

QUEENSWAY

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Termly Newsletter, February 2026

Head Teacher's News in Brief

I hope you are all well and enjoying the start of the spring term. We have had a very positive and productive few weeks in school and I am delighted to share some important updates with you.

- It has been wonderful to see pupils really living out our school values this term, showing respect, kindness and resilience in their learning and in the way they treat one another. These values are shining through across the school and we are incredibly proud of the children.
- We have welcomed several external reviewers into school this term, all of whom have praised our pupils for their exemplary behaviour and outstanding attitudes to learning, consistently evident in every class they visited. One Local Authority Officer stated, "my heart sings when I'm here at Queensway School."
- 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
 - 99% said their child felt safe in school
 - 100% reported that the school makes sure that children behave well
 - 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.

- After Easter, we will be saying a temporary goodbye to Miss McLaughlin as she begins her maternity leave. We are incredibly excited for her as she prepares to welcome her new baby, and we wish her all the very best during this special time. To ensure continuity for the children, we are pleased to confirm that Mrs Pile and Mrs Lock will be covering the class, each teaching a few days a week. Both are familiar faces who know the school well, and we are confident the children will continue to thrive under their care.
- We are very pleased to welcome Miss Maskell to the staff team. She will be working across different classes between now and the end of the academic year. Many of you will already know Miss Maskell, as she currently supports children every Friday in After School Club. We are delighted to have her joining us in a wider role.
- Our PTA has now officially adopted its new name: Friends of Queensway. This month they have been busy selling raffle tickets for the hampers as part of their fundraising efforts towards improvements to our Trim Trail. Their next meeting is on: Monday 2nd March at 6:00pm, and all parents and carers are warmly invited.
- We look forward to seeing you at our forthcoming parents' evenings on: Tuesday 10th March and Thursday 12th March. Details on bookings will follow shortly.

- In my previous newsletter, I shared our concerns regarding attendance. Since then, a number of families have worked hard to improve their children's attendance and we are really pleased to see this positive step. We hope this continues across the school. Good attendance is vital: it ensures children can access their full education, build knowledge securely, and truly thrive. Thank you to all families supporting us with this.
- Recently, you will have received communication from the Children's Commissioner regarding online safety. The information shared is extremely valuable, and we urge all parents and carers to read it carefully and take note of the advice provided. If you require any further support, guidance or clarification, please do not hesitate to contact us. We are here to help and can signpost further resources if needed.
- We would also like to remind parents and carers of the importance of ensuring that children have a nutritious breakfast before arriving at school. Recently, we have had an increasing number of children reporting that they are hungry and have not eaten in the morning. Before lessons can even begin staff have had to provide breakfast, which of course is not ideal for the children or the start of the school day. A good breakfast helps children to concentrate, engage, and learn effectively throughout the morning, so please support us by ensuring they have eaten before arriving.
- A polite reminder that parents and carers must always supervise their children while waiting for doors to open in the morning. Children should remain with their adult and should not be left unattended. For those dropping off multiple children, please ensure that all children stay with you and are taken directly to their classrooms by an adult.
- We are delighted to share that our recent health and safety audit resulted in a 100% pass mark yet again, continuing our excellent run of full marks over many years. Thank you to everyone who helps us maintain such high standards.

Thank you, as ever, for your continued support and partnership. If you have any questions about any of the items in this newsletter, please feel free to contact the school office.

