



Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of another busy and productive term, I would like to extend my sincere thanks for your continued support of the school and your children.

- Thank you to everyone who attended Parents' Evening this term. We hope the meetings provided a clear understanding of how your child is progressing, both academically and socially, as well as providing helpful ideas about how learning can be supported at home. Your partnership is vital and we greatly appreciate the time you give to these important conversations.
- We will be holding two important sessions for parents' next term:
 - Year 6 parents - SATs Information Session: Tues 14th April, 2:30pm. Key details about SATs week and how best to support your child.
 - Year 4 parents - Multiplication Tables Check (MTC) Information Session: Thurs 30th April, 2:30pm. Guidance about the assessment and strategies to build confidence with times tables.
- As the weather improves, we look forward to the children being able to use the school field more frequently at break and lunchtimes. As in previous years, we have adjusted our lunchtime club provision so that children can enjoy playing on the field with their friends, something they eagerly anticipate each summer term.
- Please remember that children must remain under the supervision of their parent or carer until the classroom doors open in the mornings. Once the doors open, staff greet the children and take over their care from that point. Thank you for helping us ensure a calm and safe start to each day.
- We have now set the term dates for the 2026-2027 academic year. These can be found on our school website. If you are planning future holidays, please check these dates carefully to ensure children do not miss valuable school days.
- Staff News: Exciting Baby Announcements.....
 - Miss McLaughlin has now begun her maternity leave slightly earlier than planned, with her baby due around the Easter holidays.
 - Mrs Roe is expecting a baby during the summer holidays and will begin her maternity leave at the end of this academic year.

We send both members of staff our warmest congratulations and will keep families updated about staffing arrangements as we move forward.

- After the Easter break, children may begin wearing summer uniform. If you need clarification about any aspect of the uniform, please refer to the school website where the full uniform policy is clearly outlined.
- Thank you to everyone who attended this term's shared lessons, they were incredibly well attended, and it was wonderful to see so many families engaging with classroom learning. Looking ahead, please refer to the table below, which outlines the dates for the Term 5 Shared Lessons.

CLASS	DATE	TIME
Owls- KG	1.5.26	8:45-10am
Doves- AP/ST	5.5.26	2-3pm
1KB	20.5.26	2-3pm
1LL/AP	19.5.26	2-3pm
2MH	29.4.26	8:45-9:45am
2MR	30.4.26	8:45-9:45am

3KR/EHS	7.5.26	2-3pm
3ASN	6.5.26	2-3pm
4FL	12.5.26	2-3pm
4SM	13.5.26	2-3pm
5LR	14.5.26	2-3pm
5PH	11.5.26	2-3pm
6LFR	No shared lessons due to SATs	
6HM		

- Highlights of Term 4.....Term 4 has been filled with excitement, curiosity and hands-on learning:
 - The chicks were undoubtedly one of the highlights! The children loved observing them hatch and grow - a magical experience for all year groups.
 - Year 2 enjoyed exploring a real fire engine, meeting firefighters, and learning about their vital role in keeping our community safe.
 - At the start of the term, several classes also had the opportunity to step inside our huge pop-up planetarium, sparking awe and wonder as they explored the night sky, planets and constellation.
 - We were delighted to celebrate World Book Day on Thursday 5th March. The children's costumes were absolutely incredible - we were truly blown away by the imagination, effort and creativity that went into them. It was wonderful to see a love of reading brought to life across the school.
 - This year's Red Nose Day was a brilliant success, expertly organised by our School Council. A sea of red filled Queensway and fun and laughter could be heard throughout the school. Thank you to all families who contributed – together we helped raise money for good causes.

Class News

Nursery

We kicked off this busy but joy-filled term by exploring all things Spring - helped along by some gorgeous sunshine! During our Welly Wednesday adventures, we searched high and low for colourful flowers of all shapes and sizes. Outside, our role-play area transformed into Robins Blooms, a bustling flower stall where the children let their imaginations grow beautifully. They sold and bought the most luxurious flowers (£100 a stem!) and even created a garden themed café complete with bug sandwiches, perfumed juice, and daffodil cakes.



In our Literacy sessions, we loved listening to Come Here, Daisy! and Peter Rabbit. These stories inspired us to write rules to help Daisy and Peter make good choices and listen to their Mummy and Daddy. We were so impressed with the children's pencil control and their growing confidence in hearing and writing initial sounds.

In Maths, we've been counting throughout the day and recognising numbers to 5. We enjoy singing number songs together and using our fingers to help us along. "What's the shape in my bag?" has become a class

favourite as we explore different 2D shapes, talk about their sides and corners, and share what they remind us of. Mia confidently announced that a triangle looked just like a “delicious piece of pizza,” which the whole class loved. Our competitive streaks came out during a shape hunt around the classroom - magnifying glasses in hand and eyes peeled for hidden shapes!

