

QUEENSWAY



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Termly Newsletter, Issue 102 December 2019



Head Teacher's News in brief

- Our new club timetable for Terms 3 and 4 has now been published and selections will be advised before the of term.
- Christmas is always a busy period, which is why we don't set English and Maths homework, but please try to ensure you are still reading with your child as much as possible over the holiday as this is such a crucial skill.
- A huge thank you to everyone who has supported our Christmas events this year. There is lots of work that goes on behind the scenes to make them such enjoyable events, so a big thank you to all the PTA, parents and staff for your contributions.
- Please can I ask parents to not use the staff car park by 'tail gating' other cars. We only have 44 spaces, but have 55 members of staff, 4 families with disability badges and many visiting professionals on a daily basis. For the safety of all our school community please park safely around the nearby roads.
- A date for your diaries - the next round of parent evenings will be Tuesday 31st March 3-7pm and Thursday 2nd April 3-5:30pm. More information will follow nearer the time.
- We sadly said good bye to Andrea Hone, one of our cleaners in November. She had worked at Queensway for 14 years making the school sparkly for the all the children. We wish her well. We have appointed Jayne Cox and Stacey Bishop who will be starting in January.
- Our nursery is proving to be a real success and an asset to the school. We are almost full now in the mornings with many families choosing to buy extra sessions above and beyond the Government universal allocation of 15 hours, which is testament

to the quality of provision the children are receiving. If you are interested in finding out more, please email

nursery@queensway.oxon.sch.uk

- We have appointed Lauren Hollidge to teach in Reception when Mrs Pile leaves in February to have her baby. Lauren has done some work placements with us previously and is really looking forward to job sharing with Mrs Tyler in Reception. We wish Mrs Pile well.

Class assemblies Term 3 and 4:

Please note that some assemblies are not Fridays.

| DATE | CLASS |
|----------------------------|-----------------|
| Fri 17 th Jan | 4FL |
| Thurs 23 rd Jan | 5LT |
| Fri 24 th Jan | 6AB |
| Wed 29 th Jan | 3JG |
| Fri 31 st Jan | 2CN |
| Fri 7 th Feb | 1MB |
| Fri 14 th Feb | Reception KG |
| | |
| Fri 28 th Feb | 6PH |
| Fri 6 th Mar | 5JF |
| Wed 11 th Mar | 4MR |
| Fri 13 th Mar | 3AJP |
| Fri 20 th Mar | 2MJ |
| Fri 27 th Mar | 1LR |
| Fri 3 rd April | Reception ST/AP |

A photo from the Banbury Cross Round Table Santa's' float evening!



Class News

Nursery

What a busy term Robin Class have had! We started the term investigating the question 'Why do leaves turn crispy?' We all enjoyed going on our very own autumn walk, hunting for different leaves and spotting other signs of autumn. It was great fun jumping in a big pile of leaves and listening to the different sounds they made.



Towards the end of the term, we explored different celebrations:

Diwali, Birthdays, Bonfire Night and Christmas. We even planned and held our own birthday party for our class mascot



Danny the Dog. The children were very engaged writing birthday cards, making decorations and baking cakes. Our favourite stories this term have been 'The Tiger Who Came to Tea' and 'The Wonky Donkey'. We also learnt to perform a fireworks poem off by heart.

During phonic sessions we have been identifying words that rhyme and working on using body percussion. The children have become good at clapping the different rhythms or syllables that they can hear in their names. In maths sessions we have been working on recognising numerals 1-5 and being able to identify when two groups of objects have the same amount.

All the staff in Nursery are so proud of how far the children have come this term and it has been a pleasure to watch their friendships start to blossom. The children have shown real kindness towards one another and are always helping each other to be the best they can be.

Reception Class

The children have had another busy term with the lead up to Christmas. Thank you to all the parents that attended our shared lesson and came to our stall at the Christmas Fayre.

