



Head Teacher's News in Brief

- We said farewell to Mrs Blencowe, a Year 1 TA, last week after 6 years at Queensway. She has been a fantastic addition to our team, but she is moving on to pastures new to continue to develop her Slimming World career as well as working part time in a private day nursery. We wish her the very best of luck. As a result of this there are a few staff changes. Mrs Targett will be moving to 1JF, Mrs Morgan to 1JG and Mrs Cooper into Reception after easter.
- I am delighted to introduce 3 new additions to our TA team: Miss McLaughlin, Mrs Walton, and Miss Reed. They will be starting at various points next term. Miss McLaughlin will be working in 3AJP, Mrs Walton in 2MD and Miss Reed in Nursery.
- I wanted to recognise the efforts that parents have made getting their children to school on time. Our lateness figures have improved over the past term and now it is only a handful of children who are regularly late. This improvement will make such a difference to the children's learning and their start to the day.
- We have had neighbours reporting discourteous parking across their driveways recently and when parents have been asked to move their car, there have been reports of verbal abuse. These neighbours are reporting this to police so please can I urge all parents to respect the relationship we have with our neighbours and ensure driveways and the central grass area in Queensway is kept clear. Parking tickets have been issued and will continue to be.
- Thank you to all the parents who attended parents evening. I hope you found it useful in understanding how your child is doing in school, both academically and socially. It is never too late to make an appointment if you missed your appointment, just speak to the class teachers.
- We are doing really well with increasing the number of parent volunteers across the school. Our aim is for every class to have a volunteer. If you are interested, please speak to the office staff. Giving up an hour of your time each week can not only be incredibly rewarding but make such a difference to our children.
- After the success of Year 6's class exhibitions, every class will have the opportunity to have an exhibition for the parents to attend in Terms 5 and 6, instead of class assemblies. They are at the same time in the hall on Fridays at 2:30pm.

DATE	CLASS
Fri 21 st April	4PH class assembly (as they didn't have one in Spring)
Fri 28 th April	1JF class assembly (as they didn't have one in Spring)
Fri 5 th May	Year 5 exhibition
Fri 26 th May	Reception exhibition
Fri 9 th June	Year 3 exhibition
Fri 16 th June	Year 4 exhibition
Fri 23 rd June	Year 2 exhibition
Fri 30 th June	Year 1 exhibition
Year 6 will be having lots of end of year events, information to follow in coming weeks	

- Please can parents not allow their toddlers to urinate against the wooden gazebo before and after school. The office staff are more than happy to let you use the toilets via our main reception.
- I wanted to share some good news that over Terms 3 and 4 we have had a variety of external audits and all of them were awarded the top possible grade and outcome; Health & Safety, Safeguarding, Maths and the Local Authority School Improvement Visit. This is wonderful recognition of the hard work of all the staff and ratification of our internal processes and procedures.
- We have been lucky enough to secure funding to run a series of free Forest School sessions for families to attend on Sundays throughout the summer terms. Please look out for the separate letter about this. It is sure to be great fun!
- The School Council are starting to plan ideas to celebrate the King's Coronation. We will write to you with more information shortly.
- We have installed a plaque and bench within our Forest School to remember our dear friend, Rachael Page, who was a member of staff here. As many of you will recall, sadly Rachael passed away following a fight with cancer, so in recognition of her commitment to Queensway we have made a special place to remember her. It was two years since she died on 27th March. Families are free to view the plaque in their own time should they wish.
- A big thank you to the parents and staff who attended the PTA AGM. We were able to appoint a new committee and they are itching to get stuck in and arrange events to pull together the whole school community. If you are interested to hear more or help out yourself, please contact them on: PTA@queensway.oxon.sch.uk

Class News

Nursery

Once Upon a time in Nursery . . .

There lived happy and busy fire breathing Dragons and dancing Princesses. They enjoyed learning all about living in different size castles and dungeons. Together they worked well and built a fantastic kingdom for all to enjoy using wooden bricks, junk modelling, lots of tape and different materials. They created their very own shields and sword to fight off enemies, and designed crowns fit for royalty using tissue paper, sequins, and glitter. A royal imaginative banquet was made for all to have in the palace garden where sandwiches, fruit, cups of tea and cakes were shared using the finest tableware.

Beautiful dressing up gowns and dragon masks filled the Nursery castle as they were all keen to memorise new songs, '5 little dragons' and 'There was a princess long ago'. Maths became a highlight as the Dragons and Princesses were eager to count dragon eggs into baskets one by one and separate them into two groups. They also hunted for dragon 'Zog's' number golden stars outside. In literacy they signed off invitations and letters with writing their own names that everyone has been practicing hard with.

