



Head Teacher's News in Brief

- We say farewell to Mrs Goldner, a TA in Year 1, after 21 years working at Queensway. As I have already said to the families in Year 1, Mrs Goldner has in fact been part of our community for 36 years as her own children came here! She has supported many children over the years and will certainly be missed. We wish her a fantastic retirement. Miss Vessey will be moving into Year 1.
- We are delighted to welcome back Mr Andrews who was off for a few months following a broken ankle. I know the children (and staff!) were happy to see him return.
- We are excited to say that Miss Taylor, our After School Club Leader and TA in Year 6 is expecting a baby in the summer. We wish her all the very best and look forward to meeting her new addition in the future.
- Thank you to all the parents and carers who have persevered whilst we implemented the new booking system for clubs. Like any new system, there is an element of teething problems, but overall it is so much more efficient now. Your patience was appreciated.
- Did you know that it's not just the children who are learning and developing..... I'm proud to say that 7 teachers are undertaking National Professional Qualifications (NPQs), a further 2 teachers are completing training through the University of Central London and 2 TAs are doing degrees in Education. These are all being done alongside their day job which shows huge commitment and will of course benefit the children enormously.
- Thank you to all the parents and carers who completed the annual survey. This is an important piece of feedback for us which Governors and I reflect upon. We are delighted to say, that like previous years the results were overwhelmingly positive; 97% of parents reported that their child was happy in school, and the same percentage said their child felt safe in school. 98% reported that the school makes sure that children behave well and 99% would recommend Queensway School. Of course, I would urge parents at any point to provide feedback, don't feel you have to wait until the annual survey. We welcome your thoughts any time.
- A big thank you to the parents and staff who attended the PTA AGM. We were able to appoint a new committee and they have some wonderful events coming up, so watch this space.
- Parents have often come to the main office to report illegal parking. As a school, we have no power to enforce safe parking, only to encourage it for the sake of our children's safety. Therefore, if you wish to report parking issues, please contact either the Council or the Police using the Non-Emergency number, 101.
- Families who have been part of our school for a number of years will no doubt have heard their children talk about Rev. Smith and the wonderful assemblies she has led for us as well as organising 'Be Space' and contributing to RE lessons. Unfortunately for us, but excitedly for her, Rev. Smith is retiring as Vicar at St. Hugh's Church and is also relocating to Yorkshire. She has been an asset to our community and we wish her the very best for the future.

Class News

Nursery



Ready Steady Go..... This term in Nursery has whizzed by as we focused our learning on things with wheels. We welcomed our new Robins who have wowed us all by settling in so well and getting used to Nursery life. We are very proud of them and our other children for helping and being so kind.

Our home corner had a makeover as we worked on transforming it into a train station with lots of focus around our communication and language. We answered the phone to book passengers onto their trains and wrote out endless tickets for different destinations.

Together we shared our favourite story of 'The Naughty Bus' where we saw the bus enjoy different adventures, so much so he became lost and wrote a letter asking for help to rescue him. The children sprang into action straight away by writing missing bus posters and letters. Magnifying glasses and binoculars were used to continue the search through our welly Wednesday walks but still no bus was found! Eventually the children found him hiding up high in the classroom and decided to teach him some nursery rules about safety and no running off!

We have used paint and vehicle sponges to create our own masterpieces as well as producing like for like paper plate portraits to add to our giant double decker bus!



During our Maths sessions we have been extending our learning by counting to 10 objects and comparing two groups, finding out which one has the most amount and the least amount. We looked at different vehicles to measure the shortest and longest as well as continuing to build on our number recognition.

To end the term, we celebrated Chinese New Year where we invited Miss Dai in for a special talk about her home country. She let us try on some Chinese clothing and talked to us about the Year of the Dragon. We had lots of fun moving our bodies to Chinese music and using scarves to be fierce dragons.

