
QUEENSWAY

www.queensway.oxon.sch.uk



Termly Newsletter, Issue 118: May 2023

Head Teacher's News in Brief

Staffing:

As you will have read from our email last week, Mrs Thorpe is re-locating out of the area, so is leaving us on Friday 26th May. Mrs Thorpe has done a wonderful job covering classes across the school and will be missed. Our talented TAs will continue to do cover where needed.

Class allocations:

For those families new to Queensway, we always re-shuffle the classes each academic year. Teachers use their professional judgement based on what they know of the children within school. We cannot base our decisions on parental requests. We will always make the decision on what is right for the children and the cohort overall. Even if children are in the opposite class to someone they really want to be with, remember, they still have break and lunch times together as a year group. Thank you for your co-operation.

Parking permits:

Starting after half term, anyone using our staff car park will only be able to do so by displaying a valid parking permit up to 4:15pm each day. This will only be for people holding a disability badge or in some special circumstances, i.e., if a child is on crutches etc.

Year 6 walking to and from school:

After half term, some children in Year 6 may be allowed to walk to and from school without their parents. Parents must sign a contract to state they take full responsibility and if there are any reported incidents of poor behaviour en route, this privilege will be removed. Year 6 children cannot be responsible for bringing their younger siblings to school.

Reception and Nursery Sept 2023:

We are delighted to say that both our new Nursery and Reception classes are full from September. Therefore, if you have a child that is due to start nursery in the future, it is highly recommended that you apply for a place early.

Summer footwear:

Crocs and sliders are not permitted as school footwear as they don't provide enough support for children's feet. Black plimsols are suitable for indoors and black shoes for outdoors.

Book Fair:

The travelling Book Fair has been with us this term which always goes down well with the children. Did you know that your purchases earn the school rewards which they can spend on free books to stock up their library and classrooms? We are delighted to say that we raised £550.87 which is a fantastic amount. Thank you for your support.

Diary dates:

I wanted to give parents as much information as possible about forthcoming dates in Term 6 as it tends to get very busy in the summer months. The table gives families an overview but watch out for further information on emails and the class blogs. If you have any queries, then please don't hesitate to ask either your child's class teacher or the school office.

Summer diary dates: Term 6, 2022-2023

WEEK 1- w/c: 5th June	
All week	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multiplication screening in Year 4 Year 6 Careers Week PTA uniform drop off all week.
Thurs 8 th June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6pm PTA meeting
Fri 9 th June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2:30pm Yr. 3 Exhibition in the hall
WEEK 2- w/c: 12th June	
All week	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phonics screening in Year 1 and some Year 2 children 'Be Space' in library, Years 1-6. A series of activities to prompt reflection
Mon 12 th June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2-3pm RKG shared lesson (Owls)
Wed 14 th June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 3 at Planting in the Park, pm 2pm RAP/ST shared lesson (Doves) 3pm SEND parents evening
Thurs 15 th June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quad Kids event, some children in Years 3-6 3pm SEND parents evening
Fri 16 th June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2:30pm Yr. 4 Exhibition in the hall
WEEK 3- w/c: 19th June	
All week	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Sports week
Mon 19 th June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:45am CT shared lesson Rev. Smith with Yr.5 in pm
Tues 20 th June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nursery sports day (no parents watching) 8:45am 6MJ shared lesson
Wed 21 st June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sports days with parents invited- Wed 21st June, 9am KS 2 and 1:15pm FS/KS 1
Thurs 22 nd June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 1 multi-skills at Wykham Park Academy
Fri 23 rd June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2:30pm Yr. 2 Exhibition in the hall
WEEK 4- w/c: 26th June	
Mon 26 th June	INSET DAY- SCHOOL CLOSED
Tues 27 th June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zoolab in Reception, pm. Year 5 at Horley 2pm 1JF shared lesson
Wed 28 th June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2pm 3EH shared lesson
Thurs 29 th June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whole School Relationship & Sex Education theme Day 2pm 3AP shared lesson
Fri 30 th June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2:30pm Yr. 1 Exhibition in the hall
WEEK 5- w/c: 3rd July	
All week	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PTA uniform sale every day at drop off and collection time.
Mon 3 rd -Thurs 6 th July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BGN transition days
Mon 3 rd /Tues 4 th July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WPA and NOA transition days
Mon 3 rd July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2pm 4PH shared lesson
Tues 4 th July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yr 2 at Victorian Museum in Warwick 2pm 4MR shared lesson
Wed 5 th July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8:45am 2FL shared lesson

