



## **Head Teacher's News in Brief**

- Congratulations to Miss Hugo who got married over October half term. She is now Mrs Hugo-Schofield and we wish her much love and happiness.
- We welcomed two new Teaching Assistants to Queensway in November: Miss Cuthbert to Year 4 and Miss Lloyd to Year 5. We wish them both much luck as they settle into their new roles.
- Our new club timetable for Term 3 has now been published, so if you would like your child to attend any of the clubs, then please book online using our new clubs system on: <https://app.parentpay.com/>
- Christmas is always a busy period, which is why we don't set English and Maths homework, but please try to ensure you are still reading with your child as much as possible over the holiday as this is such a crucial skill.
- A huge thank you to everyone who has supported our Christmas events this year. Lots of work goes on behind the scenes to make them such enjoyable events, so a big thank you to all the parents and staff for your contributions.
- Thank you to all the families who supported the book fair in November. It generated £510.38 in commission for us to spend on books in school.
- Children in Need also raised £293.09. Children had a wonderful day in their spotty outfits. The School Council did a great job organising fun events throughout the day.
- A date for your diaries - the next round of parent evenings will be Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March 3-7pm and Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March 3-5:30pm. More information will follow nearer the time.
- Instead of class assemblies on Friday afternoons in Term 3 and 4, the children will be taking part in 'buddy reading' - where older children buddy up with younger children to share a book with the aim of increasing reading for pleasure.
- Just a polite reminder that if you need to speak to staff about an issue then please do so in a respectful manner as a very small minority of parents have been verbally abusive to staff in front of their child and other children. This is not appropriate. If your child reports something at home that causes you some concern, come and ask staff calmly to explain the situation so you have the full picture.
- The roofing project has now finished so thank you for your patience whilst this work was happening. It is nice to have the site looking normal again!
- If your child needs a warm winter coat and/or a hat, scarf and gloves then we have been kindly donated some so please ask at the school office or Debbie if you need anything. We also have some Christmas jumpers.

- As always we have been amazed at the level of parental support for our shared lessons this term. It really does mean a lot to the children to see their parents/carers coming in to share their life in school. Please find below the timetable for Terms 3 and 4:

CLASS	DATE	TIME	SUBJECT
Owls- KG	24.1.24	8:45-9:45am	Art
	25.3.24	2-3pm	Understanding the World
Doves- AP/ST	23.1.24	8:45-9:45am	Art
	28.3.24	2-3pm	Understanding the World
1MD	5.2.24	8:45-9:45	Art
	22.3.24	2-3pm	Forest School
1LL/SB	2.2.24	2-3pm	Art
	19.3.24	8:45-9:45am	Forest School
2FL	1.2.24	2-3pm	DT
	6.3.24	8:45-9:45am	History
2MJ	31.1.24	2-3pm	DT
	5.3.24	8:45-9:45am	History
3EHS	31.1.24	8:45-9:45am	Science
	6.3.24	2-3pm	DT
3KR/RE	1.2.24	8:45-9:45am	Science
	5.3.24	2-3pm	DT
4MR	7.2.24	8:45 -9:45am	Maths
	4.3.24	2-3pm	Geography
4AJP	6.2.24	8:45-9:45am	Maths
	8.3.24	2-3pm	Geography
5PH	29.1.24	8:45-9:45am	Science
	5.3.24	2-3pm	History (with PE link)
5ASN	30.1.24	8:45-9:45am	Science
	8.3.24	2-3pm	History (with PE link)
6LH	7.2.24	2-3pm	Science
	26.3.24	8:45-9:45am	Maths
6LR	8.2.24	2-3pm	Science
	27.3.24	8:45-9.45	Maths

## Class News

### Nursery

I am not sure where this term has gone, it has whizzed by!!!! We started it with filling the room with lots of paint and glitter to celebrate Halloween, Bonfire night and Diwali. The children became very inquisitive whilst exploring the different pumpkins and enjoyed using their fine and gross motor skills to hammer in tees, before investigating the 'slimy' inside! I was amazed at how quickly the firework poem was learnt by all; I hope you enjoyed watching their well-rehearsed performance.

All the children have made a positive start to their phonics learning. Together, listening out for different sounds in the environment and singing much loved nursery rhymes as well as learning some new ones too. Some of our children are really tuning in and beginning to hear the first sound in words. They especially enjoy it when I ask them to do something with my robot voice, (can you h-o-p, j-u-m-p?)

