

# QUEENSWAY

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Termly Newsletter, Issue 115: December 2022



## **Head Teacher's News in Brief**

- We are very excited to say that Miss Hugo has got engaged. We wish her and Murray a very happy future together.
- We said goodbye to Mrs Evangelou in November. She has moved into secondary school support work which I am sure she will be amazing at! We have recruited Mrs Boshier to work in Year 2 who has already settled in and is part of the team.
- Our new club timetable for Terms 3 and 4 has now been published and will begin week commencing Monday 09/01/23.
- Christmas is always a busy period, which is why we don't set English and Maths homework, but please try to ensure you are still reading with your child as much as possible over the holiday as this is such a crucial skill.
- A huge thank you to everyone who has supported our Christmas events this year. There is a lot of work that goes on behind the scenes to make them such enjoyable events, so a big thank you to all the parents and staff for your contributions.
- Our Nursery continues to go from strength to strength and is full, with a waiting list from January to July 2023. So, if you have a child that you are thinking of sending to our Nursery from September 2023 onwards, we strongly suggest you make a booking to secure their place.
- Thank you to all the families who supported the book fair in November. It generated £245.00 in commission for us to spend on books in school.
- Children in Need also raised £358.00. Children had a wonderful day in their spotty outfits. The highlight was definitely the talent competition and Teddy Bear's picnic!
- You will have seen information in the news about Scarlet Fever and Strep A. Information was sent out to all families last week. This letter can also be found on our school website if you missed it. If a doctor has confirmed it's Scarlet Fever, a child cannot return to school until 24 hours after they have started antibiotics and they are well enough.
- After a period of halting new bookings for After School Club due to large numbers attending, we have recruited more staff which has meant we have a few spaces available for families who wish to take out a contract for their child to attend. Please email [childcare@queensway.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:childcare@queensway.oxon.sch.uk).
- A date for your diaries - the next round of parent evenings will be Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> March 3-7pm and Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March 3-5:30pm. More information will follow nearer the time.
- We introduced a new phonics scheme in September called Little Wandle. We have been delighted to see how the younger children in the school are progressing in their phonics due to the successful implementation of the scheme. If parents want to find out more, please visit our school website and look in the 'learning and curriculum' section.
- Thank you for persevering with the heavy side gate. We have looked at a variety of options with the company to try and make this easier for the grownups to open. However, in order to keep the children safe whilst on site it needs to be a push button release followed by a manual opening. A fully automated gate wouldn't be feasible or practical given the amount of pedestrian traffic through it every day. So, if you see people with pushchairs or elderly struggling, please help by opening the gate for them.
- We have been delighted by the parental support since September at our shared lessons and class assemblies: 177 parents attend a shared lesson in Term 2 and 192 parents attend their child's class assembly. This is fantastic and much appreciated. Dates for shared lessons will be published in the January welcome back letters from teachers. However, class assemblies for

Terms 3 and 4 are as follows: please note all assemblies start at 2:30pm.

DATE	CLASS
Fri 20 <sup>th</sup> Jan	6CT
Fri 27 <sup>th</sup> Jan	3AJP
Fri 3 <sup>rd</sup> Feb	5LH
Fri 10 <sup>th</sup> Feb	2FL
Fri 24 <sup>th</sup> Feb	4MR
Fri 3 <sup>rd</sup> March	1JG
Fri 10 <sup>th</sup> March	6MJ
Fri 17 <sup>th</sup> March	3EH
Fri 24 <sup>th</sup> March	5LR
Fri 31 <sup>st</sup> March	2MD
1JF and 4PH will be after Easter	

## **Class News**

### **Nursery**

Wow! What a fun and busy term we have enjoyed in Nursery. Our first week was an extremely messy one, as we celebrated Halloween and Bonfire Night. Splatter painting and glitter filled the room. The children loved exploring the different pumpkins especially once we looked at the insides of them. I was amazed at how quickly the firework poem was learnt by all and is enjoyed most days, even now, at the children's request!

