

QUEENSWAY



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Termly Newsletter, Issue 109: October 2021



Head Teacher's News in Brief

I can't believe we are already at the end of Term 1 and going into the half term break.

This term has been challenging in many ways as we all adjusted to the new Covid guidance. We saw more positive cases in the first two weeks of this term than we have had since Covid started. We have been grateful for all those families who have obliged when asked to take their child for a PCR test as someone in the class has tested positive - this picked up a significant number of asymptomatic children. We urge parents to email the office at the earliest opportunity if their child tests positive so we can swiftly send a 'warn and inform letter' out - this is particularly important at weekends as families could be booking and attending a PCR test at the weekend - this can't happen if we aren't notified until Monday morning.

Attendance continues to be our biggest challenge with a huge number of children missing school due to illness. We share parent's frustrations of working out what might be Covid symptoms versus a common cough or cold. It is not an easy situation. But we urge families to be mindful of good attendance when children are in good health.

Next term we will be stepping further into 'normality' by re-starting:

- Frank Wise integration in Year 5 every Wednesday afternoon.
- Private music lessons through Music for Schools
- Paid after school clubs; Hotshots and Dance (see separate letter for additional information)
- Off-site sporting events and competitions

We anticipate that more school-led clubs will commence in Term 3.

Christmas

We have yet to decide on which events we will be held, but we will communicate this nearer the

time. Decisions will be based on latest Covid guidance and risk assessment. Rest assured; the children will still have the opportunity to celebrate Christmas in school.

Parents evening

Thank you to parents who attended their child's parents evening virtually this week. They were well attended and hopefully gave parents a clear picture of how their child is settling into their new year group.

Staffing update

We said farewell to Mrs French, one of our cleaners, this term who did an amazing job keeping KS 1 classes clean for the children. We wish her well in the future. We welcome Mr Gifkins, who is doing Mrs French's cleaning hours as well as doing some hours to assist Steve.

Welcome also to Mr Newman who has started with us as a Teaching Assistant in the Year 2 team. Mr Newman will be mainly working in Miss Hancock's class. Mr Newman is certainly not new to Queensway as he was here as a child!

Car Park extension

The extension to the staff car park has now been completed, which has been much needed. Just a reminder that parents are not permitted to use the car park unless they hold a disability badge, or it is after 4:00pm.

On the issue of parking, a number of cars have been reported to the police by residents or other parents for unsafe and illegal parking around the school. Please help to keep our school community safe by parking legally.

Open Days

We have had a busy week with Open mornings showing families round who are in the process of choosing a school ready for September 2022. The next available sessions are:

- Wednesday 10th Nov 9-10am or 10-11am
- Thursday 11th Nov 9-10am or 10-11am

Please pass this information on to anyone who may be interested.

Filming

We had an exciting day in school a couple of weeks ago when a videographer came to make a film which can be used to market the school. The children really did do us proud, looking smart, engaged, and happy. When the film is finalised, it will be published on our website.

Class News

Nursery



What a busy term we have had in Robin class. We are so proud of how quickly all the children have settled into life at Queensway Nursery and how they have begun to make such lovely friendships. We have enjoyed getting to know each other and talking about our different interests and families. Some of our favourite stories this term have been; Shark in the Park, The Colour Monster and without doubt Brown Bear Brown Bear What do you See? Everybody can now join in brilliantly with this story and even retell it on their own! It has been lovely to see the children choosing to spend time exploring books independently. They have loved building reading dens and sharing stories with their friends.

During phonics sessions, we have been developing our listening skills and have had fun exploring the sounds of different instruments. In Maths we have been comparing objects and sorting them in different ways and joining in with number songs.

We have spent lots of time outside, taking part in Welly Wednesday walks and Forest School. Recently, we were lucky to take part in a virtual PSED workshop where we got to meet Harold the giraffe. He taught us a wonderful song about being special and we all loved sharing our different achievements with him.

Have a lovely half term break.
Mrs Marsh

Reception Classes

Wow! that first term has gone so fast, and the children have learnt so much. We are hugely proud of how well they have settled in. They have made good friends; learnt the new routines and all our little songs to go with them; become confident in all areas of our learning environment and embraced the new challenges that Reception has thrown at them.

