



Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of a busy term, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support and cooperation. The strong partnership between home and school is one of Queensway's greatest strengths, and it makes a real difference to our children.

Celebrating new arrivals: Mrs Hugo-Schofield welcomed a baby girl in September, Elodie. We are delighted for her and her family and send them our warmest congratulations.

Goodbyes: We say goodbye to Miss Lloyd, a TA in Reception, at the end of this week as she starts a new adventure in a private nursery. We thank her for all her hard work at Queensway and wish her the very best for the future. We will keep you posted about recruitment news.

Living our school values: The children have been learning all about our school values of Respect, Kindness and Resilience through assemblies and PSHE lessons. It has been wonderful to see so many children demonstrating these values in their everyday school life, whether through helping others, showing determination when learning is challenging, or treating one another with kindness and respect. These values are very important to us and continue to guide our policies, practices and decision-making across the school.

Thank you for supporting our mobile-free site: Thank you for your support with our new mobile phone expectations and helping us maintain Queensway School as a mobile-free site. We recognise that for the vast majority of parents we have spoken to, any use of a mobile phone on site has simply been down to habit or forgetfulness rather than deliberate non-compliance. We greatly appreciate the positive and understanding way families have responded. By working together, we can ensure that the school site remains a safe, welcoming and distraction-free environment for all children.

Our new trim trail: This exciting addition to our field was made possible through a joint project between the school and Friends of Queensway, whose support and fundraising efforts continue to make such a difference to our pupils. We know that this new equipment will provide fun, challenge and opportunities for physical activity (when the rain stops!) for many years to come. We would also like to remind parents that if children are using the equipment after school hours, they remain under the supervision and responsibility of their parent or carer.

Leaving the school site promptly: A gentle reminder that all parents, carers and visitors should leave the school site by 3:15pm at the latest. Following the end of the school day, a number of after-school clubs, wraparound care sessions and other activities begin using different parts of the school site. For safeguarding reasons, it is important that all visitors have left the premises promptly so that staff can clearly identify who should and should not be on site. Thank you for your understanding and support with this important matter.

Shared lessons: What a fantastic start we have had to our programme of shared lessons this year. The children absolutely love welcoming parents and family members into school to learn alongside them. Please keep an eye out for the Term 2 shared lessons, many of which will focus on Christmas crafts and festive activities. Dates can be found on the school website and we look forward to welcoming many of you into school again.

Year 6 residential success: Our recent Year 6 residential visit to Condoval Hall was a tremendous success. Thirty-eight children attended and represented the school brilliantly throughout the trip. A huge thank you to Ms Carnevale, Mrs Hawkins and Miss Morse for accompanying the children and making the experience possible. The children enjoyed a fantastic few days filled with challenge, adventure and unforgettable memories.

Parents' evening: Thank you to everyone who attended our recent Parents' Evening. We hope you found the meetings informative and helpful in understanding your child's progress and development. The conversations between home and school are invaluable in supporting children to achieve their very best. We look forward to welcoming you again for our next Parents' Evening, which will take place around March.

School meals: Please could we ask parents and carers to talk through lunch choices with their children if they are having a school dinner. Recently, we have noticed an increase in the number of children who are deciding on the day that they do not like the meal that has been chosen for them and therefore are not eating it. We appreciate that this may simply be children being children and occasionally changing their minds or being fussy eaters. However, it would be helpful if families could discuss meal choices in advance so that children know what they have selected and are more likely to enjoy and eat their lunch.

Allergies: Parents and carers will be aware of the new Benedict's Law to protect children with severe allergies in schools. As part of the school's compliance, a new Allergy Policy has been written and is published on our website (see Statutory Information / Policies). If your child experiences a new allergic reaction outside school or if there are any changes to an existing allergy please telephone school (01295 251631). We also ask that parents regularly check any medication including EPIPENS for expiry dates. Thank you for your support.

Reception coffee morning: A huge thank you to all the Reception parents who attended our Coffee Morning at the beginning of term. It was wonderful to see so many families there. The event provided an informal opportunity to meet key members of staff, get to know other parents and ask questions in a relaxed setting. The atmosphere was warm, friendly and welcoming, and I am delighted to report that it was the best-attended Reception Coffee Morning we have ever held.

Looking ahead to Term 2: We have an exciting Term 2 ahead, with plenty of opportunities for learning, enrichment and celebration. Please keep an eye on correspondence from school and regularly check the school website calendar for upcoming events and important dates. The term begins with one of the highlights of the year, our annual pantomime visit for children in Years 1 to 6 during the first week back. We know the children are already looking forward to this much-loved event and the fun it always brings. This year the pantomime is Sleeping Beauty.