Our learning continued as we looked at the different seasons Autumn and Winter. Focusing on the different coloured and shaped leaves that were collected from walks around the school grounds to create collages, leaf rubbing pictures and sharing stories, The Gruffalo being a firm favourite. As the weather took a very chilly turn, we investigated ice and what happened to it as

we held it in our hands, the children became mesmerised as they watched it disappear (melt) like magic!



We celebrated the Tiger that came to tea and our Robins birthday, by writing thank you cards, party invites, birthday cards and wrapped presents and finished with a party snack picnic. We also celebrated our own achievements and were rewarded with a playing in reception class garden for all our raffle tickets.



During Maths we have all been working hard on counting objects one at a time and using our fingers for support. Our Robins are very good at telling Miss Maskell when she gets it wrong and help her correct it.

We are looking forward to January when we have new Robins starting, I know our children will make them feel very welcome and hope to see even more friendships blossom.

I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas break and look forward to seeing you all in the New Year.

Miss Maskell

### **Reception Classes**

We have had a fantastic term in Reception and the children are really amazing us every day with their learning.

We had so much fun this term in singing assembly learning our two fantastic Christmas songs 'Christmas Stocking' and 'Five Little Elves' and we were so proud to finish the term with our Christmas stay and play sessions where we performed the songs to our parents. Thank you to all of the parents who came and joined us for these sessions. To add to the Christmas excitement, we had the Reverend Smith join us to teach us about Advent and Christmas. We loved learning about the candles and the nativity.

It was the turn of the Doves to go to Forest School this term. The children have had a great time exploring the Forest School, finding fairy doors, climbing trees and doing lots of digging. We particularly enjoyed a week of bug hunting where we found some very wiggly worms and turned this into our own worm dancing!



We enjoyed dressing up all spotty and raising money for Children in Need. The children also loved bringing in their teddy bears for the teddy bears' picnic.



A highlight for us all this term was celebrating National Nursery Rhyme week. We sang The Big Ship Sails, 5 Speckled frogs, 1,2,3,4,5 once I caught a fish alive, BINGO and Tinkle twinkle little star. We hope that you enjoyed the videos and updates on Google classroom.

Have a wonderful Christmas!

Mrs Guntrip, Mrs Pile and Mrs Tyler

### Year 1

The children have worked very hard this term. They have produced some amazing pieces of writing about Florence Nightingale and Mary Seacole and the amazing work these women did in the Crimean war. Both classes have now experienced the fun of Forest School and have had a lovely time playing in the Forest School area on Fridays.

In Maths we have continued our work on numbers to 20 and have started learning our number bonds to 10 and 20. The children have really enjoyed our weight and capacity work and had fun comparing different objects around the class. In DT this term we have been making lots of pop-up pictures and learning about sliders and levers and in Science we have been comparing manmade and natural materials.

Thank you to all the parents who came to our shared lesson, we hope you enjoyed making Christmas wreaths with the children.

We wish you all have a fantastic, fun Christmas, and we are all looking forward to 2023. Merry Christmas from the Year 1 Team.

Miss Fowler and Mr Grant

### Year 2

What a wonderful Term 2 we have had in Year 2! All the children have been continuing to work super hard and have thoroughly enjoyed our Term 2 topics. We have been finding out lots about the famous Gunpowder Plot in History and we even got to ask Guy Fawkes some questions via Google classroom! In Art we have been exploring mixing colours and creating our own firework pictures. During our PE lessons we have been dancing like fireworks, exploring how they would move.

In English children have been exploring lots of different genres of writing including poems, factual writing, and stories. They have enjoyed innovating the story 'The Papaya that Spoke'.

In Maths we have been looking at 2D and 3D shapes. We have been looking at their different properties and grouping them based on these. We have also been learning about multiplication and division looking at arrays. Timetable rockstar is something we have enjoyed this term! Remember to keep playing at home and collecting those coins!

In Science, we have been learning about everyday materials. During our shared lesson we had lots of fun with our adults experimenting and learning about the different properties of materials. We even made paper boats and tested them to see if they would float! Thank you so much to all the adults who attended.

It is great to see so many children are now receiving their silver certificate for reading 5 times a week for 10 weeks. Please remember to sign in their reading diary when they have read at home so the children can gain their stars and certificates.

