

QUEENSWAY



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Termly Newsletter, Issue 111: February 2022

Head Teacher's News in Brief

- We have been hit hard with Covid since returning from Christmas with over 15% of children testing positive, which is far greater than Term 1 and 2. Many of these were picked up through routine lateral flow testing on the back of a warn and inform letter. Thank you for all those families who are engaging in this process. We have also had staff shortages, with 10, 11, 12 staff off on some days. So, a massive thank you to our amazing staff team for their flexibility and determination to provide the best possible education and care for the children as well as managing to keep our before and after school provision open too.
- As you may have heard all schools have been given an additional bank holiday in lieu of the Queen's Jubilee. Therefore, we will be taking Friday 24th June as the additional bank holiday, meaning this will be a long weekend as the school is already closed on Monday 27th June for inset day. We hope you enjoy the long weekend which will break up term 6!
- We welcomed back to Queensway at the start of January Mrs Rich who some of you may remember from a few years ago when she worked in our Reception classes. Mrs Rich is now a Teaching Assistant working in Nursery. It is great to have her back.
- Miss Fowler welcomed her gorgeous baby girl, Hallie into the world on 1st February weighing a good 7lb 8oz. We wish Miss Fowler and her fiancé a healthy and happy start to family life.
- Sadly, we will be saying goodbye to Mrs Bibi at Easter. Mrs Bibi has been with us since qualifying as a teacher 6 years ago. During this time, she has worked in Key Stage One. We will miss her energy and smile but wish her well as

she spreads her wings beyond Queensway. We will keep you posted on her replacement.

- Three times a year each teacher meets with me and other leaders to go through every child in their class looking at how they are progressing and to discuss their provision so that they can flourish. What came up as a common theme during the last round was that there are quite a few children not reading at home which is impacting on their progress across the curriculum. This is incredibly worrying. I appreciate that life is busy for many families, but please make time each day to hear your child read and enjoy books together. We would really value your support.

Parent survey

Thank you to all the parents who responded to the annual survey. We had a 47% response rate which is more than previous years. Some highlights were:

- My child is happy at school (98% agreed)
- My child feels safe at school (99% agreed)
- The school has provided me with clear communication during the Covid-19 pandemic (99% agreed)
- I would recommend this school to another parent (97% agreed)

The area which scored the lowest was:

- The school lets me know how my child is doing

We understand that this has been more challenging through the pandemic as we haven't been able to do face to face parents evening whereby you can look through your child's books. We have also not been able to talk to parents after school as much in the classrooms, but rest assured, if you would like

to speak to your child's class teacher about how they are doing then please just ask. We would be more than happy to arrange an appropriate way of doing this, either a phone call, TEAMS video call or a face to face appointment by arrangement.

As always, thank you for your feedback. On that note, the next round of parent consultations will be face to face.

Class News

Nursery

What a term it has been! We have been so proud of all the Nursery children and all their amazing efforts. It has been lovely to welcome our new January starters and they have all settled in well. The children have been really engaged with this term's topic 'Vroom Vroom, things with wheels' and have loved exploring lots of different stories and non-fiction books about different vehicles. 'Duck in a truck' was one of our favourites and the children loved listening for the different rhyming words and then having a go at making our very own sticky squelchy mud out of cornflour and chocolate powder!

In our Maths sessions, we have been practising our counting, becoming familiar with dice patterns, and talking about patterns and length.

Whilst in Phonics we have been developing our awareness of rhyme and alliteration. The children have joined in with weekly circle times where we have been talking about how to keep safe in different situations.

The children are getting much more confident and articulate now to share their experiences from home.

It has been wonderful to share photographs on Evidence Me of the children's special outings out of school. All the class were fascinated to find out about Chinese New Year, and we had great fun making our own lanterns, having a go at using chopsticks, counting coins into lucky red envelopes, and performing a dragon dance.



We have kept very active exploring both our garden and the Reception garden, learnt some new physical games delivered by the Youth activators, enjoyed welly walks and forest school sessions. The children have also been working hard on developing their independence and practising putting on their coats all by themselves and collecting their own belongings to go home.



Mrs Marsh and Team

Reception Classes

We have had so much fun this term. The children have adored our topic of space and have learnt about rockets, astronauts, and the moon. We have read fiction books about bears and hippos going to the moon and done our own research into men and women who have travelled there. We loved acting like we were in a rocket, as well as creating our own experiment to make a rocket fly!

In Maths the children have wowed us with their deep understanding of numbers 5-10. They can show how these numbers can be made in different ways using real objects, diagrams, and maths equipment.

The children have been learning about different ways to stay safe at home, in school and when online.

