



# QUEENSWAY SCHOOL

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Friday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2020

Head Teacher: Mrs Sarah Horbury-Jakeman  
BA Hons (QTS), NPQH

Dear Parents,

As we come to the end of week 3 of the coronavirus lockdown I just wanted to write to say a quick hello and to say Happy Easter to all the children. It is not quite what I'm sure all of us envisaged for the Easter holidays, but I hope you are keeping well and making the most of the sunshine during our exercise time.

I hear that a lot of children have been doing the Joe Wicks daily PE lessons online- the children and staff in school the last two weeks have been doing it too- but I think it's fair to say, the children enjoyed it more than the staff!

As it's officially the Easter holidays we haven't set home learning but as I said last week, please ensure you are reading lots to and with your child, talking to them about the plot and characters etc, as well as looking on the recommended websites. <http://www.queensway.oxon.sch.uk/page/?title=Class+Pages&pid=32>. The teachers are constantly sharing useful websites with each other which they will incorporate into the home learning plans next term.

So some specific updates:

## **Tests:**

As I am sure you have heard yourselves, the Government have confirmed that they will not be publishing data for school performance for 2019-2020 at all, so at primary level this includes: Early Years Foundation Stage profile, Year 1 phonics screening, Year 2 and 6 SATS and the new Year 4 multiplication test. When we are given further instruction, I will write to you to inform you if this is being replaced with teacher assessment. The teachers have completed their assessments of all the children now so we have all the data tied up neatly our end should we need to submit teacher assessments to families, and in the case for Year 6, secondary schools.

## **Secondary School transition:**

I know many Year 6 families are anxious about the transition arrangements for children starting secondary school in September. I took part in a virtual meeting last week with Wykham Park Academy who are working on virtual tours of the departments and are preparing some generic pastoral activities that all Year 6 children can look at, even if they aren't attending Wykham. I am sure the other secondary schools will also be doing similar things.

## **New starters at Queensway:**

Parents with children who are due to start school in September, will be notified of which primary school their child has been allocated on 16<sup>th</sup> April. Therefore, we are also having to think hard about how we ensure that families who are due to start with us in September are kept informed and how we gather the necessary information about their child prior to September. The Foundation Stage team will be working hard after Easter gathering information from nurseries and parents. Early 'heads up' suggest we will be full in our Reception classes for September which is wonderful news.

## **Nursery:**

Sadly, we were due to have some new children start in our nursery after Easter, so obviously this is on hold too. We are already taking bookings for September so if you have a 3 year old please contact the school so we can ensure your place is secured asap. Our nursery has been a real success story and the provision is of a very high quality. The children are happy and settled and their development is amazing to see. Thank you to everyone who has been part of this success.

## **Information for families who are in receipt of Free School Meals:**

Despite the fact that we submitted everyone's details in good time, I hear that the Government have been totally bogged down and that there has been a delay in the e-vouchers reaching some families. I apologise

about this but it is totally beyond our control. When people have been contacting us we have sent them back screen shots showing that we have submitted their details. I am hopeful that this is an initial teething problem and it will run smoothly moving forward. Families might just need to check their junk/clutter boxes in case the email goes in there by mistake. Please email us if you have any further problems. A massive thank you to our admin team who have worked tirelessly getting all this sorted in a short time frame.

**Support for parents:** The NHS Mental Health Support Team have produced a newsletter for parents with lots of helpful suggestions and resources. I have included this as a separate attachment.

**Information for Key Workers and vulnerable families using Queensway childcare:** As per my email last Friday, there is still time to book places for the first week back after the Easter holidays. Please email us by Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April so I can ensure I have enough staff on the rota.

Please don't hesitate to get in contact if you need any further clarification or support.

Keep well and stay safe,

Mrs Sarah Horbury Jakeman  
Head Teacher