

# QUEENSWAY



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Termly Newsletter, Issue 113: May 2022

## Head Teacher's News in Brief

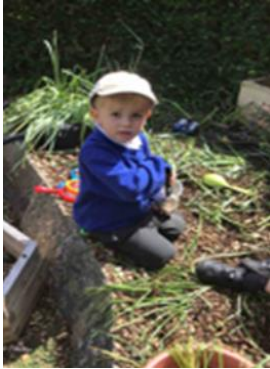
- Congratulations to Mrs Lock who is expecting a baby in early October. We are all delighted for her. Mrs Lock will return in September for a short while before taking maternity leave.
- For those families new to Queensway, we always re-shuffle the classes each academic year. Teachers use their professional judgement based on what they know of the children within school. We cannot base our decisions on parental requests. We will always make the decision on what is right for the children and the cohort overall. Even if children are in the opposite class to someone they really want to be with, remember, they still have break and lunch times together as a year group. Thank you for your co-operation.
- After half term, some children in Year 6 may be allowed to walk to and from school without their parents. Parents have to sign a contract to state they take full responsibility and if there are any reported incidents of poor behaviour en route, this privilege will be removed. Year 6 children cannot be responsible for bringing their younger siblings to school.
- We have been told that several parents have been issued with parking tickets around school, particularly those parking on the central reservation. Please leave home in good time so that you can park a little further away from the school if necessary.
- Following Mr Robinson leaving at the start of this term, we welcome two new After School Club workers; Miss Vessey and Ms Dai. I know they will certainly be kept busy at ASC and the team will make them very welcome.
- Starting after half term there may be occasions when there will be an assistance dog on site supporting Esme in Year 1. It is really important that people do not fuss the dog who will be doing an important job 'working.' The dog is called Jeff.
- A huge thank you to everyone who visited the book fair last week. The commission raised helps to fund books for our own school library. We hope the children enjoy their new books.
- It is wonderful to say that we have some off-site trips happening now. Reception visited Warriner Farm, Year 2 visited the Mosque and Year 6 are going to Horley. For families who haven't been at Queensway other than during the Covid era, we set a limit for the total cost of trips at £20 per year, so parents can plan accordingly. This use to be £30, but we reduced it in response to harder economic times. Our policy is that if we don't receive sufficient funds to cover trips then we may have to cancel the trip, so please if you can, pay in the set timescale so we can make this decision. A massive thank you to those parents who offered to pay extra to cover costs. The children had an amazing time.
- We are delighted to say that our Reception will be full in September with a waiting list. Our Nursery only has 5 places left for the whole of next academic year, and we suspect these places will be taken within the next few weeks. Our After School Club now has up to 65 children attending on some nights. A big thank you to all our families who recommend Queensway. We feel very lucky to have such a supportive community.

## Class News

### Nursery

Term 5 has flown by and I can't believe that some of our children only have one more term in Nursery. All our new starters have settled in brilliantly, quickly learning the routine and making new friends. It has been a great term, packed full of lots of wonderful learning.

The children have enjoyed our topic 'Marvellous Minibeasts' and have loved having the opportunity to hunt for bugs in our garden and during Forest School sessions. The arrival of real caterpillars in our classroom was very exciting and it has been amazing to watch them get bigger day by day. The children had some great discussions about how they themselves have changed since they were babies and what



helps them to grow. We loved looking at photographs of us all as babies and trying to guess who was in the picture.

We have been working hard with our mark making and pencil control and it has been wonderful to see how the children's drawings and name writing have really taken off. In maths sessions we have been practising matching numerals to groups of objects, subitising and comparing the heights and lengths of different objects.

All the children have worked so hard with their phonics, trying really hard to hear and say initial sounds in words and some children have even starting to orally blend and segment simple words. We have explored lots of wonderful quality texts including 'The very Hungry Caterpillar' 'Super Worm' and 'Snail Trail.



We hope everybody has a great half term break and look forward to welcoming the children back for the beginning of Term 6.

*Mrs Marsh*

### Reception Classes

Wow this term has gone so quickly! We have had such a lovely time, enjoying our topic of Farm and Food. The highlight was our trip to Warriner School Farm, where we enjoyed meeting the pigs, cows, and goats.