Class News

Nursery

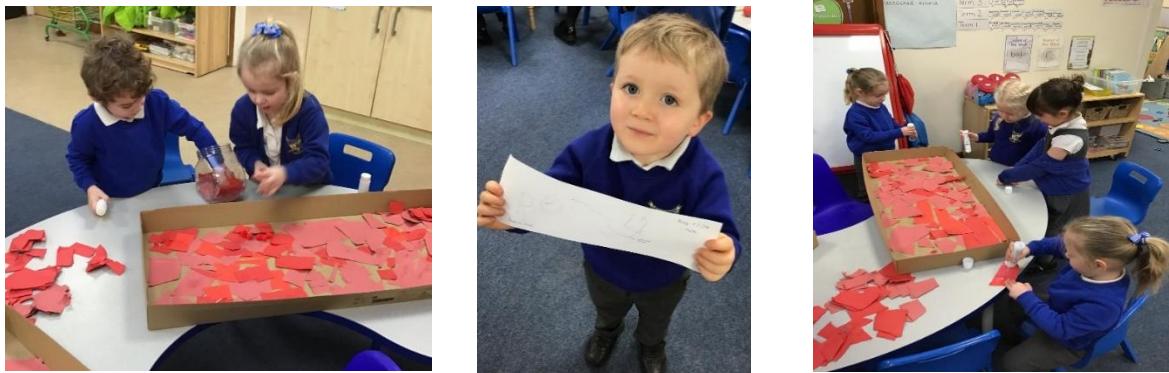
We have had a lovely first term of the year focusing our learning on things with wheels. We welcomed our new Robins and have been so impressed with how quickly and happily they have adapted to nursery life. The other children have been wonderful too, welcoming them warmly and showing them the way.

Together we shared our favourite story of 'Emergency' and 'The Naughty Bus'. They became very familiar with the stories and used their imaginations beautifully when acting out their favourite parts. We had police officers and fire fighters ensuring everyone was safe and if not, which number to call for help! We created our own masterpieces by using paint and vehicle sponges as well as producing like for like paper plate portraits to add to our giant double decker bus! The children were especially informative about making sure the naughty bus did not run away again on his adventures by drawing maps and creating rules of safety.

Everyone has been working extremely hard with their name writing and all look forward to signing themselves in for registration when they arrive for their sessions.

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 horse. We had lots of fun moving our bodies in a variety of ways to Chinese music and using scarves and musical instruments to be fierce dragons.



Reception

Our topic this term has been Space. The children have been fascinated by the adventures of astronauts like Tim Peake and watching the role of these astronauts working on the International Space Station. They also loved taking on the role of astronauts themselves in our own space station. We finished the term following Baby Bears adventures on the moon with the story 'Whatever Next'.

We all enjoyed a fantastic shared lesson where we focussed on how we teach Writing in reception. A big thank you to all of the parents who came to these lessons. We hope you found it useful to help support your child's learning at home.

In PE this term we have really enjoyed playing fun games and learning new skills such as throwing. Each lesson has had a different transport theme and we have loved being racing cars, aeroplanes, bicycles and buses.

We continue to be amazed by the children's learning in Phonics. They have loved the new Golden Writing Box that we have introduced this term where we pick a winner each day for their amazing independent writing and they are rewarded with a special sticker. This has really motivated the children to be independent writers and we have been so proud of their resilience and determination with their writing.

Have a wonderful half term Reception!



Year 1

The children have been working very hard this term. They have impressed us with their amazing writing especially innovating 'Handa's Surprise'. In Maths this term they have especially enjoyed learning to tell the

time. Please practice learning o'clock and half past at home as they have all tried very hard. Thank you to everyone who attended the Maths shared lessons. We really enjoyed them and the children produced some fantastic work with their adults.

In Art, we have been studying the artist Guna Stolz and learning how to weave with paper and wool. We have also been finding out about our local area in Geography and the children can now name human and physical features. When walking around the local area you may like to chat with your child about what they can see and why Banbury is a town.

In PE, they have been developing their gymnastics skills and using the apparatus with Mr Mawn. 1KB are looking forward to starting Forest School next term.

Please remember to keep reading with your child at home. We hope you all have a fantastic half term.

Year 2

What a fantastic term we have had! The children have thoroughly enjoyed learning all about explorers and have been fascinated by many interesting facts about Neil Armstrong. They have produced some brilliant information paragraphs on the lives of both Neil Armstrong and Christopher Columbus.

In English, they have explored the book, Very Little Red Riding Hood, where they have enjoyed comparing it to the traditional version as well as writing their own versions of the story.

In Maths, the children have continued to impress us with their determination and focus. They have been learning to add and subtract two-digit numbers, developing a range of strategies to solve multiplication and division number sentences and more recently, they have been learning all about money. Please ask your child to show you the strategies they have been using so they can continue to practise at home. Please also continue to encourage the children to keep earning coins on Times Table Rock Stars.

In Science, they have been learning all about materials and their properties and have carried out a variety of investigations to test their knowledge. It was wonderful to see so many adults at our shared lesson. Thank you so much for coming and supporting the children.