The children are now beginning to use their phonics to read and write words and are experts at the Ten Town numbers 1-10. They retold stories such as 'Goldilocks' and 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt' from memory and we have acted these out in lots of different ways. Outside during Busy Birds, the children have enjoyed turning our climbing frame into a pirate ship; building cars out of planks and blocks; cooking up feasts in the mud kitchen and rescuing sea animals from the water tray. Inside the children have had fun dressing up as princess and superheroes, playing on the iPads and creating amazing things at our Art Stations.

The Owl class have loved their first taste of Forest School, where they have made grass crowns and potions, swung in hammocks, hunted for bugs and enjoyed stories under the trees. Doves still have a little while longer to wait as they will be going Terms 4-6.



We are sure all the children are feeling very tired after such a busy term, so we wish you all a good rest over Half Term. We are excited to see you in November and have lots more adventures with you



Mrs Guntrip, Mrs Pile and Mrs Tyler

Year 1

It has been an exciting first term in Year 1. It has been lovely watching the children settle into a routine. In English, we've used actions to learn the story 'Panda Bear, Panda Bear' and 'Slowly, Slowly, Slowly' said the Sloth' by Eric Carle. The children have 'wowed' us with their own stories such as 'White Goat, White Goat.'

In Maths, the children have looked at counting to and from 0-20, adding and subtracting using objects and shapes. The children have worked hard on their number formation and counting skills! In Science, we've have investigated different materials. The children are natural scientists and have discovered which material makes the best mirror, which material is most absorbent and which material would make the best umbrella.

In History, the children have compared old and new toys. The children are now experts at using close observation to sort toys on a timeline. In gymnastics, the children went on a teddy bear adventure and created sequences of balancing and travelling. We have loved watching the children grow in confidence and enjoyment of PE. Finally, Mrs Lawrence's class have thoroughly enjoyed Forest School, they've made potions, built shelters, and loved exploring the forest school's area



Well done everyone on a good first term. We're really proud of you!

Mr Grant and Mrs Lawrence

Year 2

We have been impressed how the children have quickly settled into the Year 2 routines and

expectations. The children have been busy story writing this term. They have learnt the stories 'Chapatti Moon' and 'The Tiger Child' before writing them. Furthermore, the children impressed us with their own story writing of 'The Windmill Farmer'. We are sure the children would love to tell you all about these stories, so please ask them!

The children have also enjoyed finding out all about harvest and farming in the past and comparing it to the present day in our history lessons. The highlight of our term has been receiving letters from our pen pal Lakshmi in India. The children have learnt lots about life in India and they loved writing letters back to Lakshmi to tell her all about their own lives in the UK including telling her about Banbury, London and what the weather is like here in the UK.

In Maths the children have been learning how to make two-digit numbers by using lots of different equipment. They have also been adding and subtracting one-digit numbers and multiples of ten from two-digit numbers. The children have explored statistics and they can read, interpret, and make tally charts, pictograms and block graphs.

In RE the children have been learning about the religion, Sikhism. They explored the 5 K's and the value of these to Sikhs. As part of their DT lessons the children designed, made, and evaluated Rama and Sita puppets. The children enjoyed making their puppets and bringing their plans to life.

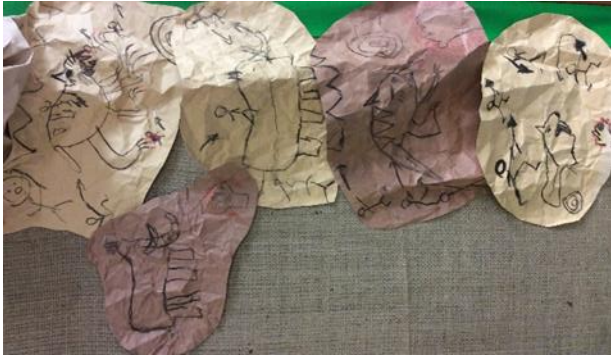
Mrs Hancock and Mrs Bibi

Year 3

A huge well done to our wonderful, new Year 3 classes on a brilliant first term. You have all matured so much and have shown how independent you can be, organising your belongings and settling into your new routines so well. We are very proud of you!

