



Head Teacher's News in Brief

- The children have been learning all about our new school values of **respect, kindness and resilience** in their assemblies and PSHE lessons. We have seen many children enacting these values in their everyday school life which is excellent. These values are really important to us and will guide our policies and practices.
- Some families will already know, that in early September Mrs Thripland had her baby girl, Lottie Grace. Both mother and baby are doing well.
- We are excited to announce that Miss McLaughlin is expecting a baby in April. We wish her a healthy pregnancy and will let families know nearer Easter what the cover plans are in Year 1.
- School photos are taking place on Tuesday 11th November. This happens within the school day and we organise for school age siblings to have a photo together as well as individual ones of every child. They are great for Christmas presents!
- Open days have begun for children who will be starting in Reception in September 2026. If you know anyone who has a child of this age, please signpost them to our school website or ring the office to book an appointment.
- Thank you to parents who attended their child's parents evening this week. They were well attended and hopefully gave parents a clear picture of how their child is settling into their new year group.
- The Year 6 residential that took place last week to Condover Hall was a big success. A huge thank you to Ms Carnevale, Mrs Roe, Mrs Robertson and Miss Sharpe for taking the children. The children had an amazing time. The current Year 5 families have already signed up for the 2026 Year 6 residential!
- Our annual panto is coming to Queensway on Tuesday 4th November for children in Years R - 5. M and M Productions will be performing Beauty and The Beast. This is always a highlight of the autumn term.
- What a great start to shared lessons this year. The children absolutely love having you in school with them. Please keep an eye out for Term 2 lessons, which are mainly Christmas craft sessions! Dates can be found on the school website.
- If you would like to know more about what your child is learning in school this coming term, please look at the school website which contains 'knowledge organisers' for each class and subject.
- Parents have often told us they like to know ahead when dressing up days are! Below are the ones we know about. More information will follow about each of these events:
 - Children In Need - Friday 14th November
 - Christmas Jumper Day - Friday 12th December
 - World Book Day - Thursday 5th March

Some polite reminders:

- To keep our footpaths safe around school, please can I remind everyone that scooters and bikes are not permitted. Thank you for your co-operation.

- Routine appointments such as for the dentist and opticians should always try to be made outside of school hours. The office administrators will ask to see confirmation of any appointments which are during school hours.
- Just a reminder that if you bring any medication to the school office it must be in the original package which shows the child's prescription on it. We will only administer what it states on the prescription unless there is a doctor's note to say otherwise. This is in line with our policy.
- We have been concerned by the number of times since September that parents are phoning to ask to collect their children from school early for a variety of reasons, mainly appointments for other family members or a breakdown in childcare arrangements. This must be avoided as children should be in school until the official end of the school day. These are still classed as absences and will be monitored in the same way.

Class News

Nursery

We have had an amazing start to the school year and could not be prouder of all the children and how they have settled into Nursery life so happily and independently. Together they are forming some lovely friendships that we know will continue to blossom as well as becoming familiar with our daily routine and carrying out our class rules.

The children have impressed us throughout carpet sessions with their listening skills and have engaged beautifully. They are beginning to familiarise themselves with nursery rhyme songs and enjoy counting the children by using their fingers to find out how many we have all together. They particularly like correcting us when we make mistakes!

Squiggle whilst you wiggle – moving to music with scarves and then imitating these movements on paper with crayons have been a firm favourite with all the children. They have enjoyed making marks up and down, side to side and of course squiggle from top to bottom.

The children's communication and listening skills have blown us away through our Welly Wednesday Walks where we have been tuning in to outside sounds. Together we have taken our much-loved stories of this term; Brown Bear, Brown Bear and Chocolate Mousse for Greedy Goose outside where we have searched high and low with our nursery made binoculars and magnifying glasses to search for clues to find the animals. This took our excitement and determination to another level!

Our daily routine has become embedded as the children love nothing more than to receive a raffle ticket or a special Queensway sticker because they have had good listening ears, shared toys, and had kind hands. We were very excited to be able to have a teddy bears picnic to finish a great term to celebrate everyone working so hard with all our class rules.

We are excited about what next term has in store for us but wish all the children a well-earned rest!



Reception

We cannot believe we have finished our first term in Reception. The children have settled into life at Queensway brilliantly and we are so proud of everything they have achieved already.