Other highlights this term have included making rockets in DT, learning a song on the glockenspiels, and creating our own gymnastic routines. We are already looking forward to Term 4, which promises to be very exciting! The children will be taking part in a Planetarium workshop, watching chicks hatch, celebrating World Book Day, and welcoming a visit from the local Fire Station to support our Great Fire of London topic.

We hope you all have a lovely and relaxing half-term with your family and friends.

Year 3

What a busy and exciting term it's been in Year 3! In Writing, we began by creating our own adventure stories inspired by *The Lift* by Minh Lê. The children let their imaginations run wild, inventing brand-new worlds that their magical lift buttons could take them to. We then turned our attention to the Romans, which we are also currently studying in History. The children stepped into the shoes of Roman soldiers and wrote letters home, sharing what life in the army might have been like. Their knowledge really shone through and their writing gave us a clear picture of just how challenging Roman army life could be.

In Maths, the children have worked hard to master adding and subtracting three-digit numbers using the column method. We then moved on to multiplication and division using the grid method and chunking respectively. Once these strategies were secure, the children applied them to word problems using RUCSAC to help them tackle questions step by step and with confidence.

In Science, we've been exploring forces and magnets. The children even carried out their own investigation into friction, testing different materials on a ramp and timing how long it took a toy car to roll down. They made sensible conclusions from their results and showed fantastic scientific thinking.

We also had a wonderful trip to Woodstock Museum to support our Roman history topic. The children dressed up as everyday Roman citizens, practised marching in formation and tried out some popular Roman games - many of which are surprisingly similar to games we still enjoy today! We hope you all have a lovely half term.



Year 4

What another busy and exciting term! We have been very impressed with the enthusiasm towards our topics, especially during our school trip to Science Oxford. It has been great to see the pupil's curiosity grow in Science and see them applying what they have learned as well as exploring the different activities on our trip.



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 the children all added to the end of their 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 the Vikings travelled and what they ate.

This term, we have also had many opportunities to show our creative sides, designing and creating our own Viking purses in DT and focusing on our stitching techniques.

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 and chocolate! We then moved on to the 'Water Cycle' and it was fabulous watching our understanding develop through the term, especially when the children became 'Danny the Droplet' and wrote diary entries about their day in the water cycle.

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.

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

Year 5

In Year 5, the children have had a great start to the new year and have continued to impress us with their knowledge and enthusiasm! We love hearing all the facts that they have found out at home related to our learning in school such as Space and Greek mythology.

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 and have really brought their characters and imagination to life. It has been fantastic to see them develop and to read their final pieces.

In Science, the children have been enjoying discovering facts about the Solar System and it was lovely to see so many of you at our shared lessons last week to build on this knowledge. 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 the half term to keep reinforcing their tables knowledge, which is vital to their Maths learning.



Finally, in DT we have delved even deeper into life in Ancient Greece by researching, designing and creating our own clay pots inspired by Ancient Greece. We also tasted, innovated and made our own Greek flatbreads. It is clear to say, we had a great time on this unit.

We would now like to take the opportunity to wish everybody a very restful half term.

Year 6

What a busy term it has been in Year 6! The children have worked extremely hard, and we have been impressed with the resilience they have shown. They continue to build their knowledge and skills in preparation for the challenges ahead, and they all deserve a well-earned break.

This term, the children have loved exploring the tale of Goldilocks and the Three Bears through writing discussion texts and journalistic articles. They thoroughly enjoyed taking part in our classroom court case, where they debated and presented evidence to decide whether Goldilocks was guilty of her crimes. Sadly, she was convicted! The children then produced some fantastic writing based on this topic and had the opportunity to read alternative versions of the famous narrative.

In History lessons, the children have enjoyed learning about the ancient Mayan civilisation, making discoveries about their way of life and inventions by studying artefacts and conducting their own research. They explored the importance of the foods eaten at the time and even wrote using glyphs. Working carefully and with precision, the children have created their own artwork inspired by the works of William Morris. They are extremely proud of their final pieces, and I'm sure they will be excited to show you.

Linked to their PSHE learning, the children participated in an online lesson and assembly. They considered how to assess risk in real-life situations and reflected on how choices can be



influenced by others. During the assembly, the charity *Living Streets* spoke to the children about looking after their physical and mental wellbeing and highlighted the importance of exercise. The quiz questions were a particular highlight, and as a cohort, the children managed to answer them all correctly which was very impressive.

