



Head Teacher's News in Brief

- We say goodbye to Mrs Hale this week who has been a TA here for 11 years. She is coming out of working in schools to start a new adventure. We thank her for all her hard work. Mrs Shaw will be moving into Miss Dineen's class.
- We welcomed Mrs Salisbury into Reception and Mrs Lowe into Year 4 this term. Both TAs have already settled into their new roles.
- School photos are taking place on Tuesday 12th November. This happens within the school day and we organise for school age siblings to have a photo together as well as individual ones of every child. They are great for Christmas presents!
- Open days have begun for children who will be starting in Reception in September 2025. If you know anyone who has a child of this age, please signpost them to our school website or ring the office to book an appointment.
- Thank you to parents who attended their child's parents evening this week. They were well attended and hopefully gave parents a clear picture of how their child is settling into their new year group.
- The Year 6 residential that took place a few weeks ago to Conover Hall was a big success. The children had an amazing time. The current Year 5 families have until Friday 1st November to sign up for the Year 6 residential which will take place in October 2025.
- Our annual panto is coming to Queensway on Tuesday 5th November for children in Years 1-6. M and M Productions will be performing Peter Pan. This is always a highlight of the autumn term.
- What a great start to shared lessons this year. Children absolutely love having you in school with them. Please keep an eye out for Term 2 lessons, which are mainly Christmas craft sessions! Dates can be found on the school website.
- If you would like to know more about what your child is learning in school this coming term, please look at the school website which contains 'knowledge organisers' for each class and subject.
- Thank you to everyone in Years 1-6 for trying to get your child into school at the new time of 8:35am. I am sure you will have noticed that we are doing our best to open the doors a few minutes before 8:30am to allow for parents to deliver siblings to different parts of the school.
- Just a reminder that if you bring any medication to the school office it must be in the original package which shows the child's prescription on it. We will only administer what it states on the prescription unless there is a doctor's note to say otherwise. This is in line with our policy.
- Parents have often told us they like to know ahead when dressing up days are! Below are the ones we know about. More information will follow about each of these events:
 - Children In Need - Friday 15th November
 - Christmas Jumper Day - Friday 13th December
 - World Book Day - Thursday 6th March
 - Red Nose Day - Friday 14th March

Class News

Nursery

We have had the most amazing start to the school year and could not be prouder of all the children and how they have settled into Nursery life so happily and independently. Together they are forming some lovely friendships that I know will continue to blossom as well as becoming familiar with our daily routine and carrying out our class rules.

Carpet times have been a big success where the children have been singing beautifully during 'what's the song in my bag' familiarising themselves with new nursery rhymes as well as their favourite ones too. Dough Disco is strengthening our fine motor skills as we manipulate the dough and learn further skills to help us become good writers through our mark making.

Communication and listening skills have blown us away through our Welly Wednesday walks where we have been tuning into outside sounds. Together we have taken our much-loved stories of this term 'Brown Bear, Brown Bear' and 'Little Red Hen' where we have searched high and low with our nursery made binoculars and magnifying glasses for clues to find the animals. This took our excitement and determination to another level!

Daily counting of our children and number songs are extending our counting even further. All the children are working really hard with using their fingers to help them too which has been so lovely to see.

We are excited to see what next term has install for us but wish all the children a well-earned rest! See you in November.



Reception

We can't believe we have finished our first term in Reception. The children have settled into life at Queensway so well and we are so proud of everything they have achieved already.

We have started our Phonics lessons this term and the children have really impressed us. They are recognising the sounds that we are learning and have recently started blending them to read and write whole words. We know that you are just as proud of the children as we are when you hear them reading their Phonics books at home.

Forest School has been a particular highlight for the children in Owls Class. They have been bug hunting, den building, stick collecting, cooking up creations in the mud kitchen, exploring the woods, bird watching and storytelling. We know that Doves Class will have an equally amazing time when they venture down to Forest School next term.

Another highlight of the term has been the 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt' story. The children had the most amazing time re-telling the story out and about on the school field! We had bubbly snowstorms, squelchy mud and narrow, gloomy caves that we tiptoed through.

We have loved welcoming people into the classrooms this term. We have had the Police, a parent from Australia and most recently grandparents and grown-ups for shared lessons. Thank you for coming and sharing your memories of childhood games and toys. The children loved sharing this special time with you all.

We hope you all enjoy a very well-deserved rest in half term!

Year 1

The children have had a fantastic start to Year 1 and have all settled in well. They have loved our Geography work all about the seaside and it has been great to find out about the different places they have visited.

They have also enjoyed naming and describing materials. The children had fun carrying out an experiment to find which material would stop teddy from getting wet in the rain! The children have wowed us with their writing and have loved learning to recite text maps including 'Panda Bear, Panda Bear' and 'Sounds'. In Maths, we have been consolidating the children's number knowledge as well as naming and describing 3D shapes.