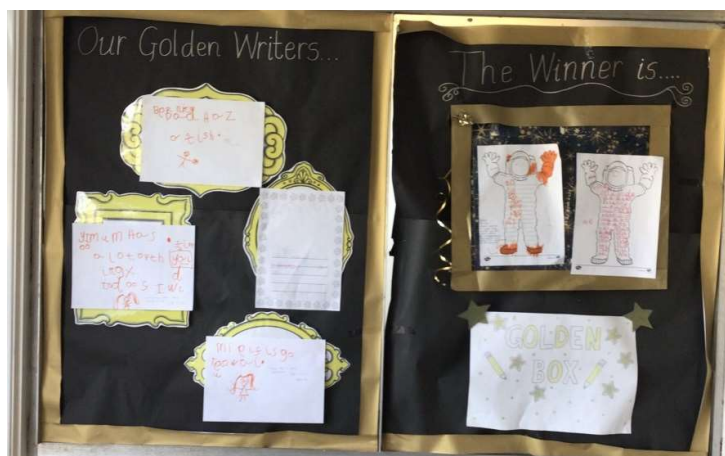
I hope you all have a wonderful half term. We look forward to welcoming you all back ready for an exciting term ahead.

Reception

Our topic this term has been Space. The children have been fascinated by the adventures of Neil Armstrong and Tim Peake and loved being astronauts in our own space station. We all enjoyed a fantastic shared lesson creating stars, rockets and planets in lots of different ways. Thank you for all your support in attending.



We continue to be amazed by the children's learning in phonics. They have loved the new Golden Writing Box where we pick a winner each day for their amazing independent writing. This writing is then displayed in the classrooms for everyone to celebrate.



Owl class have really enjoyed exploring the Forest School and have been getting stuck in, in all weathers! We have had frosty walks and windy adventures, all while having the best time exploring mythical creatures, fairies, digging in the mud and cooking up wonderful creations in the mud kitchen. Dove class will begin Forest School again when we return and we know that they will have just as much fun.

Have a wonderful half term Reception!

Year 1

We have had a brilliant Term 3! This term has been jam packed with lots of learning and new skills. We want to say a massive thank you to all adults that attended our shared lessons this term and thank you for your continued support at home. The children are working so hard and its lovely to see them developing into enthusiastic independent learners.

In English we have been busy learning about how to write stories and poems. We have really enjoyed having the chance to innovate our own poems about the different sounds we hear in our houses. As always, we have continued to work on using our full stops, capital letters and finger spaces in our writing but this term we have really enjoyed looking at the structure of sentences and the different types of words that are used in them e.g. verbs, nouns, and adjectives.

In Maths we have been recapping our knowledge of place value looking at numbers up to 100, addition and subtraction up to 20, learning how to tell the time to the hour and half past and starting to look at multiplication. We particularly enjoyed learning to tell the time and we would love if you could continue to support your child with this at home. The children have worked hard on consolidating their number knowledge on numbers to 100 and would love to show you this knowledge.

We have enjoyed our new Science topic looking at classifying animals into different groups. We have learnt lots of new terms like warm/cold blooded, live young and all the different group names. Please ask us about them and help us continue to develop our love for animals!

1SB/LL have really enjoyed their Forest School sessions this term and I know 1MD are excited to return to Forest School next term.

It is great to see so many children have now received their bronze, silver, and gold certificates for reading! Please remember to sign in their reading diary when they have read at home so the children can gain their stars and certificates.

Please make sure you are logging on to Google Classroom to see updates and reminders of what is happening in our class.



Year 2

Wow, what an exciting term it has been! The children have worked very hard and are really enjoying the History and Geography topics. We have been finding out about Christopher Columbus and Neil Armstrong and imagining what it would have been like to be an explorer. Following on from our work on explorers, we have been learning about the Seven Continents and Five Oceans. They have loved learning our song about continents and can name the different animals that live on different continents.

In Science we have been learning about materials. They have enjoyed making predictions, carrying out experiments and writing conclusions. In Maths we have been adding and subtracting money as well as learning to tell the time to the nearest five minutes. It would be great if you could continue practicing telling the time at home.

Thank you to everyone who attended the shared lessons this term. It was a great end to the term and gave the children the opportunity to make some very imaginative rockets.



We hope you all have a lovely half term and thank you for all your continued support.

