



QUEENSWAY SCHOOL

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Monday 5th September 2022

Dear Parents

I hope you all had a good summer break. A special welcome to the new families who will be joining Queensway this term as their child enters the Foundation Stage. We hope you will find your time at Queensway a happy experience and that your child enjoys coming to school and achieves their full potential.

Whilst July seems a very long time ago, we were finally given our Ofsted report on the very last day of term. We were absolutely delighted to retain the judgment of 'Good' especially given the challenges of the past few years. The icing on the cake was achieving 'Outstanding' in 'Leadership and Management' as well as being a whisper away from 'Outstanding' in 'Behaviour & Attitudes' and 'Personal Development.' Attendance featured heavily during the inspection and whilst we have been in line or above Oxfordshire all the way through the past couple of years, Ofsted endorsed our plea to parents to send their children to school every day if possible and not to take unnecessary leave/absence. This is the biggest barrier for performance.

The focus for us this year, is to put the heart back into Queensway! To get back to our pre-Covid enrichment offer. This will be very new to families who started with us after March 2020, but prior to then, parents would be in and out of school frequently attending class assemblies, shared lessons and parent workshops, children would have opportunities to attend lots of clubs, trips, events etc. The school would be buzzing with busy learning and activity. Therefore, I have outlined further on in this letter information to support this.

Staffing news

I wrote to you all in July to outline the staffing for September but so you can put names to faces, I would like to introduce our new staff to you:



Miss Emma Hugo
Year 4 Teacher



Miss Mia Dineen
Year 2 Teacher



Mr Greg Owen
Trainee Teacher, Yr. 6



Mrs Kate Cooper
Nursery TA



Miss Tiannon Herring
Reception TA



Mrs Amelia Hopkins
Year 2 TA



Mr Scott Andrews
Year 4 TA



Mrs Andrea Bram
Year 5 TA

Food and drink at Queensway:

School dinners

All children in Reception, Year 1 and 2 are entitled to a free school meal under the Government scheme called Universal Free School Meals; these are simply booked on the day at registration time. Children can still choose to bring in their own packed lunch if they prefer. For children in Years 3-6 you may be eligible for Free School Meals if you are in receipt of:

- Universal Credit
- Income Support
- Jobseekers Allowance
- Child Tax Credit
- 'Guarantee' element of State Pension Credit

Please speak to the office if you feel you may be eligible. Children in Nursery who are entitled to 30 hours funding and Years 3-6 can still buy a hot school meal even if they are not eligible for free school meals simply by booking on the day at registration time and paying via ParentPay. The cost is £2.30 per day.

Nuts

We have a child in our school who has a significant allergy to nuts, which is life threatening. Therefore, please help us by:

- A) Avoiding giving your child nuts or nut products in their packed lunches. Some examples of food items to be avoided include:
- Fruit and cereal bars that contain nuts
 - Sesame seed products including rolls
 - Nutella and peanut butter
 - Cakes made with nuts
 - Packets of nuts
- B) Avoiding supplying the school with cakes or food items containing nuts for birthday celebrations
- C) Avoiding sending containers such as cereal boxes for junk modelling into school which may have contained produce made with nuts.

If your child has eaten nuts before coming to school, we also ask that you ensure their hands and face have been thoroughly washed before entering the school as a precautionary measure. Thank you in advance for your support.

Fruit and Milk Scheme

The Government free fruit scheme is for all children in Nursery, Reception and Year 1 as well as free milk for children in Reception. Children have their fruit and milk on a daily basis.

Healthy lunch boxes

We ask all parents to read our food policy which can be found on the school website. Lunch boxes should contain a balanced range of foods which provide children with the nutrients they need to thrive. Sandwiches, crackers, wraps, pittas and pasta or rice salads are a great idea. Please visit the following website for some further ideas:

<https://www.nhs.uk/change4life/recipes/healthier-lunchboxes#lunchbox-recipes>

Wrap Around Care at Queensway:

Breakfast Club

Just a reminder that Breakfast club operates its booking system via ParentPay. It costs £2 per day and is run in the hall, 7:45-8:30am. Only children who are booked in will be able to attend. Please drop children off at the main reception doors.

