
QUEENSWAY

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Termly Newsletter, Issue 130 May 2025

Head Teacher's News in Brief

Staffing:

- Congratulations to Mrs Thripland who is expecting a baby in October! She will come back in September for a few weeks before we say a temporary goodbye.
- Miss Dineen will be leaving us at the end of this academic year to start a new job closer to where she has moved home to. We have loved having Miss Dineen in the Queensway team and wish her lots of luck.
- I will write to you at the end of Term 6 outlining who will be teaching which classes next year and will also tell you about the new teachers we have appointed to cover Miss Dineen and Mrs Thripland.

Class allocations:

For those families new to Queensway, we always re-shuffle the classes each academic year. Teachers use their professional judgement based on what they know of the children within school. We cannot base our decisions on parental requests. We will always make the decision on what is right for the children and the cohort overall. Even if children are in the opposite class to someone they really want to be with, remember, they still have break and lunch times together as a year group. Thank you for your co-operation.

Year 6 walking to and from school: After half term, some children in Year 6 may be allowed to walk to and from school without their parents. Parents sign a contract to state they take full responsibility and if there are any reported incidents of poor behaviour en-route, this privilege will be removed. Year 6 children cannot be responsible for bringing their younger siblings to school.

Reception and Nursery Sept 2025: We are delighted to say that both our Nursery and Reception classes are full from September. Therefore, if you have a child that is due to start Nursery in the future, it is highly recommended that you apply for a place early.

Diary dates: The website has all the Term 6 dates now published in the calendar. Please also keep an eye on the class blogs and emails for further information. If you have any queries, then please don't hesitate to ask either your child's class teacher or the school office.

Book fair: A huge thank you to everyone who visited the book fair. The commission raised helps to fund books for our own school library. We hope the children enjoy their new books.

Shared lessons: As the last shared lessons of this academic year come to an end, I would like to say a big thank you to all the parents, grandparents and carers that have supported them. The children really enjoy the experience, and I hope you do too!

Uniform: As families start to think about purchasing uniform for next academic year, please can I politely remind everyone that fleeces will not be permitted to wear inside. They are for PE or to wear as a coat substitution outside from September. Please refer to the school website if you need any further clarification.

Values: The Governors and staff are currently working on establishing a draft set of school values and will be consulting with children and parents during Term 6. Please look out for this as it's really important that Queensway values are a shared set of values, which will underpin everything we are about.

New roofs: Thank you for bearing with us whilst part 2 of the roof project is happening. The younger children have been fascinated watching people on the roofs and seeing the various work vehicles. Please ensure you keep vigilant as you move around the site.

Birthday treats: Please can I refer you to the food policy on our website which outlines our position on food items for birthday treats. We ask that food is not given out and if you wish to provide a small treat, please consider a non-food item.

Class News

Nursery

We can't believe how quickly this term has flown by. We have enjoyed getting to know our new Robins and feel they have settled into nursery life beautifully with the help of their newly found friends.

Together we have been enjoying learning all about; 'How does your garden grow?' We have turned our outside area into our very own magical garden with flowers and plants of different colours, shapes and sizes bursting into bloom. We experienced selling and buying flowers, plants and vegetables. Planting our very own beans kept us busy and gave us the responsibility of helping them grow as we watered them and made sure they had enough sunlight just like in our story 'Jasper's Beanstalk'.

Carpet time continues to be a favourite part of the day especially revealing Word of the Week and using the newly learnt word in a super sentence. As well as learning new sounds weekly in our phonic sessions, the children have impressed us with their segmenting and blending awareness throughout Bertha the Bus and 'What's in the box' games. Determination and competitiveness are taken to the next level!

With great anticipation our caterpillars arrived much to the children's and adult's delight. The children have been using their speaking skills and knowledge to explain what happens for the caterpillars to eventually turn into butterflies before releasing them in the garden. We also learnt a song (that we sing at every given opportunity) called 'There's a tiny caterpillar on a leaf' all the children join in both with singing and adding some great actions! The children have created toilet roll caterpillars and colourfully painted butterflies which have filled the room.

