

QUEENSWAY



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Termly Newsletter, Issue 112: April 2022

Head Teacher's News

I am sure many of you will know from 1st April 2022 Covid guidance changed. It is as follows:

- adults with the symptoms of a respiratory infection, and who have a high temperature or feel unwell, should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people until they feel well enough to resume normal activities and they no longer have a high temperature
- children and young people who are unwell and have a high temperature should stay at home and avoid contact with other people. They can go back to school, college or childcare when they no longer have a high temperature, and they are well enough to attend
- adults with a positive COVID-19 test result should try to stay at home and avoid contact with other people for 5 days, which is when they are most infectious. For children and young people aged 18 and under, the advice will be 3 days
- regular asymptomatic testing is no longer recommended in any education or childcare setting, including in SEND, alternative provision, and children's social care settings.

This new era is about taking '*personal responsibility*' so I urge all parents to ensure our community is kept safe and well, by following the above guidance. Many schools across Oxfordshire have had to revert to remote learning this term due to high staff absence so in order to prevent this at Queensway, everyone must play their part.

Parents are still required to notify school by 9am if their child is not going to be in school, giving full details of the reason for absence.

When we return after Easter, we will be stopping the one-way entrance and exit points. A huge thank you to all those parents who complied with this and challenged those that didn't! We still do ask however that only one parent comes on site where possible and that pathways are kept free of congestion. Talking of congestion, we have received complaints that some parents are still standing in the school's entrance points smoking and vaping, as well as parking on the central reservation on Queensway. Please stop as we work hard to a) respect our neighbours surrounding the school and b) your child's safety is paramount to us.

We hope that next term we can start taking part in sporting events with other schools, making the most of the summer weather. We are also busy planning some local trips, end of year events as well as introducing a couple more clubs. We even aim to have some parental shared lessons in Term 6..... remember those days! Parents in Nursery, Reception and Year 1 have never experienced Queensway life outside of Covid restrictions - parents would be welcomed into a lesson with their child every term as well as watching 3 assemblies per year. Parent partnership on site was always fantastic and something we have really missed.

For those parents that were able to attend the last round of parents evening, it was great to see you actually in the building and we hope it gave you all an opportunity to look at your child's work as well as speak with teachers. We don't have parents' evenings in the summer term, as you will be given the annual report instead in July. But of course, please just catch the teachers to make an appointment if you need to speak with them at any point.

Some families will be purchasing summer uniform over Easter so here is a reminder what it is:

SUMMER

Children may choose to wear grey knee-length shorts, or blue and white checked knee-length dresses.

Optional: Royal blue or grey headscarf. No leggings to be worn.

Of course, the winter uniform can still be worn:

WINTER

Trousers/skirt - Traditional style grey trousers. Jeans and tracksuit bottoms are not appropriate. Grey knee-length skirt or pinafore.

Shirt - White polo shirt, white shirt, or blouse

Sweatshirt - Royal blue jumper or cardigan or Queensway sweatshirt.

Socks - Plain, dark coloured or white socks or grey opaque tights

Footwear - Plain, black shoes or trainers for outside. Plain black plimsolls for indoors. No high heeled shoes please.

I wish you all a restful Easter and thank you for your on-going support,

Mrs Sarah Horbury-Jakeman

Class News

Nursery

It has been another busy and exciting term in Nursery. The children have loved learning about Spring and there was great excitement when our baby chicks started to hatch. We have explored a range of texts both fiction and non-fiction and our favourite this term was 'Little Red Riding Hood.'



Lots of time has been spent outside: keeping active, learning new games, and looking for signs of spring. All of us had a good time joining in with the World Book Day and Comic Relief activities and the children loved seeing each other and their teachers dressed up.

We have continued to work hard at developing our independence; putting on our coats all by ourselves and finding our own things to go home at the end of the day. During Busy Birds time we have been practising using sand timers to help us with our sharing and turn taking.