After School Club

All bookings can be made by emailing: childcare@queensway.oxon.sch.uk. The collection point for parents is the main reception area. Ad hoc bookings will very rarely be available due to the huge increase in regular bookings which are all secured through contracts. After School Club is not available to children in Nursery. Reception children will be considered on an individual basis.

How parents can get involved at Queensway this year:

Parent Workshops

We are going to be holding a series of parent workshops, one each term. We will be covering Phonics, Reading, Maths, online safety etc. The aim is to equip parents to understand how we teach various subjects in school (which

can be very different from how we were taught when we were at school!) and to give parents confidence to support this learning further at home. Watch out for future dates.

Shared lessons

Each class will be holding a termly shared lesson for parents to attend and join in learning with their child. This is enormous fun and gives an excellent insight to school life. Teachers will be contacting you with details of dates. Parents need to sign in at Reception first. This is not open to pre-school age siblings.

Class assemblies

Each class will do at least two assemblies over the year. The timetable for the autumn round is:

DATE	CLASS
Fri 30 th Sept	6CT
Fri 7 th Oct	3AJP
Fri 14 th Oct	5LH
Fri 21 st Oct	1JG
Fri 4 th Nov	4PH
Fri 11 th Nov	3EH
Fri 18 th Nov	6MJ
Fri 25 th Nov	1JF
Fri 2 nd Dec	5LR
Fri 9 th Dec	4MR

All assemblies are on Fridays and start promptly at 2:30pm in the hall, (please note this is slightly earlier than the pre-Covid era.) Parents need to come to reception from 2:20pm. We ask that parents do not bring toddlers and babies if they are going to become a distraction from the class performing. Year 2 will be doing a nativity play instead.

Homework

All homework is set on a Friday to be due back in the following Thursday. This should make it easier for families to remember when there are multiple siblings. Please do not hesitate to speak to your child's class teacher if you have any questions about homework. Reading with your child on a daily basis is the best input you could do to support their academic learning as it is the building blocks for everything else in the curriculum.

Volunteers

Our aim this year is to have at least one volunteer per class, so if you have any spare time and would like to volunteer then please contact the school office. It is a great way to get involved in school life. All volunteers have a DBS check and undertake safeguarding training. Volunteers can help with hearing children read, or as an extra pair of hands in the class. If you may be interested in this, then please speak to either the class teacher or the office.

PTA meetings

We are hoping that the PTA will be up and running again as the term gets going. In the meantime, you can still support the PTA by taking part in the Cherwell Lottery which our PTA receives a proportion of the money from:

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

How to keep our school community safe:

Safe parking

Following Government Guidance, we would encourage as many families as possible to walk to school. However, for those families who can't walk please can I ask that parents park their cars safely, not blocking driveways or pavements. Our community police team monitor this situation regularly. Remember: it is the safety of your children that is paramount. Parking on the grass between both sides of the carriageway on Queensway is strictly prohibited.

Children walking to school alone

No children are allowed to walk to and from school without an adult. Oxfordshire's Policy is that it is the parent's responsibility to get their child to and from school. Parents are asked to supervise their children until the doors open at the allotted times. Children must be dropped off and collected within the school grounds. Scooters and bikes are not allowed to be used on site, as it is too busy around the narrow pathways. Thank you for your understanding.

Different people collecting children

In order for us to follow Local Authority Safeguarding regulations please note: If you need your child to be collected by someone different than who normally collects them, then please complete a form with the class teacher or TA during drop off in the morning.

- If you need to change an arrangement during the day then please ring the school office, we will provide you with a password.
- We ask that children are collected by people over the age of 16.

How to keep well informed:

Correspondence to separated parents

If your child has parents that live at separate addresses, we can email letters to the parent not living with the child for the majority of the time, so they still feel informed and involved. Please just let the office staff have their full name and email address. The school website should also be a good source of information.

