

QUEENSWAY



www.queensway.oxon.sch.uk office.2057@queensway.oxon.sch.uk

Termly Newsletter, Issue 103: February 2020

Head Teacher's News in Brief

- I hope the children told you all about our special visit from Hannah Macleod, the Gold medal Olympic hockey player who announced we won the Aldi competition. It was certainly a very special day at Queensway and the children and staff were completely shocked and incredibly excited. We are hoping to use the money to make improvements to the outside area, i.e. the gym trail and potential forest area as well as contributing towards the PTA wooden gazebo. Thank you to all those parents who shopped at Aldi and gave us stickers- it's made a big difference!
- Please ask your children about Careers Day. It was a wonderful day with lots of visitors talking about their jobs and opportunities for children to be truly inspired. We were impressed with the younger children who came dressed up to represent the job they would like to do when they get older. The Year 6s all went through a mock interview, which was very real life- wow, they were amazing.
- Our new behaviour and anti-bullying policies are on our website. Please have a read.
- We say good-bye for a while to Mrs Pile who is leaving this week to go on maternity leave. We hope everything goes smoothly and look forward to meeting baby Pile soon. Miss Hollidge, who many of the Reception parents will have already met during the past two weeks, will be doing Mrs Pile's maternity cover.
- We were delighted with the responses from the parent survey in December, some fantastic comments, thank you. Can I just remind parents that if you have any concerns or suggestions we would love to hear them in order to keep improving the school.

- Please could I urge all parents to attend Parents Evenings next term on Tuesday 31st March and Thursday 2nd April. It is a good opportunity to see how things are going in school for your child and ask any questions. We will also be able to suggest ways you can support your child at home with their learning. We are hoping to move to an electronic booking system. More information to follow.
- We are looking to recruit more reading volunteers. If you are interested in giving up an hour of your week to hear children read, please speak to your child's class teacher. We would also welcome grandparents! All volunteers are DBS checked and receive safeguard training.
- Just a reminder about ways you can find out what your child is learning in school:
 - Look on the class blog via the school website
 - Read the termly overview stating what is being taught in each subject area
 - Attend the termly shared lesson
 - Attend the class assembly
 - Attend parent's evening
 - Chat to your child

Dates for your Diary

- **SCHOOL RE-OPENS – Monday 24th February**
- **World Book Day – Thursday 5th March**
- **Parents Evening – 31st March and 2nd April**
- **SCHOOL BREAKS FOR EASTER HOLIDAYS – Friday 3rd April**
- **SCHOOL RE-OPENS – Monday 20th April**



Class News

Nursery

Robin class have enjoyed another fun filled term. It has been great finding out about different types of vehicles and imagining the different journeys we could go on. We have also been busy learning about Chinese New Year and the children all loved creating a dragon dance, tasting noodles and fortune cookies.



Our favourite stories this term have been 'The Naughty Bus' and 'Mr Gumpy's Outing'. The children have also become quite good at making up their own stories in our Talking Tales sessions. During maths lessons we have visited Ten Town and have been learning about the different characters that live there. These characters have been helping us to learn our numbers.



Reception

This term has flown by! The children have loved our topic of 'Journeys' and enjoyed learning stories, making their own vehicles and doing drama about different modes of transport.

We had a drama workshop on the picture book 'Journey' where we learned how to create

freeze frames of pages from the book. We put these together with soundscapes created by Year 1 and thought alleys from Year 2 to make amazing scenes.

We have enjoyed reading the stories 'Whatever Next', 'The Gingerbread Man' and 'Shiver Me Timbers' (about a pirate ship!) and did some amazing writing about them.

We have used paint, junk modelling, play dough and mountains of paper to create artistic masterpieces about travelling and vehicles. We also loved having parents in for our shared lesson, making art inspired by our recent space theme. Thank you for coming.

In Maths we have been learning about time and adding and subtracting and have become so much more confident at forming numbers and using resources to help us. Well done!

