



Head Teacher's News in Brief

- The roof work is going to plan despite very challenging weather conditions at times! Please continue to take care whilst moving around the site and don't hesitate to contact us if you have any concerns.
- School photos are taking place on Tuesday 14th November. This happens within the school day, and we organise for school age siblings to have a photo together as well as individual shots of every child. They are great for Christmas presents!
- Open days have just begun for children who will be starting in Reception in September 2024. If you know anyone who has a child of this age, please sign post them to our school website or ring the office to book an appointment.
- A polite reminder about safe parking and manoeuvring on roads surrounding our school, on the zig zags and the Brantwood Rise entrance. Please do not use this as a turning circle. It is putting our children at risk.
- We are looking forward to sharing updates on your child's progress and how they have settled into their new year group during Parents Evening the first week after half term. They can be booked via this link: <https://parents-booking.co.uk/queensway> . Everyone's time is so precious so please can you contact the school if an emergency comes up on the day and you can't make your appointment.
- Our annual panto is coming to Queensway on Tues 31st October for children in Years 1-6. M and M Productions will be performing Robin Hood. This is always a highlight of the autumn term.
- What a great start to shared lessons this year. Children absolutely love having you in school with them. The Yr.2 classes had the best turn out with 75% of children having a parent/carer attending. Please keep an eye out for Term 2 lessons, which are mainly Christmas craft sessions!
- Just to clarify that the guidance for children who test positive for Covid remains the same. They are to stay off school for 3 days. It is 5 days for adults. For all other illness, please refer to helpful NHS information for guidance: <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/> If children have common coughs and colds, they can be in school if they are well enough and do not have a temperature.
- 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.

Class News

Nursery

WOW, what a term, we have been blown away! Our children have had an amazing start to their Nursery journey, and we could not be prouder of them. They come in beautifully waving their loved ones goodbye before putting their belonging on the correct peg and in their personalised drawers. They become engaged in their learning through play straight away. Together they are forming some lovely positive friendships which we are excited to see grow further.

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 pyjama day (chosen by all the children, adults not so keen) to finish a great term to celebrate everyone working hard with all our class rules.

Carpet session quickly became a favourite time for everyone in nursery. 'What's the song in my bag' helped us to sing our much-loved nursery rhymes as well as learning new ones too! We have learnt skills of rolling, patting, squeezing and movements of side to side, up, down, and round and round through our Dough Disco and Squiggle whilst you Wiggle sessions. This will help us with our fine and gross motor skills to become good writers.

During our snack time together, we count how many pieces of fruit are in the bowl and are trying really hard to use our fingers to help support our counting.

The children have begun to confidently repeat key phrases from our favourite texts 'Brown Bear, Brown Bear' and 'Greedy Goose' not only when listening and joining in but through continuous provision too. The children enjoyed being chefs for the day baking their own bread rolls when we were focusing on 'The Little Red Hen' They were delicious!

With the warm weather on our side, we have enjoyed exploring in our outside environment as well as Welly Wednesday's adventures. Giving the children lots of opportunities to develop their knowledge and understanding by listening to different sounds, looking at the different trees, flowers and collecting crunchy leaves.

We hope you all have a lovely half term break. There is so much to look forward to next term.



Reception Classes

We can't believe we have finished our first term in Reception. The children have settled into life at Queensway so well and we are very proud of everything they have achieved already.

We have started our Phonics lessons this term and the children have just wowed 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 will be 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. We know that the Doves will have an equally amazing time when they venture down to Forest School next term.

Another highlight of the term has been the 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt' story. The children had the most amazing time retelling the story out and about on the school field! We had bubbly snowstorms, squelchy mud, and narrow, gloomy caves that we tiptoed through.

We have loved welcoming people into the classrooms this term for shared lessons. Thank you to the grandparents and grown-ups that attended and shared their memories of their childhood games and toys. The children loved sharing this special time with you all.

Have a great half term.



Year 1

What a fantastic start to Year 1! All the children have been working hard and have settled in brilliantly to the Year 1 curriculum. We have enjoyed learning about toys in our History topic, looking at what old toys were made from and how they were different to the toys we play with now. We really loved having extra adults in during our shared lesson to help us make old toys. Thank you again to everybody that attended the shared lessons.

In English we have been focusing on using our finger spaces, full stops, and capital letters in our writing. We really enjoyed learning the story 'Panda Bear, Panda Bear' and creating our own versions. Please ask us about this as we would love to share our ideas with you. We have also been creating lists, labels, and captions.

In Maths we have been learning how to add and subtract numbers within 20, using part-whole models, number lines and counters. We have also been practicing our numbers to 10 and counting all the way up to 100! Recently, we have started looking at 2D shapes and exploring patterns.

