

QUEENSWAY



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Termly Newsletter, Issue 107: March 2021



Head Teacher's News in Brief

I cannot believe we have reached the Easter break already. We have been thoroughly impressed with the children's work ethic since returning to school and children have quickly got back in the swing of school life. There have been lots of highlights this term, such as World Book Day and Red Nose Day whereby the children have loved dressing up and getting involved in the special activities.

I wanted to say a big thank you for all the lovely comments we received in the parent survey; we have been overwhelmed by the positive feedback and your comments are very much appreciated.

Just a few updates and reminders:

- Mrs Adams, one of our Year 4 TAs is off for a couple of months having a routine operation. We wish her a speedy recovery. In the meantime, Mrs Mulford will be supporting Miss Ross' class.
- After Easter we are hopefully moving from class bubbles to cohort bubbles which will give us greater flexibility in delivering the curriculum and deploying staff. I will write to you at the end of the holidays to confirm.
- Cherwell District Council have found a different venue to hold the elections on 6th May, therefore school will be open as normal on that day. It has been made clear to us that this is a one off and future elections will resume on Queensway's site.

Please can I remind all parents that mobile phones are not permitted to be used whilst on the school site. Please keep them in your bag or pocket. One of the reasons for this is to ensure that filming or photographing of other people, both adults and children, does not happen on site. Thank you for your co-operation.

- Please can I remind parents to book in advance for breakfast club via Parent pay by 3pm the previous day. Unfortunately, some children are turning up to breakfast club without booking. It is important we know how many children to expect so we have suitable staffing levels.
- Just a quick reminder that lateral flow tests are not to be used for primary aged children. We are hearing about more and more families either using the tests obtained under the 'testing of household bubble scheme' or primary age children using their secondary age sibling's tests to see if they have covid when they are showing signs of being unwell. **This is not permitted.**

Lateral flow tests are only for secondary age children and adults and only to be used if you DO NOT have any covid symptoms. They are designed to detect covid in asymptomatic people. The guidance remains in place that if your primary age child shows covid symptoms you need to book them a full PCR test and isolate the whole household until a negative test result come back from the PCR test.

- Finally, please can we remind you that the climbing frames are not to be used at drop off and pick up times due to the current Covid restrictions.

• Term 5 Dates

1st - 16th April 2021 – **School Closed**

19th April 2021 – School re-opens

28th May 2021 – Last day of Term 5

Class News

Nursery

It has been so wonderful to welcome all the children back to Nursery. We have been amazed at how quickly they have all settled back in and it seems like they have never been away. Everyone has been working so hard and the children are making lots of progress. The Robins have loved our topic 'Castles, Knights and Princesses.'



We have loved playing in our role play castle, listening to stories and making up our own stories. A great discussion was had about whether dragons really exist or not which led on to finding out some interesting facts about Komodo Dragons.

Lots of time has been spent outside: keeping active, learning new games, planting and looking for signs of spring. All of us had a good time joining in with the Comic Relief activities on Friday 21st March and the children loved seeing each other and their teachers dressed up.

We are so proud of the all the children's learning this term both at home and Nursery. Happy Easter everybody! We look forward to welcoming you back after the break.

Mrs Marsh

Reception Classes

We have been so impressed with how quickly the children have settled back into school. Straight away they have been playing with their friends, being imaginative, giggling away, sharing and being super learners. The progress they have made over lockdown has been wonderful, so thank you very much parents for all your hard work at such a tricky time.

We have loved our theme of journeys over the last few weeks. We went on a magic train ride to Dinoland, Cake World, Under the Sea and the jungle. We also made trains in lots of different ways.



We then focussed on the wonderful book 'Emma Jane's Aeroplane' and talked about different countries around the world, going on holiday, what we would pack and different ways we can get places.



In Maths we loved playing at the water table to explore capacity and doing lots of challenges against the clock to help us understand about time. We have also got confident with our numbers to 20 and solving doubling and halving problems.



Please keep posting on Evidence Me any moments at home that you would like to share with us. We love seeing pictures and hearing how the children have been impressing you. We post pictures of what we have been getting up to at school throughout the week on Google Classroom so please take a look there when you can.

A huge well done to all the Reception children. We are so proud of the huge leaps you have made in your learning and your wonderful attitudes to school. Keep that up as we enter into the Summer Term! Have a great holiday and enjoy all those chocolate eggs!

Mrs Tyler, Mrs Guntrip and Mrs Pile

Year 1

The children have been working hard since returning to school and we have all been proud of them. They have loved writing about 'The Secret of Black Rock'. They created their own sea creatures and changed the characters.

In Maths we have continued with our addition and subtraction work as well as having some fun active Maths lessons

In History the children have learnt lots about Florence Nightingale and enjoyed role playing hospitals including dressing up.

