

QUEENSWAY



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Termly Newsletter, Issue 106: February 2021

Head Teacher's News in Brief

What a crazy term this has been, but we have finally made it to half term. I am sure you are all looking forward to a well-deserved break from home schooling as much as the staff are in need of a break too. We won't be setting work at all over half term, but please continue to read with your child. Approximately 90% of children have been accessing our live lessons which is simply wonderful. The internet has been flaky this week, which has been a wider issue than just at Queensway but thank you to everyone for bearing with us.

I wanted to remind families that the message is still very much 'stay at home' where you can. We have seen an increase in requests to attend school, but most of our bubbles are at the point where they are at full capacity for the room sizes. Half term is not a milestone to return to school. Nothing has changed, we are still working towards March 8th for the whole school returning. I appreciate everyone is finding home schooling difficult, but we must follow Government advice and stay at home where possible to stop the spread of the virus. School cannot be used as respite I'm afraid.

Staff have been engaging in twice weekly lateral flow testing which has been going smoothly. This is yet another way of keeping our community safe by identifying asymptomatic people.

I wanted parents to have an early heads up that if the Government allow us to open on March 8th, this will only be for education and not Wrap Around Care. We will not consider this until after Easter as we need to focus on getting the children back and settled into lessons before we think about our wider services. Like I have previously outlined in my letters, the risk associated with Wrap Around Care is significant as we cannot replicate the bubbles the children are in during class time, so children and staff that attend Wrap Around Care mix across more than one bubble during

the course of the day. We will resume these services once we are satisfied the risk can be managed.

I hope you all have a safe half term break and manage to enjoy some lovely family time.

Class News

Nursery

What a term it has been! We have been so proud of all the Nursery children and all their amazing efforts with their home learning. This term we have explored lots of different stories about pets, big and small. We have talked about which animals make good pets and what different things we need to do to look after them.



In our Maths sessions we have been practising our counting, exploring 2D shapes and becoming familiar with dice patterns. Whilst in phonics we have been developing our awareness of rhyme and alliteration. The children have joined in with weekly online circle times and interactive stories and they have impressed us with their ability to engage so well with Google classroom.

We loved investigating ice on the snowy days and we have also been busy carrying out different experiments at home, using our observation skills to watch carefully and note what happens.



Mrs Marsh

Reception Classes

We have been so impressed with the children while they have been learning at home. Their attitude and effort in the work that they have done is fantastic!

This term we started by putting on our space boots and helmets and going on adventures to space. The children made some wonderful rockets and wrote lists of all the things they would take with them on their space adventures.



We finished the term with the story of The Gingerbread Man. The children thought of adjectives to describe their own gingerbread men and even had a go at baking some yummy ones of their own (we don't think that any escaped from their ovens!) The children also made some fantastic boats to help the gingerbread man cross the river.

In Maths, we have learned how to use different equipment to add and subtract as well as learning all about 3D shapes, length and positional language.

We have really enjoyed our live lessons together and the children are now amazing at using the mute button as well as the virtual hands up. We enjoyed a really fun live lesson for Children's Mental Health week where we thought about being brave with the story The Lion Inside. We then had fun learning how to draw a lion step by step.



We hope that the children enjoy a restful half term so that they are ready for some more adventures next term.

Mrs Tyler, Mrs Guntrip and Mrs Pile

Year 1

This term, even with many changes to our learning, the children have adapted and worked hard. We have been amazed by their dedication, enthusiasm, and flexibility during their period. Even with being at home the children have produced some brilliant writing and even managed to use their surroundings to help them with their Maths.

This term we have looked at a range of different topics. It has been lovely to hear everything about the children's pets as well as seeing their Noah's Ark models and Sock Goblins, something that lots of you took so much time to make. We are very thankful for all the support from parents this term, it has really helped us to still be able to set fun interesting activities for the children to complete at home.



We hope you all have a well-deserved rest over half term, and we look forward to the beginning of Term 4.

Miss Robinson and Mrs Lawrence

Year 2

We have been absolutely blown away with the wonderful enthusiasm that the children in Year 2 have shown over this different and challenging term. The children continue to make us incredibly proud of their resilience and fantastic attitude to learning. The children have produced some amazing work at home over the term and they have shown us how creative they all are! Well done to each one of you for your hard work!

