

QUEENSWAY



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Termly Newsletter, Issue 116: February 2023

Dear Parents,

I wanted to give you some feedback about one of our key priorities this academic year – ‘Putting the heart back into Queensway’:

Aims	Comment
Increase the number of children receiving private music tuition in school	25 children now having music lessons, which has far exceeded our target of 12
Increase the number of children attending clubs	50% of children across Terms 1 and 2
Re-introduce shared lessons	82% of children had a parent/carer attend a shared lesson in Terms 1 or 2
Re-introduce class assemblies	79% of children had a parent/carer attend a class assembly in Terms 1 or 2
Re-introduce the Year 6 residential, (3 nights in Shropshire)	34 children have booked a place
Introduce bikeability in Year 6	25 children have booked a place
Get back to attending partnership sporting events	Some children from Years 4-6 have attended an event so far, with more planned for coming terms
Get trips and visitors back up and running	These are now in full swing
Extend Forest School to Years 2 and 3, whilst enabling Nursery, Reception and Year 1 to still attend.	Sessions happening according to planned timetable
Link Year 4 with a class from Frank Wise Special School for integration	Happening weekly
Offer parent workshops	Workshop for parents with children on the SEND register happened in December and Online safety session for parents last week
Get the PTA back up and running	First meeting took place in January with AGM planned for March
Increase the number of volunteers and students in school	9 classes have a regular volunteer, and 10 classes have, or are booked to have, a student
Increase the number of opportunities for pupil Leadership posts	School Council, Sports Council, Eco-Warriors, Playground Leaders, and School librarian posts all in place

As you can see, there has been huge successes which is wonderful to see. If you haven't already, please get involved with any of the activities that are relevant to you and your child listed above so we can continue to thrive as we re-build the Queensway community.

I also wanted to offer some feedback from the annual parent survey which took place in January. Firstly, a big thank you to everyone who completed it. We really value your feedback and reflect thoroughly on the results. Key headlines from the 45% of families who responded across Years 1-6:

- 95% said their child was happy at school
- 95% said their child felt safe at school
- 95% said they were aware of what their child was learning
- 97% said they would recommend Queensway School

The area where the results were slightly lower were:

- *The school supports my child's wider development* - some parents reported they didn't understand the question fully. 'Wider development' is about how we develop skills beyond academic skills, for example, social skills, good mental health, physical health, values, become good citizens etc.
- *The school has high expectations of my child* - 13% reported that they didn't know. High expectations regarding the child's attendance and punctuality, conduct and behaviour at school, completion of homework, effort and attitude in lessons, academic achievement - are they reaching targets? Ask your child's class teacher at the next parents evening more about this.

We triangulate this information with the pupil survey too. So, thank you for all your feedback.

Class News

Nursery

In Nursery we jumped straight into exploring all about 'Paws, claws, and whiskers' this term and had so much fun creating a vets role play area, taking it in turns to be the vet, receptionist, and the owner of a pet. Our communication and language skills were used to take phone calls, book appointments, and express what was wrong with our poorly pets. We shared our own pet photos as a class and produced some very colourful artwork of our favourite animals using tissue paper, felt and paints. We even used our imagination to think of pets we may like when we are older, a baby rainbow unicorn and a five headed dragon were among the favourites. A highlight for us all was when we welcomed 'Raisin' a real-life rabbit into class and learnt lots about her especially her love of eating healthy foods!

The children have amazed us with their learning through Little Waddle phonics, learning a new sound each week as well as joining in with games to extend their knowledge of hearing blended words and actions. Understanding rhyming words through stories and nursery rhymes has shown so much growth in confidence in the children and is lovely to hear this is being shared at home also.

As a class we really enjoyed celebrating Chinese New Year and learnt so much about it from our visitor, especially the 12 animals' story and the traditions on the day of sending money in envelopes and having new



clothes. We were extremely lucky to try on Chinese clothing and learnt a new skill of using chopsticks which helped us with noodle and rice play. Prawn crackers and fortune cookies finished our week of learning off nicely.