What a wonderful end to Term 2. We are so proud of all the Year 2 children in their Nativity performance. Have a lovely Christmas break and we are so excited to see you all again in Term 3. Happy New Year!



Mrs Lawrence and Miss Dineen

### Year 3

This term in Year 3, we have continued to enjoy learning about the Stone Age and the children are now knowledgeable historians and have had practice using a variety of different sources.

In English, we started the term by reading a variety of legends and identifying the features of them. We then learned to retell George and the Dragon. The children did an amazing job of using words and actions. We then created our own legend plans based on George and the Dragon and the children wrote a character description using adjectives and similes to describe their hero character. The children also wrote setting descriptions using imaginative words to paint a picture in the reader's mind. We have also used our knowledge of the Stone Age to write non-chronological report full of interesting facts.

In Maths, we have been learning about fractions, measurement, and shape. The children have worked hard to understand the new concepts that we have been learning and have enjoyed our hands-on, practical lessons which have helped them to learn important skills.

In DT, the children have been learning how to sculpt using different materials. The children enjoyed sculpting Stonehenge out of plasticine and made Stone Age necklaces using salt dough. We have also designed and made our own Stone Age camps using a range of different materials and techniques



In Science, we have been learning about Rocks, Fossils and Soils. The children enjoyed being 'Rock Detectives' and carried out investigations to try to find out the different rock types. We

also learned about the process of how fossils are formed and created our own fossils using Plaster of Paris.



For Children In Need this year the children dressed up in spots and we had an enjoyable afternoon watching the talent show. We had a variety of acts, and it was lovely to see the children showcasing their talents.





We are very proud of how hard the children have worked this term. We hope that you all have a lovely Christmas Break.

Miss Hugo and Miss Penniston

#### **Year 4**

What another busy and exciting term! We have been very impressed with your enthusiasm towards our topics and your willingness to try and challenge yourself in all curriculum areas.

This term, you have worked hard on your times tables, completing your inter-class tournaments and it has been fantastic to see so many children's confidence developing as your speed increases. You will all get there just keep using the app regularly; it makes such a difference!

In English this term, we have worked hard on our cross-curricular writing, composing persuasive texts about healthy eating, researching, and writing non-chronological reports about sound and designing safety posters to ensure people know about the dangers around power. Your knowledge and understanding of the technical vocabulary have been great!

We would like to wish everybody a very Merry Christmas. Stay safe and have fun Year 4.

Miss Ross and Miss Hoffman

#### **Year 5**

In Year 5, we have had another fantastic term and the children have really impressed us with their knowledge and enthusiasm to learn!

In English, the children were inspired by a 'virtual visit' from a Canary Girl, a Land Army lady, and an ARP warden, which was clear to see in their fantastic non-chronological reports on the lives of the women in World War Two. The children have also conducted research on peace promoters and religious symbols during

RE and English lessons which has deepened the children's understanding on what peace means to others and the influential figures in history that have promoted this, such as Martin Luther King and Nelson Mandela.

As we settled back into school after half-term, the children (and adults!) were amazed by the hands-on Oxfordshire Heritage visit. Learning about life during World War Two became an



immersive experience, which included trying on gas masks to understand how this felt, creating their own rag rugs, and most excitingly, hiding under the tables in the model air raid!

Some of the children had the opportunity to take part in a Geography morning at Tudor Hall, which taught them lots about the geography of the world. Queensway School did so well in the final quiz, that they won and were rewarded with a fantastic, hand-drawn world map for our school. Well done to all the children involved



We are incredibly proud of the children for all their hard work, and we hope that this was clear to see during our class assemblies. We are so grateful to all the adults that were able to share these with us, as well as joining in with our shared lessons. It is always a wonderful opportunity for special helping hands to come into class to share a learning journey with us and we hope you have enjoyed all these opportunities as much as we have.

Miss Hollidge and Mrs Robertson

## Year 6

What another fantastic term Year 6 have had! We have linked our Science learning to our English writing this term and the children really enjoyed researching and learning all about the life of Charles Darwin. They worked in groups to create a timeline of his life and conducted independent research before producing wonderfully written biographies about him.