Our favourite stories this term have been the Gruffalo and the Tiger That Came To Tea. We have been on autumn walks around the school during our Welly Wednesday sessions, crunching through various shaped leaves hunting for the different animals, we are sure we spotted the Gruffalo behind the big trees! We have used our mark making skills to design missing tiger posters and to write tea party invitations, which was finished with our very own snack tea party!

We are becoming good experts as we focus on our counting ensuring we take our time when pointing to different objects and using our fingers to support us throughout Maths carpet sessions and throughout busy bird time too!

Youth Activators have been a huge hit with us all on a Tuesday as we have learnt different active games to keep us fit and healthy. Taking the dragons eggs and fruit salad have been the firm favourite and we look forward to continuing this throughout Term 3.

I could not be prouder of how much the children have all grown in confidence and independence and cannot wait for them to flourish even more after the Christmas break.

I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas and look forward to seeing you in the New Year.



### Reception Classes

We have had a fantastic term in Reception and the children are really amazing us everyday with their learning.

We had so much fun this term in singing assembly learning our two fantastic Christmas songs 'Christmas Stocking' and 'Five little Elves' and we were so proud to finish the term with our Christmas shared lessons. Thank you to all of the parents who came and joined us for these sessions. To add to the Christmas excitement, we were lucky enough to watch the Nativity show and the carol concert with the rest of the school.



It was the turn of the Doves to go to Forest School this term. The children have had a great time exploring the Forest School, finding fairy doors, climbing trees and doing lots of digging. We particularly enjoyed a week of bug hunting where we found some very wiggly worms!



A highlight for us all this term was celebrating National Nursery Rhyme week. We sang 5 songs throughout the week and I am sure you all enjoyed renditions of: Jack and Jill, Hickory, Dickory Dock, Head, shoulders knees and toes, Row, row, row your boat and The wheels on the bus!

Have a wonderful Christmas Reception Classes!

### Year 1

We have had a brilliant Term 2! All children have continued to work hard, take responsibility for their learning, and have started to work independently. We have loved learning about Florence Nightingale in our History topic and especially enjoyed our Florence workshop. Thank you so much to all the adults for helping fund this workshop.

In English we have been busy learning about how to write a recount, instructions, and a non-fiction report. We especially enjoyed creating our own instructions on 'How to Catch a Dragon'. During all our writing we have been continuing to work hard on using finger spaces, full stops and capital letters but also applying our phonic knowledge. Please ask us about our writing and encourage us to keep writing at home!

In Maths we have been learning about different measurements including capacity, volume, length, and mass. We have loved all our practical lessons getting to use our knowledge to real life scenarios e.g. measuring the lengths of different objects in our classroom. Finally, we have been building our knowledge of adding and subtracting numbers and refreshing ourselves on different methods we can use e.g. number lines and part-whole models. Thank you so much to all the adults who came to our Maths shared lesson. We enjoyed showing off our knowledge to you and enjoying lots of Maths activities together.

We have loved continuing to learn about materials in Science. We carried out investigations with the bottle people we had made, experimenting with different materials to keep them warm and dry on their adventures. We also have enjoyed learning about Autumn and Winter this term and how we can spot the signs of each season starting.

1MD have great fun in their Forest School sessions this term and I know 1SB/LL are excited to return to Forest School next term.

It is great to see so many children have now received their bronze and silver certificate for reading! Please remember to sign in their reading diary when they have read at home so the children can gain their stars and certificates.

Please make sure you are logging on to Google Classroom to see updates and reminders of what is happening in our class. Wishing you all a wonderful Christmas!



## Year 2

What a wonderful term we have had in Year 2! All the children have been continuing to work super hard and have thoroughly enjoyed our Term 2 topics. We have been finding out lots about the famous 'Gunpowder Plot' in History and we even got to ask Guy Fawkes some questions via Google Classroom!

In Art, we have been exploring mixing colours and the work by Wassily Kandinsky. The children enjoyed using the primary colours to mix paint to create a wonderful final piece based on his work.

In English, the children have been exploring lots of different genres of writing including poems, factual writing, and narratives. They have enjoyed innovating the story 'The Papaya that Spoke' and lots of the children used adjectives to describe the characters and setting. They also created some lovely writing based on the poem 'If I had Wings'. We have been blown away by the children's imagination and this is starting to show in their creative writing!

In Maths, we have been looking at 2D and 3D shapes. We have been exploring their different properties and grouping them based on these. The children also enjoyed learning about length and they estimated and measured accurately. The children have been very enthusiastic about Timetable Rockstars this term. Remember to keep playing at home and collecting those coins!