Walks around the castle took place as we looked for signs of Spring with our own tick lists. Spotting bright yellow daffodils, listening to birds singing and pointing at bird's nests were loved by all as well as being on guard in case of the castle being under attack.

Flowers were brought inside as we became experts in drawing and painting masterpieces of them. We looked at and talked about different parts of the flower and could hear some initial sounds as we began to label them.

Such a wonderful and fun term was had by all.

And they all lived happily ever after . . .



Reception Classes

What a busy term it has been! The children have loved continuing their topic on Transport, with lots of planes, trains and things that go! The story of Emma Jane's Aeroplane has been a firm favourite with the children role-playing going on holiday in our airport and creating tickets and packing their suitcases for their journey. We have also enjoyed the story of The Magic Train Ride and creating our own worlds to go to. The children's imaginations ran wild, and we wrote about visiting Chocolate Land, the jungle, going under the sea, Trampoline Land, and many more exciting places on our magical train.

We have been amazed by the support of our parents for the shared lessons this term and I know that the children really enjoyed spending time with you creating, designing, and testing their paper aeroplanes.

Doves have enjoyed lots of exciting adventures at Forest School and have been bug hunting, den building, tree climbing and exploring the hammocks.

The Owls are looking forward to returning for the Summer Term Forest School in Term 5.



Have a wonderful Easter break and we look forward to seeing you for more exciting things next term.

Year 1

We've had an exciting term in Year 1. We have produced some amazing pieces of writing. We read 'The Secret of Black Rock' by Joe Todd Stanton and wrote our own stories based on the book. We then looked at the story 'Where's My Teddy?' by Jez Alborough and wrote our own stories. The children really enjoyed learning the story map and were particularly good at using expression to show how a character is feeling.

In Maths, we have counted to and across 50, recognised the place value of 2-digit numbers, found fractions of shape and number and revised addition and subtraction to 20. We have used practical

equipment to represent numbers for example, we found shapes around the classroom and folded them into halves. We have been working hard to answer our next steps and challenge ourselves.

In Geography, we have been learning about our local area. We have visited the park and made our own playgrounds out of junk modelling. The children amazed us with their inventive ideas and thoughtful joining techniques. We learnt how to join pieces of cardboard together and work in pairs. Finally, it was lovely to see so many parents attend our Forest School shared lesson. The children loved making mud pies and coffees!

Well done everyone.

Year 2

We have had another fantastic term in Year 2! We have all thoroughly enjoyed learning about the Great Fire of London in History and exploring how London recovered after the fire. In English, the children have been writing factual recounts about the fire as well as taking inspiration from Samuel Pepys to write our own diary entries about the fire.

In Art, we have been exploring how Christopher Wren helped redesign London and we experimented with lots of different mediums to recreate buildings focusing on textures. The children also used watercolours this term to create the scene of the Great Fire of London using just three colours and experimenting with different shades and blending. The children are now mini experts on the Great Fire of London so please encourage them to tell you all about it!

In Science, we have been learning about how to keep our bodies healthy as well as looking at how animals get their food, learning about the food chains in the animal world. We have been keeping healthy and active through our PE lessons and weekly miles this term.

In Dance, we have been learning how to create routines using the counts in the songs to help us stay in time and in Invasion Games we have been learning about the roles of attackers and defenders.

We loved our shared lesson this term, making our Tudor houses with our adult helpers. Thank you so much to all that attended our shared lesson or who donated boxes for us to use.

It is great to see so many children are now receiving their gold and platinum certificate 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.

We just want to say a big thank you to all adults for continuing to help support your child's learning at home through reading, homework, and any extra activities you do. We hope you enjoy your Easter holidays, and we can't wait to see you all again in Term 5!



Year 3

This term in Year 3 we have continued learning about the Romans and the children have enjoyed learning more about Roman life, including what they wore, where they lived and sculptures they made. In English this term, we started by looking at alternative versions of fairy tales and used them to create our own playscripts and 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. We then moved on to 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.

In Maths this term, we have been learning about fractions, mass, time and money. The children enjoyed doing practical work to learn how to compare two fractions and add and subtract them. The children also learned how to weigh objects in grams and kilograms and compare the masses. 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 also.