We have started our Phonics lessons this term and the children have really impressed us. They are recognising the sounds that we are learning and have recently started blending them to read and write whole words. We know that you are just as proud of the children as we are when you hear them reading their Phonics books at home.

Forest School has been a particular highlight for the children in the Owl class. They have been bug hunting, den building, stick collecting, cooking up creations in the mud kitchen, exploring the woods, bird watching and storytelling.

Another highlight of the term has been the Goldilocks and the Three Bears story. We have loved cooking up porridge in the home corner, ordering sizes of objects, learning the Goldilocks song and having a great time designing our own characters at the junk modelling table.

The children loved their visit from the police and really ran with the topic of 'people who help us.' We even turned our role play area into the police station and the children were amazing! We saw lots of pictures being drawn and telephone messages being taken. We are sure that we have some police officers in the making!

We hope you all enjoy a very well deserved rest in half term!

Year 1

The children have had a fantastic start to Year 1 and have all settled in really well. They have loved our Geography work about the United Kingdom and it has been great hearing about their home learning about each of the four countries.

In Science, the children have enjoyed naming and describing materials. We had fun carrying out an experiment to find which material would stop teddy from getting wet in the rain! The children have also created some fantastic seaside landscapes in Art.

In Writing, the children have wowed us and have loved learning to recite text maps including 'Panda Bear, Panda Bear' and 'Sounds'. In Maths, we have been consolidating the children's number knowledge as well as naming and describing 3D shapes.

1LM have had a fantastic time at Forest School and 1KB are looking forward to starting Forest School next term. Both classes were amazed at the number of adults who attended our Reading shared lessons. It was a great opportunity to show parents how excited the children are about learning to read and how we teach phonics. Thank you to everyone who was able to attend.

We are really excited about next term and hope you all have a lovely half term.

Year 2

What a fantastic term Year 2 have had! They have been working very hard all term and have impressed us with their learning attitudes.

In English, they have been doing a lot of writing and have especially enjoyed writing about the animated film, 'The Windmill Farmer'. They wrote wonderful narratives and setting descriptions based on the story and included lots of adjectives to describe the setting.

In History, we have been finding out about harvest in the past and have been comparing it to harvest today. The children found out about the different jobs children would have had to complete on farms in the past. None of the children wanted to be a turnip picker!

In Maths, they have been wowing us with their mathematical calculations as well as their mathematical vocabulary. They have demonstrated lots of resilience with their addition and subtraction methods and have all grown in confidence. The children are so excited about being able to use Times Table Rock Stars. Please encourage them to use this at home.

In Geography, we have been finding out about India and making comparisons to life in the UK. It was great to see so many adults attend the shared lesson so thank you to everyone who joined us.

Finally, the children have enjoyed discussing our new school values: kindness, resilience and respect. They have worked hard to demonstrate these values both in and out of the classroom and we know the children will continue to be role models next term.

We are really looking forward to all of our learning after half term including the Year 2 Nativity. More information will be sent out after half term. We hope you all have a lovely half term with your families.

Year 3

We have had a very busy first term in Year 3. The children have been working hard and have settled well! In Writing this term, we have been reading the book 'Stone Age Boy'. The children wrote some amazing diary entries imagining that they had visited the Stone Age for the day. Lots chose to tell hunting and gathering stories through their diary entries. Later on in the term, we enjoyed reading 'How to Wash a Woolly Mammoth' and learned how to retell the story using actions. We then learned about the features of instructions and used our imaginations to come up with our own creative set of instructions for how to wash a woolly mammoth.

In Maths, we started the term learning all about place value. We enjoyed creating numbers using different equipment and learning how to order and compare 3-digit numbers. We then moved on to learn how to solve addition and subtraction calculations using the column method. The children worked hard on this method and became confident at following the calculation steps. We have also been learning about multiplication and division and the children have worked hard on learning how to use the grid method and number line to support them. We really enjoyed our shared lesson with our parents where we got to share how we can practise our times tables and keep growing our multiplication knowledge.



In History this term, we have been learning about the Stone Age. The children have enjoyed working as historians to explore the tools that people made during the Stone Age and discovering how they lived. We also enjoyed learning about Stonehenge and how it was built and why it was a special place for people. The children have worked hard on their topic both in school and at home and are always eager to share what they have learned.

In Art, we have created some fantastic cave paintings, as well as silhouettes of Stonehenge at sunrise and sunset. The children came up with some really imaginative story ideas and enjoyed bringing their stories to life.