Year 3

We have had a busy term in Year 3. We started the term by writing our own versions of the story 'The Lift' and even published our writing into books, meaning Year 3 are officially authors. Please see some examples of our books below. We enjoyed reading these to children in other year groups to practice reading our work aloud.

The children then used what we had learned about Roman soldiers and wrote letters back home, telling their parents all about their life in the army. The children amazed us with their detailed research of life in the Roman army and their writing gave us a real sense of how tough life in the army could be.

In Maths, the children have confidently learnt how to add and subtract three-digit numbers. They've learnt a variety of methods, including column method. Then, we learnt how to multiply and divide, moving from repeated addition and subtraction to grid method and chunking. After developing these methods, we then focused on worded problems and the children applied their strategies. The children also used RUCSAC to approach these questions in a logical way. Ask the children what RUCSAC means!



In Art, the children have been learning all about mosaics and have looked at different mosaic artists to inspire their work. We have looked at the different shapes that can be created with mosaics and the stories that can be told. The children then designed their own mosaics and we are looking forward to seeing the finished products.

We hope you all have a lovely half term.

Year 4

What another busy and exciting term! We have been very impressed with the children's enthusiasm towards our topics.

In Writing this term, we started by focusing on 'The Dragon Slayer', which was a video clip, where children then wrote character descriptions of the slayer and wrote alternative endings, thinking about leaving the reader on a cliffhanger. We certainly loved the twists that were added to the end of the stories! We have also really enjoyed diving into our new topic of 'The Vikings' and have become historians, writing our own non-chronological reports all about how they travelled and what the Vikings ate.

This term, we have also had many opportunities to show our creative sides, from designing Viking purses in DT, to applying a range of skills to spreadsheets in computing. It has been wonderful watching them grow in confidence and knowledge.

In Science, we have certainly enjoyed looking at 'States of Matter'. We have explored the differences between solids, liquids and gases, completing an experiment with fizzy drinks. We then moved on to the 'Water Cycle' and it was fabulous watching the children's understanding develop through the term.

In PE, the children have taken to gymnastics fantastically, working on partner balances as well as exploring hockey, focusing on the push pass and developing their understanding of a game situation.

A new and exciting addition to our timetable this term was buddy reading. We have been visiting the younger years and reading to them. It has been clear that both the older and younger children have thoroughly enjoyed it. We can't wait to continue this next term.



All the children have all worked incredibly hard this term and we would like to wish you a wonderful half term. We can't wait to see them back and ready to learn in Term 4!

Year 5

In Year 5, the children have had a great start to the year and have continued to impress us with their knowledge and enthusiasm for the different topics.

This term, the children have started to explore the Ancient Greeks. They have been using their developing vocabulary to write some wonderfully descriptive Greek myths, including their very own gruesome mythical beasts!

The children have been enjoying discovering facts about space in Science. It was lovely to see so many of you at our shared lessons last week. We hope you enjoyed our Mission to Mars.

In Maths, Year 5 have been applying their times tables knowledge to formal multiplication and division methods, as well as fractions. It would be great if they could continue practising on TT Rockstars or through games over half term to keep reinforcing their tables knowledge.

In DT, the children continued to apply their understanding of History, designing, and creating their very own Greek vases. The children have worked hard to think about the shape, depending on what its use might be.



We would like to wish everybody a very restful half term. Stay safe and have fun Year 5.

Year 6

As we come to the end of Term 3 in Year 6, we cannot believe how fast the year is going and how brilliantly the children are undertaking new challenges. Within class, the children are showing resilience and determination which is great to see!

Our historical learning this term, which has been a focus in our writing too, has launched a new topic on the Industrial Revolution. The children are clearly enjoying learning about British history and understanding the influence that this period has had on our lives today from steam engines to industry. Outside of the classroom we have had some very exciting opportunities too. Each class had the chance to visit Banbury Library. This was a first for many children and we loved to see how excited they were by all the books that were available to them.