Dressing up and special event days: Many parents have told us that they appreciate advance notice of dressing-up and themed days. Please keep the following dates in your diary. Further information will be sent closer to each event:

- Children in Need – Friday 20th November 2026
- Christmas Jumper Day – Friday 11th December 2026
- World Book Day – Thursday 4th March 2027
- Red Nose Day – Friday 19th March 2027

School photographs: School photographs will take place on Tuesday 10th November. Individual photographs will be taken of every child and we will also arrange for school-aged siblings to have a photograph together. These photographs often make wonderful Christmas gifts for family members and are always a popular part of the autumn term.

Reception open days: Open days have now begun for children due to start Reception in September 2027. If you know a family with a child of Reception age, please encourage them to visit our website or contact the school office to arrange a tour and find out more about life at Queensway.

Class News

Nursery

We have had a fantastic start to the school year and are incredibly proud of how well all the children have settled into Nursery life. They have embraced their new environment with confidence, happiness and growing

independence. It has been lovely to see friendships beginning to blossom, while the children have also become increasingly familiar with our daily routines and class expectations.

Throughout our carpet sessions, the children have impressed us with their listening skills and enthusiasm for learning. They are becoming confident in joining in with nursery rhymes and love counting how many children are present each day, often using their fingers to help them. They particularly enjoy spotting and correcting any mistakes I make!

Our Squiggle Whilst You Wiggle sessions have been a huge success. The children have thoroughly enjoyed moving to music with scarves before transferring those movements onto paper using crayons. They have explored a variety of marks, including up and down, side to side, and of course, plenty of squiggles from top to bottom.

The children's communication and listening skills have shone during our Welly Wednesday Walks, where we have enjoyed exploring and identifying the different sounds around us. Inspired by our focus stories, *Brown Bear*, *Brown Bear* and *Chocolate Moose for Greedy Goose*, the children used binoculars and magnifying glasses to search for clues and find hidden animals. Their excitement, curiosity and determination during these adventures were wonderful to see.



Our daily routines are now well established, and the children take great pride in earning raffle tickets and special Queensway stickers for demonstrating positive behaviours such as good listening, sharing with friends and showing kindness towards others. To celebrate a brilliant first term and all the hard work the children have put into learning our class rules, we ended with a fun-filled Teddy Bears' Picnic, which everyone enjoyed. I am so proud of everything the children have achieved already and cannot wait to see what next term brings. Thank you for your continued support. I wish all our families a restful and enjoyable break, and I look forward to welcoming everyone back in November.

Reception

We can't believe we have finished our first term in Reception. The children have settled into life at Queensway so well and we are very proud of everything they have achieved. There have already been lots of lovely friendships being made in this first term.

We have started our Phonics lessons and the children have just wowed us! They are recognising the sounds that we are learning and have recently started blending them to read and write whole words. We know that you are just as proud of the children as we are when you hear them reading their Phonics books at home.

Forest School has been a particular highlight for the children in Mrs Guntrip's class. They have been bug hunting, den building, stick collecting, cooking up creations in the mud kitchen, exploring the woods, bird watching and storytelling.

Another highlight of the term has been the story *We're Going on a Bear Hunt*. The children had an amazing time retelling the story. We loved creating swirling snowstorms, squelchy mud and narrow, gloomy caves. Lots of children also created amazing Bear Hunt maps to show each of the settings in the story.

We have been very lucky and had the pleasure of having the Youth Activators join us on a Tuesday morning. They have been teaching us games and activities to do when we have been outside. The children have loved the cone game and the colour game.



Thank you to parents who have been using Evidence Me to upload observations and wow moments from home. We have really enjoyed looking at them and seeing what amazing learning experiences the children have been getting up to.

We hope you all enjoy a very well deserved rest in half term!

Year 1

We have had a wonderful first term in Year 1 and are incredibly proud of the children's hard work, enthusiasm and progress. The children have settled into their new routines brilliantly.

In Geography, the children have loved learning all about the United Kingdom. They have worked incredibly hard to remember the capital cities and learn helpful tricks for remembering the points of a compass.

In Science, they have enjoyed naming and describing different materials and had great fun carrying out an experiment to discover which material would best keep Teddy dry in the rain!

Our budding artists have created some fantastic seaside landscapes, and in English we have been so impressed with the children's writing. They have particularly enjoyed writing their own versions of *Stuck* and *Panda Bear, Panda Bear, What Do You See?* In Maths, we have been consolidating number knowledge and exploring how to name and describe 3D shapes.

Class 1AP have had a wonderful time at Forest School, and Class 1KB are looking forward to beginning their Forest School adventures in Term 4.