1FL have had a fantastic time at Forest School and 1LM are looking forward to starting Forest School next term. Both classes were amazed at the number of adults who attended our shared lessons. It was a great opportunity to show parents how excited the children are to be learning to read and how we teach phonics. Thank you to everyone who was able to attend. We are really excited for next term and hope you all have a lovely half term.

Year 2

What a fantastic, busy first term the children have had. They have been working incredibly hard and have settled into Year 2 fantastically.

In English they have been writing letters to our pen pal Lakshmi in India and have especially enjoyed writing about the animated film 'The Windmill Farmer'. In History we have been finding out about harvests in the past and have been comparing it to harvest today. The children were shocked to find out that children as young as 6 worked on the farms for up to 10 hours a day to cut the wheat and scare away birds.

The children have also worked incredibly hard in Maths, increasing their confidence and fluency with addition and subtraction problems and their understanding of place value. After half term, we will be introducing Times Table Rockstars.

In Geography, the children have been finding out about India and making comparisons between the United Kingdom, Banbury and New Delhi. They have learnt about the different types of weather and seasons in India and different physical and human features such as the Taj Mahal, the Ganges River and the Himalayan mountains. Additionally, it was wonderful to see so many adults attend the shared lesson where the children loved making their Rama and Sita inspired puppets and practising their sewing skills.

We are really looking forward to next term and the Year 2 Nativity. More information will be sent out after half term. We hope you all have a lovely, restful half term.

Year 3

We have had a very busy first term in Year 3. The children have been working hard and have settled well.

In Writing this term, we have been reading the book 'Stone Age Boy'. The children wrote some amazing diary entries imagining that they had visited the Stone Age for the day. Lots of the children chose to tell hunting and gathering stories through their diary entries. Later in the term, we enjoyed reading 'How to Wash a Woolly Mammoth' and learned how to re-tell the story using actions. We then learned about the features of instructions and used our imaginations to come up with our own creative set of instructions for how to wash a woolly mammoth.

In Maths, we started the term learning all about place value. We enjoyed creating numbers using different equipment and learning how to order and compare 3-digit numbers. We then moved on to learn how to solve addition and subtraction calculations using the column method. The children worked hard on this method and became confident at following the calculation steps. We have also been learning about multiplication and division and the children have worked hard on learning how to use the grid method and number line to support them.

In History this term, we have been learning about the Stone Age. The children have enjoyed working as historians to explore the tools that people made during the Stone Age and discovering how they lived. We also enjoyed learning about Stonehenge and how it was built and why it was a special place for people. The children have worked hard on their topic both in school and at home and are always eager to share the additional research they have conducted or resources they have made.

In Art, the children have created some fantastic cave paintings, as well as silhouettes of Stonehenge at sunrise and sunset. In our recent Shared Lesson, the children enjoyed telling stories of the Stone Age through art, using oil pastels. They came up with some really imaginative story ideas and enjoyed bringing their stories to life.



Year 4

This term, the children have been busy learning all about the Anglo-Saxons and what their lives would have been like. During this learning, the children even became Anglo-Saxons themselves and wrote diary entries about their day. They have really enjoyed learning about the past and turning into archaeologists to discover and make inferences about Anglo-Saxon artefacts. The children were particularly fascinated to learn that Banbury, Grimsbury and Oxford are all Anglo-Saxon place names!

In English, the children have been extremely busy with descriptive writing based around our class novel 'Narnia – The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe'. The children have written some fantastic setting and character descriptions focusing on Narnia itself and the White Witch. We then wrote non-chronological reports about our own hybrid animals that we have created. The children really embraced their formal tone of a non-fiction text. We then finished the term by creating our own fantasy stories. The children have certainly been busy!

In Maths, they have been focusing on developing place value knowledge, building on from what the children have learnt in previous years. We have then developed our fluency and reasoning skills with addition and subtraction and it is fair to say that we are now all 'Column Experts'.

Linking to our topic of Anglo-Saxons, the children researched and designed their own Anglo-Saxon brooches. They really enjoyed having the opportunity to then create these brooches during our shared lessons.



In Science, we have enjoyed focusing on the topic of 'Sound' and particularly enjoyed using musical instruments to investigate how low and high-pitched sounds are made. The children finished the term by carrying out an investigation into which material would be the best for soundproofing a music studio for a band. We then wrote about our findings in a letter to the band.

We certainly have been extremely busy settling into Year 4 and cannot wait to continue our learning after half term. We would like to wish you an enjoyable half term.

Year 5

What a wonderful half term we have had in Year 5. The children have settled back into school life fantastically and are thoroughly enjoying their first topic, World War Two, in which they have learnt about key events, such as the Blitz and the evacuation of children. In writing, we have been so impressed with the children's work, where they have created character and setting descriptions, diary entries and letters, paying particular attention to detail. In addition, the children have also worked hard to create a piece of artwork inspired by Henry Moore, using watercolour and wax resist.