We are continuing to focus on how to keep our teeth healthy and have worked hard on creating our display, we are enjoying seeing photos and videos of different ways you are doing this at home. Please keep them coming in for us to share and talk about.

Wishing you all a lovely half term.

Miss Maskell

Reception Classes

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. The Planetarium experience was

the best way to finish off our topic. The children loved looking at the stars, constellations, and the planets. A particularly popular bit of the visit was when we docked at the International Space Station. We came back to class and the children were so eager to get writing and show what they had seen and learnt. I'm sure that they told you all about the visit too!



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. We have also introduced a daily book voting station, where the children select what story they would like read.

Owl class have continued to enjoy 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!

Mrs Guntrip, Mrs Pile and Mrs Tyler

Year 1

Yet again, it has been another hardworking term in Year 1. They have produced some amazing pieces of writing. We read a poem called the Sound Collector. We enjoyed hunting around the school, collecting our own sounds and then writing our own version of the poem.

In Maths, we have revisited numbers 0-20 and are showing independence in our work. We can find one more/less, compare numbers and have learnt how to add and subtract numbers within 20. The children have really enjoyed telling the time and can now tell time to the nearest hour and half an hour.

In History, we have been learning about Banbury today and 100 years ago. We have

compared old and new pictures and can make careful observations.

In Art this term, we have learnt how to weave.

In Science we have been learning about animals including humans. We have compared mammals and amphibians, learnt about life cycles, and enjoyed playing with a special visitor: Mrs Horbury-Jakeman's dog!

Mr Grant's class have enjoyed taking part in Forest School this term and Miss Fowler's class are looking forward to starting Forest School again on Fridays after half term.

Well done everyone and have a restful half-term break.

Miss Fowler and Mr Grant

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. They have written some brilliant setting descriptions about what it would have been like to land on the moon. Following on from our work on explorers, we have been finding out all about the Seven Continents and Five Oceans. They have loved learning our song all about continents and have found out and can name the different animals that live on different continents.

The Science work all about humans and other animals has been fun and we have enjoyed learning about how animals change as they get older.

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.

Mrs Lawrence and Miss Dineen

Year 3

What an exciting term! We started the term by writing our very 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.



The children then enthusiastically embraced their inner 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. Most recently, we have learned a Roman kenning poem and children have focused on the aspects of performance poetry, such as expression and pace. You all made very believable soldiers!

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. We've been impressed with their ability to exchange! 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.

Children in Year 3 have certainly become worded problem experts and can all now use RUCSAC effectively to help solve problems.

In Art, the children have overwhelmed us with their stunning range of mosaics, taking inspiration from Sue Kershaw and Alison Hepburn.



In Science, children have been learning all about forces and magnets and even investigated friction. Children have made great conclusions based on their results and are clearly scientists in the making.

We hope you all have a lovely half term.

Miss Penniston and Miss Hugo

Year 4

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

They have all embraced this term's learning and new methods with enthusiasm and growing confidence. We have been very impressed with their amazing story writing this term, innovating the African story of Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters, as well as creating some very factual and informative non-chronological reports!

Some of our favourite work this term has been the topic work they have created in the afternoons. It really has given the children the chance to show off their creative sides! From Viking purses created during our shared lesson to spreadsheets in Computing, they have all worked hard to apply a range of skills.

We have been incredibly impressed with their mature and enthusiastic attitudes towards learning new written methods in Maths for multiplication and division as well as excellent improvements in their times tables. All the children have continued to improve. It has been lovely to see you trying so hard and wanting to do their very best.

Finally, we wanted to say a huge well done to everyone for Viking day! We were very impressed with the effort the children went to when creating your outfits, as well as the enthusiasm displayed during the day. There was lots of information gathered about the Vikings, which has helped the children with their writing



and becoming historical experts! It's great that lots of them went home to find out even more!!



Thank you for working so hard Year 4! Enjoy a well deserved rest over half-term!