We would like to wish everybody a very restful half term!

Year 4

We have had a fantastic start to the year. It is great to see how well all the children have settled into Year 4. They all really enjoyed our topic about Narnia, especially creating their own hybrid creatures. The Writing linked to this topic has been amazing and shows how imaginative the children in Year 4 are. In Science the children really enjoyed carrying out an investigation about soundproofing a studio. It was lovely to see the children working together as a team all with their different roles.

The children have been busy learning about the Anglo-Saxons and what their lives would have been like. During this learning, the children even became Anglo-Saxons themselves and wrote diary entries about their day. They have really enjoyed learning about the past and turning into archaeologists to discover and make inferences about Anglo-Saxon artefacts. The children were particularly fascinated to learn that Banbury, Grimsbury and Oxford are all Anglo-Saxon place names!

We are beginning to go over all our multiplications, and the children have been competing in the class battles on TTRS. Currently it is a draw between the two classes. Please encourage your child to keep playing on TTRS as this really helps with their multiplication knowledge. In our Maths lessons, they have been focusing on developing place value knowledge, building on from what the children have learnt in previous years. We have then developed our fluency and reasoning skills with addition and subtraction and it is fair to say that we are now all 'Column Experts'.

It was great to see so many adults attend our Reading shared lessons. The children could confidently talk about the VIPERS and how these are used in our reading lessons. Thank you to everyone who was able to attend.

We have had an extremely busy term in Year 4 and cannot wait to continue our learning next term. We would like to wish you an enjoyable half term.

Year 5

The children have settled back into school life brilliantly and have thrown themselves into our first topic of the year, World War Two. They've really enjoyed learning about significant events such as the Blitz and the evacuation of children, showing great curiosity and enthusiasm throughout. One of the highlights of the half term was our shared History lesson, where parents and grandparents joined us to help learn more about the Blitz. It was lovely to see families working side by side, and the children were so proud to share their learning with you.

In English, we've been incredibly impressed by their writing. They've produced thoughtful character and setting descriptions, diary entries, and letters, all showing careful attention to detail and growing confidence in their writing skills.



We've also been getting creative in Art! Inspired by Henry Moore, the children used watercolour and wax resist techniques to create some striking pieces. The children have evaluated the work of the artist, as well as their own to help develop their techniques further.

In Science, the children have been busy exploring materials and their properties. They've already completed a couple of exciting experiments, taking on different roles within their groups to investigate their own scientific questions. It has been wonderful to see them developing key skills such as making predictions, creating results

tables, and writing up their conclusions. As their confidence has grown, so too has their use of scientific vocabulary, and it has been fantastic to see their curiosity sparked by learning about the different uses of materials in everyday life. They've truly begun to experience the excitement of working like real scientists!

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We are looking forward to more exciting learning next half term!

Year 6

What a fantastic first term we've had in Year 6! The children have settled in brilliantly and embraced every opportunity with enthusiasm.

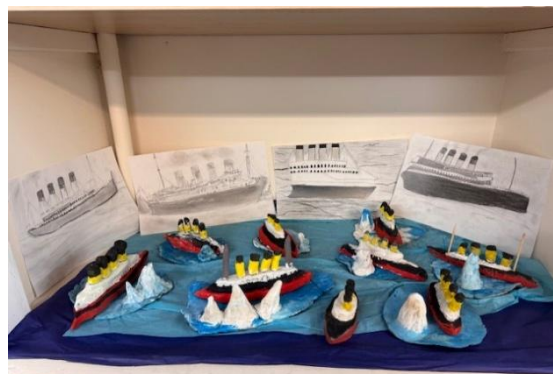
Our first topic took us deep into the rainforest, where the children explored its layers and the incredible animals that inhabit this unique ecosystem. Their Geography learning came to life through group research and beautifully presented posters, showcasing teamwork, creativity, and knowledge. This theme also inspired our learning in music lessons and the children created some brilliant compositions using a range of different instruments. We will continue learning about the rainforest next term.

The rainforest continued to spark imagination in our English lessons, where the children wrote captivating narratives set in the Amazon. Their writing has been a pleasure to read, filled with vivid description and adventurous spirit.

In Maths, the children have worked hard to build confidence with formal written methods for addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. They've applied these skills to solve a range of problems, showing great perseverance and progress.