In Science we have been learning about ourselves and how we change from being a baby to a grown up.

It might be nice to share any photos you have at home as the children love talking about what they could do when they were a baby and what they can do now.

WOW! Red Nose day was a fun packed day! Thank you for all your donations and allowing the children to dress up. Not only did we find out about Superheroes, but we had a wacky paper plane competition!



Miss Robinson and Mrs Lawrence

Year 2

The children have been amazing this term and have settled back into school life wonderfully!

The children began this term looking at fractions of shapes and amounts. The children were able to identify a half, quarter, third as well as a whole. They used this knowledge to help them find fractions of different amounts using a bar model. The children then looked at length, capacity and mass. They have grown in confidence when making a 'sensible' estimation, as well as choosing the appropriate form of measurement. The children then used scales, measuring jugs and rulers to measure and record the actual measurement of each object. Finally, the children consolidated their learning by joining in with lots of Easter themed activities!

During the first week back at school, the children looked at a book called 'Hermelin the Detective Mouse'. They were absolutely captivated with this book and wrote some amazing character descriptions. Furthermore, the children wrote some interesting moon landing descriptions with lots of adjectives. Finally, the children wrote a comparison between Christopher Columbus and Neil Armstrong. Over this term, we have covered lots of writing skills from writing different sentence types, using a range of punctuation as well as how to use a simile correctly.

On Friday 19th March it was Red Nose Day and the children dressed up as superheroes and wore red. They all looked fantastic and had a fun day! They took part in a 'wacky challenge', Miss Jeffries' class had 20 minutes to build the biggest tower with limited resources. We were blown away with how creative the children were! Mrs Bibi's class had to build protection boxes for their eggs before they were dropped from height. The children were egg-cited to see whose egg would survive!

We want to take this opportunity to wish you all a happy and safe Easter break with your loved ones. We are looking forward to welcoming all the children back to school for more exciting learning after half term!

Miss Jeffries and Mrs Bibi

Year 3

This term has been yet another adventure with the children, getting back into our school routine and being able to socialise with friends. The children have certainly made themselves and the adults proud with how well they have adjusted to being back in the classroom.

In English this term, the children very been extremely busy writing play scripts. The children focused on the story of 'The Three Little Pigs' and wrote a whole scene to the story/play. They not only focused on the layout but also managed to include features such as stage directions, into their writing. Children then focused on looking at alternative perspectives in stories and thinking about how another character may tell the story differently. The children became the wolf from 'Little Red Riding Hood' and explained what actually happened to Grandma! The children created some very imaginative diary entries and enjoyed sharing these with one another.

Finally, Year 3 decided to become historians and published their own non-chronological report about the Romans, focusing specifically on the Roman army and also Roman inventions. Be sure to ask them all about the Romans!

In Maths this term, we have focused on telling the time, including using language such as 'quarter past' and 'quarter to' as well as progressing on to telling the time to the nearest minute. The children blew us away with their focus and enthusiasm and even moved on to telling the time on 24 digital clocks. The children have then spent some time focusing on money, including answering worded problems and have finished this term exploring mass, focusing on grams and kilograms.

Year 3 have also been very busy focusing on other subjects in the curriculum and have enjoyed making Roman busts out of clay in DT, learning all about the skeleton – including learning the scientific names of the bones in Science and also focusing on coasts in Geography. The children have learnt all about erosion and what is used along coasts to help protect our environment.

We also loved dressing up for Red Nose Day and taking part in our wacky challenges. Mr Grant's class focused on making paper aeroplanes fly the furthest and Miss Penniston's class focused on making the longest paperchain in 4 minutes.



We are so incredibly proud of each and every one of you this term and can't wait to see you for Term 5. Please make sure to take some time to rest but also to have lots of fun and laughter.

Happy Easter.

Miss Penniston and Mr Grant

Year 4

What a fantastic term Year 4! We have been absolutely blown away by the enthusiasm and positivity that you have all shown throughout this term, both at home and at school. Your constant desire to challenge yourselves is inspiring and always brings a smile to our faces! 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 discovered a box of mysterious clues had been left in our classroom, where we discovered our second text of the term 'Leon and the place between'. After our circus day, the children have thoroughly enjoyed writing a diary entry in character and creating their own place between. They are authors in the making!



In Maths we have continued to develop lots of on-going skills and have introduced some new learnings 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.

The children have shown their creative side through our artwork this term. We have created our own versions of the setting from 'The Lost Happy Endings' and have also sewn some fantastic Viking inspired purses! Alongside this, their enjoyment for all subjects has been highlighted through our superb Science work all about our teeth! We have really enjoyed describing the different types of teeth and their functions and have loved our experiment looking at which drink causes the most tooth decay!