We are very proud of both classes for their confident performances in their Christmas

assemblies and it was lovely to see so many of you there to support them. The children had a great time at the Grandparent's Tea and enjoyed showing their Grandparents their school.

Well done to all the children who have participated in the name writing challenge. Don't forget to bring it back in to receive your certificate.

A huge highlight of this term was our visit to Browning Road Park to re-enact the story of the Billy Goats Gruff on the bridge!

The children had great fun when staff from British cycling came in to one of their PE lessons to practice on balance bikes. It has been lovely seeing the children apply these skills on the bikes outside!

We hope you have an enjoyable Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Year 1

This term has flown by so quickly!

We have had our shared lessons. Thank you to all parents who attended, the children had lots of fun, especially making the Christmas crafts, where they made different Christmas ornaments.



The children went on their first Year 1 trip to the Banbury Museum, where they had a chance to explore old toys and dress up in Victorian clothes. They all had a brilliant time and were a credit to Queensway School.

We were fortunate enough to have a visit from the British cycling, where they brought balance bikes for each of the children to try out. Everyone had a real good go at trying to move and balance at the same time. We also had a visit from the Dog's Trust teaching children about how to stay safe around dogs they may see out and about that they are unfamiliar with.

Although there is no homework set during the holiday, we encourage reading every night and Time Table Rock Star's. Please can we remember for next term, as the weather is getting colder, that the children have the correct outdoor PE uniform, including a pair of outdoor trainers with a pair of socks.

Have a great holiday and see you all soon in 2020.

Year 2

The children have been working hard this term with their fantastic nativity performance! We are so proud of all the amazing things the children have achieved and it has been lovely to watch them grow in confidence as they sing, dance and act out the Christmas story. We enjoyed performing to all our friends and families, so thank you for coming and we hope you enjoyed it as much as we did!



Year 2 started this term by taking a step back in time, to 1605. They enjoyed being historians and learning all about the Gunpowder Plot, including becoming a plotter themselves through their fantastic role plays. The children then impressed us with their recount writing all about the role of Guy Fawkes and the events of 1605.



Then the children learnt the story of 'The Papaya that spoke', they acted it out before they wrote it themselves. Finally, the children showed off with their creative poems all about their dream world.

The children have designed and created some fantastic superheroes within their DT lessons. They researched costumes, powers and gadgets to help them come up with their very

own superhero! I am sure the children would love to tell you all about their superhero, so please ask them!

Thank you again for all your support this term, we hope you have a restful Christmas break and we look forward to seeing you next term.

Year 3

In Year 3 this term, the children have been super busy. They have written fantastic legends of their own based on George and the Dragon. Your children have incredible imaginations and combined with excellent description, their stories kept us on the edge of our seats. Fantastic writing!

The children have loved our 'Light' topic in Science and have had great fun exploring with shadows and exploring how they are formed.

A huge thank you to all the parents who came and supported our shared lessons for Christmas crafts. Both classes were thoroughly productive. We were impressed with your creativity, teamwork and eye for detail. We sold many decorations on our stalls, as they were all so beautifully decorated and unique.

I hope you all have a lovely Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year!

P.S. Everyone in Year 3 is on the good list. Please tell Santa.

Year 4

The children have continued to work really hard since half term. We had a visit from the Oxford Museum where the children got to make Anglo Saxon pots, do some weaving, dress up in replica clothing and we also found out about various artefacts which archaeologists have discovered.

In English and DT the children have made some very informative leaflets all about Healthy Eating. To end the topic, we made and ate some healthy soups. There was a mixed response to some of the flavours especially the parsnip and apple!

In English we then went onto read and write some traditional plays. The children had some very creative ideas when writing their own plays based on 'Little Red Riding'.

Thank you to all the parents who attended our shared lessons and used their artistic skills during our Christmas decoration making. Well done to all the children for working hard all term. We hope you all have a fantastic Christmas.

