

# QUEENSWAY



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Termly Newsletter, Issue 101: October 2019



## **Head Teacher's News in brief**

- Our nursery is OPEN and it is amazing! We have been absolutely thrilled from the feedback we have received from families attending our nursery, and the children have settled in so quickly. The refurbished room looks great, offering a bright spacious learning environment for our 3 and 4 year olds. Please ask at the office or look on our website should you need any information.
- Thank you to everyone who made a donation to our harvest collection. As always families have been incredibly generous and the Beacon Centre are truly appreciative.
- Congratulations to Mrs Pile who is expecting her second child in March. We have appointed Miss Hollidge to cover Mrs Pile's Reception class, starting towards the end of January. This will allow for a thorough handover, before Mrs Pile finishes at February half term.
- Welcome to our new Teaching Assistant, Mrs Robertson. She is working across the two Reception classes. She comes with a wealth of experience working with children in Belgium where she has lived for the past 8 years.
- Thank you to everyone for helping us become a cashless school. May I remind parents that they need to keep their account in credit. We have a number of parents who keep getting into arrears whilst still using our facilities, whether that be ordering lunches or attending Breakfast and After School Club. We have already started to remove these services for a few individuals as it isn't fair to a) all the families who do pay on time for everything and b) our administrators who are having to send endless texts, letters and phone calls. We do appreciate this does not apply to the vast majority of parents, to whom we are grateful!
- We had another fantastic week when the children in Years 1-6 attended 'Be Space.' The volunteer helpers commented on how reflective and articulate our children were. It truly transformed the library for a week!
- We are in full swing of our annual round of Open Days. If you have a child who is starting school in September 2020, or know of anyone who is, then please book onto one of our days via the school office:
  - Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> November, 9-12
  - Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> November, 10-1
  - Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December, 9-12
  - Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> January, 9-12
- Just a polite reminder about safe parking around school. We understand that on wet days families will often bring cars and try to park as close to school as possible, but we need to ensure that emergency vehicles can still pass through if needed and that the swimming bus returning our children to us can drop the children off safely. We often have concerned residents ringing us about illegal parking, which we pass onto the Police. Can I also remind families that only parents with disabled blue badges are permitted into the staff car park. These parents have been asked to ensure they are not 'tail-gated' by other parents trying to access the staff car park. Please work with us to make the areas around the school safe for all our children.
- On Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> October Queensway enjoyed watching M&M Theatrical Productions perform 'Snow White'. The children certainly got into the spirit and joined in with great enthusiasm. Please ask your child about it!

## **Class News**

### **Nursery**

Children in Robin Class have had an exciting first term at Nursery. We have been so impressed with how quickly our children have settled and it has been a joy to see them begin to make some fabulous friendships. Every child is becoming more confident and independent in accessing resources around the environment.

During story times we have explored a selection of books but our definite favourite this term has been 'Brown Bear, Brown Bear what do you see?'. The children had great fun learning it off by heart and retelling it to their friends. Lots of the children have also been busy making up their own stories and performing them to their peers on a stage.

During Phonics sessions the children have been refining their listening skills and in Maths we have been learning to recognise dice patterns and practise our counting. The children have loved taking part in regular dough disco sessions where they have been improving their fine motor skills.

If you walk through our Nursery garden, you will meet our Scarecrow. The children have worked hard as a team to create the scarecrow and have also planted lots of bulbs ready to bloom in Spring.



### **Reception Classes**

Both Owls and Dove classes have had a fantastic first term at school. We have been so proud of how independent they are becoming, what lovely playing they are doing and the wonderful friendships they are forming.

In English we had a scavenger hunt where we had to find clues about what story we would be learning. We were excellent Story Detectives and worked out we would be looking at 'We're Going on Bear Hunt' and 'Goldilocks and the 3 Bears'. We then enjoyed acting out the story, drawing pictures from it and even making music for the different scenes.

In Maths we have become experts on numbers 1-10 and are becoming more and more confident saying one more and one less. We have loved using Numicon, ants on the log and digit cards to explore the order and size of numbers. We have also made our own class pictogram showing our favourite fruit.

We were so lucky to have some parents come in and talk to us about where they are from in the world. We saw some beautiful pictures and learned lots of interesting information. We also asked great questions. Please remember to send in your family photos for our display.

We hope you all enjoy a well-earned rest over half term and look forward to seeing you bright eyed and bushy tailed, ready for Term 2.