It was fantastic to end the term with science week. The children all enjoyed taking part in a range of scientific investigations. We thought carefully about what would happen to the Gingerbread Man if he had decided to swim across the river and then carried out our own investigation to see what happens when we put a gingernut biscuit in water. The children made some great predictions and observations. A group of children came up with the fantastic idea of wrapping the gingernut biscuit in a plastic suit to stop it getting soggy. We tried this idea out and it actually worked!

We are so proud of all the children's learning this term. Happy Easter everybody! We look forward to welcoming you back after the break.



Mrs Marsh

Reception Classes

We have had such a busy term! The children have been travelling to lots of different places with our topic of Journeys; we have been on ships, trains, and planes! This has been lots of fun and we particularly enjoyed the story of the magic train ride. We got very creative and came up with our own places to visit. Some children went to cake land, some went to dinosaur land and we even had a chocolate land too!

The Doves started forest school this term and have really enjoyed exploring the area! They have created their own stickmen, explored the



trees, searched for bugs, created amazing recipes in the mud kitchen and used the logs to help them with their Train Ride story!

A particular highlight this term though was definitely the Living Eggs and the chicks! We were all obsessed with them. We had 10 chicks in total, and we absolutely loved watching them hatch, start to walk around, but our favourite part was having fluffy cuddles with the chicks. We even named them too.



We hope you have a wonderful Easter holiday, and we cannot wait to return next term for lots more fun and learning!

Mrs Guntrip, Mrs Pile and Mrs Tyler

Year 1

We've had an exciting term in Year One. We have produced some amazing pieces of writing. We read 'The Secret of Black Rock' by Joe-Todd Stanton and wrote our own stories based on the book. We then looked at the story 'Where's My Teddy?' by Jez Alborough and wrote our stories based on losing a toy.

In Maths, we have counted to and across 100, recognised the place value of 2 digit numbers, found fractions of shape and number and revised addition and subtraction to 20. We have used practical equipment to represent

numbers, for example we found shapes around the classroom and folded them into halves. We have been working hard to answer our next steps and challenge ourselves.

In History, we have been learning about Florence Nightingale. We have looked at her life and how she changed hospitals. We wrote an information text about Florence and used conjunctions (joining words) to add information. The children's reports were clear and full of exciting facts.

In DT, we learnt about playgrounds. In groups, the children designed and made playgrounds using junk modelling resources. The children amazed us with their inventive ideas and thoughtful decisions during the design process.

Finally, the children took part in the National Science week by investigating the question: 'Are there more animals in the shade of a tree than an open space?'. Our children are natural explorers and made insightful predictions and conclusions.

Well done everyone,

Mrs Lawrence and Mr Grant

Year 2

What another fantastic term we have had in Year 2! Lots of hard work and fun too.

In English we have looked at a variety of genres including story writing, instructions, and non-chronological reports. At the beginning of term, we looked at the story 'The First Hippo on the Moon' and wrote character and setting descriptions. We then innovated the story to write our own versions, changing the destination that the hippos went to and how they got there. Linked to our rocket making in DT, we wrote a clear set of instructions which included imperative verbs. We have also written two non-chronological reports based on our historical figures this term Neil Armstrong and Christopher Columbus.

In Maths this term we have looked at the operations of Multiplication and Division through the use of arrays and grouping. We have looked at the inverse relationship between them and used this to solve missing number problems. We have also looked at fractions for the first time and have found $\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{4}$ and $\frac{1}{3}$, of shapes and amounts. We found fractions of

numbers using the bar model, thinking about how many equal parts we need to find. We have also been practising number skills such as our doubles, halves, number bonds and recalling our times tables facts. These skills need to be practised all of the time along with telling the time.

The Year 2 children have loved the topic of Space and Exploration this term. We have learnt all about the astronaut Christopher Armstrong and the explorer Christopher Columbus. We have made rockets in DT and learnt the countries and capitals of the UK, the seven continents and the five oceans. Lots of knowledge!