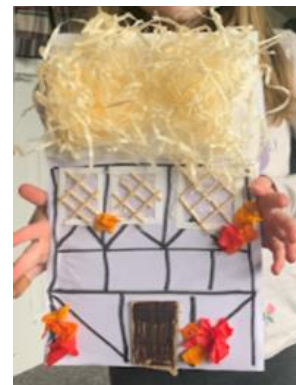
In English, the children have been busy learning all about 'The Great Fire of London'. We had a surprise visit from Samuel Pepys himself and he let us look at some old artefacts from 1666, including a quill, cheese, wine and of course his famous diary. The children then showed off with their fantastic

recounts, diary entries and poems all inspired by the Great Fire. The children also explored, learnt, and wrote the story of 'Very Little Red Riding Hood'. They have been working really hard to include adjectives, conjunctions, adverbs and a range of sentences to make their writing exciting and interesting. We have really enjoyed reading all the children's amazing writing that they have worked so hard on this term, well done!

In Maths, we covered lots of skills, as well as exploring new learning about money and time. The children also learnt and used new methods for addition and subtraction.

The children have amazed us with all their creative topic work that they have been working on during their independent topic sessions. They have wowed us with all their history knowledge about 'The Great Fire of London', especially their wonderful 1666 models and Sir Christopher Wren artwork! The children made us very hungry, when they showed us their cooking skills, during their DT project. They also explored everything about animals including humans in their Science lessons and topic work and the different features of churches in their RE learning.

We hope you all enjoyed your afternoon topic sessions, and we are already looking forward to the exciting topics which we will be planning for next term, so watch this space!



Over the course of the term, the children have continued to put an enormous smile on our faces each day with their positive and happy presence and they have made this term an absolute pleasure to be their teachers. We would also like to take this opportunity to say thank you to all our amazing Year 2 families, who continued to support their children during this different term! We are looking forward to seeing you all again after half term!

Have a peaceful, happy, and safe half term.

Miss Jeffries and Mrs Bibi

Year 3

What an exciting term! We started the term by writing our own Roman warning tales. The children enthusiastically learnt a story map and wowed us with their use of fronted adverbials. It was great to see such a range of ideas; some main characters were warned not to go into cities whilst others were warned not to leave their Roman forts. Next, we wrote letters from a Roman soldier's point of view. The children amazed us with their detailed research of life in the Roman army and their writing gave us a real sense of how tough life in the army could be. Most recently, we wrote forest setting descriptions and the children used expanded noun phrases (adjectives) to build a clear image in the reader's mind. We felt so relaxed reading your serene descriptions.

In Maths, the children have confidently learnt how to compare, add and subtract three digit numbers. They've learnt a variety of methods, including column method. We've been impressed with their ability to exchange! Then, we learnt how to multiply and divide, moving from repeated addition and subtraction to grid method and chunking. After developing these methods, we then focused on worded problems. With determination and focus, the children have become worded problem Kings and Queens and can all now use RUCSAC effectively to help solve problems.

Finally, the children have overwhelmed us with their stunning range of mosaics, Roman shields and collages. We've been particularly impressed with the way they designed their masterpieces and have loved seeing step-by-step photos showing this. As staff, we've been heart-warmingly astonished by the children's resilience and 'can do' attitude which encapsulates the Queensway motto: 'Rise to the challenge, to be the best I can be'. We

couldn't be prouder of you all and wish you all a restful half-term, you deserve it!



Miss Penniston & Mr Grant

Year 4

What else can we say about Year 4 this term except... Wow!!!!

You have all embraced home learning and live lessons brilliantly, whether at home or still in school. We have been so impressed by your amazing story writing this term, innovating the African story of Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters. Our guided reading discussions and whizzy Maths during the mornings have been challenging and fun. You have adapted so well!

Some of our favourite work this term has been the topic work you have created from the afternoons. It has really given the chance to show off your creative sides! From wonderful Picasso portraits, videos of French conversations, creating the water cycle in a bag to performing the story of Esther in your wonderful home-made masks, you have brought big smiles to our faces! We hope you all enjoyed your virtually Picasso Gallery video

at home, as well as the beautiful one assembled at school.



From week one when everyone had to try to learn all about Google Classrooms, your sheer effort and determination has been incredible. We are so proud of your behaviour and attitude in our live lessons, both at home and in school. You have been outstanding role-models, have risen to every challenge and have made us feel incredibly proud of each and every one of you!

Thank you for working so hard Year 4! You deserve a really good rest over half-term!

Miss Ross and Mrs Thomas

Year 5

This term we have been extremely proud of how resilient the children have been and how they have adapted to their everchanging environment. They have shown great levels of engagement in our live lessons and shown a keen interest in the things we have been learning about this term. Our new, exciting topics include researching the Ancient Greeks in both English and History and an exploration of Earth and Space in Science. We have been extremely impressed with the children and the outcomes of their myth writing in English. They have had such wonderful ideas and it has been a great opportunity for them to get stuck into some creative writing driven by the research they have been doing at home and in class.



As part of their topic project, the children were asked to research the Greek Olympics and make comparisons between the Olympic games that we have today. The children who are in school really enjoyed this research project and produced an amazing, innovative poster to present everything that they had learned.