We were also delighted by the fantastic turnout at our shared Phonics lessons. It was a wonderful opportunity for parents to see just how enthusiastic the children are about learning to read and to find out more about how we teach phonics. Thank you to everyone who was able to join us and share in this special experience.

We are already looking forward to all the exciting learning opportunities next term. In the meantime, we hope you all have a lovely and restful half term break!

Year 2

We have had a fantastic start to the year! Year 2 have settled well and produced some excellent work. They loved reading *Perfectly Norman*, *Mr Wolf's Pancakes* and *The Storm Whale*. The children have done some excellent writing focusing on alternative endings and character descriptions. Their imaginations are amazing!

In Maths, we have worked on addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. The children now have their Times Table Rockstars accounts, so can logon over the half term if they want to practice. Our Science topic has created some fantastic work and the children know lots about living and non-living. They loved the experiment about whether plants excrete waste and we are sure they'd love to tell you the results.

In Geography, we have been comparing the UK with India. They know lots about physical and human features. Thank you to everyone who was able to attend the shared lessons.

In DT, the children have been practicing their sewing skills and are creating Rama and Sita puppets. We will put photos on Google Classroom once they are finished.

We are all really excited about next term, especially as Year 2 will be performing the Nativity. We hope you all have a fun half term.

Year 3

What a busy and exciting first term we have had in Year 3! The children have settled in brilliantly, worked incredibly hard and enjoyed lots of exciting learning experiences.

In Writing, we began the term by reading *Stone Age Boy*. The children used their imaginations to write some fantastic diary entries, imagining they had travelled back in time to the Stone Age. Later in the term, we explored *How to Wash a Woolly Mammoth*. The children had great fun retelling the story using actions before

learning how to write their own creative sets of instructions. To bring our learning to life, the children worked in pairs to design and create their very own woolly mammoths using a range of different materials. They thoroughly enjoyed working together, and their finished creations look fantastic!



In Maths, we started by exploring place value, using practical equipment to make, compare and order three-digit numbers. We then moved on to addition and subtraction, where the children worked hard to develop their confidence using the column method. More recently, we have been learning about multiplication and division, using different strategies, including the grid method and number lines. A particular highlight was our shared lesson, where the children loved welcoming their adults into the classroom and demonstrating some fun ways to practise their times tables. Thank you to everyone who was able to join us!

In History, we have been travelling back in time to discover what life was like during the Stone Age. The children have thoroughly enjoyed becoming historians, exploring how people lived, the homes they built, the tools they used and how their lives changed over time. We even experienced what it might have been like to be hunter-gatherers, searching for food around the playground and practising our hunting skills using javelins! The children have shown fantastic enthusiasm throughout this topic, both in school and at home, and it has been wonderful to see how eager they are to share their growing knowledge.



In Science, we have been exploring the fascinating topic of Light! The children have thoroughly enjoyed becoming scientists and carrying out a range of practical investigations. We have explored how light travels, how shadows are formed and we also investigated the effects of UV light and learned why it is so important to protect ourselves from the sun. The children have shown great curiosity and enthusiasm, particularly when making predictions, testing their ideas and discussing their findings!

In Art, the children have produced some wonderful Stone Age-inspired artwork. They particularly enjoyed creating their own cave paintings, using their imaginations to tell stories through pictures. We also explored silhouettes, creating some beautiful pictures of Stonehenge against colourful sunrise and sunset backgrounds.

3AC have really enjoyed Forest School this term, making bows and arrows, spears and drilling conkers to create necklaces. We have also had lots of fun playing in the mud kitchen, building dens and digging.

We are incredibly proud of everything the children have achieved this term. We hope you all have a lovely, restful half-term break and look forward to seeing everyone in Term 2.

Year 4

This term, the children have been busy learning all about the Anglo-Saxons and what their lives would have been like. During this learning, the children even became Anglo-Saxons themselves and wrote diary entries about their day. They have really enjoyed learning about the past and turning into archaeologists to discover and make inferences about Anglo-Saxon artefacts. The children were particularly fascinated to see that some of the Anglo-Saxon kingdom names are still used today!

In English, the children have been extremely busy with descriptive writing based around our class novel *Narnia – The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. The children have written some fantastic setting and character descriptions focusing on Narnia itself and the White Witch. We then wrote non-chronological reports about our own hybrid animals that we have created. The children really embraced their formal tone of a non-fiction text. We then finished the term by creating our own fantasy stories. The children left adults on the edge of their seats!