Miss Ross and Miss Hoffman

Year 5

This term we have been extremely proud of how resilient the children have been and how they have adapted to new challenges. They have shown great levels of engagement in our English lessons and have shown a keen interest in our learning this term. Our new, exciting topics included researching the Ancient Greeks in both English and History and an exploration of Earth and Space in Science. We have been so impressed with the children and the outcome of their myth writing in English. They should be extremely proud. They have had such wonderful ideas and it has been a great opportunity for them to get stuck into some creative writing, driven by the research they have been doing at home and in the classroom. They are looking forward to sharing them with you.

As part of their research into Ancient Greek life, the children were asked to research the Ancient Greek Olympics and make comparisons between the Olympic games that we have today. They even planned their very own Greek style Olympic games and got the parents involved at our shared lessons. Both Year 5 classes took to the Upper Junior Playground and the event was an immense success and all children enjoyed bringing their research to life.

The children also enjoyed taking part in 'Space Day' and took their valuable next steps in becoming astronauts in training. They explored the life and experiences of Tim Peake through Commando Joe and took part in team STEM challenges, building space craft landers. In the



afternoon, the children also had the fantastic opportunity to visit the Planetarium in the school hall. It was a day enjoyed by all!



We hope that the children have a well-earned rest over the half term break and are looking forward to continuing the exciting work when they return.

Miss Hollidge and Mrs Robertson

Year 6

Term 3 in Year 6 has been packed full of hard work and fun! We have been learning all about the Industrial Revolution in History. We have really enjoyed writing diaries from the perspective of child workers during the time and producing newspaper reports on the Rainhill Trials. We also got to have some first-hand experiences of life in the Industrial Revolution when we visited the Black Country Living Museum. We loved our first trip outside of school for a long time and the staff were very impressed with the children's enthusiasm and knowledge.

We have also enjoyed planning and carrying out our own experiments in Science, where we have been learning all about the properties of materials and have been working hard learning new concepts such as BIDMAS in Maths.

Thank you to all the parents who attended our shared lesson and exhibition, we really loved having the opportunity to show off what we have learned and demonstrate how



we tackle our learning with enthusiasm and determination.

We hope you have a restful half term break.

Mrs Thompson and Miss Jeffries

Afterschool club

We began the new year by filling After School Club with fun and laughter once more! Braving the cold afternoon wind, we have enjoyed some time outside playing on the adventure playground, tag and of course, football.

We are looking forward to more sunny and dry weather to enable us to do this more often as all the children love it. Our competitive side has seen the children challenging each other and us to games of cards, snooker, draughts, and chess during the afternoon and into the evening.

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

Miss Taylor and the ASC team

Debbie's Diary

If your child is unwell, please help by calling the school absence line before 9.00am giving a reason, not just "unwell". This saves staff time having to follow up.

Please call/email me if you need a Foodbank Voucher: Hsclw@queensway.oxon.sch.uk

Orinoco, High Street, Banbury have lots of craft sessions planned during half term. 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.

YouMove is brand new for Oxfordshire, and builds on Cherwell District Council's fantastic FAST Programme. By signing up to YouMove, you and your family can enjoy a whole range of fun activities together in Cherwell, including during weekends and school holidays.



<https://www.getoxfordshireactive.org/youmove/cherwell>

Debbie

Sport

This term, we have been busy taking part in sports such as gymnastics and netball, where children have developed their skills into games/performances. The children have been demonstrating the School Games Values as always and have shown a clear passion in their lessons.

Mr Mawn's club has continued to be a hit and children from Years 2 and 3 have enjoyed learning new games and skills. Sadly, this club has come to an end. We would like to thank Mr Mawn for his time and effort.

Events



Children in Years 5 and 6 have attended a Sports Hall athletics competition at Wykham Park Academy, where some of our children came 1st and 2nd place in the individual events! The children thoroughly enjoyed themselves and represented our school well.

School of Kindness

This term, Years 3, 4 and 5 took part in a kindness workshop run by the charity 52 Lives. The workshop taught the children about why we should be kind and how it not only helps others, but also ourselves. Children learnt about the physical and mental benefits of being kind, learning the science behind an act of kindness.



