

QUEENSWAY



www.queensway.oxon.sch.uk

Termly Newsletter, Issue 100: July 2019

Head Teacher's news in brief:

As it approaches the end of the summer term I wanted to send out just a brief newsletter with some general updates and news items:

- Our new nursery is opening in September. The room has been refurbished and is now ready for 3 and 4 year olds to join us at Queensway. This has been a long time coming and has taken many months of planning but we are delighted to welcome 18 children in September with more joining them in January and April. If you require any additional information please email: nursery@queensway.oxon.sch.uk.
- Our wrap around care provision is a real success story; what started as just a handful of children is now 70+ children some mornings who attend our breakfast club and almost 40 who attend After School Club. I would like to thank the dedicated staff who work incredibly hard to make these clubs such a success. Now the children are in the hall for After School Club I can hear them..... so much laughter, which is a joy to hear and clearly an indication of the fun they are having.
- I thought I'd share an interesting fact with you, since September 23 children have joined our school mid -year. What always amazes me is how welcoming and inclusive our school community is and how everyone is made to feel at ease so quickly. We now have over 21 different nationalities represented. What an incredibly diverse and inclusive school we have to be proud of.
- I am delighted to share some headline figures for children's performance against the national measures:
 - Good Level of Development (end of Foundation Stage data)- 72%
 - Year 1 Phonics screening test- 95%.
 - Year 2 Teacher Assessments- Reading 79%, Writing 74% and Maths 77%. These were all an improvement from the previous year.
 - Year 6 SATs- Reading 74%, Writing 86%, SPAG 86%, Maths 90% and combined reading, writing and maths 74%. Yr. 6 results were all above the national averages.

These results are very pleasing and demonstrate the hard work that all children give to their learning and indicative of their work ethic.

- We have reviewed how we transition new reception age children into our school, so we have significantly reduced the length of time when children are part time in September to now only 4 days, therefore all children (in both nursery and reception) will be attending school for their normal hours the week commencing 9th September.
- We are making a change to clubs next academic year..... we are promising not to cancel any due to bad weather! Instead we will keep hold of the children and provide an alternative activity. We can't promise it will necessarily be linked to the actual club activity but we will certainly continue to occupy the children until normal collection time. We're making this change as we know how frustrating it can be for parents who rely on clubs for childcare purposes.

- We have been proud of our attendance data this year; children are coming to school on a regular basis and are mostly in line with National expectations and averages (96%). We have seen a direct link this year between children who didn't reach the expected standard or reach their full potential in their SATs and those with less attendance than their peers. Attendance will remain a sharp focus for us next year.
- 96% of parents are now successfully using ParentPay. Thank you for all your support and patience whilst we have been establishing this new system. A quick reminder about ParentPay;

Please can we remind you that School Dinner and Breakfast Club accounts must be kept in credit. If either of these accounts accumulate one weeks' worth of arrears, we may need to consider discontinuation of lunch, or allowing your child to attend Breakfast Club. We would also like to remind you that school trips/swimming are paid via ParentPay, and there is always an option to pay by smaller instalments to assist budgeting.

- From September we will be introducing a two-tiered password system which will be used for collection of children by other individuals. Further information to follow.

Sports News

Quadkids

On Thursday 6th June, 40 children competed in the Wykham Park Academy 3/4 and 5/6 Quadkids event. All the children took part in a run, a sprint, a throw and a jump, earning points for each event. The focus School Games value was determination and the children showed this in abundance as they went around the different activities. A huge congratulations to the Year 6 A team, who qualified for the Partnership Finals at Cooper School!

Year 1 Multi-skills

On Thursday 20th June, Year 1 joined other local schools at Wykham Park Academy for a morning of multi skills. The children enjoyed a fun packed morning and were kept busy as they rotated around 6 activity stations designed to develop their agility, balance and coordination. The children enjoyed a range of activities including chasing games, team games, shooting, tri-golf and relays. All the children came away with big smiles and were incredibly hardworking. Well done Year 1!

Kwik Cricket

On Thursday 23rd June, some of the Year 5 children went to Banbury Cricket Club and participated in the Wykham Park Academy Cluster Kwik Cricket Festival. There was plenty of enthusiasm, determination and teamwork on display throughout the day, with the children demonstrating an impressive array of fielding, bowling and batting skills. A big well done to all those involved on a very busy day!

Rounders

On Thursday 4th July, children from Year 3 attended the Inclusion Rounders Festival at Wykham Park Academy. The focus of the event was participation, enjoyment and self-belief. All the children played games of rounders in a relaxed atmosphere with lots of help and encouragement from some of our Year 6s, who will be joining Wykham Park in September. They helped umpire and score alongside Year 7 buddies who previously attended Queensway. The event was a great success and a lovely way to end a very busy year!

School Sports Days

The sun shone down on the children during our sports days and there was great excitement all around. In KS2, the children showed great teamwork, determination and resilience, as the children took part in numerous events including: relay races, obstacle courses, throwing and jumping events.