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 Term 5.

Mrs Hancock and Mrs Bibi

Year 3

What a fun-filled term we have had! Over the last term, the children have been working super hard in all areas. First, we started off by writing some fantastic shape poems. We created poems about guinea pigs, a cheeky rabbit, a ferocious panther, and an eagle.

We visited the Three Little Pigs and completely immersed ourselves into the story by writing a playscript before taking a trip to visit Little Red Riding Hood and exploring how the wolf had been misunderstood all along, by writing a diary entry.

In DT, we have also made some fantastic Roman bread, thinking about the different steps needed to make it and why the Roman's created busts as a way to honour their important members of society. In RE, we experienced what it would be like to be part of a Holi festival, the Hindu festival of colour. The children drew themselves and used powdered paint or blow paint art to cover their paper selves in as many different colours.

We have been impressed by the tennis skills the children have been developing in PE with some fantastic rallies to show your determination and competitive side.

Most of all, we have been moved to happy tears by your amazing Red Nose Day talent show. It



was lovely to see so many talents within our classrooms. We hope you all have a wonderful Easter holiday. Get lots of rest and we look forward to seeing you in the new term,

where we will look into what life was like as a Monarch.



Mrs Lock and Mrs Thomas

Year 4

What a fantastic term Year 4! We have been absolutely blown away by the enthusiasm and positivity that you have all shown throughout this term. Your constant desire to challenge yourselves is inspiring!

In English, we began the term by looking at the text 'The Lost Happy Endings' and the children have produced some incredible work, inspired by this text. They have really thought about the description they are trying to create for their readers and have wowed us with their vocabulary and wonderful ideas! We then took a trip to the circus for our final focus text of the term, 'Leon and the place between'. After some great discussions around the text and the language used, the children have thoroughly enjoyed writing a diary entry in character and writing letters to the author. They are definitely authors in the making!

In Maths, we have continued to develop lots of on-going skills and have introduced some new learning about decimals! The children have been fantastic at identifying and discussing the parts of a number, using the mathematical language. They have worked incredibly hard and have shown great understanding, through their explanations.

In Science this term, we have been learning all about teeth. We began our topic by creating our own set of teeth using clay, thinking carefully about the function of each tooth. We have also thoroughly enjoyed Science Week this term, where we worked in teams to create our own toothpaste and test its properties against other leading brands. We discovered that Colgate was the best toothpaste for a variety of reasons. The Science of Magic show and Chick Visits were a definite highlight of the week too!

Our artwork has focused on the artist Frida Kahlo and the children have begun to work towards creating their own self-portrait inspired by her style. We cannot wait to see and share the final pieces on our class blogs!

Have a wonderful Easter holiday and enjoy a well-earned rest!

Miss Ross and Miss Hoffman

Year 5

This term, the children have really enjoyed immersing themselves further into our Ancient Greece topic. The children have been busy learning all about daily life in Ancient Greece as well as researching and making their own Greek flatbreads.

It was great to start the term off with World Book Day, where we had a magical 'Harry Potter' themed day. The children made potions as well as designing their own houses.



In English, children have developed their formal tone and non-fiction writing, creating their own non-chronological reports about Greek daily life, as well as researching and describing the Ancient Greek lyre (a musical instrument). To help the children with this, they even created and played their own Greek lyres.

In maths, we have been focusing on developing our measurement skills, where children have been busy estimating, measuring, and converting between different units of measure. We have been really impressed with their use of STEM sentences this term and their written explanations.

In science, children have been learning all about 'Earth and Space' and have enjoyed creating leaflets about the first moon landing. Some children were also fortunate enough to go to Tudor Hall for a science filled day. As you can see below, the children thoroughly enjoyed themselves and couldn't wait to tell us about it.