Forest School has been a fantastic experience this term. Our children embraced the freedom of risk taking and challenging themselves. Climbing trees, hunting for bugs, hammock swinging and producing some delicious muddy concoctions in the mud kitchen has kept the children engaged and focused come rain or shine.

I hope you all have a lovely half term; we look forward to welcoming you back for an exciting Term 6.



Reception

We have had a lovely term with our focus being on plants and growing. The topic was rounded off with our shared lessons at Forest School and during Busy Birds - thank you for such a great turn out of visitors. The children have also loved planting their seeds and have shown what green fingers they have by taking excellent care of them back in our classrooms and outside.

The stories of Jack and the Beanstalk and The Enormous Turnip have been really enjoyed by all. The children have loved creating scenes from the stories using paint, small world figures and themselves as the actors. We have had so much fun singing the song "Fee-Fi-Fo-Fum" too.

We have also been blown away by the children's ball skills in PE. They have shown such control over a range of different sized balls, moving them with different parts of their bodies and in different ways. They are all now so independent with getting changed. Well done everyone.

Another highlight from this term was the lovely Rhyme Time session delivered by the local library. The children loved having visitors and joining in with lots of wonderful songs, stories and rhymes!

We cannot wait to start our final term in Reception. Have a lovely half term break.



Year 1

The children have worked very hard this term and are enjoying our Science topic as we have been able to go out and about around the school grounds. We have been comparing wild and garden plants. We have also planted sunflower seeds and some have already started to grow! Hopefully after half term we might have some sunflowers to show.

They have also enjoyed finding out about the four countries that make up the United Kingdom and comparing the different features. In Maths, we have been looking at money, adding coins and working out change. Hopefully your child can show you what they have learnt at home.

We have all been wowed by the children's writing this term. They have really enjoyed writing their own versions of 'The Three Little Pigs'. Reading has been a big focus too in preparation for the phonics screening. The children love reading and are all trying hard. We have also been sharing books with our buddy classes which the children love doing. Please keep reading with your child over half term.

1FL have enjoyed Forest School this term and both classes had the opportunity to toast marshmallows.

We hope you all have a fantastic half term.



Year 2

Another exciting, jam-packed term in Year 2! The children have thoroughly enjoyed learning all about habitats and weather around the world this term. We have also been out and about in the community including our Library visit and Multi-skills festival at Wykham Park Academy. During the library visit, all the children chose a book to bring back to class which they have been avidly reading. They also found out about how to find books in the library. At Wykham School, we got the opportunity to participate in lots of fun sporting activities organised by Year 7 and 8 children and the children demonstrated great sportsmanship, encouraging and cheering on their peers.

In Geography, the children have been learning all about weather and climates around the world. They are all now fantastic weather reporters! They can also tell you lots about different habitats and the animals or plants that you might find there. In English, they have relished writing adverts about habitats as well as writing their own stories based on the book 'Leaf'.

In Maths, we have been working hard to consolidate all the key methods as well as apply these to written questions. The children have also learnt how to tell the time to the nearest 5 minutes and have been keen to tell us the time throughout the school day. We have finished the term off with our Maths Shared Lesson. A big thank you to everyone who was able to attend.

Finally, we are very excited for next term and our trip to experience a Victorian Workshop at the Woodstock Museum on Tuesday 24th June. This should be a brilliant day where the children will get to take part in lots of different activities and look around the museum.

Year 3

This term in Writing, we have looked at the story 'The Lost Thing' by Shaun Tan. We began by using the front cover to make predictions and then designed our own lost thing. Finally, we became journalists and created newspaper reports about the mysterious machine that had been spotted in our town. We have also carried out lots of research on Henry VIII and wrote biographies based on him, the children have thoroughly enjoyed finding out about this famous monarch.

In Maths this term, we have been busy focusing on measurement, including measuring lengths, masses, and capacity. The children have loved practising their skills and can now confidently convert between different units of measure. They have also learned how to add, subtract and compare masses, all of which are useful life skills.

The children have loved focusing on 'Righteous Royalty' where they have been researching different monarchs, including William the Conqueror and Henry VIII. The children have enjoyed designing their own castles, creating Henry VIII fact files and researching Queen Anne using historical sources.