Thurs 6 th July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8:45am 2MD shared lesson • 1pm Dental workshop for Reception classes • 2pm 5LH shared lesson • 5-7pm PTA family picnic- TBC
Fri 7 th July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2pm 5LR shared lesson
WEEK 6- w/c: 10th July	
Mon 10 th /Tues 11 th July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Warriner transition days
Wed 12 th July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whole School French theme day
Thurs 13 th July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual reports out to parents • Year 6 Transition festival with NOSSP
Fri 14 th July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents notified of class allocation for Sept 2023
WEEK 7- w/c: 17th July	
Mon 17 th July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5-7:30pm Yr. 6 BBQ
Tues 18 th July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shuffle up day- children spend the day with their new teacher
Wed 19 th July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class parties, 2-3pm
Thurs 20 th July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9:30am Yr. 6 Leavers Service. 2 tickets per child. Only KS 2 siblings watching. • Class picnics on the field. Brunch bags only instead of hot dinners. • Finish for the summer

Class News

Nursery

Wow.....we cannot believe how quickly Term 5 has gone for us in Nursery. Together we have been enjoying learning all about, how does your garden grow, turning our outside area into our very own 'Robins Garden Centre' where we experienced selling and buying flowers, plants, and vegetables. We planted our own beans and took on the responsibility of helping them grow as we watered them and made sure they had enough sunlight.

With great anticipation our caterpillars arrived, much to the children's delight. They used their speaking skills and knowledge to explain what happens for the caterpillars to eventually turn into beautiful butterflies before releasing them in the garden. We also learnt a song 'There is a tiny caterpillar on a leaf'. All the children joined in both with singing and had some great actions to support too!

We continued working hard in our phonics lessons, where our children are listening out for initial sounds in words, names, and objects through our 'What's in the box' and 'Bertha the bus' games. We are continuing to challenge them to hear blended words and have lots of fun in blending things for them to do with their bodies e.g., can you c-l-a-p your hands? We are very proud of their concentration and determination!

With all the successes in Nursery this term, we rewarded our children with a fantastic breakfast together, where we enjoyed delicious cereal, fruit and croissants, finishing off with a story.

Forest School has been a fantastic way to end each week on a high. Our children love the freedom of risk taking and challenging themselves, climbing trees, bug hunts, hammock swinging and cooking up some delicious muddy concoctions has kept the children engaged and focused come rain or shine.

We cannot believe we have one more term to go but I know it will be just as amazing as the ones before! We hope you all have a lovely half term, and we look forward to welcoming you back soon.



Reception Classes

This term has been so busy in Reception! We have had such a lot of fun learning about planting and growing. A highlight has been our trip to the allotment where the children were able to explore vegetables and plants that were growing. The plot owners showed them seeds and plants and spoke about what it was like to own an allotment. The children loved this and it motivated them to do lots of writing and role play around growing plants!

Another highlight of the term was the chick visits, which I'm sure you heard lots about! The chicks were part of our Reception for two weeks and it was so exciting watching them hatch and then change from tiny newborns, to slightly larger and much fluffier chicks. The writing that we gained from the children about the chicks was just amazing and the children showed such enthusiasm around our tiny friends!

We have covered lots of texts this term in English and the Enormous Turnip and Jack and the Beanstalk have been firm favourites. The children came into school to discover a beanstalk had grown over the weekend! They were so excited by this and couldn't wait to explore the world of the giant's castle more.