Year 5

We are very sad to be coming to the end of our World War Two topic this term. We have enjoyed learning all about the campaigns of the war, the struggles and courage of the people involved in the war and last week created Anderson shelter models with our families in a shared lesson. The children enjoyed the VE Day party we held last week, creating flags and trying a variety of foods from the era: jam and cheese sandwiches, tinned peaches and evaporated milk and a vegetarian jelly shaped like a rabbit! We sat in rows just like a real street party and played games as our food went down. Many children dressed up, which really added to the occasion. Well done everyone, what a great way to end this term.



In the New Year, we look forward to writing our own myths as part of our Ancient Greeks topic.

Get plenty of rest over the Christmas holiday, as you will have many mythical creatures to overcome in your stories in January.

Thank you to all the parents who have joined us for shared lessons this term. We wish you a Merry Christmas and a very happy New Year 2020!



Year 6

What a busy term! Not only have we been working hard in lessons, we have also been working hard in extra workshops with a range of different visitors. A highlight of the term has been going to Horton Hospital to practise First Aid and learning how to use an AED machine. Why not ask us how to put somebody into the recovery position to test what we learnt?



This term we've linked our Science and English and we have been learning all about Charles Darwin. We worked in groups to create a timeline to help us write a biography about his life.



We are looking forward to visiting Oxford next term as part of our PSHE unit about keeping safe – please don't forget to pay for this on ParentPay.

We hope everybody has a restful and joyful Christmas break and we look forward to seeing you in January ready for another busy term.

Debbie's Diaries

Family Links: There is a parenting course starting at the Sunshine Centre in January - if you are interested in attending please let me know. This is great for helping parents deal with the challenges of family life.

Absence Reporting: Can I please give you a polite reminder that if your child is going to be absent you should phone in **before 9 am on each day they are absent** and leave a

message on the answerphone or speak to the school office giving a detailed reason for the absence, rather than just "unwell". It is important this is done as it is a safeguarding responsibility of the school to be aware of why children are not in school.

Food Bank: Please feel free to let me know if you need a voucher.

Wishing you all a very Happy and Healthy Christmas and New Year

Sports

Stepping Up for Change

A lucky group of six Year 5 girls attended a Stepping up for Change Festival at Wykham Park on Friday 13th December. They took part in several activities to highlight the importance of healthy lifestyles and even got the exciting opportunity to meet an athlete. After attending this festival, we will be setting up our very own 'Stepping up For Change' girls' club at Queensway school. Details to follow soon!

In addition to these events we have also taken part in several taster sessions. A group of year 5 and 6 children attended an exciting rowing taster session at Tudor Hall and all children in Reception, Year1, Year 5 and Year 6 got to take part in a recent cycling taster session. The feedback we have had from the children about these sessions has been brilliant! It was so fantastic to see the children make such progress on the bikes in such a short space of time. For some it was even their first time on a bike.

Netball

On Thursday 14th November our Year 5/6 netball team took part in the Banbury Area netball tournament. A massive well done to all the children who took part and their great attitude towards the game.

Swimming

On 12th November, a Year 5/6 girl and boys' team took part in the Banbury Area Swimming competition at the Spiceball Leisure Centre. The children all showed great determination and took part in a range of different races.

Hockey – Tudor Hall

On Wednesday 27th November a team of Year 5 children took part in a Hockey Festival that was kindly organised by Tudor Hall. The children all had a great time and learnt lots of new skills.

Cross Country Final

A huge congratulation to Jaydon, Emily, Kyra, Jess and Chloe that made it through to the North Oxfordshire Cross County Finals at Sibford School. Despite the muddy conditions on the day they all got stuck in and ran impressive races. Well done!

Choir Club

There have been two choir events this term. The first was our involvement in "Children Singing for Children." This is a large charity event held at St Mary's Church that many schools in Banbury and the surrounding area take part in. The children in the choir from Years 5 and 6 had to learn five songs in total- two to sing as a choir and then three to sing with the other schools taking part. Our performance of our individual songs was amazing, and I was very proud of the children. They particularly enjoyed singing a song from Cats, performing the song with great enthusiasm.