Our classes are loving our topic of the Stone Age and have created some very realistic cave paintings, using charcoal and oil pastels. Then, they made some Stone Age carvings using clay, carving away the shapes and lines to show an animal or a shape - similar to that found by archaeologists. They have undertaken research to find out what life was like in this

period of history and written factual reports in detail.



We have been so impressed by the teamwork that we've see in our PE lessons in both football and netball. Also, it is great to see that both classes have become enthusiastic about playing Times Tables Rock Stars at home. We will be setting up some inter-class tournaments next term so watch this space!

In Science, the children have shown a fantastic understanding of light sources and how we need to protect ourselves from some types of UV light. Their posters have a range of great top tips for everyone to follow.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a restful break next week and to thank you for all your hard work this term. Have fun and stay safe.

Miss Robinson and Mrs Thomas

Year 4

We just wanted to say what an amazing start to the year! You have all worked incredibly hard and been very responsible and have shown great resilience and determination throughout the term. We've really enjoyed our topic of Narnia in English, and we have loved reading your amazing character and setting descriptions. You have shown that you are taking on board suggestions and are eager to challenge yourself to improve.

Also, this term we have been learning about the Anglo Saxons, where we have made replica brooches, firstly with cardboard and foil and then with clay. There are some amazing masterpieces! We have been busy writing our names in runes and writing riddles for everybody to solve. You have all made giving out certificates very tricky this term as you are all demonstrating so many values in our PE lessons. You are great team players, showing

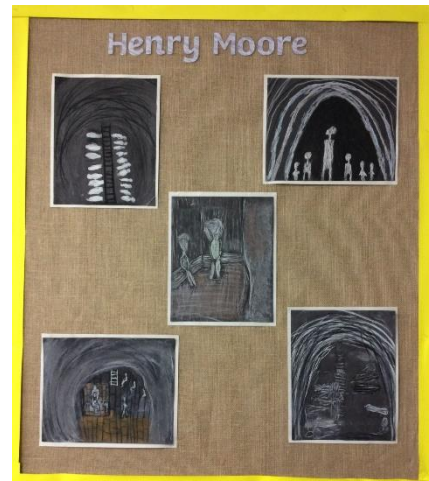
fantastic determination and passion in your tag rugby and football lessons.

Have a great half term and enjoy a well-earned rest!

Miss Ross and Miss Hoffman

Year 5

What a wonderful half term. The children have settled back into school life excellently and have enjoyed getting stuck into our first topic: World War Two. We have been so impressed with the children's writing this half term. In particular, they have wowed us with their 1940s house setting descriptions, diary entries from the perspective of a WW2 evacuee and their wonderful artwork inspired by WW2 artist and sculptor, Henry Moore. They have really showed great focus and interest when learning about the key events of WW2 with many continuing this learning at home.



In PE this half term the children have worked on their TAG Rugby and gymnastic skills. We are so proud of how all the children represented Queensway School in our Chance to Shine taster session. Great sportsmanship was shown by all! The children have also very much enjoyed learning dance moves from both the Jitterbug and Jive, working well in partners and listening to well-known tracks from the WW2 era.

Miss Penniston and Miss Hollidge



Year 6

We have had a fantastic first term and the children have settled into Year 6 amazingly well.

The children have explored a range of genres in their English lessons this term. The children used the poem 'Dancing Poinciana' to create some beautiful poems, they included personification, alliteration, and adventurous language choices. The children were also busy writing narratives set in the Amazon Rainforest! It was a joy to watch the children spend so much time and effort writing, editing, and publishing their wonderful stories.

In Maths the children have been working really hard with their formal written methods for addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. They have used this knowledge to solve a range of problems. They have also recapped simplifying, ordering, and comparing fractions. It has been wonderful to see the children grow with confidence within our Maths lessons this term and we are already looking forward to seeing what the children can do next term!