We loved having our shared lesson outside in Forest School this term and thank you to the parents that were able to attend. We have such fun exploring in nature and were so happy to share this experience with you. The Owl class have had the most amazing time exploring trees, hunting for bugs, making mud pies, blowing bubbles, playing games and having lots of fun in Forest School. The Dove class will be returning to Forest School after half term.



We cannot wait to start our final term in Reception. Have a lovely half term break.

Year 1

Wow, a short but hard-working term! The children have enjoyed our Science work all about plants. We made plants, labelled them, and learnt about the different parts and what their jobs are. We grew our own sunflowers and have now planted them in the Forest School area. We can't wait to watch them grow!



We had an amazing trip to Easington allotments. We even spotted newts in the pond! We have written our own information texts and poems about plants.

We have been outside creating some amazing sculptures based on the work by Andy Goldsworthy. The children really enjoyed making sculptures with their grown-ups in the shared lesson. The children have written their own amazing writing based on 'The Three Little Aliens'.

In Maths, we have been making equal groups and counting in 2s, 5s and 10s. We have also learnt about position and direction. Can you show a clockwise half turn or a whole turn?

In Geography, we have been travelling around different continents and have found out lots of interesting facts. We have looked more closely at our own country and learnt about England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Mr Grant's class have loved Forest School this term and Miss Fowler's class can't wait to get muddy at Forest School again after the half-term break. We are really looking forward to the next term and our new topic 'Meet the Veggies'.

Year 2

Another fantastic and busy term in Year 2. The children have really enjoyed our topics about the weather and habitats. They are all now fantastic weather reporters! They can also tell you lots about different habitats and the animals you might find there. They have enjoyed designing their own animals made from recycled materials. In English, they have relished writing adverts about habitats as well as writing their own stories based on the book 'Leaf'.

A fun morning was had by all during our multi-skills festival. The children got to play lots of new games and meet children from other schools. We also had a fun Science Week where the children got to watch a science show, visit the chicks, and carry out a Science investigation. They had to investigate 'Do snowmen melt quicker when wearing a coat?' Please ask them to tell you their results as we had some interesting conclusions.

In Maths, we have been working hard to consolidate all the key methods as well as apply these to written questions. We have been so impressed with how well they are writing out their calculations. We have finished the term off with our Maths shared lesson. Thank you to everyone who was able to attend.



Finally, we are really excited for next term and our trip to experience a Victorian Day. This should be a brilliant day where the children will get to take part in lots of different activities.

Year 3

This term in writing, we have innovated our own adventure stories based on the picture book 'Tuesday'. Our topic started off with frogs invading our classroom! This helped us to think of our own cheeky characters for our stories. The children thought carefully about each section of their story. We have also been writing biographies based on Henry VIII, which the children have thoroughly enjoyed.

In Maths this term, we have been busy focusing on measurement, including measuring lengths, masses, and capacity. The children have loved practising their skills and can now confidently convert between different units of measure.

Science week was a very exciting week for us, as we planned and carried out our own investigations. We worked hard to think about what we were trying to find out and what resources we needed. We then presented our results in a bar graph and wrote conclusions. The children also enjoyed seeing the chicks, learning more about their life cycle.



The children have loved focusing on 'Righteous Royalty' where they have been researching about different monarchs, including William the Conqueror and Henry VIII. The children even built their own castles, which fitted perfectly with our coronation celebrations.

Year 3 have enjoyed getting out in the sunshine and exploring cricket with Mr Mawn. The children have worked so hard to develop their skills that they even managed to play a game of cricket as a whole year group.

Year 3 have certainly worked extremely hard, and we hope you all have a well-deserved break.

Year 4

Well done to Year 4 for completing another busy and exciting term. They have all continued to work hard and we are very proud of them!

The children have been thoroughly enjoying their topic of Ancient Egypt so far – they are asking so many questions and coming into school with fascinating facts that they want to share from their own research. The children have learnt how to write their names in hieroglyphics inside a cartouche, created Tutankhamun's death mask and researched all about Howard Carter's wonderful discovery and its importance to our understanding of the ancient world.