In Science we have been learning about the human body. The children have learned about the eat well plate, the role of each food group and designed meals including all 5 food groups. The children also planned and carried out an investigation into whether the length of someone's femur makes a difference to how far they can jump. We were very impressed to see how the children's investigating skills have progressed.

The highlight of our term was a fantastic day trip to the Oxfordshire Museum in Woodstock. We had a great day exploring the Roman Gallery and taking part in a workshop where we had the opportunity to handle real life Roman artefacts, dress up as Romans and play Roman games.



Year 4

What a fantastic term Year 4 have had! We have been blown away with the children's enthusiasm and positivity that they have shown.

In English, we began the term by looking at the text 'The Lost Happy Endings' and the children have produced some incredible work, inspired by this text. They have really thought about the description they are trying to create for their readers and have wowed us with their vocabulary and wonderful ideas! We then took a trip to the circus for our final focus text of the term, 'Leon and the place between'. After some great discussions around the text and the language used, the children have thoroughly enjoyed writing a diary entry in character and writing letters to the author. They are authors in the making!

In Maths, we have continued to develop lots of on-going skills and have introduced some new learning about decimals! The children have been fantastic at identifying and discussing the parts of a number,

using the mathematical language. They have worked incredibly hard and have shown great understanding, through their explanations.

This term in Art, we have also started our work on Frida Kahlo where the children have been focusing on self-portraits, using different mediums to create this. They are currently working towards creating their own self-portraits inspired by her style. We cannot wait to see and share the final pieces on our class blogs!

The children had an excellent time at Hill End, with their Viking and Anglo-Saxon day, which was a great opportunity for them to finish their work on this topic. The children got to experience a wide range of activities, including archery, and learning new battle tactics.



Have a wonderful Easter holiday and enjoy a well-earned rest!

Year 5

Year 5 has had another great term, and the children have shown great enthusiasm and knowledge for our Space and Ancient Greek topics. In English, the children brought together all their knowledge on the lives and legacies of The Ancient Greeks to write a non-chronological report about their chosen research areas and really showed how much they have learnt across Terms 4 and 5.

Following this, the children undertook hands-on research about an Ancient Greek instrument when they had the opportunity to make their own Greek Lyre. Creating these, allowed the children to deepen their knowledge of string instruments and to understand how they are created now, in contrast to the materials used in Ancient Greek times. This study inspired their non-fiction writing about the history and development of the lyre, as well as an explanatory text about how the ear hears the sound waves when the lyre is strummed.

Finally, we must mention our fantastic World Book Day which was enjoyed by all the children (and adults!). There were some very impressive outfits, and as a year group we immersed ourselves in the theme of the day which we chose to be centred around the author, Roald Dahl. We created character descriptions based on Matilda, Miss Trunchball, Mr Wormwood and Miss Honey, and then took part in a live Blue Peter reading event.

The children have worked incredibly hard this term, and we hope that you have enjoyed sharing this with us during our class assemblies and shared lessons, where your support and enthusiasm is always clear to see.



Year 6

Year 6 have been working incredibly hard this term and we have been so impressed with their attitude to their studies, including their revision at home and school for the upcoming SATS.

The children loved taking part in a mock trial in court and took their roles of witnesses, lawyers, and members of the jury very seriously. This also led to some fantastic writing of discussion texts based on the question 'Should Goldilocks be punished for her crimes?'

In RE, the children have been exploring how water is used across lots of different religions. After some research, the children wrote some wonderful non-chronological reports about the significance of water in Christianity, Judaism, Hinduism, and Islam. They also made some eye-catching and informative posters about the River Ganges.

In our DT lessons, the children have been busy learning about different types of bridges including their features and how they work. The children then enjoyed designing, making and evaluating their own bridges using lots of different materials. We were blown away by how amazing the final pieces looked!

Finally, the children have been recapping lots of topics in maths including ratio and proportion, time and algebra. They have used their maths knowledge well to solve a variety of mathematical problems by breaking down the steps, thinking about what the question is asking and checking their answers using the inverse.

We hope you have a lovely Easter break, hopefully in the sunshine and we are looking forward to welcoming you back in term 5!



Afterschool Club

The children have enjoyed a variety of weekly themes this term, with tailored activities involving junk modelling and lots of colouring and sticking which celebrate events such as Shrove Tuesday, World Book Day, Comic relief and Mother's Day. We have enjoyed different dance routines whilst using the iPads, and a fabulous catwalk for our non-uniform days! Finishing the term off nicely we have filled the hall with Easter cheer, painting and decorating Easter eggs, drawing Easter pictures, and even a fantastic Easter chick hunt! Wishing you all a lovely and restful Easter break.