The Youth Activators have been joining the nursery children outside on a Monday morning, filling the garden with laughter and energetic games. The children continued to show lots of excitement when they had the opportunity to visit the chicks, gently holding them and watching their tiny wings flutter. This resulted in some wonderful artwork of their new favourite animal.

We hope you all enjoy an egg-citing break, and we look forward to welcoming you all back in Term 5.

Reception

What a busy term we have had! We have been the envy of the school with the eggs hatching in our middle area! We spent hours watching the fluffy chicks and having cuddles with them when they had grown enough. The children have been using the chicks as inspiration for some amazing writing. We have been so impressed with how much they are using their phonics sounds to write about their experiences.



The children loved having their grown-ups join us for our ‘Design an Aeroplane’ shared lesson. We loved testing the different materials and experimenting with the designs. The children had such fun testing them in the garden afterwards.

Our texts in English this term have all been linked to the learning that we are doing around transport: Emma Jane’s Aeroplane, The Magic Train Ride and Whatever Next have been some of the favourites that we have looked at. The children have been amazing at creating their own role play scenarios linked to the reading we have done.

The Doves have had lots of fun in Forest School exploring the different areas again and we know that the Owls are going to enjoy it just as much after Easter.

We hope you all have a lovely break over the holidays and we look forward to seeing you for Term 5!

Year 1

The children have worked incredibly hard this term and we are so proud of all they have achieved.

In English, they produced wonderful writing based on *The Secret of Black Rock*, exploring the story from the perspectives of different characters. Linking to our English work the children learned about Florence Nightingale and explored how she has influenced nursing and hospitals today. They discovered lots of fascinating facts so feel free to quiz them!

In Maths the children particularly enjoyed learning about fractions including halves and quarters. In DT the children designed and created their own parks. They planned, built, and evaluated their designs using a range of materials showing fantastic creativity and problem-solving skills.

We really enjoyed welcoming you to our shared Phonics lesson. The children confidently demonstrated their knowledge of tricky words and alternative graphemes. Thank you to everyone who attended and supported the session.

In Science, the children learned about the five senses and had the chance to taste different fruits. They also spent time with the chicks, which was a lovely opportunity to learn about animals and life cycles.

1KB have really enjoyed their Forest School sessions this term, showing excellent curiosity and teamwork and 1LLAP are looking forward to their next Forest School sessions in Term 5.

Please remember to keep reading regularly with your child at home. We hope you all have a wonderful and restful half term.

Year 2

What an exciting and memorable term we have had in Year 2! The children have thrown themselves into every topic with enthusiasm, curiosity and growing confidence.

Our main History focus this term has been the Great Fire of London, a topic the children have absolutely loved. They explored what life was like in 1666, how the fire started and the different ways people tried to stop the fire from spreading. In Art, we have learned about Sir Christopher Wren and how London was rebuilt after the fire. The children have even had a chance to sketch St. Pauls' Cathedral using a range of different media.

A real highlight was the visit from the Fire Service who showed us around the fire engine and their uniform. The children even had a race to see who could put on the uniform the fastest against one of the firefighters, which they won! Another highlight of the term was our very own 'Great Fire of Banbury' where the children watched a re-enactment of the events of the fire and discussed how and why the fire spread so easily.



In English, the children have produced some fantastic reports on the Great Fire of London, as well as some brilliant explanation texts about the life cycle of a frog. They have worked hard this term to show their expertise in different subjects, using ambitious vocabulary and the correct tense in their pieces.

Our Science learning has focused on life cycles and food chains. The children visited the chicks to learn about how they grow from an egg to an adult hen and they have become experts on the lifecycle of a frog as well as the different food chains animals are in.

In Maths, the children have been enjoying learning about fractions. They have become confident at spotting and finding fractions of amounts. We have also been taking time to recap some of our important addition and subtraction strategies, as well as our continuous recap of multiplication and division. Please still encourage the children to go on Times Table Rockstar over the holidays so they can keep refreshing their multiplication and division skills.

It has been a wonderfully busy and productive term. We hope you all enjoy a restful Easter break and we look forward to starting our new topics with the children next term.

Year 3

In English this term, we started by writing information texts using what we have learned about the Romans. The children worked hard to gather additional facts and used the features that we had learned about. We then moved on to looking at alternative versions of fairy tales and used them to create diary entries. The children wrote some fabulous diary entries in the role of the Wolf from Little Red Riding Hood and used very creative ideas and language.

In Maths, we have been learning about fractions, time and money. The children enjoyed doing practical work to learn how to compare two fractions and add and subtract them. During our lessons on time the children have worked really hard to be able to tell the time to the nearest 5 minutes and are now starting to notice the times in the school day.