We have welcomed Miss Hollidge into Reception as a new teacher covering Mrs Pile when she goes to have her baby after half term. We know she will have a great time with our fantastic children.

Year 1

Year 1 have enjoyed another busy term. In English, all the children have worked hard with their writing focusing on capital letters, finger spaces, full stops and have learnt some new grammar terminology e.g. prefix 'un' and suffix 'ing'. They have written a poem, a letter and enjoyed looking at the wordless book called 'Journey' by Aaron Becker. The children loved the drama workshop where they created different sounds for specific pictures.

For Careers Day the children had a visit from a police officer, a veterinary nurse and a community nurse. They were inspired by them and the children wrote what they would like to be when they grow up.

In History, children have enjoyed learning about Florence Nightingale. They drew a portrait of her and were able to discuss the conditions that Florence saw when she arrived at the Scutari Hospital and how she changed it for the better.

We have been very impressed with the children's enthusiasm to learn and all their hard work this term. Have an enjoyable and

fun break and come back refreshed, ready for more exciting learning.

Year 2

WOW, what a fantastic term we have had in Year 2! We have been busy learning all about 'The Great Fire of London'. We started off the term by receiving some old artefacts from 1666, including a quill and some smelly cheese! The children have impressed us with their recount and diary writing all about 'The Great Fire of London'. Then the children learnt the story of 'Very Little Red Riding Hood', they re-wrote the story and got creative with their own alternative ending.

In Maths, the children have been learning all about fractions, including how to find a half and a quarter of a number. They have also ordered numbers using the more than, less than and equal symbols. They have enjoyed recapping addition and subtraction of 2-digit numbers up to 100.

We enjoyed visiting St. Hugh's Church as part of our RE lessons this term. We had the opportunity to sketch the church, explore the artefacts and ask Reverend Smith lots of questions. Thank you, Reverend Smith, for allowing us to visit your church!

The children have created some beautiful watercolour landscapes as part of our learning week all based on the picture book 'Journey'. In our shared lesson this term, the children and adults created some Christopher Wren inspired collages with recycled newspaper and magazines. Thank you for giving up your time to help us!

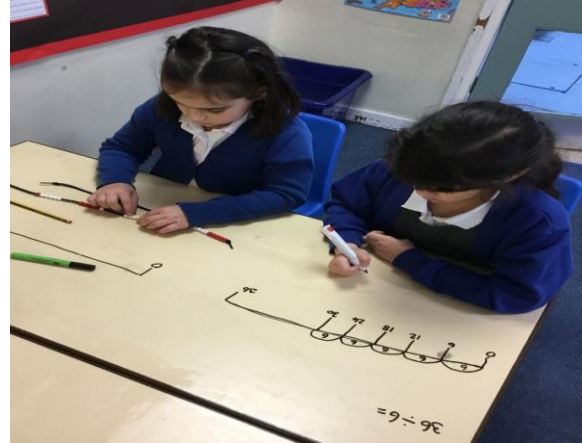
The children have enjoyed looking at dance this term in their PE sessions. They have got stuck into each session, especially when we looked at the movement of fire! Finally, we loved making our own houses out of cardboard boxes. We then burnt the houses, which was a moment we won't forget!

We hope you all have a restful break, ready for a busy term!

Year 3

This term we have started to explore our new topic 'The Romans are coming!'. We have loved our new topic and we hope the children are excited to carrying on with it after half term.

In Maths, we have developed our multiplication and division knowledge, focusing on practical and formal methods of calculation. We have also spent time securing our addition and subtraction understanding. We really enjoyed our Maths Mastery shared lesson. Thank you to those parents who were able to come along.



In English, we embraced our inner Roman soldier and created letters home for our families. This involved us carrying out lots of research about what life would have been like for a Roman soldier. We have also created setting descriptions focusing on the wordless picture book 'Journey'.



PE this term has been great. We have really enjoyed focusing on both dance and hockey. The children have also taken part in an inter-house competition which was great fun.