In Foundation Stage and KS1 all the children had a wonderful time participating in all the activities, and their teachers and all the supporting staff were very proud of their achievements. It was great to see the children showing such team spirit and cooperation in the team races and also have the opportunity to race each other in the track events. We were especially grateful for all the Year 5 children who came to help the children in KS1 on the day and all the parents, family and friends who came to support all the children. The result saw the Red Team rewarded with first place. Congratulations to the Red Team and a big well done to all those involved!

School Games Award!

We are delighted to announce that we have achieved the School Games Gold Mark award for the 2018/19 academic year.

The school Games Mark is a Government led award scheme launched in 2012, facilitated by the Youth Sport Trust to reward schools for their commitment to the development of competition across their school and into the community, and we are delighted to have been recognised for our success.

With a huge total of young people competing in local inter- school competitions this year, we are extremely proud of our pupils for their dedication to all aspects of school sport, including those young volunteers, leaders and officials who made our competition possible.

As part of our application, we were asked to fulfil criteria in the areas of participation, competition, workforce, and clubs, and we are pleased that the hard work of everyone at our school has been rewarded this year.

Debbie's Diary

A new service: **Banburyshire Advice Centre** has opened at Sunshine Centre Mondays 9-12 for advice with a whole range of benefits. This is a drop-in but you can also contact helpdeskbancp@yahoo.com.

Summer Activities

- Banbury Play Day at Peoples Park 25th July 11-3 – **FREE!**
- **FREE** Activator sessions which include lunch for children from 1st August **every Thursday** 12pm at Moorfield Park and 1.30pm at Princess Diana Park.
- **The Mill** has lots of Summer holiday classes and sessions for ages 6-12years. Contact: 01295 279002 or www.themillarstcentre.co.uk

After School Club

I cannot believe another school year has passed, and what a year we have had! As a club, we continue to grow and go onto have so much laughter and fun.

We have well and truly settled so well into the school hall. Our many activities and play resume as if we have always been there.

I would like to thank all the children that attend, for making our afternoons as enjoyable as they are. Also a huge thank you to all those that have donated toys, dressing up clothes, books and more, we really appreciate it.

All that is left to say is I hope you all have a fantastic summer and we look forward to welcoming new and old faces in September.

School Council

It has been a busy year for School Council as they have worked hard to organise a variety of projects, from fundraising for charity to helping Queensway achieve the first Fairtrade award, and organising Queensway's Got Talent. I would like to say a special thanks to all the School Council representatives for all of their enthusiasm this year and their willingness to go above and beyond.

Governors

On a recent visit as the Queensway Safeguarding Governor I was able to sit with a group of year 4, 5 and 6's to talk to them about how they feel that school keeps them safe. They spoke about a wide range of subjects from 'do they feel safe in school', 'who would they go to if they had a problem', 'how do school lessons make you feel safer in the community' and 'what could school do better to help you feel safe'. The young people had lots to say and spoke about how the school gates ensured that people were checked before they came on to the school site and how they had alarms for different situations like fire or a lockdown. They liked the fact that there is always a staff member to talk to if they have a concern and that any problems on the playground get sorted when they happen and everyone is listened to. The children had great knowledge about online safety and were even able to teach me a thing or two. They clearly understood the risks from being contacted by strangers and knew never to give out personal information to anyone online. The year 6's talked about their experience on the Junior Citizen Programme and how it had helped them prepare for emergency situations, like making a call to the police. They were so enthusiastic about their learning and the time on the programme that the year 5's were getting excited at the prospect of doing this next year!

The children were brilliant throughout the session and a real credit to themselves, their parents and the school. Everyone got involved and spoke and gave examples. The overwhelming feeling from them was that because of the way things are done at Queensway they all felt really safe at school. For me as the Safeguarding Governor, this is great to hear as children who are worried about their safety are not going to be able to learn and reach their potential.

Brendon Miller, Safeguarding Governor

Dates for your Diary

TERM ONE

School closed: Monday 2nd September - Inset day

Tuesday 3rd September – Friday 25th October

October Holiday: Monday 28th October – Friday 1st November

TERM TWO

Monday 4th November – Thursday 19th December

Christmas Holiday: Friday 20th December – Friday 3rd January

TERM THREE

Tuesday 7th January – Friday 14th February

School closed: Monday 6th January – Inset day

February Holiday: Monday 17th February – Friday 21st February

TERM FOUR

Monday 24th February – Friday 3rd April

Easter Holiday: Monday 6th April – Friday 17th April

TERM FIVE

Monday 20th April – Friday 22nd May

School closed: Friday 8th May – May Day Bank Holiday

May holiday: Monday 25th May - Friday 29th May

TERM SIX

Monday 1st June – Friday 17th July

School closed: Monday 29th June, Monday 20th July, Tuesday 21st July - Inset days

Summer Holiday: Wednesday 22nd July - TBC

Staff Training Days – students not in school:

Monday 2nd September 2019

Monday 6th January 2020

Monday 29th June 2020

Monday 20th July 2020

Tuesday 21st July 2020

School finishes Wed 24th July, normal time!