We also enjoyed learning the stories of Jack and the Beanstalk and the Enormous Turnip, observing and growing plants.

In Maths we have been working on learning our number bonds to 10 off by heart as well as solving addition and subtraction problem.

Doves have continued to enjoy their weekly Forest School sessions, with minibeast hunts, nature crowns and making dens.

In PE we have been developing our throwing and catching skills and have enjoyed using these when playing games in Busy Birds outside.

*Mrs Guntrip, Mrs Pile and Mrs Tyler*

## **Year 1**

Wow, a short but hard-working term. The children have enjoyed our science work all about Plants. Look at how big our beans have grown!



They have also tried hard to write their own diaries and information pages about how plants grow. We have been outside creating some amazing sculptures based on the work by Andy Goldsworthy. The children have written their own amazing writing based on 'The Three Little Aliens'.

In Maths we have been continuing our work on addition and subtraction but have also moved onto position and direction. Can you show a clockwise half turn or a whole turn?

In Geography we have been travelling around different continents and have found out lots of interesting facts. We are really looking forward to the next term and our new topic 'Meet the Veggies'. We hope you have a lovely half term celebrating the Queen's Jubilee.

*Mrs Lawrence and Mr Grant*

## **Year 2**

Year 2 have had another busy term on our topic of 'Animals around the World' encompassing learning in Science on habitats, Art creating sculptures of animals and Geography on world climates. The children have thoroughly enjoyed their learning and have brought a lot of their own knowledge to share as well. We have also completed our KS1 SATs which the children did with determination, resilience, and a smile on their faces!

In English this term we have written descriptive pieces on habitats such as Polar, Rainforest, Desert and Urban habitats to link with our learning in Science and focused on using expanded noun phrases and similes. We explored poetry through a poem by Pie Corbett based on the seasons. We then wrote our own poems on trees in the 4 seasons. We have watched the silent film 'Bubbles' and innovated

it for the bubble to take us on our own adventure to a habitat from around the world. We have written instructions on how to play the games we learnt at the Wykham Park Multi-skills festival and a recount of our trip there too. It has been lovely to see the progress the children have made in their writing across this term including using conjunctions, time adverbs and words with contracted forms.

Our Maths learning this term has focused on consolidating written methods for addition and subtraction. We have looked at using a number line for addition and subtraction and the expanded method for addition. We have also recapped drawing out the Diennes (tens and ones) to help us. We solved missing number problems by using the inverse when we could and have recapped on areas such as time, fractions, and number bonds. We looked at the area of position and direction and used vocabulary such as forwards, backwards, left, right, clockwise, anticlockwise and quarter, half and three-quarter turns.

On Thursday 28th April we went to the Multi-skills festival at Wykham Park, Year 2's first trip out of school. We had great fun and the children really demonstrated the Queensway values. They were very well behaved, polite and listened well to the young leaders who were supporting the games.

On Thursday 26th May the children went to the Mosque to support our learning on Islam in RE. The children thoroughly enjoyed bringing their learning to life and learning more about the religion. It has been lovely for members of the class to share their religion and their beliefs with the rest of their friends.

We would like to thank all our Year 2 families for their continued support. We hope you all enjoy your break, and we are looking forward to welcoming you back for our final term in Year 2!

*Miss Hancock and Mrs Riches*

## **Year 3**

What another enjoyable term we have had and my goodness, hasn't it whizzed by! We have written fantastic adventure stories based on the picture book 'Tuesday' by David Weisner. We have had flying pigs and floating monkeys over Banbury at night-time, when something magical happens on a certain day of the week. The children have worked really hard on developing their layout of speech and setting descriptions and have written some brilliant stories.



In Maths, we have completed a lot of practical weighing and reading scales to find the capacity of containers and the volume of liquids they hold. We became much better at estimating in a short space of time.



In History, we have been learning all about British monarchs of the past, especially the Tudor king, Henry 8th. We have been studying portraits of the royal family and looking at the work of Isabella Peachey and Hans Holbein. We will now be creating our own portraits inspired by these.

The children have really enjoyed learning all about the human skeleton and are brilliant at naming the different bones and joints. They have written non-chronological reports after completing great scientific research.