We have also been lucky enough to have Science week in school, where the children had to plan their own investigation, thinking about their question and method, before then conducting their experiment and collecting their results. We were extremely impressed with the children's presentations, where they discussed their findings and conclusions, making it very difficult to crown our winners.

We are incredibly proud of Year 5's hard work this term and their enthusiasm. We would like to wish you all a restful Easter break.

Miss Penniston and Miss Hollidge

Year 6

Year 6 have been working incredibly hard this term and we have been so impressed with their attitude to their studies, including their revision at home and school for the upcoming SATS.



The children loved taking part in a mock trial in court and took their roles of witnesses, lawyers and members of the jury very seriously. This also led to some fantastic writing of discussion texts based on the question 'Should Goldilocks be punished for her crimes?'

The children also thoroughly enjoyed Science Week and amazed us with their maturity and cooperation when working in their small groups



to plan and carry out their own experiments. They also decided how they were doing to record and represent their data and created group presentations – so very grown up!

Of course, the highlights of the week were the visit to see the chicks that have been in school and the planetarium visit, which was so interesting and inspiring for all of the children.



There will be a meeting for parents on Wednesday 27th April, where we will be able to give you an overview of SATS, go through the timetable and will be able to answer any questions you may have.

We hope you have a lovely Easter break, hopefully in the sunshine and we are looking forward to welcoming you back in term 5!



Mrs Newman and Miss Jeffries

Afterschool club

The sunshine has come out to play for most of this term for us, so we have been able to explore outside, much to everyone's delight! Allowing the children to climb and enjoy the play equipment, playing football and basketball in the MUGA, we even made daisy chains. Snack and picnic teatime took us through to the warm evenings, Spring has finally arrived!

The children have also enjoyed a variety of weekly themes, with tailored activities involving sticking, glitter, paints which celebrate events such as Shrove Tuesday, St. David's Day Comic relief and St. Patrick's Day to name a few.

We have enjoyed different dance routines whilst using the iPads, some very impressive moves and shapes were made on our dance floor!

To finish the term off nicely we filled the hall with Easter cheer, for our loved ones we created, cotton wool chicks, bright tissue paper chicks and some very questionable Easter Egg flavour pictures.

We are sorry to be saying goodbye to Mrs. Hughes from the afterschool club but are delighted that we will still see her around the school. Thank you so much for your hard work.

Wishing you all a lovely and restful Easter break.

The After School Club Team

Debbie's Diary

Lots of exciting things happening at Banbury Museum during Easter Holidays – check out the website as booking is essential. <https://www.banburymuseum.org/>

Children's craft sessions happening at Orinocco in High St, Saturdays 10-3 – look out for more sessions too.

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

Please contact me if you need to access the **Foodbank** by contacting the office or emailing me direct 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.

Can I please remind parents and carers that the school doors open at 8.30am and close prompt at 8.40am (8.45am for Reception classes). This is a legal requirement to safeguard and register every child in school. Being late to school can embarrass your child and disrupt their class.

Arriving 5 minutes late for school every day = 3.4 days of a school year missed

Easter Holiday Activities @ The Oxfordshire Museum, Woodstock

Booking is advised for the workshops, but feel free to drop in! Children must be accompanied by an adult. They are all **FREE!**

www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/leisure-and-culture/museums/oxfordshire-museum/whats-oxfordshire-museum/childrens-activities

Sport Council

This term Sports Council have been very busy promoting PE across the school. The children worked extremely hard creating a pupil voice questionnaire for Key Stage 1 and 2, to ensure children at Queensway feel like they can give their opinion on PE. The results were helpful and made Sports Council feel very proud of the confidence and enjoyment children have gained through PE.

Sports Council have also created Easter themed year group challenges, which the children have taken part in over the past two weeks. These ranges from 'Easter, Easter,

Easter bunny', a variation of 'Duck, Duck, Goose' to Easter relays.

