**North Clifton Primary School**

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7th February 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

With just six days to go until half term, it is difficult to believe that we are already through January with the Easter Holidays in the not too distant future. With that in mind, we have listed the key dates between now and then at the bottom of this letter, including details of the next Golden Assembly that takes place at 9.15am next Wednesday (12th February). We hope you will be able to join us.

**Stay and Play**

Stay and Play is now into its fourth week following its relaunch. It is good to have some of the youngest members of our community back in school and enjoying the activities and company of our early years and Reception children, and thank you to those of our current parents/carers who are also attending and supporting our new venture. If you are aware of anyone who may be interested please invite them along, the 0-5 years play group runs from 9.15am to 10.30am every Tuesday morning during term time.

**World Book Day**

It is World Book Day on Thursday 6th March. At a meeting this afternoon the School Council have agreed that children should be allowed to come into school in either their pyjamas, or dressed up as a book character of their choice. Mrs Hyde has also launched a competition for World Book Day and will put details of this on Class Dojo. On World Book Day itself, please can all children bring in their favourite book and a Teddy, and if coming into school in pyjamas and slippers, please remember outdoor footwear and a coat.

**Refurbished Library**

Talking of books! We are delighted that thanks to the very generous support of the Friends of North Clifton, GUSTO and Jill Brown (one of our former governors), we have been able to completely transform our library area. The area has been beautifully redecorated and has new shelving, tree trunk seating and a lovely rug. We have also done an audit of our books, and although there are some lovely books in school, these donations mean that we can purchase some additional items which are now all on order. Together with the refurbishment of the Hall before Christmas, we believe that these changes have given the fabric of our school a really positive feel – we hope you agree.

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**New School Equality Objectives**

In line with our legal obligations, at a recent Governor meeting, our School’s new equality objectives were agreed. These aim to improve curriculum provision to increase individual understanding of equity, diversity and inclusion, thereby fully embedding the understanding of British Values and the Protected Characteristics across school. The Protected Characteristics are age, disability, gender re-assignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation, and these are taught using books and our PSHE scheme SCARF (Safety, Caring, Achievement, Resilience, Friendship). If you would like to look at any of the resources or books we use to deliver this aspect of our curriculum, please get in touch.

**Internet Safety**

It is Safer Internet Day 2025 on Tuesday and we thought it would be a good opportunity to share some resources for parents/carers around keeping children safe when using the internet. These include top tips for online safety, a screen time guide, and factsheets for both Instagram and You Tube.

**Attendance**

With a renewed focus on attendance in schools and some nasty coughs and colds circulating, it is often difficult to know when to keep children off school when they are feeling poorly. The Public Health Agency have created a useful resource for parents/carers when needing to consider if your child is well enough / or should be in school. This is attached to the newsletter - we hope you find it useful.

**Unauthorised absence**: changes in the law and the new Ofsted framework have raised the profile of attendance in our schools and our attendance policy was revised last term in order to ensure it meets the new legal requirements. Our whole school attendance rate is currently 97.58% which is very positive when compared to the national figure of 92.8%. However, please be aware that Head Teachers are no longer able to make discretionary decisions about an application for absence, such as a family holiday. There is now a clear step-by-step process laid set out by law that all schools are required to follow and that include the possibility of a fine if a child is absent for 5 days / 10 sessions in any one ten-week period. Any fines that are issued are collected and kept by the local authority.

I have re-attached the parent information leaflet issued with the new attendance policy in October which outlines the new changes in policy in more detail. Your continued support in ensuring that our attendance levels remain as positive as they are at present is appreciated, and if you would like to discuss these issues in more depth please contact me.

**Ofsted Consultation**

You may be aware that Ofsted is currently asking parents, carers, professionals and learners what they think about proposals to improve education inspection and new report cards for providers. If you wish to engage with this consultation please use this link  [Improving the way Ofsted inspects education - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/improving-the-way-ofsted-inspects-education) You can find the Guidance via this link or by going to [Improving the way Ofsted inspects education: consultation document - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/improving-the-way-ofsted-inspects-education/improving-the-way-ofsted-inspects-education-consultation-document)

**Key Dates for Spring Term**

* Tuesday 11th February – Safer Internet Day
* Wednesday 12 February – Golden Assembly at 9.15am
* Thursday 6th March – World Book Day (PJs or Character costume)
* Friday 7th March – Careers Fayre at Gulliver’s Kingdom – Year 6 pupils only (letter to follow)
* Friday 14th March – Red Nose Day (non-uniform with donations)
* Friday 28th March – Mother’s Day Lunch (details to follow)
* Tuesday 1st April – Golden Assembly at 3pm
* Friday 4th April – last day of term
* Tuesday 22nd April – school re-opens after the Easter Holidays

Thank you for your support,

**Ilona Sanderson**

**Head Teacher**