A great start to 2020 Year 3. Keep it up!

Year 4

What a fantastic term it has been in Year 4. We are really enjoying our new topic all about Vikings and the children have written some excellent reports to share their learning. We have moved on in English to look at stories from different cultures. At the moment, we are writing stories based around 'Mufaro's Beautiful Daughter's'.

In Science we have been studying 'States of Matter'. It has been fantastic to hear the questions and ideas that the children have and their enthusiasm to investigate different items and whether they could be a gas, liquid or a solid. The children have really enjoyed discussing reversible and irreversible changes to materials. Soon, we will be carrying out an experiment looking at the 'Water Cycle' so please keep an eye on our blogs to see what we get up to.

We had a great Drama and Arts week all based around the book 'Journey' in which the children created some interesting art, which retold the story, and got to act out their own interpretations of the pictures. They also wrote some amazing action sequences based on one of the pictures.



Wow Year 4! What an improvement! We are really pleased to see lots of children playing on Times Table Rock Stars and can see the impact this is having in our maths lessons. Please continue to log on and play. We hope you all have a great half term.

Year 5

What a busy start to the year!

Our topic this term is the Ancient Greeks. The children have been writing their own Greek myths and designing mythical beasts. Thank you to all adults that attended our shared lesson creating ancient Greek pots out of clay. We all enjoyed the opportunity to get creative and a little bit messy (we apologise for the state of some of the children's uniforms as a result!).

Mrs Thomas' class have continued their swimming lessons at Spiceball Leisure Centre and have all made excellent progress in the water. Meanwhile, Miss Fowler's class have been working with children from Frank Wise

School to learn sign language and play team building games. The children have enjoyed these sessions on Wednesday afternoons and have now swapped.

In Science this term we have been learning about space. We have been researching planets and learning about how we get night, day and the four seasons. We are particularly excited about our trip to the National Space Centre next term!

We hope you have an enjoyable and safe half term and we look forward to seeing you on Monday 24th February.

Year 6

What a quick term that was! We started off by visiting Oxford and taking part in Junior Citizen where we learned how to keep ourselves safe in different situations.

As many of you will now know, we took part in a mock SATs week this term where we looked at the types of papers we will be sitting in May. All the staff were impressed with the children's attitude and resilience towards these tests. Well done! It has given us ideas of things we need to revise and go over in the next couple of weeks.

In Maths, we have been concentrating on developing our arithmetic skills and beginning to look at applying these skills to worded problems.

We enjoyed making doors out of clay this term, as we looked at the book "Journey" where a girl draws a door to enter a magical world. Keep an eye out for some of these in our Art Gallery!

Sports Council

The children have been busy this term discussing what bullying means to them as pupils of Queensway. From this, they are working hard to create a child friendly version of our Anti-Bullying Policy which will be sent out soon.

We are also looking forward to planning Red Nose Day after half term, which is on 20th March 2020.

Sports News

The term got off to an exciting start with a visit from the Olympic Champion Hannah Macleod. It was an amazing opportunity to meet such a world class athlete and to actually see her gold medal. She inspired us all to work hard to be the best we can be!

Hockey

On Thursday 6th February Year 5 children attended the Banbury area Hockey at Blessed George Napier School. They enjoyed taking part and developing their skills in the sport.

Sports Hall Athletics

Two teams of enthusiastic Year 5 children took part in the Year 5 & 6 Sports Hall Athletics held at Wykham Park on 13th February. All the children showed great determination and sportsmanship.

Inter- House Competitions

All classes have enjoyed taking part in their own inter-house sports competitions. Wroxton House were the overall winners for competitions taking part at the end of Term 2 and we eagerly await the results for this term.

Children's University

Here are a few events at Banbury Museum, which might interest you over half term. These can be completed alongside the February half term CU challenge.