Our second performance, with a choir of 60, was in the Carol Concert at school. Again, the children showed great commitment in learning the words to two carols that they performed beautifully. Thank you to the children and their parents for the extra work that went into learning the words for these performances.

School Council

School council have had another busy term. We would like to say thank you to everybody who got involved with our fundraising for Children in Need. We raised £333.50. Well done to Eloise L who managed to guess the number of pom poms in the jar. The dates for the next meetings are as follows: 17th January, 31st January and 14th February.

Children's University

Well done and congratulations to those children who have received their first or next Children's University certificate. I have really enjoyed seeing all the different learning activities that are being experienced outside of school. Congratulations to Subhan, Dani Aimee, Isabella, Falak, Robert, Maisie and Leah who have all earned their first or next certificate!



Dog's trust

This term we have been very lucky to have a visit from Jessica who works for Dog's Trust. She came to tell us all about how to stay safe around dogs and what to do when we first meet them. The children thoroughly enjoyed this visit and Years 5 and 6 engaged well with their interactive workshops!



'Strictly'. We had some very harsh judges with us adults getting very low marks for our dancing moves!

The children also took it upon themselves to showcase their talent with a lovely (but noisy) talent show. Singers, dancers, magicians, comedians to name a few, put on a wonderful performance.

It is such a pleasure to watch our After School Club grow with all the age groups and to see all the children get on so well and enjoy themselves so much. We had a parent arrive early to collect their son, but was told to come back later!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for being patient with our few moves to the library so events can be accommodated by the hall. We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a happy 2020.

PTA News

Wow what a busy, busy start to the year the PTA has had, but we hope you will all agree that it has been another outstanding term in terms of raising money for the outdoor classroom that we are currently focused on. We still have a couple of totals to come in, but what an impressive start.



Can you believe that the Christmas fair raised a fantastic £1259.90.

Dates for your Diary

- School finishes for Christmas holidays: **Thursday 19th December**, normal time.
- **SCHOOL REOPENS: TUESDAY 7TH JANUARY 2020**
- Year 6 trip to Rewley Fire station on 13th and 16th January 2020.

After School Club

Fun and laughter continues to fill the hall during our After School Club. Playing games of pool, slime making, dressing up and craft activities have kept us all busy during the chilly evenings. We have ventured out and braved the cold by playing Stuck in the Mud, Tag, and a variety of hoop games. Some of us put on our dancing shoes as After School Club does





Thank you to everyone that came and supported this event, as hopefully you know, these events would not be possible without all your generous donations and volunteering. Thank you.

We still must add the Christmas jumper day money, the school disco and the Christmas float money to the above total, which we will be very excited to share with you all in the Term 3 newsletter.

We are excited to see more parents attending out PTA meetings and volunteering at our events; all parents are very welcome and valued, our next events are listed below if you would like to help...watch out for our yellow letters coming home in book bags and if you are able, please consider volunteering:

3rd February – Film night

3rd April - Easter Bonnet competition

26th May – Parents/grandparents & staff quiz night

21st May – Culture afternoon/evening

Our next PTA meeting is Monday 13th January 2020 at 8:45 (after school drop off) for those

who can make it, we would love to see you there.

Wishing you all happy holidays
Queensway PTA

Governors

It was great to see so many families taking part in the spelling workshop last month. Boosting children's confidence in spelling is so important, as it helps them to communicate clearly and effectively throughout their lives.

There were lots of spelling 'stalls' set up around the hall with practical tips to help with spelling homework. The most popular stalls were spelling out words using uncooked pasta shapes; using a torch to write out words in the dark; and spelling a word while bouncing a ball or skipping.

What was so brilliant is that everyone was having a go at the activities. In fact, many Queensway pupils showed the grown-ups a thing or two about spelling homework!

The governors would like to send their congratulations and a big thank you to everyone who helped to organise the event.

Ronke Chalmers