

JOHN CLIFFORD SCHOOL

# BULLETIN

*Eid  
Mubarak*

Wishing all our families observing the occasion a joyful and peaceful time.



## Easter Events

**Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March**

**2.30pm arrival** - Easter bonnet parade - **Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and 2** children

**3.30pm-4.30pm** - Join us for our Spring event!

**£1.50 entry**

- Egg hunt, all entries to win a small prize.

Stalls run by Year 6 children will include:

- Cake sale
- Guess the name of the cuddly bunny
- Guess the coordinates of the of the hidden carrot
- Guess the number of eggs in the jar
- Easter hamper raffle

50p for cakes and games. Card and cash payment available



## PARENTS' EVENING AND PARENT QUESTIONNAIRES

Thank you to all the parents who came along to parents' evening over the course of this week. It was great to see so many people attend and have a positive experience. Many of you also completed parent questionnaires. I look forward to having a look at your views and will share some key findings with you soon. If you did not manage to see your child's teacher, they will be in touch to book an appointment.

## LOST PROPERTY



We seem to have a treasure trove of lost property at the moment! It can be found under the shelter on the playground. If your child has lost anything, please have a look next week. Items that are left over when we break up for the Easter holiday will be given to a charity shop.

## RED NOSE DAY



Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March we will be celebrating Comic Relief Red Nose Day 2026 in school, hopefully lots of children and adults will be looking ridiculous!

Thank you for all the donations, all money raised will be going to Comic Relief and I will update you with a total next week.



**LAST DAY OF TERM FRIDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> MARCH**  
**RETURN TO SCHOOL MONDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> APRIL**

# HANDWRITING EXPECTATIONS AT JOHN CLIFFORD



Recently, parents have suggested it would be useful to know the handwriting expectations for the different year groups, which I have outlined below.

In Reception children are developing gross and fine motors control through mark marking. Encourage holding the pencil in a tripod grip and make simple patterns and letter shapes. Introduce the correct starting points of letters, in letter families and numerals.

### Letter families

For teaching letter formation

Letter family 1 Down and off in another direction	l i t j u y
Letter family 2 Down and retrace upwards	m n r b p h k
Letter family 3 Anticlockwise round	c a d o q g e f s
Letter family 4 Zig-zag letters	v w x z

Year 1 is when we want children to secure letter formation of lowercase and capital letters. Write on the line with consistent size and spacing. Introduce the concept of joining through pattern work and begin to join some letters to make words.

↑       and ↓	h l t k
↗ cccccccccccccccc	c d f e
↻ ooo ooo oooooo	o d b g p q
⌞⌞⌞⌞⌞⌞⌞⌞⌞⌞⌞⌞	v w

In Year 2 we continue to build consistency in size, shape and orientation. Practise the diagonal and horizontal joins. Ensure the ascender touches the top line and descender falls below the line. Join letters in high frequency and phonetically regular words.

lst join- diagonal join

ai ee ie ea er in

aw uo ig air ing

In Year 3 we continue to practice all four handwriting joins.  
Begin to join handwriting in all writing tasks (where appropriate).  
Introduce break letters (b, g, j, p, q, y, z) and when not to join.  
Start to slant writing slightly to the right to build speed and fluency



funny

annoy

nanny

bunny

thinner

By Year 4 we are reinforcing the correct size and height of letters relative to each other.  
Ensure letters with ascenders and descenders are formed correctly and in proportion.

Write with increased speed and accuracy across longer pieces.

Through Year 5 and 6, children will continue to practise the difficult joins. They may begin to develop an individual style that is legible, clear and fluent.

Practice writing for particular tasks e.g. note taking, labelling, writing an address or filling in a form.

Continue to reinforce clear, legible, joined handwriting in all subjects.