### **Year 1**

We have had a great first term in Year 1. Mrs Bibi and Miss Robinson have been so impressed with how the children have settled into year one routines.

In Science we have enjoyed our topic of Materials. We explored different materials and talked about why they are special; looking at how they feel and what materials are used to make everyday objects. Also, we carried out a science investigation looking at what different materials would be best to keep us dry in the rain.

In English we have looked at sentence structures and the highlight of the term has been learning the story "Panda Bear, Panda Bear what do you see?" The children have loved learning and writing this story.

The children made us proud during the 'Be Space' workshop as they all welcomed our guests by being respectful and polite, but also engaged themselves fully into the experience. During this they learnt about saying thank you, sorry and please.

As part of our history topic 'Toys' we have explored a range of a different toys old and new. Next term we will be visiting the Banbury

Museum to experience first-hand Victorian toys.

Have a great half term and we look forward seeing you all next term.

### Year 2

Year 2 have been busy story writing this term. First, they learnt the story of 'The Little Red Hen', then they acted it out before they wrote it themselves. Then children impressed us with their own writing of 'The Windmill Farmer' and 'Catch it'. I'm sure the children would love to tell you all about those stories so please ask them!

They have also enjoyed finding out about harvest and farming in the past and comparing it to the present day in history. The highlight of our term has been receiving letters from our pen pal Lakshmi in India. The children have learnt lots about life there and have loved writing letters back to tell her all about their own lives in the UK.

In Maths the children have been learning how to make two-digit numbers using lots of different equipment. They have been adding and subtracting one digit numbers and multiples of ten from two-digit numbers and have begun to read, write and solve multiplication problems.

In RE the children have learnt all about Hinduism and as part of DT they designed Rama and Sita puppets. We all very much enjoyed the shared lesson where the children got to see their designs come to life. Thank you to all the parents who attended and made it so enjoyable for the children.

Thank you for all your support this term, we hope you have a restful half term break.



### Year 3

The children this term have settled in to their new classes extremely well. The children have been very busy this term learning all about the Stone Age.

In Maths, we have secured our place value knowledge before focusing on multiplication and division, using arrays, number lines and other resources.

In English, we have not only created instructions for how to wash a woolly mammoth but also then made our new class pets using milk bottles! We have moved on to writing non-chronological reports, using our research we have carried out in History. All the children are now Stone Age experts, especially with Stone Age homes, inventions and food.



PE this term has been great. We have really enjoyed our time working with Mr Mawn developing our tag rugby skills, whilst also focusing on football.

During this term, we have also celebrated Mental Health Awareness day. Across the classes, we took part in a range of activities including a BBC live lesson, mindfulness breathing and colouring and looking at ways to keep our own minds healthy as well as those around us.

Our shared lesson this term was super fun! It was great to see so many children and their families learning and exploring salt dough. The Stone Age necklaces looked amazing and the class 'Stonehenge' looked really realistic.

Both Miss Penniston and Mr Grant are extremely impressed with the children this term and cannot wait for Term 2.

### Year 4

The children have had a fantastic start to Year 4 and have all settled in well. They have really enjoyed our English topic all about Narnia and have written some imaginative descriptions of the setting and the White Witch.

They have learnt lots in Science about sound and we have been really impressed with the



scientific vocabulary they have been using in their writing.

Back in September, all the children made a great contribution to our gardening afternoon. You may have noticed all the beautiful baskets hanging around the school.

Our History topic has been really engaging the children, and their Anglo Saxon brooches look fantastic. They have all been very keen to share their knowledge. We are really looking forward to the Anglo Saxon workshop on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November. Well done Year 4 and keep up the good work.



### Year 5

What a busy first half term we have had! The children have settled brilliantly into Year 5 and have learnt lots already.

Our topic this term is: World War II. The children have been considering what life was like for evacuee children and have written letters and diary entries from their perspective. We have also been learning about the Blitz and written descriptions of what London might have been like during that time. Thank you to all the children who have brought in precious WW2 artefacts and memorabilia to share with the year group. It has been lovely to see how proud our children are of their ancestors who bravely fought in the war.

Mrs Thomas' class have begun their swimming lessons and are all making excellent progress in the water. Meanwhile, Miss Fowler's class have been working with children from Frank Wise School to learn sign language and design and create junk models of our solar system. The children have enjoyed these sessions on Wednesday afternoons and will swap after the February half term.

In science this term we have been learning about plants and life cycles. In RE we have

been learning about Fairtrade and the five pillars of Islam.