After our walk into town to the library, we familiarised ourselves with the library's layout and order (the Dewey system) and then had the opportunity to take part in National Story Week. To do this, the children were given three book titles (which they had to hunt out using the libraries codes) and were asked to use a combination of the titles to create a short story of their own. The children were very creative! We were delighted to receive an update from the library with our stories on display for others to see and enjoy.

Additionally, a selection of Year 6 children took part in an athletics tournament, which, although rather tiring, they loved, and 20 budding scientists from Science Club had the chance to visit a local park to take part in The Big Garden Birdwatch.

After School Club

It has been so lovely welcoming you all back and beginning the new year by filling After School Club with fun and laughter once more! We are certainly looking forward to having some sunny and dry weather to enable us to take advantage of our fantastic school grounds for the children to play outside again. The children have very much enjoyed playing games of cards, pool and chess during the afternoon and into the evening, as well as bringing out the ever-popular dressing up and puppet shows.

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

Debbie's Diary

If your child gets benefit-related school meals, please click on the link below to find out what free and low-cost activities you may have access to locally:

<https://www.getoxfordshireactive.org/youmovecherwell>

Please contact me if you need a foodbank voucher Hsclw@queensway.oxon.sch.uk or Citizen's Advice on 0808 278 7906. The foodbanks are open as follows.

Monday: 10am to 12 noon - St Joseph's Church, Edmunds Road, Banbury OX16 0PP

Tuesday: 10am to 12 noon - The Peoples Church, Horsefair, Banbury OX16 0AH

Wednesday: 10am to 12 noon - St Joseph's Church, Edmunds Road, Banbury OX16 0PP

Thursday Morning: 10am to 12noon - St Francis Church, Highlands, Banbury OX16 1FA

Thursday Evening: 6pm to 8pm - St Francis Church, Highlands, Banbury OX16 1FA

Orinoco in High Street, Banbury will have a craft table open during half term but also look out for any information about any drop-in activities. Open Tuesday – Saturday 10am- 4pm.

The Hill Community Centre, Dover Ave, Banbury are holding a free event - Pancake Family Fun Day on Tuesday 13th Feb 12-3pm

Sport

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

Some of our Year 3,4,5 and 6 children were able to take part in the sports hall athletics events at Wykham Park Academy. They enjoyed competing in different events such as speed bounce, long jump, javelin throw and relay races. As always, our children were mentioned by other schools for their excellent behaviour and great team spirit during these events.



This term we also had the Youth Sports Trust come to visit our school as part of our 'Going for Gold' application. They were extremely impressed by our PE provision at our school not only with our curriculum offer but also our extra-curricular activities and our active lifestyle ethos for the school.

We are very pleased to announce that we have been awarded the **Gold standard mark** by the Youth Sports Trust. We want to thank all of school community for your continued support with PE provision within our school, whether that's supporting your child at an event or picking them up from extra-curricular activities.

PTA

The AGM on 15th January elected the voting members and are pleased to announce that Sarah Arrowsmith, Rachel Steiger, Hazel Byrd, Emily Ford and Jane Sperinck are your voting PTA. It was exciting to reflect on the past year and wish to build upon the community spirit by scaling up the Family Picnic and see the return of a Quiz night! Also, look out for us on Parents Evening as we want your input!

Have you heard of Cherwell Lottery? Last year we received over £400 from people playing –please visit www.cherwelllottery.co.uk/support/queensway-school-pta to get involved.

The next meeting is on 26th February at 8am. However, **you don't have to attend the meetings to get involved** and we welcome help no matter big or small. Please drop us an email PTA@Queensway.oxon.sch.uk – we'd love to hear from you!

Forest School

If you go down to the woods today... after setting up a wildlife camera we found lots of different wildlife visits forest school when we have gone home, including a fox and a squirrel!

This term we have made bird feeders as part of our learning about the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch; Year 1 learned about different types of mushrooms and made their own; we've enjoyed playing hide and seek and making lots of delicious creations in the mud kitchen. By the time you read this we will have had our termly treat of toasted marshmallows and maybe even some popcorn!



Term 4 Dates

Monday 12th – Friday 16th February – **School closed**

Monday 19th February – **School re-opens**

Thursday 28th March – **Last day of Term 4**