With the helping hands of their parents and grandparents, the children enjoyed creating their Blitz artwork as part of our Shared Lesson. It was so lovely to see them working together and being proud of the outcomes of their hard work and effort.

Finally, in PE the children have worked on their TAG Rugby and gymnastic skills. We are so proud of how the children represented Queensway School at the Cross Country and TAG Rugby events, all showing fantastic sportsmanship!

Year 6

What a fantastic first term we have all had in Year 6, with the children settling in brilliantly. Our first topic has taken us on a discovery of the rainforest, with the children spending their geography lessons learning about the layers of the rainforest and the different animals that live within this extraordinary habitat. The children then researched and presented their learning when they produced some fantastic posters in a group, showing clear teamwork, creativity and knowledge. This was also the inspiration for our shared lesson dioramas,

which we had the great pleasure of experiencing with so many parents. Thank you so much for joining us and for all your help, it was wonderful to begin the term in this way. Additionally, the children have clearly been motivated by this topic, as they wrote their narratives which were set in the Amazon Rainforest. It has been wonderful to see how much they have enjoyed this through their writing with their imaginations coming to life on the page for the reader.

In Maths, the children have been working hard and developing their confidence with formal written methods for addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division, then applying this knowledge to solve a range of problems.

Finally, the children had such fantastic experiences during their time away on the Year 6 residential. We were very proud of the children's resilience and how they pushed themselves to achieve new goals. Whilst they were away, the children at school immersed themselves in a Titanic research project and created some fantastic clay models, sketches and research posters.



Thank you for all your support this term. We hope you have a restful break.

After School Club

We have certainly enjoyed welcoming everyone back into After School Club. We have all enjoyed a very busy and fun term together. We made the most of the lovely weather that we had during the first few weeks, playing outside on the field, having picnics and making the most of our new swing and the adventure playground. On rainy days, we have loved creating a home corner for our younger children, filled with a play kitchen, dressing up outfits and toys.

The children in After School Club have enjoyed a wide range of different activities this term, including fun quiz evenings, crafting, finger knitting, making dens and, of course, their favourite, movie night! The older children have enjoyed setting up activities for the group and have loved taking care of the younger children.

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

School Council

We were really impressed with all the applications for School Council so a big well done to everyone that applied and for the children appointed to lead our School Council this year.

During our first meeting we have already saved the date for Children In Need which is happening on Friday 15th November and are already collaborating on some great ideas. We are looking forward to making a difference throughout the year ahead.

Sport

We are delighted to announce that once again we have maintained our Gold Status for the School Games Mark. We would like to take the time to thank you for your continued support.

In Term 1, children have enjoyed getting back into their PE lessons. Across the year groups children have been taking part in a range of different sports including gymnastics, rugby and invasion games. It has been brilliant to see children using skills from their previous year group and building on their learning further. Children have also been enjoying their lessons with Mr Mawn on a Wednesday. They have also been keeping active on the playground during lunch and break time using some of the new equipment on the KS2 playground.



So far this term, children from Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 have taken part in the Cross-Country event at Wykham Park School. The children showed great determination in very soggy conditions! We once again have a range of individual children who have made it into the final which is fantastic. It was great to hear from the adults attending how kind and supportive our students were to one another during this event.

Also in this term, some Year 5 children took part in a 'Touch Rugby' event at Banbury Rugby Football Club. The children were able to have a go at a new style of Rugby and learnt key skills during this event. The main aim of this event was 'Respect' and our children certainly showed this value throughout the event.

Debbie's Diary

Various activities on during half term at The Hill – check out:
<https://www.banburycommunitychurch.com/the-hill-banbury>

Also a number of different events in Castle Quay and Lock 29
https://castlequay.co.uk/whats_on/events-at-castle-quay-this-october/

Please contact me if you need a foodbank voucher Hsclw@queensway.oxon.sch.uk or Citizen's advice on 0808 278 7906.

PTA news

This year's AGM saw an encouraging increase in parent representation and your PTA committee members are:

- Chair: Sarah Arrowsmith
- Secretary: Hazel Byrd
- Treasurer: Rachel Steiger
- Voting member: Jane Sperinck
- Voting member: James Stott

The recent "Bottle of Coppers" raised £430 - well done to everyone involved. A special well done to **4AT** for raising the most money!

The best dressed bottle goes to **2MR** – Tiger's Child inspired from their learning about India.



Here are a few photos from some of the other class entries:



Although it feels like a lifetime ago, a big thank you goes out to all those that helped at the Family Picnic at the end of last year!!

Remember, you don't need to attend the meetings to support our school – the "Asda Cashpot" and Cherwell Lottery both provide welcome income without any effort!!

Term 5 Dates

Friday 25th October – **Inset Day**

Monday 28th October – Friday 1st November – **School closed – half term holiday**

Monday 4th November – **School re-opens**

Friday 20th December – **Last day of Term 2**