In Maths, they have been focusing on developing place value knowledge, building on from what the children have learnt in previous years. We have then developed our fluency and reasoning skills with addition and subtraction, and it is fair to say that we are now all 'Column Experts'. Children have also been developing their methods for multiplication and division.

Linking to our topic of Anglo-Saxons, we have also researched and designed our own Anglo-Saxon brooches. The children really enjoyed having the opportunity to then create these brooches during our shared lessons.



Year 5

What a fantastic half term it has been in Year 5! The children have returned to school with enthusiasm, settling quickly into routines and embracing the new learning. Our first topic, World War Two, has captured their imagination, and they have thoroughly enjoyed exploring key events such as the Blitz and the evacuation of children. Their curiosity, thoughtful questions and engagement have made this an exciting topic for all.

In English, the children have impressed us with the quality of their writing. They have produced engaging character and setting descriptions and thought hard about their reflective diary entries from a child evacuee. They have shown increasing confidence, creativity and attention to detail. It has been a pleasure to see their writing skills develop so positively.

Our Art lessons have encouraged the children to think and work like artists. Inspired by Henry Moore, they experimented with watercolour and wax resist techniques to create some striking pieces. They have also developed their ability to evaluate artwork, reflecting on both Moore's work and their own creations to refine and improve their techniques.

Finally, in Science, the children have been investigating materials and their properties through a range of exciting experiments. Working collaboratively, they have taken on different roles within their groups to plan investigations, make predictions, record results and draw conclusions. It has been fantastic to see their confidence grow as they use scientific vocabulary and apply their knowledge. Please ask your child to tell you about our dissolving experiments!



We are incredibly proud of all the children for their hard work, positive attitudes and enthusiasm this half term. Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We look forward to another exciting term of learning and success in Year 5.

Year 6

What a fantastic first term we've had in Year 6! The children have settled in brilliantly and embraced every opportunity with enthusiasm, demonstrating a positive attitude towards their learning.

Our first topic took us deep into the rainforest, where the children explored its different layers and the incredible variety of animals that inhabit this unique ecosystem.

Their geographical learning came to life through collaborative research projects and beautifully presented posters, which showcased their teamwork, creativity, and growing knowledge. This theme also inspired our music lessons, where the children composed imaginative pieces using a range of instruments. We are looking forward to continuing our rainforest studies next term.

The rainforest also sparked the children's imaginations in English. They produced captivating narratives set in the Amazon, filled with vivid description, adventurous storylines, and impressive use of language. Their creativity and effort have made their writing a real pleasure to read. In Art, the children created some stunning pieces inspired by the French artist Henri Rousseau. They also produced vibrant animal portraits using a variety of coloured pastels, resulting in some truly eye-catching artwork that brightened our classrooms.

In Maths, the children have worked hard to build their confidence and fluency with formal written methods for addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. They have applied these skills to solve a range of problems

and challenges, demonstrating resilience, perseverance, and progress throughout the term. One of the highlights of the term was our Year 6 residential visit. We were incredibly proud of the children's resilience, independence and willingness to step outside their comfort zones as they tackled new experiences and achieved personal goals.

Meanwhile, the children who remained in school immersed themselves in a fascinating Titanic research project, producing impressive clay models, detailed sketches, and informative posters.

Thank you for your continued support throughout the term. We wish all our families a restful and enjoyable break, and we look forward to an exciting new term ahead.



After School Club

We have loved welcoming everyone back to After School Club for a busy and fun term!

During the first few weeks, we made the most of the warm weather with plenty of outdoor play on the school field. Indoors, the children have thrown themselves into our 'Queensway's Got Talent' show, drawing, and junk modelling. We have also introduced some fantastic new games and toys, as well as a calmer corner for those who want to unwind with a book or a puzzle.

Thank you to all our children and staff for the positive feedback on our new registration system. It is running smoothly and helping the children get straight into their favourite activities.

We wish you all a wonderful, restful half-term break and look forward to seeing the children back next term!

School Council

We were so impressed by the number of high-quality applications received for School Council this year. It was wonderful to see so many children eager to take on a leadership role and share their ideas for improving our school community. A huge well done to everyone who applied for showing such enthusiasm, confidence and commitment, and congratulations to those children who have been appointed to represent their classmates as School Council members.

During our first meetings, the children have already demonstrated excellent teamwork, responsibility and creativity. One of our first priorities has been planning for Children in Need, which will take place on Friday 13th November. The School Council has worked collaboratively to share and develop exciting fundraising ideas, carefully considering ways to involve the whole school while supporting this fantastic cause. Their thoughtful discussions and determination to make a positive difference have been wonderful to see.