In Maths, the children have continued to work hard learning and developing their understanding of new concepts as well as revising using known strategies and rules to solve a range of problems. They have completed a lot of work focusing on fractions, BIDMAS and algebra and showed great resilience when faced with a challenging problem.

Earlier this term, we welcomed Cherwell Theatre Company into school, where we were able to take part in interactive drama-based workshops focusing on keeping safe, particularly around drugs and dangerous substances. The children were responsible and sensible and developed their understanding and knowledge while having fun using a range of drama techniques.

We also all really enjoyed the shared lessons and I know the children appreciated your help with their sewing skills to make their Christmas decorations. They all looked amazing, and they are hopefully all taking pride of place on your trees at home now!

We hope everybody has a restful and joyful Christmas break and we look forward to seeing you in January ready for another busy term.

Mrs Thompson and Miss Jeffries

## Afterschool Club

We have had a fantastic, albeit busy term at After School Club. At the beginning of November, we all enjoyed creating some fantastic firework pictures with black paper and chalk to celebrate bonfire night.

December has brought even more joy with more sprinkles of glitter. Christmas music has been filling our hall and lots of dancing has taken place. Tea picnics has been a favourite with all our children decorating some yummy Christmas biscuits! We would like to thank all

our children for making our afternoons so much fun and hope you all have a lovely Christmas and break. We are looking forward to the New Year with more fun and laughter!

After School Club

## Debbie's Diary

### **Lateness**

A reminder please of the time school starts. Doors open at 8.30am and close promptly at 8.40am (8.45am for Reception). After this time, you will need to report to the office and your child is marked late. This can be embarrassing for your child and disruptive to classes.

### **Arriving 5 minutes late every day = 3.4 days of a school year missed.**

Since September there have been a total of 630 incidents of lateness in the following year groups:

R – 42

1 – 60

2 – 90

3 – 81

4 – 173

5 – 124

Let's work together to improve this next term.

### **Uniform**

Please label your child's clothing. We have a mountain of 'Lost' property. If you are missing uniform please check in lost property which is in the Year 3 area next to the library. **If you need any uniform please contact me as we have some in school.**

### **Foodbanks**

Please let me know, using the following email address [Hsclw@queensway.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:Hsclw@queensway.oxon.sch.uk) if you need a voucher for the foodbanks over the holidays – otherwise you can collect from: Community Fridge at Banbury Mosque, Merton Street between the following times:

Mon - 6.30pm-7.30pm

Tues - 6pm – 7pm

Weds - 10.30 – 12

Thurs - 10.30-12

Fri - 10.30 -12

Sat – 10.30- 2pm

Sun – 10.30 – 2pm

The Sunshine Centre – Community Pantry is open 9.30 – 5pm. It will close on Christmas Eve and reopen on the 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2023.

### **Sport**

This term, we have been busy taking part in both indoor and outside sports, such as gymnastics and hockey. The children, as always, have showed the School Games values, getting stuck into each lesson. It has been lovely seeing some children demonstrating their key skills in class assemblies.

A handful of children have also been welcomed into Mr Mawn's multi-skills club, where they have been exploring new games and being as active as possible in fun ways.

After our successful 1<sup>st</sup> round, 12 of our children made it through to the Cross-Country finals at Sibford School, where over 100 children raced! Well done to the following children: Jack, Juliette and Amari from Year 4, Kiki, Tilly, Keeley and Eliza, from Year 5 and Brooke, Antonina, Sylvia, Florence and Jason, from Year 6.



### **Sports Council**

This term, Sports Council have been really busy setting some Christmas themed activities based on '12 days of Christmas'. They have enjoyed taking on this responsibility and hope the children have enjoyed the challenges.

They have also been busy gaining a pupil voice in Key Stages 1 and 2, finding out what clubs children attend, both in school and outside of school.

### **PTA**

Watch this space for news of the PTA coming to together in Term 3 to reinstate the committee and start activities once more. There will be opportunities to join the meetings and get involved so keep an eye out for an email in January. Until then, you could support the school by doing the Queensway School 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 lovely Christmas.

*Queensway PTA*

### **Term 3 Dates**

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> December 2022

**School Closed**

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2023

**School re-opens**

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2023

**Last day of Term 3**