We have loved finding out about different materials in Science and we even conducted our very own experiment, testing which materials were waterproof. We know lots of words now to describe different materials so please ask us about it.

1SB/LL have really loved their Forest School lessons and 1MD can't wait to start theirs next term!

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

Keep logging onto Google Classroom to see updates and reminders of what is happening in our class.



Year 2

Wow, what a fantastic term the Year 2 have had! They have been working very hard all term. In English they have been writing lots and have especially enjoyed writing about the animated film 'The Windmill Farmer'. In History we have been finding out about harvests in the past and have been comparing it to harvest today. We have carried out some interesting Science investigations all about living and not living. Please ask the children about the acronym Mrs Gren! In Maths they have been wowing us with their mathematical calculations as well as their mathematical vocabulary. The children are so excited that they can now 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. It was great to see so many adults attend the shared lesson. The children loved making their Rama and Sita puppets. Please look at Google Classroom to see all the puppets.

We are really looking forward to next term and the Year 2 Nativity. More information will be sent out after half term. We hope you all have a lovely half term.



Year 3

We have had a very busy first term back at school in Year 3. The children have been working hard and have settled well into Year 3.

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 of the children chose to tell hunting and gathering stories through their diary entries. Later 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 on 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 expanded 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 to multiply.

In History this term we have been learning all about the Stone Age. We have enjoyed working as historians to explore the tools that people made during the Stone Age and discovering how they lived. Ask a Year 3 child to tell you some fascinating facts about the Stone Age. We also enjoyed learning about Stonehenge and learned about how it was built and why it was a special place for people. We linked this with our artwork and used watercolours to create silhouette paintings of Stonehenge at sunrise and sunset.

We also enjoyed our Shared Lesson where we told stories of the Stone Age using oil pastels because cave paintings were used in the Stone Age as a form of communication. The children came up with some imaginative story ideas and enjoyed bringing their stories to life.



In 3EH we have also been very lucky to start our year with Friday Forest School sessions. We have had some fantastic sessions with Mrs Bytyci and have enjoyed playing in the Forest School area. We have learned how to make Stone Age bow and arrows, shelters, spiders webs and jewellery out of conkers. 3EW will have their turn later in the academic year.



Year 4

This term, the children have been busy learning all about the Anglo-Saxons and what their lives would have been like. The children have compared how Anglo-Saxon Britain was ruled compared to modern Britain, focusing on how the land was split into separate kingdoms. 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!

In English, the children have been extremely busy with descriptive writing based around our class novel 'Narnia – The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe'. The children have written some fantastic setting and character descriptions focusing on Narnia itself and the White Witch. We have finished the term with a non-chronological report about our own hybrid animals that we have created. The children really embraced the formal tone of a non-fiction text!

In maths, they have been focusing on developing their place value knowledge, building on from what they 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'.

Linking to our topic of Anglo-Saxons, we have also researched and designed our own Anglo-Saxon brooches. The children really enjoyed having the opportunity to then create these brooches during our shared lessons.

In Science, we have enjoyed focusing on the topic of 'Sound' and particularly enjoyed using musical instruments to investigate how low- and high-pitched sounds are made. The children finished the term by carrying out an investigation into which material would be the best for soundproofing a music studio for a band. We can't wait to write about our findings.

We certainly have been extremely busy settling into Year 4 and cannot wait to continue our learning after half term. We would like to wish you an enjoyable half term.



Year 5

What a great start to Year 5 the children have had. They have worked very hard and have adapted well to the new expectations and challenges so far. The children are thoroughly enjoying their first topic, World War Two, in which they have learnt about key events, such as the Blitz and the evacuation of children, with many continuing their learning at home. We have been very impressed with the children's writing so far and the cross-curricular links they have made with their history learning. They have created character and setting descriptions, diary entries and letters from the perspective of a World War Two evacuee, paying particular attention to detail. In addition, children have also worked hard to create a piece of artwork inspired by Henry Moore, using watercolour and wax resist. We enjoyed seeing all the parents and grandparents at our shared lessons earlier on in the week, where they created some Blitz artwork.

Wishing you all a restful half term.

Year 6

What a fantastic first term we have all had in Year 6, with the children settling in brilliantly. Our first topic has taken us on a discovery of the rainforest, with the children spending their Geography lessons learning about the layers of the rainforest and the different animals that live within this extraordinary habitat. The children then researched and presented their learning when they produced some fantastic posters in a group, showing teamwork, creativity, and knowledge. This was also the inspiration for our shared lesson dioramas, which we had the great pleasure of experiencing with so many parents. Thank you so much for joining us and all your help, it was wonderful to begin the term in this way. Additionally, the children have clearly been motivated by this topic, as they wrote their narratives which were set in the Amazon Rainforest. It has been wonderful to see how much they have enjoyed this through their writing with their imaginations coming to life on the page for the reader.