In our Science lessons, the children have been looking at animals including humans and the changes that happen to animals as they get older. They have also been exploring healthy eating and they enjoyed their 'food' Science workshop with Science Oxford last week. Thank you to all the adults who attended our shared lesson. We hope you had a great time!

It is good to see that so many children are now receiving their silver certificate for reading 5 times a week for 10 weeks. Please remember to sign in their reading diary when they have read at home so the children can gain their stars and certificates.

Finally, what a wonderful end to Term 2 we had with our Nativity performance. We were so proud of all the Year 2 children for their performance and we hope that you enjoyed seeing the children on stage. Have a lovely Christmas break and we are so excited to see you all again in Term 3. Happy New Year!

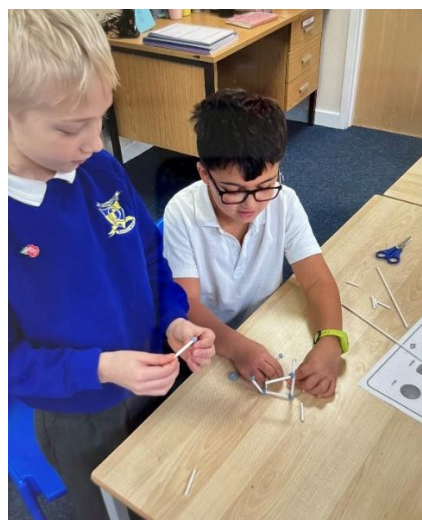
## Year 3

This term in Year 3, we have continued to enjoy learning about the Stone Age and the children are now knowledgeable and have had practice using a variety of different sources. They particularly enjoyed learning about the Stone Age settlement of Skara Brae in the Orkney Islands during our Geography lessons.

In English, we started the term by reading a variety of legends and identifying the features of them. We then learned to retell George and the Dragon and the children did an amazing job of using words and actions. We then created our own legend plans based on George and the Dragon and the children wrote a character description using adjectives and similes to describe their hero character. The children also wrote setting

descriptions using imaginative words to paint a picture in the reader's mind. We have also used our knowledge of the Stone Age to write non-chronological report full of interesting facts. We then finished the term by writing some Stone Age house adverts using rhetorical questions and appealing language to sell some rather unappealing houses!

In Maths, we have been learning about fractions, measurement and shape. The children have worked hard to understand the new concepts and have enjoyed our hands on, practical lessons which have helped them to learn important skills. The children particularly enjoyed making 3D shapes and learning about the properties of them.



In Science we have been learning about Rocks, Fossils and Soils. The children enjoyed being 'Rock Detectives' and carried out investigations to try to find out the different rock types. We also investigated different types of soil and the children enjoyed digging two soil samples to investigate which held water the best.

3KR/RE have also been busy down at Forest School. The children have become master den builders, potion makers and bug hunters. It has been great to see the children get stuck in and watch their friendships grow outside of the classroom.



## **Year 4**

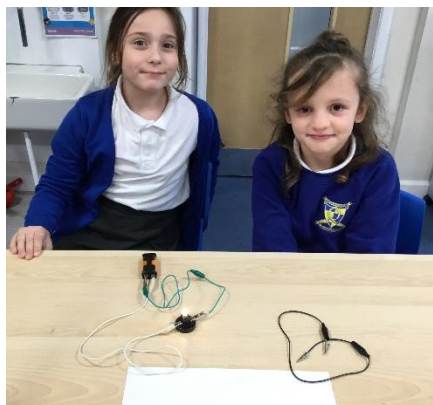
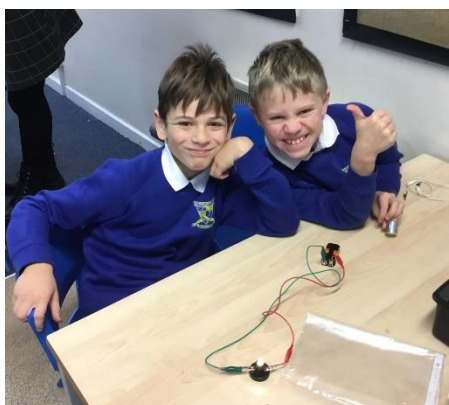
What another busy and exciting term! We have been very impressed with the children's enthusiasm towards our topics and their willingness to try and challenge themselves in all curriculum areas.