Sports Council have also challenged both staff and children to take a 'Healthy Selfie', which is a photo of them being healthy or active in any way. At the start of next term, Sports Council will be announcing the winning adult and child and will even be giving away a prize

PE

This term, the children have yet again enjoyed taking part in new sports and gained new skills, with the help of Mr Mawn. Children have continued to demonstrate the School Games values, such as passion and determination.

This term, we have also been fortunate enough to have Youth Activators support us, both at lunch time, with years 3 and 4 and during the afternoon with Reception children. It has been wonderful to watch the children be as active as possible and enjoy learning new games, with smiles on their faces.

20 pupils from year 6 have also been trained as playground leaders this term, by Mr Mawn, and have already started to support younger children at lunch times, demonstrating their fantastic leadership skills.



PTA

We have still not come together as a committee to discuss future events, but I am sure as life slowly returns to normal, we will come together at some point in the future to start organising events once more. But until this time have you thought about taking part in the school Lottery? By taking part in the Queensway Cherwell Lottery, it helps us raise funds to purchase

additional equipment for the benefit of our children whilst at school. 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 Easter Holiday.

Queensway PTA

Chair of Governors

In last term's newsletter our new Chair of Governors described the role of Governor as being a "critical friend" to the school. This means the Governor's challenge and support the school to achieve the best for the pupils. To share how this works, the new school website is an example of Governors role in making positive changes to Queensway

The Governor's challenge strategic aims are clear, ensure statutory requirements are in place and help identify opportunities for improvement. It is also the Governor's role to support the school team, recognise the hard work and achievement as well as ensuring the resources are available to deliver the highest standards.

The new website is now a year old, and in these changing times we recognised that the school needed a much more robust website with a school's websites now being the biggest window into a school.

Our role was to challenge the existing status quo and compare Queensway's website with the best primary school websites around the country to see "What great looks like". We then had to be clear what we wanted to achieve with the new website for different users.

While The Head Teacher and her team ensure the website content reflects the school ethos and ambition, Governor's support this by ensuring the website is easy to use with a huge improvement in navigation, multidevice suitability, and fulfils the fourteen pages (yes fourteen!) of statutory government guidance, and of course making sure the resources of time and money were all available to deliver this.

For new families moving into the area looking for schools, we aim for their reaction to be "Wow, let's check out Queensway". For existing families, we aim for "I can find what I need in an engaging way". For OFSTED we aim for, "The website contains all the information required in a useable layout"

We want the website to be useful, interesting and a bit of fun. If you haven't had the chance, check out the drone footage in the video in "About Us", or check out what pupils in each year group will be studying in our 'Long Term Plan.'

A huge "Thank You" to all the Queensway team that continue to contribute to and manage the school's website.

Art Competition

Recently over 80 entries from Queensway were sent off as part of the Redrow Architots 'Design a house of the future' competition. It was great to see so many creative and fun designs. We are so excited to announce that 1 winner and 2 runners up were chosen from the fantastic entries that the Queensway children sent in. Molly Breeze (Year 4) was chosen as the main winner of the competition in Oxfordshire. Her design included a chocolate fountain and flowers with CCTV cameras inside! She will be invited to visit one of the Redrow developments and also wins £150 Amazon vouchers. As Molly won, the school also received £100 Amazon vouchers. The two runners up were Chase Hopkins (Year 4) and Sebastian Guntrip (Year 1), both of whom will receive £20 Amazon vouchers. Redrow will also be releasing an article which we will have to keep an eye out for in regional newspapers.

Thank You

We would also like to take this opportunity to say a very big thank you to our local Karcher office for donating a disinfection misting machine to the school to help with the cleaning in these challenging times.

Comic Relief

Thank you to all for your donations, we raised £230 to give to this worthy charity.

Term 5 Dates

11th - 22nd April 2022 – **School Closed**

25th April 2022 – School re-opens

27th May 2022 – Last day of Term 5