We are excited to continue meeting throughout the year, giving children a voice in school decision making and providing opportunities for them to develop their leadership skills. We look forward to working together on new initiatives, fundraising events and projects that will help make a positive impact within our school and the wider community.

PE and Sport

We are delighted to share that Queensway School has once again maintained its Platinum Status for the School Games Mark!

This is a fantastic achievement that reflects our commitment to providing high-quality PE and sporting opportunities for all children. Thank you to our children, staff and families for your continued support in making this possible!

It has been a busy and successful start to the school year, with children enjoying a variety of activities, developing their skills and taking on new challenges.

In PE lessons, children across the school have been taking part in a range of different sports, including gymnastics, touch rugby and invasion games. It has been lovely to see them building on their previous learning and growing in confidence. Children have also enjoyed sessions with Mr Mawn on Tuesday afternoons, alongside opportunities to stay active during break and lunchtimes.

Year 5 swimming lessons are now underway, with 5LR enjoying their weekly sessions. The children have been developing their swimming skills, building confidence in the water and learning important water safety skills.

Our Year 6 Playground Leaders have also made a positive start! With support from Mr Mawn and Mrs Campbell, a dedicated group of children have completed their training and begun leading activities during break and lunchtimes. They are already helping younger children get involved in a range of fun, active and inclusive games, while developing their own leadership and teamwork skills.

We have also enjoyed some sporting successes this term! Children from Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 represented Queensway at the Cross-Country event at Wykham Park School, demonstrating determination, resilience and encouragement towards one another. A special congratulations goes to Maxwell in Year 4, who finished 1st in the Year 3/4 Boys' race! We are also pleased to share that several other children, have also qualified for the finals in December. Well done to everyone who took part!



Girls from Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 also represented Queensway at a Girls' Football event at Wykham Park School. They enjoyed putting their football skills into practice, working together and demonstrating the event's key value of Respect.

Sports Council

We were very impressed by the number and quality of applications for this year's Sports Council. Thank you to everyone who applied, and congratulations to our newly appointed KS2 Sports Councillors!

Our first meetings have already been productive, with children discussing the importance of the School Games Values and how we can encourage everyone to achieve their recommended 60 minutes of daily physical activity.

We look forward to seeing our Sports Councillors put their ideas into action and make a positive difference across the school.

We are proud of everything our children have achieved this term and look forward to more sporting opportunities in Term 2. Thank you, as always, for your continued support.



Debbie's Diary

Citizen's Advice drop-ins: <https://www.cawnac.org.uk/access-our-services>

Food bank information: <https://www.cherwell.gov.uk/downloads/download/1683/food-support-services-leaflet>

Free Youth Activator sports sessions in the park – [click here](#)

Governors

I do hope that you have had the opportunity of reading the full OFSTED report following the inspection right at the beginning of the term. It is very clear from the report and indeed from talking with the Inspectors just how impressed they were during their visit to the school. Not many reports include statements such as “Kindness and warmth permeate this school”, “Pupils are at the heart of everything leaders do at Queensway. Leaders are relentless in the ambition to ensure all pupils can thrive.” And on more than one occasion “Pupils behave very well”.

As Chair of Governors, I was also able to see at first hand, before, during and after the inspection, just how professional, resilient, and determined all those who work at the school were during the whole process. At our meeting last month as Governors we paid tribute to everyone. Of course, as is always the case with any inspection there were also some areas for further development to ensure that Queensway continues to flourish and improve in that relentless pursuit of excellence.

I know that since the beginning of this academic year, Queensway School has been continuing to work really hard to ensure that the school is a mobile phone free zone as part of the school's work to ensure the best possible safeguarding for all children at school. On behalf of the Governors, I would like to thank parents for their support in making the school a mobile free zone.

Matthew Ingall, Chair of Governors

Friends of Queensway News

We are delighted to see that the new trim trail has been completed, and we are sure the children will love using it. We will continue fundraising to support the playground and build on the £11,000 already contributed.



Our Silver Coin class challenge has been a great success and has raised £742.26! A big thank you to all the classes who made such wonderful and imaginative bottle creations. There could only be two winners who were:

Heaviest: 2FL's blue whale

Best dressed: 4LP's Times Table Rockstar!



This term, we held an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) to discuss growth and communication, as the number of active volunteers is currently very low. Friends of Queensway cannot operate without volunteer support. Look out for a fresh new look for FoQ, and please take a moment to see how you could get involved. Everyone is welcome, and the door is always open.

Term Dates

Friday 23rd October – **Last day of Term 1**

Monday 2nd November – **School re-opens for Term 2**

Thursday 17th December – **Last after school club session for Term 2**

Friday 18th December – **Last day of Term 2**

Respect

Kindness

Resilience