In English this term, we have worked hard on our cross-curricular writing, composing persuasive texts about a class pet, researching, and writing non-chronological reports about sound and designing safety posters to ensure people know about the dangers around electricity. The children's knowledge and understanding of the technical vocabulary has been great!

As part of our Geography topic this term, the children have learnt all about maps and how these are created before using this knowledge to create their own map of Queensway School.

In DT, the children have also worked hard to use their learning from last term all about Anglo Saxon jewellery and the designs used, to create their own Anglo Saxon inspired brooch out of clay.

In Science, the children have been learning all about electricity and have thought carefully about what is needed to create a simple circuit along with which materials allow electricity to pass through and which do not.



This term, we have also had the fantastic opportunity to take part in creating our very own school song. The children thoroughly enjoyed mixing sounds together to create their own backing tracks which were then used to create a whole school song. We are all looking forward to hearing once it is completed!



We would like to wish everybody a very Merry Christmas. Stay safe and have fun Year 4.

## **Year 5**

In Year 5, the children have had another great term and have really impressed us with their knowledge and enthusiasm for the different topics!

This term, the children have continued to explore World War II and the impact this had on the lives of British civilians. They have created some excellent non-chronological reports about women in war, have written their own persuasive leaflets focusing on the importance of Anderson shelters, as well as designed and created their own propaganda posters and fact files about the Windrush generation! They have become very knowledgeable about the topic and have lots of information to share.

As part of the topic, the children also visited the Banbury Museum and explored the impact of World War II in Banbury. They had lots of opportunities to handle real artefacts, understand the different roles taken during the

war, as well as explore the museum, developing their understanding of the critical role Banbury played! The children thoroughly enjoyed dressing up and getting hands-on with the artefacts.



In DT, the children continued to apply their understanding of History, designing, and creating their very own Anderson shelters. The children worked hard to include the key aspects of an Anderson shelter, with many considering how to fasten and protect their shelters from impact.

We would like to wish everybody a very Merry Christmas. Stay safe and have fun Year 5.

## Year 6

Wow! What a fantastic term we have had in Year 6. The children have worked extremely hard and are trying to build their resilience in order to be prepared for the challenges ahead.

Our learning has been filled with interesting topics that range from the Mayan Civilisation to Charles Darwin's theory of evolution and inheritance. The children have really enjoyed having the chance to research Charles Darwin and investigate how his theory of evolution changed modern Science. They have completely emersed themselves in the topic by writing biographies about Darwin and have been examining fossils through the eyes of a palaeontologist; they were even able to take part in STEM Science live lesson which linked to their Science learning about classification.

In History, the children have been discovering what life was like for the Mayan Civilisation. They have studied artefacts, images and written information to learn about their architecture, culture and religious beliefs. We were even lucky enough to have a special visitor who talked to the children about their visit to Chichén Itzá and showed first-hand images of the Mayan ruins.

Some children had the privilege of attending The Geography Game Show at Tudor Hall. The morning was filled with exciting opportunities to develop our geographical knowledge and skills. We learnt about the locations of key areas around the world, and how to remember these, and we even won a few prizes!

To finish the busy term, the children performed in the Queensway Carol Concert and did themselves proud. They worked hard to learn the songs and the final performance was a joy to watch. We hope that the children have a restful winter break and come back ready to begin the new year of learning.

## After School Club

Wow! What a fantastic term we have had at After School Club. We have enjoyed watching lots of puppet shows and short plays that the children have put on for us as well as making some funky music on the iPads. As December came around, so did Christmas; music has been filling our hall as well as all the singing and dancing. Our children have been getting into the Christmas spirit whilst decorating some delicious Christmas biscuits! Thank you all for bringing smiles to our faces each day.

Please remember that there is **no after school club on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December.**

Wishing you a lovely Christmas and we look forward to seeing you back again in the New Year!



## Debbie's Diary

Please click the link below to see if you may be eligible for help from the Household Support Fund:

<https://www.cherwell.gov.uk/cost-of-living>

Please contact me if you need a foodbank voucher [Hsclw@queensway.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:Hsclw@queensway.oxon.sch.uk) or Citizens Advice on 0808 278 7906. The foodbanks are open as follows.