Debbie's Diary

- Please label your child's clothing. We have a mountain of un-named clothing in lost property which is just inside the Year 3 block. Please have a look if you're missing anything. This includes coats, wellies, bags etc.
- If your child is unwell, please help by calling school before 9am giving a reason, not just "unwell". This saves staff time having to follow up. If we do not hear from you, this would be recorded as unauthorised absence.
- Please call me/email if you need a Foodbank voucher: Hsclw@queensway.oxon.sch.uk
- Orinoco, High Street Banbury have lots of craft sessions planned during Easter holidays. Pop in and have a look. Even if there isn't a planned session on, their craft table is always open for anyone to access for very little/no cost.
- The link below is to access the Place2BeParenting Smart app with lots of information around supporting and managing your child's behaviour. Please take a look using the link below: <https://parentingsmart.place2be.org.uk/>

Sport

PE

This term, the children have yet again enjoyed taking part in new sports and gained new skills. The children have continued to demonstrate the School Games values, such as passion and self-belief.

We have also celebrated the 'World's Biggest Girls Football Session', where girls had their own pitch to take part in a game. It was great to see lots of new faces joining in and the confidence around the playground.

Sports Council

This term Sports Council have been very busy tidying and organising the PE equipment around the school. The children have spent many weeks ensuring the equipment is organised and top quality. Sports Council also created Easter themed year group challenges, which the children have taken part in over the past two weeks. These range from 'Easter, Easter, Easter bunny', a variation of 'Duck, Duck, Goose' to Easter relays.

Here is an example of Year 3 playing 'Musical Eggs' which is a variation of musical chairs.



PTA

Greetings from a newly formed PTA!

The AGM was held on 8th March whereby a new committee was elected to resurrect the PTA. The details minutes will be available on the Queensway website, but in summary the new committee members are as follows:

Chair: Mrs Sarah Arrowsmith
Secretary: Mrs Fiona Minney
Treasurer: Mrs Rachel Steiger
Voting Committee Member: Mrs Emily Ford
Voting Committee Member: Miss Katy Reed

By successfully filling these posts required to run the PTA we can start to get events into the calendar which will be one of our main objectives at our next meeting which is on 24th April at 3pm – if you would like to join us, please let us know by emailing us at pta@queensway.oxon.sch.uk.

Have a great Easter!

Chair of Governors

As governors, we are so pleased to see how popular the after-school clubs are at Queensway. More than 50 per cent of children at Queensway attend a club, which is great to see and shows how hard staff work to make sure as many pupils as possible have a chance to take part in activities ranging from crafts, drama, Lego, and sports.

After-school clubs provide a wide range of benefits and help them develop socially, physically, and emotionally. Your children can try new activities they might not otherwise have a chance to do with staff they know. Clubs also enable children to learn more about the world around them, boost confidence and self-esteem, support physical health, and develop social skills.

So, if you see a club that your child is interested in, do get them signed up via the online booking service or contact the school office.

We would like to wish everyone in the Queensway community a happy (and hopefully sunny) Easter break.

School meal price increase

The School Lunch Company have informed us that after the Easter holidays they will be increasing the cost of school meals from £2.30 to £2.45 per meal. This is due to inflationary pressures impacting particularly on the cost of food supplies. This increase will be effective from Monday 17th April 2023.

School Council

WOW!!!!!! What a fantastic term it has been. The School Council have been super busy organising and planning Comic Relief and what a fantastic day everyone had. It was lovely to see so many children dressing up in Mr. Men or Little Miss characters and showing them off with funny poses to make everyone smile. I think the whole school had 'the best day ever' laughing at all the amazing jokes that were shared. My personal favourite was from the owl's class '*why did a jelly baby go to school? Because he wanted to be a smartie.*' There were some fabulous Mr and Little Miss characters designed by each class, there was even a Little Miss Ross character!

Queensway did outstandingly with the Lego challenge, building something to make people smile. There were so many fantastic ideas, which made it tricky for the teachers to find a winner. I will be sending the winners off to the comic relief challenge, fingers crossed we win!

Thank you to everyone for your contribution and help, we raised a fantastic £331.09.



Term 5 Dates

3rd - 14th April 2023 – **School Closed**

17th April 2023 – School re-opens

1st May 2023 – May Bank Holiday

8th May 2023 – Additional Bank Holiday for the King's Coronation

26th May 2023 – Last day of Term 5