We look forward to our up-coming Jubilee celebrations in June, as well as creating our Planting in the Park designs very soon. We wish you a restful break, full of sunshine hopefully!

*Mrs Lock and Mrs Thomas*

#### **Year 4**

Year 4 have had a fantastic term and have continued to work hard! We have had lots of fun learning all about the Ancient Egyptians and the Digestive System!

The children are exploring the Ancient Egyptians and have been incredibly creative! They have enjoyed looking at the story, Egyptian Cinderella and comparing this to other versions that they know. They have also enjoyed doing their own research on the Ancient Egyptians, which has really built on their understanding. I know they are full of factual information and are always willing to share and discover more!

The children have also spent time developing their computing skills, looking at creating a

persuasive brochure, promoting Egypt as a holiday destination. They have looked closely at adding in backgrounds, copying, and pasting images from the Internet, using different styles of font, and ensuring the brochure is bold and eye catching.

We are currently designing and making our own Egyptian sculptures in small groups, using junk modelling. The children have had to think hard about how they will make their sculptures look like the real thing and have had to choose the material carefully. We are really looking forward to getting them paper machéd, before painting after half term. We have been very impressed with their teamwork and communication and cannot wait to see the final results.

We would like to wish you all an enjoyable and fun filled break!

*Miss Ross and Miss Hoffman*

#### **Year 5**

Year 5 have had a very busy term and have really impressed us with how resilient they have been. They have worked extremely hard, and this can be seen in the amazing work that they have produced.

This term we have been learning all about Extreme Earth: volcanoes, earthquakes, and tsunamis. We have learnt about the structure of the Earth and why these natural disasters occur in certain places on our planet. We have also imagined what it would have been like to experience the infamous Mt Vesuvius eruption, in Pompeii, in 79AD and used this to inspire our writing.

The children have impressed us with their investigations into air resistance and gravity. They have been leading their own investigations and practising how to be 'real scientists in the field', writing predictions, considering different variables, recording their results, and thinking about what their findings mean.

We finished the term with our Design and Technology Day where the children thoroughly enjoyed creating their moving toys. There were fantastic examples of cam mechanisms in action, and we are sure that the children will be eager to share their creations with you.

*Miss Penniston and Miss Hollidge*

## **Year 6**

What a busy term! Firstly, we would like to say a huge well done to all of the Year 6 pupils for their determination and resilience during their SATs. The children blew us away with their focus and dedication to their revision in the build up to their tests and they were calm and mature over the course of the week. You are all AMAZING! We would also like to thank all our lovely families for their support over the year, particularly this term.

In our writing lessons, we have explored journalistic writing to create a newspaper report based on the book 'The Island'. The children thought carefully about their tone, use of adventurous vocabulary and their use of a range of punctuation. The children also used this text to write a description about the Stranger's arrival on the island; they used adjectives, adverbs, similes, and metaphors to create their writing.

In Maths, the children have been investigating shapes, including lines of symmetry, parallel and perpendicular lines and the properties of 2D and 3D shapes.

We have also begun to look at electricity in Science, Georgia O'Keeffe in Art, and life in the 21<sup>st</sup> century in History.

We have lots of exciting events and celebrations happening over the next term: a practical Science workshop from Oxford Museum; a trip to Horley Scout Camp for a fun day in the forest; end of year BBQ and lots more! The children will also have the opportunity to visit their secondary school for a transition day/s. Please ask if you are not sure when this is or if you would like more information.

We hope you have a lovely break, and we are looking forward to having you all back for your final term at Queensway!

*Mrs Newman and Miss Jeffries*

## **After School Club**

Once again, what a busy and fun term we have all enjoyed together!

Most of our afternoons have been spent in the wonderful sunshine. Our younger children were convinced they found many clues to a tiger living right here at Queensway in the bushes. They believed they found the tigers footprints, missing teeth and even a leaf-shaped tongue. I

must say they have no limits to their imaginations!

Parachute games, football and the adventure playground continue to be loved by all the children.

Some of our older children have taken on the task of making over their very own dolls house, painting different rooms, choosing textured wallpaper, created furniture and so much more. We are all looking forward to the finished article.