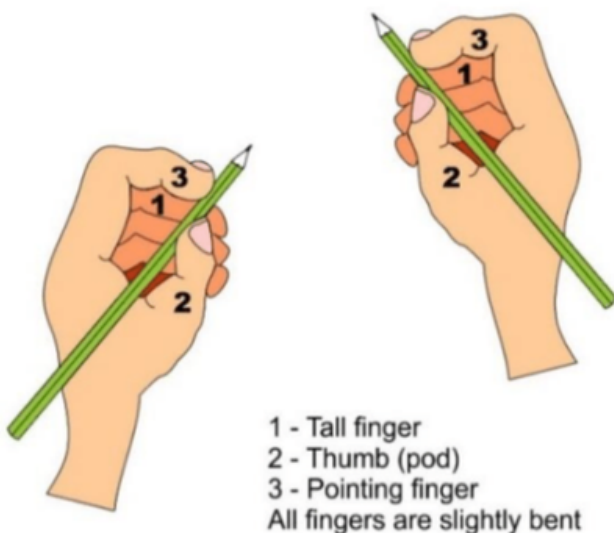
reasonable

miserable

responsible

incredible

### TRIPOD GRIP



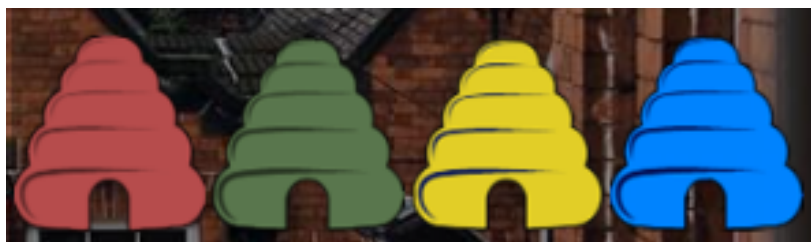
### TIP!

For younger children, it is often easier to get the grip correct if you use a short pencil!

Ask your child's teacher if you would like extra resources to practice these skills at home!

# CELEBRATE SUCCESS!

## HIVE POINTS THIS WEEK



497

642

614

574

**GREEN HIVE ARE GIVING YELLOW HIVE SOME COMPETITION!**

## ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Congratulations to SWEETPEAS (am) and VIOLET with 100% attendance

## LUNCHTIME MENU - NEW MENU COMING SOON!

# LUNCHTIME

**WEEK 3**  
Autumn Winter 2025/26  
15/09/25, 06/10/25, 27/10/25, 17/11/25, 08/12/25, 29/12/25, 19/01/26, 09/02/26, 02/03/26

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<b>THE MAIN EVENT</b>	Cheese and Tomato Pizza Slice with Wedges <b>B</b>	Lasagne <b>C</b>	Roast Chicken, Stuffing, Skin on Roasties and Gravy <b>C</b>	Chicken & Sweetcorn Pie with Mash <b>B</b>	Golden Fish Fingers & Chips <b>B</b>
<b>MEAT-FREE MAGIC</b> Veggie Dish	Macaroni Cheese <b>C</b>	Vegetable Ratatouille with Rice <b>B</b>	Carrot & Stuffing Puff Pastry Plait, Skin on Roasties with Gravy <b>B</b>	Root Vegetable and Bean Stew with Mash <b>A</b>	Vegetable Fingers with Chips <b>A</b>
<b>RAINBOW ALLEY</b> Vegetables and Salads	Vegetable Sticks	Sweetcorn	Roasted Roots	Peas	Baked Beans
<b>BIG TOPPING</b> Filled Jackets	Beans, Cheese or Tuna Mayo <b>B</b>	Beans, Cheese or Tuna Mayo <b>B</b>	Beans, Cheese or Tuna Mayo <b>B</b>	Beans, Cheese or Tuna Mayo <b>B</b>	Beans, Cheese or Tuna Mayo <b>B</b>
<b>DESSERT TROLLEY</b>	Sweet Potato Chocolate Brownie <b>C</b>	Jelly <b>C</b>	Eve's Apple Pudding & Custard <b>B</b>	Muesli Bars <b>B</b>	Vanilla Cookies <b>B</b>
			<b>AVAILABLE DAILY</b> DAILY SALAD BOWL, FRESHLY BAKED BREAD, YOGHURTS AND CUT FRUIT		
				<b>PASTA TWIRLER</b> AVAILABLE EVERY DAY TOPPED PASTA HOT PASTA TOPPED WITH HOMEMADE TOMATO SAUCE & CHEESE <b>C</b>	

What impact has your meal had on planet Earth today?  
**A** Very Low  
**B** Low  
**C** Medium  
**D** High  
**E** Very High

**DID YOU TRY THE CAKES ON OFFER DURING PARENTS' EVENING ON WEDNESDAY FROM ASPENS CATERING?**