We have also loved dressing up as our favourite book characters for World Book Day and our heroes on Red Nose Day! It was lovely to see and hear why you had chosen each costume! Have a wonderful and restful Easter holiday!



Mrs Thomas and Miss Ross

Year 5

The Year 5 children have settled back into school life wonderfully! It has been lovely seeing them back in the classroom after such a long-time teaching and learning virtually. Since returning to school, we have held our own 'Ancient Greek' style Olympics and presented news bulletins and written newspaper articles reporting on the event. Historians found out about life in Ancient Greece by studying artifacts, so we have had a go at creating our very own Ancient Greek style pottery. We have also been learning about the 1960s Space Race, whereby Russia and the USA competed to send the first animal and human astronauts into space and, finally, the first man to the moon.

In RE, we have been learning about the Easter Story and why Christians celebrate Easter. Year 5 were pleased to find out that eating tasty Easter eggs is a way of celebrating the new life that emerges in Springtime... as if we needed an excuse!

Miss Fowler and Miss Hollidge

Year 6

It has been so good to finally be back in the classroom with all of the children this term and Year 6 have been working incredibly hard! They 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?'



The children enjoyed Red Nose Day, where they took part in some very wacky challenges, including how many Lego bricks could be vertically stacked in 20 seconds; designing a shelter to protect an egg from being dropped at a height and designing their own red noses to fill the class whiteboard within an hour!



We also really enjoyed the virtual workshop with Cherwell Theatre Company last Friday where the children took part in a range of drama activities with the actors based on online safety.

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



Miss Hoffman and Mrs Newman

Afterschool club

Our After School Club has been filled with so much laughter, noise, and happiness since our much awaited return. We have been blown away at how well all of our children have settled back in, it is as if we were never away!

The children's imaginations have enabled us all to benefit greatly by joining in with puppet shows, story telling and creative Lego models which have included rugby and football stadiums. Sunny afternoons have allowed us to explore the great outdoors with the new wooden climbing frame being a firm favourite. Aeroplane races, homemade paper shoes and giant card games have kept us all busy and highly entertained before having some lovely conversations during tea time.

It really has been wonderful to be back, we hope you all have a lovely Easter and we are already looking forward to welcoming you back throughout Term 5.

Debbie's Diary

Can I please remind parents/carers to ring school **before 9am** if your child is going to be absent giving a detailed reason for the absence, rather than just "unwell". This saves school making unnecessary calls to you.

The cut-off point for registers is **8.45am** so any child arriving after this time is marked as late. The first lessons of each day are usually English and Maths so frequently arriving later can severely impact a child's progress.

Please contact me if you need any help or advice or to access the Foodbank by contacting the office or emailing me direct Hsclw@queensway.oxon.sch.uk. Alternatively you can contact CAB on 0300 330 9037 for a referral. You can also visit the Community Fridge in Merton street which is open 24/7.



Debbie
Home School Community Link Worker

Sport

Before returning to school this term, children in Years 3-5 thoroughly enjoyed taking part in the virtual 'Chance to Shine' cricket event. The children focused on key skills, including catching and were extremely enthusiastic. It was great to hear that so many children logged on from home and took part.

Since returning to school, the children have loved getting back into the routine of PE lessons and have been exploring sports. The children have clearly demonstrated the School Games values in their lessons, and it has been very tricky awarding just one 'Player of the Week' each week.

Nursery children enjoyed being active for Comic Relief by taking part in some fun superhero themed races.

To celebrate Easter, Sports Council decided to challenge each year group to a sporty challenge, themed around Easter. Foundation Stage got to play with the parachute, while year 6 focused on Easter relays. Sports Council also challenged the pupils to decorate a hardboiled egg as a sports player. We were impressed by your creativity!

Red Nose Day 2021

This term School Council worked with their teachers to come up with a 'wacky challenge' to complete on Red Nose Day to raise money for charity. It was lovely to see the children enjoying all of the exciting extra events that took place throughout the day. The school was full of



superheroes, doctors, nurses and of course lots of red! Each class took part in their own 'wacky challenges', which went down very well with all

the children. We saw paper aeroplane, tower building and paper chain competitions, as well as design as many red noses as you can in one hour! There was also balloon, water, and wiggling races too! Well done to all the children who joined in with all the different activities and thank you to all the people that donated money to this special charity. We raised a very impressive £322.95



PTA

Whilst we are unable to have events to raise additional funds you could support the school by doing the 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 Easter Holiday.

Queensway PTA

Chair of Governors

Governors have been delighted that the school was able to re-open on the 8th of March and welcome the children back into the classroom. We would like to thank all the parents that completed the survey on remote learning, and we will be analysing the results in our next meetings. The feedback that you have submitted is, as always, useful in understanding what went well and what could have been done differently. We would like to wish you all a safe and restful Easter break.

*Daniela Cesco
Chair of Governors*