



Head Teacher's News in Brief

- We welcome back Miss Taylor on 28th April following her maternity leave. She has certainly been busy as she is also getting married over Easter so will be called Mrs Guest on her return. We look forward to her coming back on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Miss Sharpe will continue as After School Club leader on Thursdays and Fridays. My thanks go to Ms Adams who has done a wonderful job as ASC leader the first half of the week.
- Thank you to all the parents who attended parents evening. I hope you found it useful in understanding how your child is doing in school, both academically and socially. It is never too late to make an appointment if you missed your appointment, just speak to the class teachers.
- Please find at the end of this newsletter the Term 5 shared lessons. For Term 6 we are holding a whole school exhibition (except for Year 2) for children to share with parents/carers their work. This will be on Tuesday 24th June 2-3pm. Year 2's exhibition will be on Thursday 26th June 2-3pm. The exhibition will be in your child's classroom, so if you have multiple children at school, there will be plenty of time to get around all classrooms.
- As the summer terms approach, please can I take this opportunity to remind families of our uniform policy, which covers summer clothes. If you require any further clarification please do not hesitate to speak with your class teacher.
- It has been lovely seeing families enjoying our new 'nest swing' after school on sunny days. Please can I ask that when parents are supervising they ask children to sit in the swing, which is the rule children are used to during break and lunch times.
- This term, as Breakfast Club has got very popular, we have recruited two teams of Breakfast Club helpers from Years 5 and 6. They are doing a great job of taking orders, delivering food and helping to clear away at the end of the session.

Class News

Nursery

We have had a very royal time in Nursery where we have built a kingdom for all the princesses, princes and dragons to live using junk modelling, bricks and lots of paint and glitter! The children enjoyed learning about different sized dragons and castles during our stories 'Zog' and 'George and the Dragon'. Maths continued through hiding Zogs different sized stars in the garden for all to explore and find. Brightly coloured crowns were made using tissue paper and sequins fit for royalty. Shields and swords were also created to fight off the enemies.

The children's imagination grew beautifully whilst dressing up for the daily encounter of a banquet of the finest food and drink. All the children were keen to learn our new songs of '5 Little Dragons' and 'There Was a Princess Long Ago'.

During Literacy, we made invitations and letters for the Palace with the children trying hard to sign them off with their own names independently. We will continue to practice so we become experts. An early breakfast in the castle grounds was enjoyed by everyone as we shared cereal, croissants and fresh fruit.

Our Welly Wednesday walks are still a firm favourite time of the week. We have been searching for signs of spring with our tick lists, spotting bright yellow daffodils, listening to birds singing and pointing at bird's nests. Flowers were brought inside and we became skilled in drawing and painting masterpieces of them. We looked and talked about different parts of the flower and could hear some initial sounds as we began to label them.

This has been a fantastic term with so much more to look forward to. We hope you have a lovely Easter break.



Reception

What a busy term we have had! We have been the envy of the school with the eggs hatching in our middle area. We spent hours watching the fluffy chicks and having cuddles with them when they had grown enough. The children have been using the chicks as inspiration for some amazing writing! We have been so impressed with how much they are using their Phonics sounds to write about their experiences.

The children loved having their grown-ups join them for our 'Design an Aeroplane' shared lesson. We loved



testing the different materials and experimenting with the designs! The children had such fun testing them in the garden afterwards!

Our texts in English this term have all been linked to the learning that we are doing around transport: Emma Jane's Aeroplane, The Magic Train Ride and Whatever Next have been some of the favourites that we have looked at. The children have been amazing at creating their own role play scenarios linked to the reading we have done.

The Doves have had lots of fun in Forest School exploring the different areas again and we know that the Owls are going to enjoy it just as much after Easter.

We hope you all have a lovely break over the holidays and look forward to seeing you for Term 5.



Year 1

The children have been working very hard this term. They have impressed us with their amazing writing, especially their work on an information text based on Florence Nightingale using their knowledge from our History topic of how she impacted nursing and hospitals to this day. The children have learnt lots of facts; see if you can quiz them!

The children have been enjoying their Maths this term especially learning fractions including halves and quarters. We really enjoyed the shared lesson and the children demonstrating their Maths skills including reasoning and STEM sentences. Thank you to everyone who attended the shared lesson.

In DT we have been creating a park which has included children planning and evaluating through their process. The children had the opportunity to create their final piece with cardboard boxes and tubes. In Science we have had the opportunity to taste fruit which linked to our learning about our senses.