In DT, the children have really enjoyed researching and designing their own Roman busts. Roman busts were made from clay during Roman times to show an important person's personality. The children were able to develop their sketching techniques through this learning. The



children also really enjoyed making Roman shields during our shared lesson and loved using them to practise the tortoise formation.



In Science, we have been learning about the human body. The children have learned the names of the main bones in the body and about different types of skeletons. The children also enjoyed learning about how to have a balanced diet and planned some nutritious dishes using food from each of the food groups.

We hope you all have a restful and fun Easter.

Year 4

What a fantastic term it has been for Year 4! The children have continued to push themselves, show resilience, and take real pride in their learning. It has been wonderful to see their confidence grow as they explored new topics and took part in a range of exciting whole-school events.

This term, we celebrated World Book Day, Red Nose Day, and enjoyed our much-loved annual chick visit. The children looked brilliant in their costumes for World Book Day and threw themselves into a range of book-themed activities. For Comic Relief, the classroom was full of laughter as the children shared their best jokes.

In English, we explored two fantastic texts: 'The Lost Happy Endings' and 'Leon and the Place Between'. These stories really captured the children's imaginations and inspired some fantastic fiction writing. The class produced detailed setting descriptions and thoughtful diary entries, showing great creativity and a growing confidence in using descriptive language. Later in the term, we switched to non-fiction and the children learned how to write formal letters to authors. They approached this with real maturity, carefully choosing their vocabulary and structuring their ideas clearly. We were incredibly proud of how well they adapted their writing style and how enthusiastically they shared their finished pieces.



In Maths, the children have been working hard to build on their understanding of fractions and apply this to decimals. This is something we will continue to develop next term, but they are already showing excellent progress and growing independence.

Our wider curriculum has been full of creativity and hands-on learning. In Science, the children deepened their understanding of teeth by working together to create detailed mouth models using plasticine. In Art, they explored a range of techniques to produce striking self-portraits inspired by Frida Kahlo. Their enthusiasm and imagination shone through in every lesson.



We ended the term with a fantastic Geography shared lesson, where the children designed and created their own settlements - early, modern, or futuristic. Their ideas were thoughtful, inventive, and clearly linked to the knowledge they have built over the term.

We are incredibly proud of everything the children have achieved. They have worked with determination, curiosity, and a wonderful sense of teamwork.

We wish all our families a restful and happy Easter break. We look forward to welcoming the children back for Term 5, where we will begin our exciting new topic on the Egyptians!

Year 5

This term in Year 5, we have continued exploring the fascinating world of the Ancient Greeks as part of our Geography and writing topics. The children have been developing their understanding of formal tone and have produced some fantastic informative non-fiction texts. These included a non-chronological report about life in Ancient Greece and an explanation text about how a *lyre* (an Ancient Greek musical instrument) was played, after having the opportunity to design and make their own instruments. In Science, we have been learning about forces and motion through a range of exciting experiments. The children have been developing their scientific skills by working collaboratively to predict outcomes, plan investigations, carry out experiments and draw conclusions from their results. They also had a wonderful opportunity to visit the newly hatched chicks, which everyone thoroughly enjoyed.



In Maths this term, we have been measuring and calculating angles as well as converting between different units of measurement, including length, weight, capacity and time. The children have worked incredibly hard to apply their knowledge of multiplication, division, addition and subtraction to solve these problems. They have also been practising how to multiply and divide by 10, 100 and 1,000.

In Art we have been inspired by the work of Peter Thorpe, who is well known for his colourful and imaginative space-themed artwork. The children explored his style by creating their own bright abstract pieces using oil pastels and watercolour paints. They experimented with bold colours, blending techniques and expressive shapes to create energetic backgrounds, similar to Thorpe's vibrant designs. The children particularly enjoyed layering the oil pastels with watercolour to create striking contrasts and interesting textures. The final pieces were full of creativity and colour and the children were very proud of their unique artwork.



We thoroughly enjoyed celebrating World Book Day and the children were incredibly creative with their costumes. Our activities were inspired by *Northern Lights* by Philip Pullman. The children wrote some fantastic setting descriptions, which they then illustrated with beautiful artwork of the Northern Lights.

We would like to wish everyone a happy Easter and a restful holiday period.

Year 6

What a busy and exciting term it has been in Year 6! The children have worked incredibly hard and continue to build their knowledge and skills in preparation for the challenges ahead; they all deserve a well-earned break.

This term the children have thoroughly enjoyed learning about The Industrial Revolution in History. They explored what life was like during this period and were fascinated by the huge changes in work, travel and daily life. They then applied their historical knowledge when writing newspaper reports about The Rainhill Trials of 1829. It was wonderful to see them carefully consider their formal tone and punctuation choices to create authentic reports.

