



# QUEENSWAY SCHOOL

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Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2020

Dear Parents,

I hope you are all keeping well and getting into a routine at home during this tricky time. Things are getting into a rhythm here at school. The staff rota is going well, with everyone doing their bit. We have had an average of 9 children per day this week, as families are following Government advice and only using childcare at school as an absolute last resort. Like you all, the daily Government briefing from Downing Street has become a 'must' in our house, but then we are trying not to watch the news throughout the day too much as it can become all-consuming and worrying.

I have been taking part in lots of virtual meetings this week using video calls- this is very unusual for us at school but I think we are slowly getting our heads around it. Our Senior Leadership Team meeting was very exciting once we all managed to see and hear each other remotely!

The teachers have been working hard completing their end of term assessments for all the children, taking part in moderation with the Senior Leadership Team remotely. We have also been updating the Long Term Curriculum plan ready for September. Like the children, I give teachers a weekly work plan.

I wanted to give a big shout out to Steve who celebrated a 'significant' birthday this week.....Happy Birthday! He did have the day off but I'm sure we can help him celebrate when things get back to normal.

We have again been receiving lovely emails and letters from children and parents this week, expressing their gratitude for the efforts the school are making- these are really appreciated, thank you so much. I have been sharing these with staff which they have found incredibly humbling and uplifting.

So some specific updates:

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

We have been spending a lot of time this week ensuring families who are in most in need within our school community have enough food to eat. Debbie has done an amazing job delivering packed lunches over the past 2 weeks as well as encouraging families to collect food from us. We have had far less food wasted this week as people have only ordered what they intend to collect which is great.

The admin team have worked tirelessly to get the food vouchers sorted for families in receipt of Free School Meals (FSM). I am now in a position to say that starting on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> April these families will be emailed an e-voucher to spend in a supermarket of their choice. Every Monday morning the admin team will remotely put £15 per child, per week onto the e-vouchers for families to spend on food for their children. Obviously we cannot police how this money is being spent, but it is intended to buy the children food and drink, so please spend it wisely. These families will be emailed separately. If your circumstances change and you think you may be eligible for FSM please email: [office.2057@queensway.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:office.2057@queensway.oxon.sch.uk)

**Home Learning:** As it is the Easter holidays for the next two weeks, teachers will not be posting weekly work plans on the class blogs but families might find it useful to use this time to explore some of the recommended websites on the class pages/blogs instead. We would also like to encourage all children to be reading with and to adults at home.

The next date for weekly work plans to be posted on the blogs will be Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April ready for the week commencing 20<sup>th</sup> April. Class blogs can be found via the class pages on the school website: <http://www.queensway.oxon.sch.uk/page/?title=Class+Pages&pid=32>

**Support for parents:** I understand the class WhatsApp groups are going well for parents. If you are a parent who is feeling disconnected from the other parents in your child's class please get in touch with us and we'll try and get you linked up.

**Standing in the Gap** is an Early Intervention mental health charity working with preschool and primary aged children. They help children and parents to manage emotions such as fear, anxiety and anger and grief. Our mission is to build emotional well-being in children by providing tools and support to children, families and professionals. They are holding a free virtual workshop on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> April – to book, see link:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/virtual-workshop-managing-the-wibbles-and-wobbles-of-anxiety-4-11-year-olds-tickets-101460787948?aff=erelexpmlt>

**Easter opening:** We are closing over the two week Easter holiday. We only had a couple of families who needed the odd day, so it wasn't a viable provision. We have given these families a Local Authority email address to contact for alternative emergency provision.

**Easter creations:** There is still time to send us photos of your Easter Creations on the Queensway Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/Queensway-Primary-School-2343858765881705/>

**Information for Key Workers and vulnerable families using Queensway childcare:** As per the email sent on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April to particular families, please notify the school office by today at noon with your childcare requirements for the first week after Easter: [office.2057@queensway.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:office.2057@queensway.oxon.sch.uk) . We appreciate that your work patterns may change during the two week Easter period so please just email us if you need to make any changes, so we can amend our registers. We are obliged to ring families if you have booked childcare with us then do not show up under attendance and safeguarding regulations.

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

Keep well and don't eat too many chocolate eggs,

Mrs Sarah Horbury Jakeman  
Head Teacher