Queensway's website <http://www.queensway.oxon.sch.uk>

We hope you are all enjoying the website and find things easy to locate. All letters are posted on the website as well as emailed to families. All class teachers will be writing to parents this week outlining what the children will be learning this coming term. We will also be posting Knowledge Organisers on the class pages which clearly outline the key knowledge and facts the children will be learning about in each subject. They are a great way for parents to understand more about the content of your child's curriculum.

Class blogs

Class blogs are now established for the new class allocation. Your existing passwords can still be used and new families will be given a password shortly. Teachers post the weekly awards on the blog as well as information to support the children with work.

Open Days

We are holding a series of Open Days throughout the autumn term for families to come and look round in preparation for choosing a school for their child starting school in September 2023, in both Nursery and Reception. Please feel free to pass these dates on to friends who have children of this age. It is run on an appointment basis and are based across two weeks. Please contact the office if you require further information.

- **First week: Mon 17th, Tues 18th and Thurs 20th October, all are 9-11am.**
- **Second week: Mon 7th Nov 9-11am, Tues 8th Nov 1:15-2:15pm and Wed 9th Nov 9-11am**

Our curriculum enrichment offer:

Clubs

We are re-launching our pre-Covid club offer this year. We have planned lots of exciting clubs for your child to attend across the whole year. All teachers do this on a voluntary basis, so I am extremely grateful for them giving up their time. Please see separate letter that is coming out later this week about clubs, which tells you how to register for the Term 1 and 2 clubs online.

Trips

Staff have been busy planning trips and visitors for the forthcoming year to enhance the curriculum and make learning fun and memorable. They are doing their best to organise them all now so that you can see what is happening for the whole year in advance. For those parents who have only ever been with us during Covid times, we ask parents to budget for £20 per year, per child for trips, we will never exceed this. Instalments for booked trips can be made through ParentPay. We are also hoping to offer Year 6 residential. More information to follow.

Integration with Frank Wise

We are continuing our partnership with Frank Wise School, but instead of linking to our Year 5s, this year we are linking our Year 4s with a class from Frank Wise. This happens every Wednesday afternoon. We will alternate weekly between the two Year 4 classes. We have always found integration sessions to be of enormous importance to our children as it strengthens the children's respect, understanding and tolerance of difference.

Forest School

After the success of Forest School last year, we are extending this to children in Years 2 and 3, as well as still enabling Nursery, Reception and Year 1 children to attend. Children have thrived and it has been a pleasure to see

children enjoying being outdoors in nature, taking risks, making dens and potions and even having fires in the fire pit:

Fridays	9-10:30am (Reception)	10:30-12 (Year 1)	1-2:30pm (Other year groups)
Term 1	KG	JG	3AJP
Term 2	ST/AP	JF	2FL
Term 3	KG	JG	2MD
Term 4	ST/AP	JF	3EH
Term 5	KG	JG	Nursery
Term 6	ST/AP	JF	

Swimming

Children in Year 5 go to Spiceball for swimming lessons for half a year each class. Swimming is part of the National Curriculum and an important life skill. Children travel to Spiceball via a coach, so therefore we ask for parental contribution towards this cost. The cost of coaches has risen significantly, but we as a school have not charged parents for this increase, so are keeping the rates as previous years.

Bikeability

We are delighted to be linking up with Bikeability this year to offer Year 6 children the opportunity to have cycling lessons. These will take place the week after SATs in May. Year 6 parents will be written to separately.

Music For Schools

All children in Years 3-6 had an assembly in July from *Music for Schools* who showed them various instruments they could learn to play. If your child is in Key Stage 2 and you would like them to have private music tuition, please contact the school office. Lessons take place during the school day but are led by an external organisation.

I am excited to see what we can achieve at Queensway this year, with lots of opportunities and events happening.

I wish everyone a smooth start to the new academic year but please do not hesitate to contact me with any queries or concerns.

Best wishes for 2022-2023.

Mrs Sarah Horbury-Jakeman
Head Teacher