In Maths, we have been developing our knowledge of place value and working on our addition, subtraction, multiplication and division skills. Please remember to continue practising the multiplication tables with your child. Why not challenge them to a battle on times table Rockstars?

We hope you have an enjoyable and safe half term and we look forward to seeing you on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November.

### Year 6

What a busy first half term it has been in Year 6. We really have risen to the challenge of the Year 6 curriculum in all areas. Not only have we learnt new methods in Maths we have been using our excellent grammar skills in our writing.

PE has been a lot of fun this term with learning and refining our skills in both tag rugby and football. We have shown great enthusiasm for our topic "The Amazon Rainforest" and are looking forward to continuing this after half term.

World Mental Health Day was a good way of talking about our emotions and feelings and we enjoyed the breathing exercises that we learnt during this important day.



We hope you have a restful break ready for another busy term.

### Panto

Oh no we didn't! Oh yes we did! Yes we did! The whole school, staff and children, watched the amazing performance of Snow White. The pantomime was full of unforgettable characters-the wicked witch, the handsome Prince and of course Snow White. Lots of children tried to stop Snow White eating the poisoned apple, but she didn't listen. All of us were very impressed with some excellent dancing from Miss Jeffries, Miss Robinson and Miss Peniston who joined in the fun on stage.



### **After School Club**

We have had an amazing albeit busy start to the new school year at After School Club. More and more new faces have joined us which is fantastic, our 'old' children make our 'new' children feel so welcome by showing them the ropes!

During October we had a special week, looking at our 'wellbeing'. Together we enjoyed relaxation through yoga and kept our minds active by finding out different things about each other. Mid-week became a fun and active afternoon where we enjoyed outdoor games like Stuck in the Mud and Cut the Cake. To finish off wellbeing week, we made thoughtful friendship cards to someone special to us. I was lucky enough to receive some too which was a great way to end the week with a huge smile.

General knowledge quizzes and different set challenges have become a firm favourite and show off our team building and competitive sides nicely. It is so lovely to see all the children becoming involved together. We are currently working on an After School Club jingle- so watch this space!

I hope you all have a lovely well-earned rest and look forward to more fun next term.  
[childcare@queensway.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:childcare@queensway.oxon.sch.uk)

### **School Choir**

Choir have been meeting weekly since the start of term to prepare for the Children Singing for Children concert on November 13th at St Mary's church. This is a fantastic Banburyshire charity event. We are singing two songs as a choir and will then be joining the other choirs of the evening for a grand finale. The children have worked so hard to learn our choir songs, one of which is from the musical "Cats" and is quite tricky. I can't wait to

hear the children perform and know they will represent Queensway fantastically.

### **Debbie's Diary**

Lots to do in half term –

- **Sunshine Centre's** Spooky Family Fun on 1<sup>st</sup> November, includes lunch and 'The Zoo on a Broom' by Zoolab. Limited spaces available £1 per person.  
[www.sunshinecentre.org](http://www.sunshinecentre.org)
- **Banbury Museum** has arts and craft sessions and a Life in the Rainforest – booking essential for all sessions from £3 - £4 each. See  
<https://www.banburymuseum.org/>
- **Standing in the Gap** is a charity working with families to help children 0-11 manage BIG emotions such as fear, anxiety and grief. They hold workshops in the Community Room at Waitrose. See  
<https://www.sitgap.org/> for more information.

**Uniform-** please please please label your child's clothing and shoes, so much cannot be returned as there is no name. If your child has any missing items please check lost property, in the entrance to Year 3.

### **School Council**

School council have made a great start at gathering ideas and information from their classmates about the whole school reward and ideas for fundraising. They have started to organise Children in Need which will take place on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November and more details about this will follow shortly. School Council will meet on Friday mornings in Miss Ross' classroom. The dates for the meetings are: 8<sup>th</sup> November, 22<sup>nd</sup> November, 6<sup>th</sup> December.

### **Sports News**

#### **Cross Country Competition**

On Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> September, 60 children from Years 1 to 6 took part in a Cross Country competition at Wykham Park Academy. All the children did brilliantly, showing plenty of determination and self-belief on their way round. Congratulations to Amari, Emily, Chloe, Jess, Kyra and Jaydon who finished in the top

20 for their race and qualify for the final in November!