To put their kindness to the test, children were then told about a girl called Ava, who needed some kindness sent her way. Please see above

an example of what the children created. We have posted our gifts off and can't wait to hear if Ava likes them!

Sports Council

This term, Sports Council have been busy sorting through PE resources, looking at what equipment we have and what else we could purchase. They are very excited to start planning some Easter themed fun ready for next term.

School Council

This term has been a very exciting term for the School Council. We have been challenging ourselves by finding out ways to become good role models and learn new skills; as well as communicate and empathise with others.

On Monday 23rd January, we had the opportunity to visit Green Pastures Christian Nursing Home. Everyone involved shared lots of smiles and laughter, and new knowledge was gained by all. The children were given a tour around the home and interacted with many of the residents by reading and playing with Lego and jigsaw puzzles. We heard stories of the jobs which the residents previously held, and had conversations with the oldest resident – 102 year old Margaret. We even got to meet Koda, the Wellbeing Team dog!



PTA

Finally! After nearly 3 years, the PTA has come together to have its first meeting. The meeting was all about re-instating the PTA and recruitment of the roles within the committee that now need filling for the PTA to continue the good work prior to Covid. You may have seen an email with more information and the positions that need filling.

Whilst we are in the recruitment period, it may still be a little while before events start again, but if you would like to support the school in raising additional funding, you could do the Queensway Cherwell Lottery. It's quick, easy and you could even win some money! Just follow this link for further information.

<https://www.cherwelllottery.co.uk/support/queensway-school-pta>

Wishing you all a lovely half term break.

Queensway PTA

The School Governors

The Governing Body have been delighted to see a wide range of clubs, shared lessons, themed days and weeks, class assemblies and school trips return to the curriculum and enhance the school experience at Queensway. We know the school appreciate being well supported by parents and carers in all these events. We also believe it is important to recognise the additional effort and commitment of all staff at Queensway to make these opportunities a reality and would like to thank all staff for their huge efforts to make this all happen.

Many of these opportunities have been restricted over recent years, but they form a key part of your child's personal development and preparing them for life beyond Queensway.

By the end of the Spring term all classes will have hosted at least two shared lessons and two class assemblies. It has been great to hear the feedback from pupils, parents, and teachers about how much everyone values these opportunities. Parents have fed back how insightful it is to understand how lessons are approached and the dynamics of their child's classroom, and we know pupils have been keen

to share their work and achievements with visitors. The class assemblies have also been

a fantastic opportunity to further develop pupils' self-esteem and share their learning and achievements with the schools and their families.

A number of trips have happened across the year so far. Most recently, we know the school were proud of the School Council who visited the Green Pastures Residential Care Home to spend time chatting and playing with the residents. As with all trips, there were important learning points behind this visit including communicating and empathising with others and breaking down boundaries between the young and older generations. By the end of the school year the school will be able to share the successes of their first Year 6 residential trip since the pandemic. Another great opportunity for pupils at Queensway!

Thank you again to all parents and school staff in working together to ensure these opportunities happen for pupils at Queensway School.

John Riches - Chair of Governors

Forest Bees

Forest Bees are putting out a plea for donations of the following items to enhance the Queensway Forest School:

- cuddly woodland animals (squirrels, rabbits, hedgehogs etc)
- trowels and forks for digging
- baskets of all shapes and sizes
- old sheets and blankets for den building
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Please bring any donation into the school office.



Food Hygiene Rating

After a recent Oxfordshire County Council inspection of the school kitchen, we are delighted to inform you that they have passed with flying colours, retain their 5-star rating.



Diary Dates

Thursday 2nd March - World Book Day

Wednesday 8th March 6pm - PTA AGM

Tuesday 14th and Thursday 16th March -
Parents Evening Nursery – Year 5

Friday 17th March - Red Nose Day

Monday 20th March - Class Photography and
Individual Reception and Year 6 B/W Shots

Term 4 Dates

Monday 13th – Friday 17th February 2023 –
School Closed

Monday 20th February 2023 – School re-opens

Friday 31st March 2023 – Last day of Term 4