A highlight of the term was the Year 6 residential. We were incredibly proud of the children's resilience and how they pushed themselves to achieve new goals. Meanwhile, those who remained at school immersed themselves in a Titanic research project, producing impressive clay models, sketches, and posters.

Thank you for your continued support this term. We wish you a restful and enjoyable break.



After School Club

We have very much enjoyed welcoming everyone back into After School Club. It has been a very busy and fun term together! We made the most of the lovely weather that we had during the first few weeks, playing outside on the field, and using our wonderful adventure playground. On rainy days, we have loved creating music using the iPads, lots of drawing and laughter with some new games and toys to play with, as well as creating a calm reading area for those who just want to relax.

We would like to wish you a restful half term and we look forward to seeing you all again next term.

School Council

We were so impressed with all the applications for School Council this year, so a big well done to everyone that applied and for the children appointed to lead our School Council.

During our first couple of meetings, we have already saved the date for Children in Need which will take place on Friday 14th November and already collaborated on some great ideas to support this wonderful cause through fundraising. More information to follow.

We are looking forward to our ongoing meetings and making a difference throughout the year ahead.

Sport

We are delighted to announce that Queensway has been awarded the Platinum School Games Mark, celebrating commitment to school sport and physical activity. We would like to take the time to thank you for your continued support.



In Term 1, the children have enjoyed getting back into their PE lessons. Across the year groups they have been taking part in a range of different sports including gymnastics, touch rugby and invasion games. It has been brilliant to see children using skills from their previous year group and building on their learning further. Some children have also been enjoying lessons with Mr Mawn on a Wednesday, as well as being active on the playground during lunch and break time.



So far this term, some children from Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 have taken part in the Cross-Country event at Wykham Park School. The children showed fantastic resilience and determination. They represented Queensway School fantastically and once again we have a select number of children who have made it to the finals event in December! It was great to hear from the adults attending about how kind and supportive our students were to one another during this event. A huge congratulations to all children who took part!

Also this term, children from Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 took part in a Girls Football event at Wykham Park Academy. The children were able to have a go at applying skills learnt in their lessons and thoroughly enjoyed working as a team. The main aim of this event was 'Respect' and our children certainly showed this value throughout the event.

Debbie's Diary

There is lots to do during half term for next to nothing at Orinoco, High Street Banbury – always a craft table available.

Also see <https://www.banburymuseum.org/whats-on/>

Citizen's advice contact and drop-in information: <https://www.cawnac.org.uk/>

Parents/Carers – please remember to call in by **9am** if your child is unwell giving the full reason rather than just saying 'unwell'. This saves us chasing you and potentially giving your child an 'unauthorised' code for attendance. Please also check out useful guidance from NHS. <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

Have a good half term break .

Governors

This term the Governing Body were given an excellent tour of the school's wide range of outdoor learning spaces. It was clear that, just like inside the school building, the areas were all purposeful, varied, clean and tidy. The pride that all members of staff have in this part of the school was very evident; it was clear that they formed a crucial and integral part of children's learning, irrespective of their age.

At our Governing Body meeting earlier this term we did all we could to ensure that the school's values of respect, kindness and resilience continued to be integral to our work. For example, we ensured the school values are included in the revisions of school policies that the Governing Body are responsible for completing.

We know just how keen the school leadership are to continue to review and develop all aspects of Queensway School. As a Governing Body we also want to reflect and improve our work so we have organised a Governor audit to help us serve the school in the most effective and efficient way we can.

The Governing Body are keen to ensure that they see for themselves the excellent work which is shared at class assemblies as well as being part of all the Christmas festivities. We have ensured that at least one Governor will be at each of these events over the coming weeks.

PTA News

A warm welcome back to the Queensway community – the PTA can't wait to organise this year's community events and help raise more funds to replace the outdoor play equipment.

Please read the recent letter about easyfundraising. Our school will receive £2 every time the app is downloaded during October. The app is free to use, and the retailer donates to the school via easyfundraising every time you shop!

This term we're running a "Fund-Raisin" so look out for slips coming home today.

Finally, we are delighted that the Family Picnic last year raised over £900 and the Uniform exchanges/refreshments nearly £400! Thank you so much for supporting these events.

Term Dates

Friday 24th October – **Last Day of Term 1**

Monday 3rd November – **School re-opens**

Thursday 18th December – **Last Day of Term 2**