In Maths, the children have been working hard and developing their confidence with formal written methods for addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division, then applying this knowledge to solve a range of problems.

Finally, the children finished off their first term with a visit from IMPS. During the visit the children learnt all about first aid, as well as how to keep themselves and others safe. This was an excellent opportunity for learning some important life skills!

We hope you all have a restful half term break.



After School Club

We have certainly enjoyed welcoming everyone back into After School Club this term. We have made the most of the lovely weather that we had during the first few weeks back. We have enjoyed playing outside on the field, having picnics, and, of course, endless football games, and lots of fun on the adventure playground. In the run up to Halloween, the children have been using their creative imagination when making spooky masks and creating some brilliant Halloween pictures, which we hope you are enjoying at home.

May we remind you that ASC finished for Christmas on Tuesday 19th December, the day before the school closes for the holidays.

Wishing you all a restful half term holiday and we look forward to seeing everyone back in the new term.

Debbie's Diary

There are numerous activities during half term. Check out:

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

Orinoco in the High Street always have a craft table open and are also doing Halloween activities during half term.

Sunshine Centre have their 25th year celebration on 27th October 12.15-2pm – open to the community.

Please contact me if you need to access the Foodbank by contacting the office or emailing me direct Hsclw@queensway.oxon.sch.uk. Or you can contact CAB on 0300 330 9037 for a referral.

There is a mountain of lost property in the Year 3 entrance, please, please go and have a look at the end of the day to see if you can reclaim your lost property. Labelling all items of clothing really helps with returning the lost property to your child, so please can you **label your children's clothing**, thank you.

Sport

We are delighted to announce that we have maintained our Gold Status for the School Games Mark. We would like to take the time to thank you for your continued support.



This term, both staff and children have enjoyed PE lessons and being active in different ways. We have had a fantastic first term back and most classes have enjoyed outside sports, such as tag rugby and football. Mr Mawn has also been supporting many year groups, which the children have thoroughly enjoyed.

Pupils from Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 took part in a Cross-Country event outside of school, where the main value was 'Determination'. Excitingly, we have multiple individuals who have made it to the final, next month. It was lovely to watch the children support one another and show the key School Games values.

10 Year 5 and 6 pupils then also took part in Mr Mawn's tag rugby festival at Banbury Rugby club, with the main value being 'Respect'. Both Miss Taylor and Mrs Adams were impressed with the children's confidence and teamwork throughout the day.



PTA

The PTA were thrilled to attend events during Term 6 which included Sports Day, The Family Picnic, and the Uniform Exchange. The combined generosity from families raised over £500, Thank you!

We now have a 'PTA support group' which is a list of individuals that do not attend regular committee meetings but are happy to be contacted when support is required.

Whether its 30 or 60 minutes of your time, the support is incredibly valued and helps the smooth running of events. If you would like to be part of the "support" community, please send your details to PTA@Queensway.oxon.sch.uk

This academic year the PTA will be holding events/activities to raise additional funds to support Christmas festivities, Year 6 leavers gifts and hopefully replacing some outside benches.

Governors

Assemblies and shared classroom lessons are a fabulous way to see what your child is doing at school.

Children love seeing 'their' grown-ups in the classroom taking part in fun activities. The school do their best to book shared lessons at different times of the day and week to make sure as many people as possible get a chance to attend.

Class assemblies take place on Friday afternoons for about 30 minutes. If you can't make it, perhaps you could ask a grandparent or relative to come instead? The children love showing off what they've learned, and they take so much pride in showing off the results of their hard work.

All the dates of shared lessons and assemblies are on the Events page of the Queensway website (<https://www.queensway.oxon.sch.uk/events>) which is updated regularly.

The Governors at Queensway hope everyone has a happy and restful half term.

School Council

This term we have been busy with School Council elections! The children worked hard writing their applications and speeches, with many classes having the difficult task of voting for their preferred candidate. However, I am pleased to announce that the new School Council members are Holly, Anja, Evelyn, Sebastian, Alba, Hafsah, Olivia, Daisy, Charlie, and Mary. We will meet fortnightly, to discuss ways in which the school can be improved and organise events, such as Children in Need.

Children in Need will be our first big fundraiser event on Friday 17th November. The theme this year is 'Spotacular' and children will be encouraged to challenge themselves throughout the day! Please look out for more information on Children in Need in the coming weeks.

Term 6 Dates

23rd October – 27th October 2023 – **School Closed**

30th October 2023 – School re-opens

20th December 2023 – Last day of Term 2