Additionally, the children had the opportunity to meet some chicks this term and watch some hatch. We hope you liked the pictures on Google Classroom.

1LM have enjoyed taking part in Forest School and have demonstrated problem solving and curiosity during these sessions.

We hope you all have a fantastic half term. Please remember to keep reading with your child at home.

Year 2

What a busy Term 4 we have had! The children have absolutely loved learning all about the Great Fire of London. We have explored the events of the fire, what life was like in London at the time and how people tried to stop the fire from spreading. In Art, we have loved exploring how London was rebuilt after the fire and

learning all about Sir Christopher Wren a famous architect that helped rebuild London. We have even had a chance to sketch St. Pauls' Cathedral using a range of different media. In English, the children have been writing some fantastic reports on the Great Fire of London, as well as some emotive and thoughtful diary entries, where they pretended they were alive at the time of the fire. We also enjoyed our Commando Joe mission this term where we had to try and save the animals, and the children wrote brilliant recounts about this exciting mission.

In Maths, the children have been enjoying learning about fractions. They loved creating their own fraction walls including halves, thirds and quarters. The children have become confident at spotting and finding fractions of amounts. We have also been taking time to recap some of our important addition and subtraction strategies, as well as our continuous recap of multiplication and division. Please still encourage the children to go on Times Tables Rockstar over the holidays so they can keep refreshing their multiplication and division skills.

In Science, the children carried out their own investigation into the effects of exercise on our bodies and which type of exercises will raise our heart rate the most. We have also been learning about food chains and life cycles. The children have become experts on the lifecycle of a frog as well as the different food chains animals are in.

Other highlights this term have been our fantastic PE lessons, playing invasion games and making dances to a range of pieces of music. The children have also loved learning how to make spreadsheets on Purple Mash. Of course, we can't forget the amazing time we had with the chicks. We hope you have a lovely half-term and please keep encouraging your children to read.



Year 3

In English this term, we started by writing information texts using what we have learned about the Romans. The children worked hard to gather additional facts and used the features that we had learned about. We then moved on to looking at alternative versions of Fairy Tales and used them to create our own playscripts and diary entries. The children wrote some fabulous diary entries in the role of the Wolf from Little Red Riding Hood and used very creative ideas and language.

In Maths this term, we have been learning about fractions, time and money. The children enjoyed doing practical work to learn how to compare two fractions and add and subtract them. During our lessons on time, the children have worked really hard to be able to tell the time to the nearest 5 minutes and are now starting to notice the times in the school day.

In DT, the children have really enjoyed researching and designing their own Roman busts. Roman busts were made from clay during Roman times to show an important person's personality. The children were able to develop their sketching techniques through this learning. The children also really enjoyed making Roman shields during our shared lesson and loved using them to practise the tortoise formation.

In Science we have been learning about the human body. The children have learned the names of the main bones in the body and about different types of skeletons. We carried out an experiment to find out if people with longer legs jump further than people with shorter legs. The results surprised us as we found out that this isn't true.

We hope you all have a restful and fun Easter.

Year 4

This term Year 4 have certainly pushed themselves further and challenged themselves to be the best that they can be! What a busy and exciting term we've had! Yet again, the children have worked hard exploring their different topics whilst also taking part in lots of exciting activities.

We have not only been learning about our topics but have also focused on World Book Day and Comic Relief, as well as having our annual chick visit which the children loved. For World Book Day, the children looked fantastic and enjoyed exploring new book related activities, including the 'Booky and Footy Quiz' and 'The Masked Reader Quiz'.



For Comic Relief, we all dressed in red and children were given the opportunity to share their best jokes with the class and it's safe to say there were laughs all around.

In English this term, we have focused on two different books: 'The Lost Happy Endings' and 'The Night Box'. The children have loved exploring different genres of writing, both fiction and non-fiction. After being inspired by 'The Night Box', we wrote a non-chronological report about nocturnal animals and conducted research into this topic. The children had fun switching to formal writing and have enjoyed becoming experts on nocturnal animals.

In Maths the children have worked hard using their knowledge of fractions to explore decimals. This is something we will be continuing to focus on next term, but the children are already decimal experts.

Many of our topics this term, have allowed children to get creative and learn through practical activities. In Science, to extend the children's knowledge of the names and functions of the different types of teeth, they worked collaboratively to create their own models of the mouth using plasticine. In Art, the children have explored a range of techniques and have been able to use these effectively to create self-portraits, inspired by Frida Kahlo. All of the children thoroughly enjoyed these topics and showed such enthusiasm and passion towards their learning in these lessons.