### **Monday:**

10am to 12 noon - St Josephs Church, Edmunds Road, Banbury OX16 0PP

### **Tuesday:**

10am to 12 noon - The Peoples Church, Horsefair, Banbury OX16 0AH

### **Wednesday:**

10am to 12 noon - St Josephs Church, Edmunds Road, Banbury OX16 0PP

### **Thursday Morning:**

10am to 12noon - St Francis Church, Highlands, Banbury OX16 1FA

### **Thursday Evening:**

6pm to 8pm - St Francis Church, Highlands, Banbury OX16 1FA

### **\*\* Christmas & New Year Opening Times \*\***

**Monday 25th December (CLOSED)**

**Tuesday 26th December (CLOSED)**

**Wednesday 27th (OPEN at St Josephs 10am-12 noon)**

**Thursday 28th (OPEN at St Francis 10am-12 noon & 6pm-8pm)**

**Monday 1st January (CLOSED)**

**Tuesday 2nd January (OPEN at The Peoples Church 10am-12 noon)**

A reminder to please label your child's clothing/coats/hats/shoes etc. Every term there is a mountain of clothing that can't be returned which is very costly to you.

Wishing you a very Happy Christmas!

## Sport

This term, we have been busy taking part in both indoor and outside sports, such as gymnastics and hockey. The children, as always, have showed the School Games values, getting stuck into each lesson. It has been lovely seeing some children demonstrating key skills in class assemblies. A handful of children have also been welcomed into Mr Mawn's multi-skills club, where they have been exploring new games and fun ways to be active.

Some of our Year 5 and 6 children were able to take part in an orienteering event at Wykham Park Academy. They had a fun-filled morning focusing on teamwork and map reading skills. The children thoroughly enjoyed this event.

After our successful 1<sup>st</sup> round, 2 of our children made it through to the Cross-Country finals at Sibford School, where over 100 children raced! Well done to the following children: Amari, Year 5 and Alfie, Year 5. The boys did themselves and our school proud! Mrs Walker was especially pleased by how much feedback our children got for supporting other children in races and demonstrating our Queensway School values on the day of the event.



## PTA

Term 2 has been very busy! The PTA have been involved in the seasonal festivities from providing refreshments at the superb Nativity and beautiful Carol Concert, to the delightful end of term discos. We were even lucky enough to spend the evening fundraising with the Round Table and the “main man” on his tractor!



The huge amount of £670 raised from the “5ps in a bottle” event (Term 1) will be put towards new playground benches and we invite you to “watch this space” for further fundraising events in Terms 3 and 4.

Additional support for the PTA is a necessity if we are to consider larger scale events in the future, therefore, please send your details to [PTA@Queensway.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:PTA@Queensway.oxon.sch.uk) to add your name to the support list.

The next meeting is on 15<sup>th</sup> January and includes the AGM - please see the email sent 4<sup>th</sup> December for more information.

Best regards  
Queensway PTA

## School Council

We had lots of fun raising money for Children in Need and everyone across the school took part in a range of activities throughout the week. The biggest challenge of the week was the squats and ‘bearpees’, where children were encouraged to reach over 1000 in a week. A huge well done to Robins class, Miss Dineen’s class and Miss Hoffman’s class for successfully completing the task and winning the challenge for each phase.

In addition, the children had the opportunity to rename Pudsey. There were some very interesting contributions, including Cuddles, Brownie and Bernard, but the overall winner was Oscar in Year 1, who guessed the name of Puddles. Finally, children got very creative in designing a friend for Pudsey. The School Council had a very hard time in deciding the winner, however it went to Melissa in Year 4, who created a very bright, colourful and Queensway inspired friend. A huge well done to everyone who participated in the event. We raised a total of £293.09 which will be donated to support families across the UK.



## Community Albums Project

As part of our work to renew our Artsmark award, we have been working with a charity called Community Albums on an exciting song writing project. We were fortunate enough to be able to secure funding from the Better Lives Through Culture Fund through Cherwell District Council. Community Albums visited first on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November and worked with each class in Year 4 and 5 to compose the backing track for the school song. The children enjoyed and learned a lot from using composition software and experimenting with layering different sounds and rhythms.

Community Albums then went away and used a selection of the children's ideas to create a backing track. They came back on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> November and worked with Year 5 and 6 to create the lyrics for our school song. During these sessions the children showed a real understanding of what it meant to be a member of Queensway School and worked closely with our values statement of 'Rise to the challenge, to be the best I can be'.

Community Albums then returned on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> November and carried out recording sessions with individuals, groups of children and the whole school to record our school song. The children enjoyed and learned a lot from the project. We are looking forward to sharing the finished song with everyone when we return in January.



## Term 3 Dates

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December – **School closed**

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January – **School re-opens**

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February – **Last day of Term 3**

