARY - NON-UNIFORM

On Friday, 6th February 2026, we are inviting your child to 'dress up for digits' to support the work that the NSPCC does. Pupils can wear an item of clothing with a number on it (football shirt, netball shirt, stick numbers to clothing), or get even more creative by dressing in a maths or number theme.

Additionally, we would like to raise some money to support the charity and ask, if you are able, to make a voluntary donation of £1. All money raised will support the ongoing work that the charity does for children and their families across the United Kingdom. We want all pupils to enjoy the day and if they do not wish to dress up or come in their own clothes then they can come to school in their usual school uniform.

NSPCC

Number

Day 2026



DIARY DATES TO BE AWARE OF

Friday 6th February - Non-uniform day for NSPCC Number Day

Monday 9th February - Bikeability - Leve 1 - Year 5

Tuesday 10th February - Bikeability - Level 2 - Year 5

Wednesday 11th February - Bikeability - Level 2 - Year 5

Thursday 12th February - Bikeability Level 2 - Year 5

Friday 13th February - Bikeability Level 2 - Year 5

Friday 13th February - Last day of Spring Term 1


LUNCH MENU FOR NEXT WEEK

FOOD FESTIVAL
by Aspire

WEEK 2
Autumn Winter 2025/26
08/09/25, 29/09/25, 20/10/25,
10/11/25, 01/12/25, 22/12/25,
12/01/26, 02/02/26, 23/02/26,
16/03/26


LUNCHTIME

PRIMARY
HALAL TRADITIONAL



	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
THE MAIN EVENT	Vegetable Lasagne	Creamy Chicken & Sweetcorn Pasta	Roast Chicken, Stuffing, Skin on Roasties and Gravy	Mild Chilli Con Carne with Rice	Golden Fish Fingers and Chips
MEAT-FREE MAGIC <small>Veggie Dish</small>	Green Veg & Butter Bean Pie with Wedges	Veggie Whole Grain Pasta Bolognese	Cheddar & Broccoli Crustless Quiche	Vegetable Bean Chilli with Rice	BBQ Veggie Wrap with Chips
RAINBOW ALLEY <small>Vegetables and Salads</small>	Sweetcorn	Broccoli	Carrots and Peas	Mixed Greens	Baked Beans
BIG TOPPING <small>Filled Jackets</small>	Beans, Cheese or Tuna Mayo	Beans, Cheese or Tuna Mayo	Beans, Cheese or Tuna Mayo	Beans, Cheese or Tuna Mayo	Beans, Cheese or Tuna Mayo
DESSERT TROLLEY	Chocolate Popcorn Bars	Orange and Peach Jelly	Apple Tea Cake and Custard	Iced Vanilla Sponge Cake	Carrot Cake

What impact has your meal had on planet Earth today?



AVAILABLE DAILY

DAILY SALAD BOWL, FRESHLY BAKED BREAD, YOGHURTS AND CUT FRUIT

PASTA TWIRLER
AVAILABLE EVERY DAY

TOPPED PASTA
HOT PASTA TOPPED WITH HOMEMADE TOMATO SAUCE & CHEESE