We have enjoyed understanding more about bird migration, the seasons and the celebrations of Valentine's Day and Shrove Tuesday.

Forest school has continued to be a highlight of the Owl's week with bug hunting, making bird feeders and using trowels to safely dig being just a few of the top activities. The Doves are very excited to begin their sessions on Friday mornings after half term.

Have a lovely half term everyone and we look forward to seeing you and beginning our new topic of Journeys.

Mrs Guntrip, Mrs Pile and Mrs Tyler

Year 1

Yet again, it has been another hardworking term in Year 1. They have produced some amazing pieces of writing. We read 'I Want My Hat Back' by Jon Klassen and hunted for bear's hat on the field. We then wrote instructions for another character in the story (snake) to find his hat! We're now experts at writing instructions.

In Maths, we have revisited numbers 0-20 and are showing independence in our work. We can find one more/less, compare numbers and are beginning to recognise the value of each digit in a two-digit number, such as 13. The children have really enjoyed telling the time and can now tell time to the nearest hour and half an hour.

In History, we have been learning Banbury today and 100 years ago. We have compared old and new pictures and can make careful observations. In Art this term, we have learnt how to weave. We have made a huge under water scene decorated with woven fish. The children have learnt how to say what they like and don't like about their work.

We hope you like the Valentine's Day bag!

For Mental Health Awareness Week, the children set a personal goal and decorated a star.



Mrs Lawrence's class have really enjoyed Forest School during the last three terms, and I am sure Mr Grant's class will enjoy it when they start after half term.

Well done everyone and have a restful half-term break.

Mr Grant and Mrs Lawrence

Year 2

This term our topic has been The Great Fire of London. The children have really enjoyed learning about this historic event and have done some amazing writing based around it. In English we have written a recount about the fire, diaries from the perspective of Samuel Pepys and poetry based on the senses. We have been able to link our grammar work to our writing by writing in the past tense and using conjunctions such as *and*, *because*, *so*, *if* and *when*. For our poetry we have looked at similes e.g. the flames were as red as roses, the flames were like octopus arms.

The children looked at houses from the Tudor era and made their own buildings. We thought about what they were made of and learnt what 'wattle and daub' is – a very interesting (and smelly!) material. We then made our own 'Pudding Lane' on the grass and Steve the caretaker started our very own 'Fire of Queensway'! We watched as the fire spread and discussed why it spread so quickly. The children absolutely loved it and were then able to use their own experience when writing their diaries.

Maths this term has involved us learning new methods to add and subtract two 2-digit numbers. We then looked at time, a really tricky concept for some children. The children did really well during their learning, and most were working towards being able to tell the time to the nearest 5 minutes. We have also looked at money which the children have been amazing with. We have been really surprised with their money knowledge; another tricky concept due to most of us spending on plastic!

We have had another great term with Year 2 and are always amazed by their enthusiasm and perseverance when they are learning new concepts. Well done Year 2, keep up the hard work!

Mrs Hancock and Mrs Bibi

Year 3

Where did Term 3 go? We blinked and it whizzed by! Our children are loving our new topic - The Romans. To launch it, we started day one with designing and making our own Roman shields. We looked at the designs of the originals and what each symbol painted onto the front represented. The class then had a go at their own versions, and they looked fantastic!



We have learned all about Boudicca and her courage and the construction of Hadrian's Wall by using a range of historical sources to complete our research. The highlight of the term so far has been our recent Roman army bootcamp, in which we were able to complete drills such as: spear target practise, gladius sword duelling, marching, and turning on command and of course, the famous tortoise (testudo) formation.

Your children are very knowledgeable about life in the Roman army, as they have just completed lots of research in preparation for

their letter writing. They have taken on the role of being a soldier and writing home to describe the lives they now lead.



Finally, everyone is busy finishing their mosaics in our art lessons. We have looked at Roman and modern versions and created our own versions. Please sneak a peek through the windows where you drop off and pick up at the end of the day, to see our new Year 3 Art gallery. More pieces will be displayed soon!

Have a relaxing half term holiday,

Mrs Lock and Mrs Thomas

Year 4

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

You have all embraced this term's learning and new methods with enthusiasm and confidence. 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.

Some of our favourite work this term has been the topic work you have created from the afternoons. It has really given you the chance to show off your creative sides! From re-enacting the story of Purim, creative Viking dances, Viking purses and the start you have made on your chatbots!

We have been incredibly impressed with your mature and enthusiastic attitudes towards learning new written methods in Maths for multiplication and division as well as excellent improvements with your times tables. You have all continued to improve. It has been lovely to see you trying hard to apply your grammar learning across the genres that we have written this term, from narratives to non-chronological reports.

A huge well done for all those who participated in their performance poetry this term, you had really thought about your expression and intonation.