### **Year 3 and 4 Football Festival**

30 children from Years 3 and 4 went to Wykham Park Academy this month, where they took part in a Football Festival. They all tried incredibly hard and really enjoyed the experience. A special mention to our B team, who worked incredibly well as a team and came 2<sup>nd</sup> in their competition.

### **Tag Rugby**

On Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> October, 10 children from Year 6 attended the Tag Rugby event at the Banbury Rugby Club. This was a very exciting opportunity for these children as this is the first time we have attended this event for many years. They all worked extremely hard on the day, playing 7 matches over the course of the day. The team were extremely successful, winning all 7 matches, coming 1<sup>st</sup> place in their competition. A huge congratulations to Jaydon, Rio, Emmanuel, Lucas, Charlie, Oliver, Fatimah, Halima, Jess and Aleeyah who represented our school incredibly well during the event. Also, a special thanks to Mr Bromhall who gave up his time to coach our team leading up to the event and then attended on the day to further support them. We would not have been as successful without his support and expertise – thank you!



### **Primary Young Leaders Conference**

24 children from Year 6 took part in a training session with Ms Campbell and Mr Mawn in preparation for Young leader's which will be taking place after half term, on the KS1 and 2 playgrounds. This involved developing leadership skills and game ideas ready to deliver to the children. In the afternoon, they had time to deliver all that they had learnt during the day to Year 1. Everyone thoroughly

enjoyed their day and Year 6 are excited to deliver their activities next term.

### **Communication updates**

We are endeavouring to communicate via email wherever possible and would therefore be grateful if you could check your emails on a regular basis. The flu vaccination letter was emailed on 22<sup>nd</sup> October and requires you to complete an online permission. Please visit the office if you have not received this email or if you believe you have not received any this academic year.

From November we will be introducing a new password system which will offer additional security regarding collection of children from school. We will be requesting a password from each family. This will need to be provided to the school office if you are advising of a change of collection on the day. In return, the school office will provide a temporary password for you to communicate to the person you have requested to collect your child. They will need to provide this to the class teacher who will then allow your child to leave the classroom. Please note that the minimum age for those collecting children from school is sixteen.

### **PTA News**

This term we have been planning our events for the year ahead in order to keep the fund raising going for our ambition of building a new outdoor classroom that we feel the whole school will enjoy.

We kicked off our fund raising this year with the 5p competition. All is going well and it's going to be a close finish as to which class steals that first place...results will be communicated on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November, so watch this space!

The bake off, was a brilliant success with some truly wonderful cakes and cupcakes brought in. We were all so impressed with the high standard and beautiful creations, it made our judges' job very difficult indeed as they wanted all of the cakes to win! But after much discussion, tasting and deliberating the following winners were announced:

Best Design: Freddie & Rory Woodward  
Best Child's Design: Isabella Bunting  
Best Cupcake: Mia Lewis





A very big congratulations to the winners, but also to all the parents and children that made cakes for the bake off. We were overwhelmed by your generosity and support and want to thank you all very much indeed. Total amount raised will be communicated on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November once all the pennies have been counted.

Email: [pta@queensway.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:pta@queensway.oxon.sch.uk)

### Christmas Dates

- KS2 Carol Concert- Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December at 9.30am.
- Reception Grandparents afternoon tea – Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December at 3pm
- Children's Christmas lunch provided by The School Lunch Company – Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December.
- Christmas Jumper Day – Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December
- Year 2 Nativity play 1.30pm and 6.00pm – Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December.

- School Christmas Disco – Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December, times to be confirmed but they will be after school.
- End of Term - Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December!
- **Inset day Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January- Children not in school.**
- **Return to school -Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2020**

### Poppy Appeal

We will be showing our support to The Royal British Legion once again by selling poppies and poppy merchandise from the school office during break-time. Prices to be confirmed.



### Chair of Governors

It's brilliant to be able to write about our great end of year results from July 2019. Queensway came out at least equal to, but mostly way above national figures on all Key Stage measures from Foundation up to Year 6. A quick summary of the results showing figures for those working at the expected level or above is shown below:

- Foundation Stage GLD (Good Level of Development) – Queensway 72%, National 72%
- Phonics screening test Year 1 – Queensway 95%, National 82%
- Phonics screening test Year 2 – Queensway 97%, National 91%
- Combined Reading, Writing and Maths results for Year 2 SATs – Queensway 72%, National 65%
- Combined Reading, Writing and Maths results for Year Six SATs – Queensway 74%, National 65%

These results are a real credit to all the teaching staff.

We hope you all join the governors in saying congratulations to everyone.