In Science, the children have been studying The Circulatory System and its important role in the body. One of the highlights was making a model of blood using cereal, marshmallows and food colouring. This hands-on activity helped them visualise the different components of blood, and they are now true experts so please do ask them to share what they've learned.

As part of their DT learning, the children designed, made and evaluated their own bridges. They began by researching different types of bridges before choosing a style to construct using a range of materials. Every bridge looked fantastic, and the children were rightly proud of their creativity and effort.

We also celebrated World Book Day, which was a real highlight of the term. The children came to school in some incredibly imaginative and thoughtful costumes, showing just how much they love reading. It was wonderful to see their enthusiasm as they shared their favourite books and characters with one another. Every Friday our Year 6 pupils have also taken part in Queensway's Buddy Reading, visiting younger children across the school to share stories. It has been lovely to see them acting as positive role models and showing such care and enthusiasm when reading with their buddies.

We wish you all a restful break and look forward to welcoming the children back, ready for another term of hard work and achievement.

After School Club

This term we have had a lot of joy and laughter in the After School Club. Creating music on the iPads, playing Bingo, lots of fun group activities, and decorating biscuits for Easter.

We have been busy crafting in the run-up to half-term, making Easter cards, celebrating those who are special to us, colouring, and decorating paper eggs to have an Easter egg hunt. The children have loved being able to play outside and make the most of the first bit of sunshine.

We hope you have a lovely and restful Easter break.

School Council

During our recent School Council meetings, the children came together to share ideas and discuss how we could celebrate Red Nose Day in a fun and meaningful way. They talked confidently about why the day is important and how we can help others through kindness and fundraising. As a school we enjoyed wearing red and performing our best jokes and sketches.

We're already looking forward to our next school council meeting and the wonderful ideas the children will bring.



Debbie's Diary

Place2Be's Parenting Smart is a site for parents and carers of 4-11-year-olds, offering practical advice on supporting your child and managing behaviour.

<https://parentingsmart.place2be.org.uk/>

Easter holiday fun:

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

<https://sunshinecentre.org/whats-on/>

Citizen's Advice drop-ins:

<https://www.cawnac.org.uk/access-our-services>

Food bank information:

<https://www.cherwell.gov.uk/downloads/download/1683/food-support-services-leaflet>

Governors

At our last Governors meeting we discussed the recent White Paper regarding Special Educational Needs. At this stage there are no definite changes but more recommendations for what future proposals will be. At our discussion it was apparent that Queensway are already implementing ways of working that produce the best outcomes for both children with special educational needs as well as those without.

As part of the school's relentless pursuit of reflecting and improving on the education that is provided for your child/children there have been a number of external reviews this year looking at different aspects of teaching and learning. It is good to know that they have highlighted a large number of good and excellent teaching whilst of course suggesting some smaller areas for development. As a Governor, I continue to be full of admiration for the way that the Leadership Team and indeed all members of staff, pursue excellence so that all children rise to the challenge to be the best they can be.

I know the school continues to work closely with parents to improve children's attendance. The importance of having and maintaining high attendance at primary school is very clear. Those children who have high attendance (95-100% attendance) in Year 6 are 30% more likely to achieve the expected standards in Reading, Writing and Maths compared to similar pupils who miss just 2-4 weeks of school (90-95% attendance).

Matthew Ingall, Chair of Governors

Friends of Queensway News

With Summer coming, planning for the Family Picnic has begun. Please help us by having a look at home for tombola items such as unused/new games and puzzles, party fillers such as bouncy balls, balloons and stickers or unwanted gift sets such as stationery or chocolates. We are also looking for people to help on the day for 30 minutes so if you are interested, please get in touch.

There is a LOT of lost property in the entrance of Year 3 (by the library). Please write the full name in every item so that jumpers and hats etc can be returned. Any unclaimed and non-identifiable uniform will be washed at the end of Term 5 and put into a uniform sale.

Don't forget to sign up to easyfundraising so that your online shopping raises money for the school:
www.easyfundraising.org.uk/easyfundraising-app If you'd like help setting it up, pop into the office and a Friends of Queensway volunteer will be happy to assist.

You can also support the school by joining the Cherwell Lottery:
www.cherwellottery.co.uk/support/queensway-school-pta

We wish you all a wonderful Easter break – look out for a small gift and a slip in bookbags for an Easter fundraiser.

The next meeting is on 11th May 2026 at 6pm at school.

Best wishes
Friends of Queensway

Term Dates

Friday 27th March– **Last day of Term 4**

Monday 13th April – **School re-opens for Term 5**

Friday 22nd May – **Last day of Term 5**



Respect

Kindness

Resilience