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

Miss Hoffman and Miss Ross

Year 5

This term we have been extremely proud of how resilient the children have been and how they have adapted to new challenges. They have shown great levels of engagement in our English lessons particularly and shown a keen interest in the things we have been learning about this term. Our new, exciting topics included 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 should be extremely proud. 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 the classroom. They are looking forward to sharing them with you.

As part of their research into Ancient Greek life, the children were asked to research the Ancient Greek Olympics and make comparisons between the Olympic games that we have today. It has been brilliant to link their learning with the Winter Olympics that are currently under way. On Friday 11th February, children from both Year 5 classes took to the Upper Junior Playground to take part of their very own 'Greek Style Olympic Games'. The event was

an immense success and all children enjoyed bringing their research to life.



We hope that the children have a well-earned rest over the half term break and are looking forward to continuing the exciting work when they return.

Miss Penniston and Miss Hollidge

Year 6

What a busy yet enjoyable term we have had in Year 6! We started this term by zooming back in time to the Industrial Revolution where we researched all about the living and working conditions workers faced during this time. The children used their history knowledge to step into the role of a child worker during the Industrial Revolution and they impressed us with their detailed diary entries.

In our Maths lessons, we have been revising the four operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division) as well as our fractions knowledge. The children also enjoyed estimating, measuring, and drawing angles, as well as understanding how to find the perimeter, area and volume of a shape. It has been wonderful to see the children grow in confidence with their Maths understanding and we know the children are going to continue to work hard on their Maths knowledge next term.

In Art, the children have enjoyed studying the work of William Morris. Firstly, the children discussed and recreated Morris' famous prints before moving on to creating their own nature inspired paintings which were reflected to create their own wallpaper sample. Here are just some of our fantastic artwork from this term!



Finally, in PE the children have been working hard in our fitness sessions to build up their strength and stamina when completing different forms of exercise. Furthermore, the children have enjoyed taking part in our hockey lessons, where they have participated in a range of team games to help develop their ball control as well as their general communication and teamwork skills.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the parents and carers for their continued support at home. It has been fantastic to see so many children working hard at home with revision and extra home learning!

Have a peaceful break and we are looking forward to welcoming you back next term.

Miss Jeffries and Mrs Newman

After School Club

We began the new year by filling our After-School Club with fun and laughter once more! Creating models with a variety of boxes, card, containers became an instant favourite activity, the energy and imagination blew us away! Magic back packs with coloured buttons to zap, superhero watches and bird feeders were among many wonderful creations.

Music filled the hall with different dance routines being rehearsed on a daily basis as well as the odd curtain being turned into designer outfits to accompany the dancing and singing!

Braving the cold afternoon wind, we have enjoyed some time outside playing tag and ball games. We are looking forward to more sunny and dry weather to enable us to do this more. Our competitive sides have seen us rise to

challenging games throughout the afternoons into the evening with card games, snooker, Yes/No game plus many more.

'Love in is the air' Valentine's Day saw us all become very busy creating cards, pictures and floating hearts with coloured tissue paper, sequins and of course a sprinkle of glitter too!

We would like to wish you all a restful half term and we look forward to seeing you all again next term

After School Club Team

Debbie's Diary

Lots of exciting things happening at Banbury Museum this half term, check out the website as booking is essential, please use this link: <https://www.banburymuseum.org/>

Children's craft sessions happening at Orinoco in High St Saturday 10-3 and Tuesday 10-12.

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 directly using the following email address 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.

Debbie

Sport

This term, the children have continued to focus on new sports, developing their skills, with the help of Mr Mawn. Children have worked both indoors and outdoors, developing their own abilities, working towards the School Games Values, such as teamwork and self-belief.

Children across the school have also been active in different ways, such as active maths lessons.

The children in year 5 took part in a 'Greek Olympics' linking to their history topic of 'Ancient Greece'. As you can see, they had a great time – particularly with the chariot racing!



PTA

Thank you to everyone who supported the PTA event 'Name the Teddy' that we ran last term. We raised £136.00 in total, which is a great amount, Thank you. We hope all your new additions to the family are settling in well!

We are still not fully operational as PTA yet, but one of the ways you can continue to support us and raise funds while we are unable to have events, is through the Cherwell Lottery, it's quick, easy and you could even win some money! Just follow this link for further information.

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

We wish you all a fabulous half term holiday. Fingers crossed the weather is kind to you all.