We also ended the term with our Geography shared lesson, which allowed children to consolidate their knowledge on settlements. All of the children were extremely creative and were able to design and create fantastic early, modern day or futuristic settlements, using their knowledge from lessons to inspire them.



The children have all worked incredibly hard this term and we would like to wish you a wonderful Easter holiday. We can't wait to see you back ready to learn all about the Egyptians in Term 5!

Year 5

This term in Year 5 we have continued to explore the Ancient Greeks as part of our Geography and writing topics. The children have been developing their understanding of formal tone to write some fantastic informative non-fiction texts, including a non-chronological report about life in Ancient Greece and an explanation text about how a lyre (an Ancient Greek musical instrument) was played, after having the opportunity to make their own.

In Science, we have been learning about forces and motion by carrying out several experiments which has meant that the children have learnt all about how to work scientifically in groups by predicting, planning, investigating and concluding their findings. They also had an excellent opportunity to visit the newly hatched chicks!

Additionally, in Maths this term we have been measuring and calculating angles, as well as converting between measurements of length, weight, capacity and time. The children have worked incredibly hard to apply their knowledge of multiplication, division, addition and subtraction to these questions, as well as how to multiply and divide by 10, 100 and 1,000.

Finally, outside of our lessons we have had the opportunity to visit Banbury Library where the children were able to learn about the library and choose their own book to bring back to school. At the end of term, we were treated by the children to a fantastic comedy show as part of Red Nose Day when they took to the front to share their best jokes!

We would like to wish everybody a happy Easter and a restful holiday period. Stay safe and have fun Year 5.

Year 6

What a busy term it has been in Year 6! The children have worked extremely hard and continue to build their knowledge and skills in preparation for the challenges ahead; they all deserve a well-earned break. This term, the children have loved learning about 'The Industrial Revolution' as part of their history lessons; they discovered what it was like to live and work during this period of time. The children continued to develop their historical knowledge when they wrote newspaper reports about The Rainhill Trials which took place in 1829. They thought carefully about their formal tone and use of punctuation when writing which was wonderful to see.

In Science, the children have been learning all about 'The Circulatory System' and its function. As part of their learning, they made blood out of cereal, marshmallows and food colouring. They really enjoyed this hands-on demonstration, and it allowed them to visualise the different components of blood. They are now experts of 'The Circulatory System' so please ask them to share their knowledge with you.

The children designed, made and evaluated their very own bridge as part of their DT learning this term. They began their topic by researching the different types of bridges before they picked the style of bridge they would make out of a range of resources. All of the bridges looked wonderful.

Every Friday the Year 6 children have been visiting some of the younger children in the school to share a book as part of Queensway's Buddy Reading. It has been lovely to witness the children reading to the younger children and acting as a role model for the younger pupils to look up to.

The Cherwell Theatre Company came and visited us last week to deliver a workshop all about peer-pressure and healthy relationships. The children engaged well with this session and were able to apply their knowledge and own experiences when acting as part of a group.

We wish you a restful break and look forward to seeing the children when we come back, ready for another term of hard work.

After School Club

This term we have had a lot of fun and laughter in After School Club. We enjoyed taking part in our annual World Book Day catwalk, alongside the much-loved musical statues. Paper airplane competitions, group games, and fun quiz afternoons have filled our hall this term.

We have been busy crafting in the run up to Easter, making Easter cards, colouring, decorations, and taking part in a chick hunt.

The children have loved being able to play outside and make the most of the first bit of sunshine. We even managed to have our first picnic of the year!

We hope you have a lovely and restful Easter break.

School Council

This term we enjoyed coming together as a school to support Red Nose Day. It was lovely to see everyone arriving in their red attire and hearing laughter filling the classrooms where the children told jokes, performed a funny dance or sketch. During lunchtime, our School Council visited different year groups to hear jokes and admire their clothing and captured some funny photos too! Together we raised £266.09.

Sport

This term has been very busy with lots of children experiencing new sporting events and taster sessions. Alongside these extra events, children have been taking part in a range of different sports both in indoor and outdoor PE lessons. It has been brilliant to see so many children bringing in sporting achievements from outside of school to share in assembly, as well as seeing many children earning the player of the week certificates.

Some children from Year 5 and 6 attended a new bowls event at Woodgreen Leisure Centre. They enjoyed trying the new sport and taking part in a selection of games. The children were praised for their kindness and determination during the event when learning these new skills.