The highlight of this term has been one particular demonstration that the children completed in Science, where they learned about the digestive system! It started with a banana sandwich, a foil tray, and a pair of scissors... The photographs say it all! The children have also written up their amazing knowledge about the topic using formal language in their non - chronological reports. Well done!



Thank you for another great term, Year 4. Enjoy a well-earned rest with your families.

Year 5

Year 5 have had a very busy term and have really impressed us with how resilient they have been. They have worked extremely hard, and this can be seen in the amazing work that they have produced.

This term, we have been learning about the natural disasters that occur on our planet: volcanoes, earthquakes, and tsunamis. The children have learnt about the structure of the Earth and why these natural disasters hit in certain places around the planet. We have also imagined what it would have been like to experience the infamous Mt Vesuvius eruption, in Pompeii, in 79AD and have used this to inspire our writing. The children particularly enjoyed writing their diary entries and worked hard to include many descriptive devices and 'show, not tell'.

In the final weeks of Term 5, the children began writing poems inspired by Mirolav Holub's poem, *The Door*. The children worked hard to think about how the structure of their poems supported the meaning and should be extremely proud of their final poems.

The children really impressed us with their Science Week investigations into the effect exercise can have on the human heart rate. They have been leading their own investigations and practising how to be 'real scientists in the field', writing predictions, considering different variables, recording their results, and thinking about what their findings mean.

They also thoroughly enjoyed our time with the chicks, and it was brilliant to see so many smiling faces.



In Art, we have been looking at the artwork of Hokusai, but have focused in detail on 'The Great Wave'. The children's imitations of the great wave were fantastic, and all children developed their skills whilst using pencil and water colours.

Year 6

Wow, what a busy term! Firstly, we would like to say a huge well done to all of the Year 6 children for their determination and resilience during their SATs. The children blew us away with their focus and dedication to their revision in the build up to their tests and they were calm and mature over the course of the week. They are all fantastic! We would also like to thank all of the parents and carers for their support over the year, particularly this term.

In our writing lessons, we have explored the book 'The Island'. The children wrote some wonderful descriptions and thought carefully about their tone, use of adventurous vocabulary and their use of a range of punctuation. The children used this text to write a description about the Stranger's arrival on the island; they used adjectives, adverbs, similes, and metaphors to create their writing.

The children have also enjoyed learning about how to use maps and compasses to navigate in their Geography lessons.

We have lots of exciting events and celebrations happening over the next term so please keep an eye out for the dates. The children will also have the opportunity to visit their secondary school for a transition day/s. Please ask if you are not sure when this is or if you would like more information.

We hope you have a lovely break, and we are looking forward to having you all back for your final term at Queensway!

Afterschool Club

Once again, we have all enjoyed a very busy and fun term together! Most of our afternoons have been spent in the wonderful sunshine on the field, on the adventure playground and, of course, the football pitch. The children have been sharing lots of laughter whilst putting on shows and creating dances across the year groups.

On the rainy days, along with the many of the games we play, we have been having a go at some drawing tutorials on the big screen in the hall or using the iPads to create some fantastic pieces of music – it's been lovely to see everybody showing their artistic skills and filling the hall with music!

We are looking forward to having even more picnics and games on the field next term, so let's all keep our fingers crossed for blue skies and sunshine!

Debbie's Diary

We still have a lot of lost property in Year 3 block next to the library. It is all un-named and unclaimed. Please come and check if you are missing items before the PTA put them in the Uniform exchange.

If your child is unwell, please help by calling school before 9am giving a reason, not just "unwell". This saves staff time having to follow up. If we do not hear from you, this would be recorded as unauthorised absence.

Please call me/email if you need a Foodbank voucher: Hsclw@queensway.oxon.sch.uk there is now an additional session **Thursday Evening Foodbank 6pm-8pm at St Francis Church, Highlands, Banbury OX16 1FA**

Orinoco, High Street Banbury have lots of craft sessions planned during Half Term. Pop in and have a look. Even if there isn't a planned session on, their craft table is always open for anyone to access for very little/no cost.