In Art, the children enjoyed looking at royal portraits and compared the work of Isobel Peachey and Hans Holbein. We discussed how royal portraits have been used in the past to present a royal person in a particular way. The children then enjoyed using sketching pencils and watercolours to recreate Henry VIII portraits in the style of Hans Holbein. We look forward to sharing these during our class exhibition.

We also had a very successful trip to the library in town. The children learned all about how information books are classified and the wealth of exciting books that they can borrow. The children all had the opportunity to take a book out and they are really enjoying reading these at school. We would encourage parents to get their child a library card as this is such a great resource to have in our town.

Year 4

What a great term we've had! We have been very busy learning all about the digestive system and the Ancient Egyptians.

A highlight for many of us this term has been one particular Science demonstration where we learnt all about what actually happens when food is digested, using a banana sandwich, a pair of tights and some cups! As you can see the children absolutely loved it.

We have then used this experience and our amazing knowledge on the topic to write explanation texts, embracing our formal tone. The children didn't stop there – they then went on to create poems entitled 'from my mouth to the south'.

In Maths, we have been busy learning all about units of measure. We began by exploring and deepening our understanding of telling the time before converting between different units such as seconds, minutes, and hours. We have then looked at other units of measure such as cm, m and km, before applying this skill to converting between g and kg, using our knowledge of multiplying and dividing by 100 and 1000.

In History, we have been exploring the topic of Ancient Egypt where we have discovered lots about the Ancient Egyptian civilisation. We have also learnt all about the discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb and the important artefacts that were discovered there to help our understanding of the ancient world. The children loved getting into character and creating fantastic diary entries as if they had just discovered the tomb! Alongside this, in Art the children have been busy investigating and learning about Ancient Egyptian Art, using the styles, patterns, and colours to create their own scrolls. They have then created their own versions of papyrus paper to add their designs to.



Another exciting day this term was Rockstar Day when all the children dressed up as a rockstar. We spent the morning practicing our times tables in a variety of different ways before having a 'battle of the bands' competition across both classes!

A final highlight of the term was our last shared lesson of this academic year. It is fair to say both children and parents got stuck in and had lots of fun designing themselves as pharaohs.



We wish you all a lovely, restful half term!

Year 5

Despite the shorter term, Year 5 have been very busy and have continued to work hard, impressing us with their enthusiasm and knowledge for our topics.

This term, we have been learning about the natural disasters that occur on our planet, in particular volcanoes. The children have been learning about the structure of the Earth and why these natural disasters hit in certain places around the planet, including the Ring of Fire. They have created their own models of volcanoes, written some detailed non-chronological reports, and have explored the advantages and disadvantages of living next to a volcano.

In addition, the children have also linked their knowledge of natural disasters to their English writing, where they have imagined what it would have been like to experience the eruption of Mt Vesuvius, in Pompeii, in 79AD. They have created some very thought-provoking and descriptive diaries, focusing on emotions and a 'show not tell' approach.

In Science, the children enjoyed dissecting a plant to find out how they reproduce by looking at the different parts and their functions. The children benefitted from a Lego coding workshop, focussing on robotics, in which they made a drumming monkey. It was great to see the children using their critical thinking skills to build the monkey and write and debug programmes.

Finally, in Art the children have been looking at the artwork of Hokusai but have focused in detail on 'The Great Wave'. The children imitated his work by making different shape blocks to print from. In DT, the children innovated a flatbread recipe and cooked their own savoury flatbreads, choosing from a variety of herbs for flavour.



Thank you for another great term, Year 5. Enjoy a well-earned rest with your families.



Year 6

What a busy term! Firstly, we would like to say a huge well done to all of Year 6 for their hard work, determination, and resilience during their SATs. The children tried hard and showed brilliant, calm and mature attitudes over the course of the week. We are incredibly proud of how they all took on this challenge. Additionally, we would also like to take this opportunity to thank all the parents and carers for their support over the year, particularly this term.

In our English lessons this term, we have had a fantastic time exploring the book 'The Island'. This inspired the children to write some wonderful pieces where they thought carefully about their use of description, powerful and adventurous vocabulary, and a range of punctuation. The children used this text to write a setting description about the dark seas before the stranger arrived on the island; they used adjectives, adverbs, similes and metaphors to create their excellent creative writing.