Queensway PTA

Chair of Governors

I am writing this term's Governor section of the newsletter to introduce myself as the new Chair of Governors. In doing so, I would like to recognise the exceptional commitment Daniela Cesco has given the Governing Body and school over the last seven years. Daniela has been an excellent Chair, supporting Sarah and the leadership Team and guiding fellow governors to ensure we are focusing on the most relevant aspects to ensure Queensway continues to be a strong school. It is great that Daniela continues to be a governor and we will

continue to benefit from her experience and approach.

One way of describing a Governing Body is as a 'critical friend' to the Head Teacher and senior leaders. We fulfil this role through the Leadership Team providing us with their reports and evaluations of how the school is doing, along with the evidence used to support their judgements. Governors review this information and probe further to support decision-making and future planning. Most recently this has included reviewing feedback from pupil and parent surveys. Governors recognised the hard work of all school staff and leaders to receive such positive feedback. Some highlights from the parent perspective questionnaires include;

- Over 98% of responses strongly agreed or agreed their child is happy at Queensway
- 99% of responses strongly agreed or agreed their feels safe at school
- Over 99% of responses strongly agreed or agreed that the school makes sure children are well behaved

There were also responses, that although very positive overall have led to school leaders considering what they can do further to improve. One example of this included perceptions around communication. Interestingly whilst 99% strongly agreed or agreed that there has been clear communication throughout the pandemic, 10% of responses indicated they disagree with 'the school lets me know how my child is doing'. Through our discussions with school leaders, we understand that there has been a lower take up of parents evening appointments during the pandemic, along the with virtual format making it more challenging to share workbooks and examples. These factors may have influenced some of the responses.

The responses from pupils mirrored the positive feedback from parents. 98% of responses agreed 'I enjoy school' and 99% agreed 'Adults help me do my best'. These responses capture the overall positive views the pupils have of their school.

Finally, we were delighted as a governing body that several parents put themselves forward for

election as a Parent Governor. We are pleased to confirm that Katie Dignan and Ronke Chalmers have been elected to join the Governing Body.

Wellbeing warriors

As a school, we have created a group for children to share their views and ideas about supporting the wellbeing of their peers, staff and visitors to our school community. The children, in year 3 to 6, wrote application letters explaining why they would like to join this group and I am pleased to say that 20 children have been selected to become wellbeing warriors!

Well done to Ella-May, Imi, Poppy, Eloise, Izzy, Georgina (Year 6), Chaynae, Lyra, Jacob, Charlie, Mali, Freya (Year 5), Cleo, Kiki, Anisah, Ashllyn (Year 4), Holly, Jack, Timmy, and Grace (Year 3).

This term, we have celebrated Children's Mental Health week where the children took part in lots of activities thinking about the theme 'growing together'. On Friday 11th, the children took part in 'dress to express' and raised £312 for Place 2 Be. Thank you for your donations!

Sports Council

As we announced in the previous newsletter, the children had been elected and were ready to start their new responsibilities. This term the children have begun to create their 'to do' list, thinking carefully about what they would like to achieve over the coming terms. They are very excited to announce some new challenges/activities but wanted to start by introducing themselves.

Unfortunately, Jarred was not able to attend the meeting, but we look forward to working with him.

Aimee is currently in Year 6 and her favourite sport is swimming. This is because she believes it gives her a chance to make new friends and she can take part in different competitions. She is part of the Banbury Swimming Club. Aimee is particularly excited to set new challenges for the school, in her new role.

Elle is also in Year 6 and enjoys swimming, as she is part of the Four Shires County swimming club. Elle said that swimming allows her to be competitive, whilst experiencing winning and losing, giving her a range of different experiences. Elle is most looking forward to helping more people to enjoy sports and improve at different sports.

Hamza is in Year 5 and his favourite sport is football, as he thoroughly enjoys playing it with his friends at school. Hamza is also very excited to have taken on this role and hopes to help more people enjoy being active.

Jonasz is in Year 5 and is a member at Banbury United football club. He enjoys football as he has to think with his brain and his body, as well as having more opportunities to communicate with new people. Jonasz is most excited to provide new activities for pupils at school

Gracie is also in Year 5 and particularly enjoys swimming and dance. Gracie is part of Danielle Buick Academy of Theatre Arts as she feels dance helps clear her mind and makes her feel happier. Gracie's goal of being part of Sports Council is to make more pupils active and allow them to enjoy sports/ physical activity

Message from Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group

Following the Government's announcement that all children aged 5 to 11 will be offered the COVID-19 vaccination, NHS partners across Oxfordshire are now planning the best way to deliver the vaccine to this age group. Please note that in line with government timelines this service may not be available until April 2022. We ask you to please refrain from contacting the NHS during this time and thank you for your patience. Further information will be available in due course.

Term 4 Dates

21st -25th February 2022 – **School Closed**

28th February 2022 – School re-opens

8th April 2022 – Last day of Term 4