This term, children from Year 3 and 4 took part in Cricket taster sessions delivered by Chance2Shine cricket. They played exciting cricket-based games and learnt new skills during these sessions. Children felt confident and happy during these sessions and it was a brilliant positive experience.

Well done to our Hotshots Basketball team who secured their place in the county final after another tournament win this weekend.

Debbie's Diary

Uniform plea Please name your child's uniform. So much is now 'lost property' and unable to be returned to you. Please check just inside the doors of Year 3 if you are missing any items of clothing as there is a huge pile, including coats, PE bags and shoes.

Easter Holiday Fun Check out: <https://www.banburymuseum.org/whats-on/>

Orinoco, High Street Banbury have lots of craft sessions planned during the Easter holidays. Pop in and have a look. Even if there isn't a planned session on, their craft table is always open for anyone to access for very little/no cost.

Governor's Update

As you may re-call, a parent survey was completed last term. In recent times staff have also completed a survey about what it is like to work at Queensway and these results were shared at our meeting in March 2025. Just like the parent survey the results were very positive and it is clear that staff really enjoy working at Queensway School.

The Governing Body continue to share the school leadership's concern at both the level of absence and also the level of persistent absence, with the latter being defined as missing 10% of school - one day every fortnight. Whilst this is a national issue, it is clear that it is also a very real challenge at Queensway School. The Governors will do all we can to support school leaders in reducing the levels of absence in the summer term and of course in future academic years.

For me, one of the best parts of being a Governor is volunteering in a class on a regular basis. I am always deeply impressed by the behaviour of the children and the knowledge and skill of all the adults working in school. Without exception, every week the atmosphere is calm and friendly with a real focus on providing the highest quality of learning for the children.

Matthew Ingall
Chair of Governors

PTA news

QUIZ NIGHT 2025

Hopefully you have seen the posters and letter about the Quiz Night. Come and join us for this fun evening with family and friends, answering general knowledge questions and enjoy a delicious homemade curry. All profit from the night will go directly towards the fundraising pot to replace the adventure playground. If you want to join in the fun but don't have a team of 6 just buy a ticket and the PTA will allocate you a team. All 15 tables must be filled to ensure the event goes ahead!

EASTER COMPETITION

All children will be coming home with a printed Easter Egg for decorating at home over the holidays to enter the competition. All contributions from competition entries and the cake sale on 22nd April will go towards the adventure playground fundraising pot.

UNIFORMS

If you're having a clear out of outgrown uniforms over Easter, please keep hold of any good quality items for the next uniform pop up! There will be week in June to bring in your donations and the 'pop up' will be a few weeks later.

PARTY BAG FILLERS

Have you any party bag fillers / left overs? Bouncy balls, stickers, note pads, pens, paper bags? Please drop them into the office as we start planning for the annual 'Family Picnic' in the summer term.

The next PTA meeting is at school on Wednesday 7th May 2025 at 6pm.

Term 4 Dates

Friday 4th April – **Last Day of Term 4**

Tuesday 22nd April – **School re-opens**

Friday 23rd May– **Last Day of Term 4**





Shared lessons, Term 5 2024-2025

| CLASS | DATE | TIME | SUBJECT |
|--------------|-------------------------------|-------------|------------------|
| Owls- KG | 16.5.25 | 8:45-10am | Forest School |
| Doves- AP/ST | 12.5.25 | 2-3pm | Outdoor learning |
| 1FL | 21.5.25 | 2-3pm | History/Art |
| 1LM | 22.5.25 | 2-3pm | History/Art |
| 2MR | 21.5.25 | 8:45-9:45am | Maths |
| 2MD | 20.5.25 | 8:45-9:45am | Maths |
| 3KR/EHS | 15.5.25 | 2-3pm | Maths |
| 3PH | 14.5.25 | 2-3pm | Maths |
| 4AT | 12.5.25 | 2-3pm | History |
| 4SM | 13.5.25 | 2-3pm | History |
| 5LR | 16.5.25 | 2-3pm | Geography |
| 5ASN | 19.5.25 | 2-3pm | Geography |
| 6LH | No shared lessons due to SATs | | |
| 6MJ | | | |

**Parent exhibition for all classes except Year 2:
Term 6: Tuesday 24th June 2025, 2-3pm**

***(Year 2 parent exhibition is on Thurs 26th June, 2-3pm due to
their trip taking place on 24th)***