In PE, the children have excelled in gymnastics and approached the lessons with fantastic enthusiasm. They have performed impressive sequences that have involved balances, jumps, rolls, shapes and inverted movements. Netball has also been a success with them now being able to pivot!

We hope you have a restful break and look forward to seeing the children back after half term.

After School Club

It has been wonderful welcoming you all back into After School Club. We have enjoyed having children from all year groups reading stories to everyone in After School Club. The children have been using their creative imaginations while dressing up, using the till to play shops and enjoying our new dolls house.

We have also been doing lots of drawing and playing group games, which we hope to continue more of outside next term when the sun comes out.

We wish you all a restful break and look forward to seeing you next term.

School Council

We continue to meet fortnightly and have started discussing and planning our next big fundraiser, Red Nose Day, which will take place at the end of March. Please look out for further correspondence regarding this.

Debbie's Diary

Punctuality matters!

A reminder please, that if your child is in Years 1- 6, doors close at **8.35 am** and their lessons begin. Arriving after this time can cause them embarrassment and disrupt their class. If in Reception, their doors close at **8.45 am**. All doors open at 8.30 am.

Arriving 5 minutes late every day adds up to over 3 days of lost learning each year.

Citizen's advice contact and drop-in information: <https://www.cawnac.org.uk/>

Food support services: <https://www.cherwell.gov.uk/downloads/download/1683/food-support-services-leaflet>. Please contact me if you need a foodbank voucher.

Governors

There are vacancies for 2 parents on the Governing Body of our school. I do hope you will consider standing for election (you can nominate yourself) for these vital roles. Being a Governor is a wonderful opportunity to help shape the future direction of the school, celebrate those many aspects that are done well and assist the school leadership in their constant pursuit of excellence in all areas of school life. Yes, it is a voluntary role and does takes time, but perhaps not as much as you thought. There are normally 2 meetings per term, lasting between 1 and 2 hours. It really is an excellent chance to make a difference and to give something back to the community. It really is very rewarding.

I know that the school continues to work very hard with parents regarding attendance of children. Regular and high attendance really does matter, not only in helping the children with their learning but also establishing those vital habits for the future. Every day at school really does make a difference.

Matthew Ingall, Chair of Governors

Friends of Queensway News

Friends of Queensway has now gone digital and can take card payments, as used during last week's raffle for the fabulous hamper generously donated by staff. Thank you to everyone who bought tickets and congratulations to the winners. The raffle raised £194 and all proceeds will go towards replacing the Trim Trail.

Please continue using the easyfundraising app for your online shopping. If you'd like help setting it up, pop into the office and a Friends of Queensway volunteer will be happy to assist. You can also support the school by joining the Cherwell Lottery: www.cherwelllottery.co.uk/support/queensway-school-pta

With spring approaching, planning for the Family Picnic will begin soon! If you'd like to get involved with this or any of the Friends of Queensway events, please join come along to one of the termly meetings. If you want to help but can't come to the meeting or not sure it's for you, please speak to one of the volunteers – every event needs support!!

The next meeting is on 2nd March 2026 at 6pm at school.

Term Dates

Friday 13th February – **Last day of Term 3**

Monday 23rd February – **School re-opens for Term 4**

Friday 27th March – **Last day of Term 4**

Shared Lessons Term 4

CLASS	DATE	TIME	SUBJECT
Owls	16.03.26	2-3pm	Understanding the World
Doves	19.03.26	2-3pm	Understanding the World
1KB	10.03.26	2-3pm	Phonics
1LM	11.03.26	2-3pm	Phonics
2MR	18.03.26	2-3pm	History
2MH	13.03.26	2-3pm	History
3KREHS	16.03.26	2-3pm	History
3ASN	17.03.26	2-3pm	History
4FL	24.03.26	2-3pm	Geography
4SM	25.03.26	2-3pm	Geography
5LR	16.03.26	8:45-9:45am	Maths
5PH	17.03.26	8:45-9:45am	Maths
6LFR	23.03.26	2-3pm	Reading
6HM	20.03.26	2-3pm	Reading