



QUEENSWAY SCHOOL

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Monday 5th January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy New Year and I hope that you all had a restful, relaxing break. The table below provides you with an overview of our learning for the next two terms. Our overarching topic is entitled 'Raiders or Traders?' as we focus mainly on The Vikings.

English
We will be covering a range of genres over the next two terms, including narrative writing, focusing on a video clip from Literacy Shed, as well as developing our formal writing, by creating our own non-chronological reports. This will give us the opportunity to write about other curriculum areas such as The Vikings in History. We will also read a range of texts to support each genre in our guided reading sessions. Through our text explorations, we will also write descriptions as well as getting in role and writing diary entries in the view point of different characters.
Mathematics
We begin the term by looking at place value and extend the numbers we count up and down to, including negative numbers. The rest of the term will consist of revising and extending our methods for addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. The children will have opportunities to develop their fluency with methods such as the grid method and chunking on a number line before developing their reasoning and problem-solving skills. We will use these written methods to solve problems presented in a variety of ways, including using money. Furthermore, we will also learn about fractions and decimals in more detail. The children will continue to practice their times table skills weekly to build up their confidence and recall.
Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education (PSHE)
This term we will be learning all about valuing and celebrating differences and how to keep ourselves safe. The children will be learning about gender stereotypes and will be thinking about why it is important to challenge these within society. They will also be learning about what makes people different such as family structures, cultural and religious differences. Within our PSHE lessons, we will also be exploring the idea of personal space and why this is important. Next term, we will be exploring 'Keeping Ourselves Safe' and alongside this unit, we will also be engaging with learning from SCIB.

The children in Year 4 will also be participating in 'buddy reading' each week, on a Friday afternoon. This is a fantastic opportunity where the children will visit a younger year group, to read and share a book with them and listen to one another reading.

To find out what we are learning in all the other subject areas please look at the 'Knowledge Organisers' which can be found on the class blog.

Homework

Homework will continue to be set on a Friday and due in the following Thursday, giving families the option of completing the tasks midweek or at the weekend.

- Reading: 15 minutes a day for 5 days per week.
- A spelling activity, designed to support, practise, or revisit something we have learned in class will be given weekly. Every other week, a spelling list will be given in preparation for a mini quiz the following week.
- In Maths, the children will be given an activity linked to class work one week and the next week a multiplication focused task, either using Times Table Rockstars or an activity sheet.

Ways you can help your child:

- Please listen to your child read and share books with them for approximately fifteen minutes per night. Asking your child questions about the book they have read will help to develop their comprehension skills and a love for reading through exploring different books/stories.
- Please share and discuss the knowledge organisers for this term, looking at the vocabulary to support and extend their learning.
- Please remember to regularly visit our blog at: <https://classroom.google.com> or via the app, using your child's log in details. This is a great way to find out what we have been up to in our class.
- Please ensure that your child is frequently practising their times tables, either on paper or by playing a times table themed game such as Times Table Rockstars.

PE days

Our outdoor lessons will continue to take place on a Thursday and our indoor lessons will take place in the hall on a Friday. Please ensure that your child has the appropriate kit for both of these sessions. This consists of a plain white polo t-shirt and navy shorts for indoor sessions, with the addition of a navy sweatshirt and jogging bottoms for outdoor lessons. Trainers are the most appropriate footwear for outdoor PE, as they provide far more cushioning and stability than plimsolls. Plasters or medical tape should be provided for children who are unable to take their earrings out.

Terms 3 and 4 shared lessons

- Term 3 - Maths: Tuesday 3rd February at 8:45am.
- Term 4 - Geography: Wednesday 25th March at 2pm.

Forthcoming trips

Our class trip to Science Oxford will be taking place on Wednesday 14th January 2026, where the children will consolidate their learning on two of our science topics: electricity and states of matter. During this very exciting day, children will have time to explore the exploration zone at the centre, as well as taking part in a workshop and science show. Children will be learning how to use simple equipment to safely heat different materials with a small flame and will manage their own experiments and focused recording. Children will then focus on developing their scientific understanding by thinking 'What, Why and How?' trying to work out what has happened and why?

I look forward to an exciting term ahead! As always, if you have any queries or concerns, do not hesitate to make an appointment to discuss these. I am happy to have a very brief chat in the mornings; alternatively, we can arrange a more convenient time after school.

Kind regards,

Miss Macdonald (Class Teacher)