Sport

This term has been another great term, watching children explore new sports and develop new skills. The children have been mainly outside, experiencing some of our summer sports, such as athletics and cricket.

Miss Jeffries kindly set up a new club at Queensway called 'Stool Ball' which is a sport played originally from her hometown. The children have loved developing their skills and understanding of the game.



At the start of this term, some Year 3 children were lucky enough to visit Wykham Park Academy for an orienteering festival. The children were all very excited and enjoyed taking part in an orienteering trail around the grounds as well as other activities, involving lots of games and resources. The children represented Queensway excellently and demonstrated all the School Games values, especially teamwork and self-belief. It was great to watch them thrive in new surroundings, and they should feel very proud of themselves.



Later in the term, the whole of Year 2 attended a multi skills festival at Wykham Park Academy. The children got the opportunity to practise new key skills, which encouraged them to challenge themselves in a new environment. The children returned to school beaming with pride and certainly represented Queensway well. We hope this is the start of many events for these children as they enter Year 3!

PTA

Most of you will have seen (and possibly assisted with!) the Coronation bunting made from your donated material. A big thank you to everyone who supported this – it looked fantastic! We hope to revisit this initiative using blue, white, and yellow for future events.

Next term we will be having a “Uniform Exchange” whereby you can donate and acquire pre-loved uniform. Full details will be communicated via a letter home soon!

The next PTA meeting will be held on Thursday 8th June at 6pm at school. Please email us at pta@queensway.oxon.sch.uk if you would like to attend; we hope to introduce a virtual option via MS Teams.

Sarah Arrowsmith
Chair

Chair of Governors

It's lovely to see the children out in the sunshine, enjoying the many spring/summer visits, trips, and clubs available to them. The school keeps most of the trips local, to help the children develop knowledge of their community and how Queensway fits into it. A few go further afield within Oxfordshire and beyond – for example, Year 6 have just returned from a very successful, three-day residential to Culmington Manor, in Shropshire.

This term other classes have visited Banbury Mosque, some nearby allotments, experienced Science in action with the Oxford Science group and watched chicks hatch and grow. There's more to come in Term 6, including the annual Planting in the Park, a visit to St. Hugh's Church and our Forest Bees will be going to Horley. As Governors, we firmly support the school in their efforts to help the children experience education from all angles – both in and outside school. We are so grateful to all the school staff who put in many extra hours to make these trips happen - after all we all learn better when we're having fun!

The Governors

School Council

What another busy term the School Council had planning and celebrating **GOD SAVE THE KING!!!!** At Queensway, we did not let the weather stop us from celebrating the coronation on Friday 5th May. The children and staff dressed as royalty in true Queensway fashion. They all looked amazing dressed as Kings and Queens, or in their royal colours of red, white, or blue. Everyone's crowns looked crowntacular!!!!!!

A massive thank you to everyone who came and joined us for our 'classroom' picnic. It was lovely to see so many people and the joy on the children's faces was overwhelming. I hope you all enjoyed our celebration song. The children really enjoyed practising and performing it for you.

I would like to say a personal thank you to Tammy and Bonnie for donating the giant flags to help decorate our classrooms. They really helped to get us in the spirit of things.



Healthy Smiles Award

We are so pleased to say that our Early Years team have been awarded the Healthy Smiles accreditation following the work that Reception and Nursery have done on oral health and dental hygiene. The children have taken part in lots of activities linked to this including: sorting tooth friendly foods, demonstrating good handwashing skills, learning about the dentist, and eating a range of healthy foods and snacks. We want to thank parents for supporting our work on oral health and dental hygiene at home too. We have loved seeing the photos on Evidence me of tooth brushing routines and dentist visits.



Term 6 Dates

29th May - 2nd June 2023 – **School Closed**

5th June 2023 – School re-opens

26th June & 21st July – Inset days

20th July 2023 – Last day of Term 6