This week, we have joined up with the residents at Chacombe Care Home for a Zoom call. The children enjoyed reading the residents an extract from their favourite books and talking about their favourite authors and genres. We also learnt that the residents and the children share a love of several timeless classics: Alice in Wonderland and Oliver Twist!



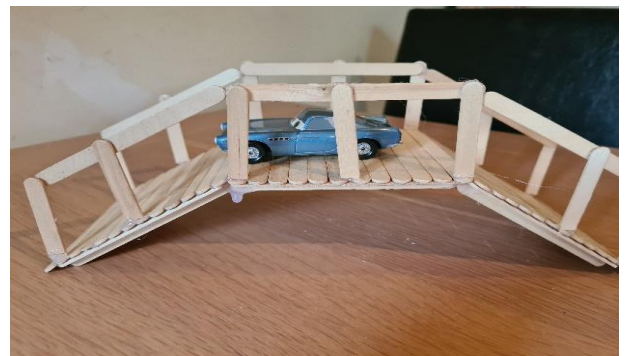
Miss Fowler and Miss Hollidge

Year 6

This term the children have all astounded us with their resilience and determination to continue learning. They have been working incredibly hard whether they have been at school or working from home. Everyone is joining online lessons and submitting high quality work – they truly are amazing!

They loved writing newspaper reports and poetry and have been working hard learning about percentages, fractions, and angles in Maths.

The children have really enjoyed working on their independent DT project where they researched and then made their own bridges – we were so impressed with their designs and had some amazing, completed bridges.



We hope you all have a restful half term and a well-earned break. We are looking forward to seeing you all after half term and can't wait until we are all back in the classroom together again.

Miss Hoffman and Mrs Newman

Debbie's Diary

This is a tricky time for children and parents. If you have any concerns, or a problem, please do not hesitate to ask for help.

Please contact me if you need to access the Foodbank by contacting the office or you can email me direct on

Hsclw@queensway.oxon.sch.uk.

You can also contact CAB on 0300 330 9037 for a referral or visit the Community Fridge in Merton street which is open 24/7.

*Debbie
Home School Community Link Worker*

PTA

Even though fund raising, and activities have been very much on the back burner for obvious reasons, we did manage to raise the following amount through our Christmas activities and the ongoing Cherwell lottery contributions.

- Christmas jumper day - £115.50
- Christmas Crafts - £216.67
- Cherwell Lottery - £134.00

This brings the PTA's current total to £1553.42. Thank you very much for your contributions. The money raised allows us to support the school with additional projects for our children's benefits.

The Cherwell Lottery is another way to support the school if you can. 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 safe and relaxing half term.

Queensway PTA

Chair of Governors

Governors would like to thank all staff for adapting so quickly to delivering lessons remotely this term. We know that there have been challenges along the way but you have managed to overcome them and still deliver lessons to children in their homes daily. We would also like to thank the parents for supporting the learning at home. We know that for many of you this has not been easy, and we appreciate all the efforts that you are making.

Daniela Cesco
Chair of Governors

Term 3 Dates

15th-19th February 2021 – **School Closed**

22nd February 2021 – School re-opens

31st March 2021 – Last day of Term 4

Please find below details of a free virtual Question and Answer event, which is being offered through the Oxfordshire Parent Carer Forum (OxPCF) and the Oxfordshire Family Support Network (OxFSN). The event is taking place on 24th February 2021, 12.15-1.30pm and the theme is:

'Challenging Behaviours
with Oxfordshire CAMHS'.

Information below includes details of how to register for the event.

Emily Brown (Inclusion Manager)



The poster is for a live Q&A event. At the top left is the logo for the Oxfordshire Parent Carers Forum (OxPCF) with the tagline 'The Voice of Parent Carers in Oxfordshire'. At the top right is the logo for the Oxfordshire Family Support Network (OxFSN). The main text reads: 'OxPCF and OxFSN invites you to their next live Q&A: CHALLENGING BEHAVIOURS WITH OXFORDSHIRE CAMHS'. Below this is an illustration of five stylized human figures in various colors (green, purple, blue, orange, red) standing in a line. Further down, it says: 'Oxfordshire CAMHS will provide an overview of strategies and approaches that may help with behaviours that families find challenging at home.' A green circle contains the text: 'This event will be supported by the Locality and Community Support Service.' The date and time are prominently displayed: '24th February 12.15pm - 1.30pm'. At the bottom, it says: 'REGISTER FOR YOUR FREE SPACE HERE: [HTTPS://OXPCFEVENTS.EVENTBRITE.CO.UK/](https://oxpcfevents.eventbrite.co.uk/)'. The bottom left corner has the website 'WWW.OXPCF.ORG.UK' and the bottom right corner has 'WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/OXPCF'.