On a Tuesday afternoon we have been fortunate enough to have youth activators join us, Activities have included racing games, team building and dancing to music which has put a smile on our (hot and sweaty) faces!

Creativity continues to fill inside with a sprinkle of glitter and a dab of paint, paper aeroplane races, tissue paper flowers and huge boxes that are transformed into vehicles!

We would like to wish you all a restful half term and look forward to an excited, fun packed summer term!

*Miss Maskell*

## **Debbie's Diary**

Lots of exciting things happening this half term for the Jubilee celebrations:

Orinoco is running some Platinum Jubilee crown workshops in Castle Quay – check out their Facebook page.

Sunshine centre are holding a free community event on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> June 12-3pm in Princess Diana Park. Call 01295 276769.

Banbury Museum have lots of craft and other activities running – booking required-  
<https://www.banburymuseum.org/whats-on/>

Please contact me if you need to access the **Foodbank** by contacting the office or emailing me direct [Hsclw@queensway.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:Hsclw@queensway.oxon.sch.uk). Or you can contact CAB on 0300 330 9037 for a referral. You can also visit the Community Fridge in Merton Street, which is open daily, though times do vary.

Sunshine Centre now have Citizens Advice drop-in sessions on Mondays & Wednesdays 10-12 – no need to book.

*Debbie*

## **Sport**

Term 5 has been another great term, watching children explore not only new sports but also new skills. Children have enjoyed mostly getting outside and experiencing some of our summer sports, such as athletics and cricket.



This term, we have finally been able to join in with some of the competitions and festivals outside of Queensway. At the start of this term, the whole of Year 2 went on a multi skills festival, where they practised key skills, which encouraged them to challenge themselves in a new environment.

Later in the term, 10 Year 4 children represented Queensway as they competed against other schools at Wykham Park Academy, in a game of rounders.

The intent of this event was for children to develop their sport specific skills and to engage them in a fun and competitive activity at their own level. Not only did they show key School Games values, but they also managed to come 2<sup>nd</sup> in their division.



Sports Council have also had another busy term, meeting to set new challenges (coming soon!) as well as judging the 'Healthy Selfies' submitted at the end of last term. If you haven't already seen on the school website, Winny Zammett and Mr Grant won the competition with their fabulous selfies, enjoying some exercise.

## **Wellbeing Warriors**

The wellbeing warriors have been meeting regularly to discuss ideas to support and promote positive mental health around the school. They are looking forward to working together as a group to further promote their role in school and have recently completed a pupil survey with children in KS2 to identify our first focus areas. So far, they have supported

children on the playground who have asked for support and who have found friendships challenging, they have also supported their peers in homework clubs. We look forward to updating you on our work in the next newsletter.

## **PTA**

We are still not up and running as a committee. Which means that sadly there will not be any PTA events in Term 6 also, hopefully this will change for the next school year. In the meantime, if you wanted to help the school raise additional funds, we would highly recommend you look at the Queensway school Lottery, run by Cherwell Council. It's quick, easy and you could even win some money! Just follow this link for further information.

<https://www.cherwellottery.co.uk/support/queensway-school-pta>

Wishing you all a lovely and hopefully sunny May half term.

*Queensway PTA*

## **Governors**

I write the Governor section for this term's newsletter with great delight! With Covid restrictions lifted, I have finally had the opportunity to be onsite, speaking with teachers and performing the role of a parent governor – it's not quite the same on Teams!

A noticeable change has also been the return of school trips. It's truly wonderful to see these back in the timetable with the children being able to fulfil their education outside of the school grounds.

With Spring finally opening its arms with warm sunshine and the end of term 5 approaching (how did that go so quickly??), the Governing Board hopes this newsletter finds you all well and as ever, thanks all the staff at Queensway School for the safe, nurturing environment we chose to send our children to.

## **Term 4 Dates**

30<sup>th</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2022 – **School Closed**  
6<sup>th</sup> June 2022 – School re-opens  
24<sup>th</sup> June 2022 – Lieu Bank Holiday  
27<sup>th</sup> June 2022 – Inset Day  
21<sup>st</sup> July 2022 – Last day of Term 6