In Science, the children have enjoyed learning about electricity, especially constructing their own electrical circuits. In PE, we have had fun playing cricket and doing athletics. This term, the children have once again had the chance to showcase their artistic skills by learning about and imitating the work of Georgia O'Keeffe.

We have lots of exciting events and celebrations happening during next term for the children to look forward to, as well as the opportunity for the children to visit their secondary school for transition. We hope you have a lovely break, and we are looking forward to having everyone back for their final term at Queensway!



After School Club

Once again, we have had another fun and busy term. We have spent most of the afternoons out on the field in the lovely sunshine. It has been wonderful to welcome back the Youth Activators on Tuesday afternoons, as the children thoroughly enjoy the multi-skilled activities with them. The children have also loved making the most of the play equipment and playing group games including; rounders, football and running races.

On the colder afternoons, the children have created a band by making music on the iPads. We have also enjoyed crafting, painting and taking part in drawing videos. The older children have also loved leading group activities for the younger children.

We look forward to spending more time out in the sunshine next term. We hope you all have a restful break!

School Council

The dedication and ideas continue to shine throughout meetings. Every member is active with bringing new thoughts, ideas and laughter fortnightly. We are currently discussing a potential stall for the upcoming event of the family picnic evening.

Alice In Wonderland comes to Queensway!

On our last day of term, Years 1-6 were given the opportunity to see the M and M production of Alice in Wonderland. With much crowd participation, such as being invited onto the stage to find a magic key, the highlight was definitely the act of Tweedledum and Tweedledee who moved around the audience thanking them. As it told the story of Alice's journey to find the White Rabbit in Wonderland, we were introduced to the Cheshire Cat, The Mad Hatter and The Evil Queen of Hearts with her hobby of chopping off heads. After a show that included many great songs, 'Gravity' from Wicked finished it off with a bang.

By Lara, Year 5

Sport

This term, we have been enjoying the sunshine and taking part in a range of different sports and activities e.g. striking, fielding and athletics.

This term Year 2 attended a multi-skills event at Wykham Park Academy. They loved the range of different carousel activities practicing many skills including: throwing, agility, sprinting and catching. The children returned to school beaming with pride and certainly represented Queensway well.



Some of our Year 5 students attended a cricket festival at Banbury Cricket Club. This was a brilliant opportunity for the children to experience a real cricket ground and develop some of their cricket skills. The children enjoyed the experience and once again represented Queensway school brilliantly.

Debbie's Diary

Please, please, please save some money by labelling your child's school uniform, coats, lunch boxes, bottles, etc. Every term, we accumulate a huge pile of 'lost' items that cannot be returned to you if they are not labelled.

What's on in half term:

Orinoco – High Street Banbury, always have a craft table available .

Sunshine Centre still have some tickets available @ £5 each for a trip to Cutteslowe Park on 30th May – please contact them direct.

Enjoy!

PTA News

Thank you for the fabulous cakes and goodies donated for the cake sale after the Easter holidays. As always, it was a great success and we raised £369.83. The Easter egg colouring competition was very much enjoyed by those who entered and we also raised £54.55. With the above activities and the money we raised from ticket purchases via the CDC lottery, we have raised £451.38 towards the PTA project to replace the adventure playground.

For Term 6, the following events will be happening:

• UNIFORM POP-UP

The pop-up week is on 16th, 17th, and 18th June. This is a good opportunity for you to have a clear-out over the half-term and bring in your washed, outgrown uniforms between 2nd and 6th June.

• SPORTS DAY

PTA will be set up for refreshments during both events – grab a coffee and say hi!

• FAMILY PICNIC

Come along on the evening of Thursday 3rd July with your own picnic and pennies to spend on fun games. There will be a mega raffle with lots of fantastic prizes, along with cake and refreshments for sale. If you can spare 30 minutes on the day to help, please get in touch!

The next PTA meeting is at school at 6pm on 11th June 2025.

Term Dates

Friday 23rd May – **Last Day of Term 5**

Monday 2nd June – **School re-opens**

Friday 27th June – **School closed for inset day**

Friday 18th July – **Last Day of Term 6**