The children have been very enthusiastic about our topic 'The Rainforest'. They have spent their Geography lessons learning about the layers of the rainforest and the different animals that live within this habitat. The children also produced some fantastic posters in a group!



In Science the children have been learning about microorganisms. They have explored the similarities and differences between bacteria, viruses, and fungi. The children even got creative and made their own microorganisms, aren't they cool?!



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

Mrs Newman, Miss Fowler and Miss Jeffries

After School Club

We have all had a fantastic first term back at our After School Club as laughter, chatter and music fills the hall. We would like to welcome all our new children as well as all our old faces too. It is so lovely to be back in full swing.

Early on we took advantage of the lovely September weather by joining in with numerous outdoor activities such as ball games, circle games, learning many dance routines as well as becoming experts on the adventure playground and wooden climbing frame. Inside time has been just as much fun with a huge variety of activities taken place. Den building for our older group has been a highlight of their evenings with lots of chairs, blankets, and benches. Whilst our younger children cooked up a storm preparing different meals in our play kitchen with broccoli jelly pie being a favourite and devoured by all! Imagination through dressing up as princesses and witches took over when the children acted out different plays, craft activities with lots of paint, feathers, lolly sticks, and the odd sprinkle of glitter had us creating our very own master pieces, such a busy and fun time had by all!

We hope you all have a restful half term. We look forward to welcoming you all back soon.

The After School Team

Debbie's Diary

Half Term Activities – Fun for all

- Castle Quay have a free spooky trail throughout half term. No need to book. Visit Customer Services next to Lock29.
- Wednesday 27th October 11am-3pm Back to nature at Bridge St Garden.
- Banbury Museum – visit www.banburymuseum.org for half term fun with art, crafts, and messy play. Booking is essential.
- Orinoco Banbury – The Oxfordshire Scrapstore Open Wednesday - Saturday 10am-4pm. £3 each for an hour of activities. Booking not required

As always, please contact me if you are struggling and need some help or advice or access to Foodbank – hsclw@queensway.oxon.sch.uk

Sport

This term both staff and children have loved getting active in different ways. We have had a great first term back and have enjoyed our lessons outside. For multiple year groups, the pupils have had a chance to have Mr Mawn supporting one of their PE lessons each week, which they have all thoroughly enjoyed.

Years 3-6 also enjoyed the 'Chance to Shine' cricket taster session, where we had time with a cricket coach to explore the different skills involved with the sport.



Next term, we are excited to get back involved with some local competitions and events as well as running our own event. In Term 2, we will be completing a Cross Country Festival, with the help of Mr Mawn and class teachers. We are excited to run this house competition and will announce the winners in the next newsletter.

Sports Council are also keen to get set up next term and start setting some active challenges for the school to take part in. After the children have been elected, we will make sure to introduce them to you all!

PTA

Whilst we are unable to have events to raise additional funds you could support the school by doing the Cherwell Lottery, it's quick, easy and you could even win some money! Just follow this link for further information.

<https://www.cherwelllottery.co.uk/support/queensway-school-pta>

Wishing you all a restful half term holiday.

Queensway PTA

Governors

The Governors have been delighted to see the children back in school for the new year. We would like to thank all the staff for the hard work they've put in to make it happen so smoothly,

particularly as rules and guidance continue to change.

At a recent meeting we reviewed the progress data for the end of the previous school year and were delighted to see the advancements achieved from the September 2020 baseline. This is particularly impressive when you consider the significant amount of online learning undertaken during this time. There is still work to do to ensure all children achieve their best, but the data demonstrates how hard both staff and children have worked throughout Covid. It is something to be celebrated.

We will continue to support the Head and staff in their efforts to keep attendance high during the "coughs and colds" season. So please remember to keep your child at home if they have any Covid symptoms and to get a PCR test as soon as possible.

The Governors

Term 2 Dates

25th – 29th October 2021 – **School Closed**

1st November 2021 – School re-opens

8th November 2021 – Whole school photo day

29th November – **Inset day School Closed**

16th December - Last day of Term 2

5th January – School re-opens