- Monday 17th February at 10:30am, 11:30am, 2pm or 3pm, children will be able to get crafty with clay and create their own wild creatures. **£4 per child.**
- Tuesday 18th February drop in between 11am and 3pm. Children will take part in a short workshop investigating their engineering skills. They will be challenged to build space rocket pictures and there will also be a visit from Kineton STEM who'll be showing off their rocket cars.
- Thursday 20th February at 2:30pm-3:30pm, children will be learning how gears and cogs work to make their own moving masterpiece. **£6 per child.**

Please check their website for other fantastic activities they will be running throughout half term.

<https://www.banburymuseum.org/februaryhalfterm/>

Debbie's Diary

There's lots on offer to keep your children busy and active during half-term and beyond:

A 6-week programme to help develop your child's language and communication skills for 2-4-year-olds with their parents/carers. This is being held at Sunshine Centre and starting on 3rd March. The cost is £12. Please contact Sunshine Centre on 01295 276769 to book a place.

Youth Activator programmes in February half term see Cherwell District Council website for details. <https://www.cherwell.gov.uk/youth-activator-programme>

Can I please remind parents and carers that the school doors open at 8.30am and close promptly at 8.40am (8.45am for Reception classes). This is a legal requirement to safeguard and register every child in school. Being late to school can embarrass your child and disrupt the rest of the class.

Arriving 5 minutes late for school every day is 3.4 days of a school year missed.

Thank you for your support and I wish you a Happy Half Term.



PTA

Term 3 saw the PTA carrying out a very successful Film Night, our most successful so far with 155 children attending the showing of Khumba, a film chosen by the School Council. We are delighted to say that this event raised a fabulous £199.50, which brings our total fund raising pot to £8546.00...which is a wonderful amount. Thank you to you all for supporting our events.

As you are all aware, Queensway School won a significant amount of money in January through the Aldi sticker initiative. We are delighted to inform you that the school have very generously given us £5000 towards our target for the outdoor classroom, which is again wonderful news. Thank you Queensway School.

Next term we will start our investigation and planning in preparation for purchasing of the outdoor gazebo.

In Term 4 events are as follows:

- 3.04.2020: Easter Bonnet & Picture Competition
- 30.04.2020: Adult Quiz night

Watch out for our **yellow** letters coming home with more information.

As a PTA group we are always looking at ways to improve/expand what we currently offer with regards to events/fund raising opportunities. If anyone has any ideas or feedback on additional events, dates/times best to hold them, then please get in contact with us via

PTA@queensway.oxon.sch.uk

Have a wonderful half term.

Many thanks

Queensway PTA

Report from the Governors

I am writing to let you know of a great opportunity for a parent or guardian to become a member of Queensway's Governing Board. We are looking for a new Parent Governor to join our Resources Committee.

This committee oversees the school's budget, Health and Safety, and Human Resource issues. Overall, we have a duty to make sure that money is well spent so that it improves children's outcomes. If you feel you have some spare time and have some experience in these areas, please consider putting yourself forward.

We ask that Governors actively participate in meetings (these are held in the afternoon or the evening), attend relevant training and are prepared to support and challenge the School Leadership Team. If you would like to find out more about the work of the Governing Body, please feel free to contact me via the school office or by e-mailing:

dces2057@queensway.oxon.sch.uk.

More information and nomination letters will be sent out to parents after half term.

Thank you

Daniela Cesco

Chair of Governors

After School Club

Wow, another amazingly busy term is over. We have started 2020 with our fun packed afternoons being dominated with chubby marker and sticking activities, building wonderful unique models out of Duplo and Lego, and of course the nail-biting game of Scrabble!

Although there has been a chill in the air, we managed a couple of sunny afternoons which enabled us to take full advantage playing football, badminton and obstacle races with beach bags and hoops outside.

During snack time, our children are fully in charge with presenting and entertaining us with dances they have choreographed, songs, drawing, jokes and so much more, which for me personally is the highlight of my day!

Together at teatime, we all have lovely discussions about our day which sets such a lovely atmosphere to draw our busy afternoons to an end.

We hope you all have a great break and we look forward to another busy term with the thought of Easter in mind.

