



QUEENSWAY SCHOOL

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Head Teacher: Mrs Sarah Horbury-Jakeman
BA Hons (QTS), NPQEL

Monday 5th January 2026

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year!

Happy New Year! I hope that you had an enjoyable and relaxing Christmas break and wish you all the best for 2025.

Topics

Our topics for Term 3 and 4 are: 'On our doorstep' and 'Lady with the Lamp'. In Term 3 the children will be exploring the local area and looking into the physical and human features around Banbury with a Geography focus, exploring maps. In Term 4 we will be finding out about Florence Nightingale.

Year One Spring curriculum

English

We will be covering a range of genres and writing styles over these two terms. In both Term 3 and 4 children will be continuing to develop their knowledge of different word classes used in all writing e.g. nouns, verbs, and adjectives. In Term 3 children will be continuing to learn stories through text maps including Handa's Surprise. We will also be exploring the poetry genre further through the poem 'The Sound Collector' where children will think of their own sounds they can collect, using verbs and adjectives to describe these. They will continue to consolidate their use of full stops, capital letters and finger spaces in their writing as well as continuing to develop their knowledge of sentences. Lastly, the children will explore instructions further using the book 'Where's my hat' as inspiration and allowing children to create their own innovation of these instructions using features such as imperative verbs (sit, stir, walk etc) and adverbs of time (first, next, then). In Term 4 children will explore the narrative 'Black Rock' learning the text map and continuing to look at features of story writing using adjectives in their writing and consolidating their knowledge of sentence structures. They will continue to explore different types of poetry and can practise their recount writing skills from Terms 1 and 2.

Mathematics

During the Spring term in Maths children will be exploring addition and subtraction, place value, time, multiplication, and fractions. The children will be building on previous knowledge of addition and subtraction using concrete objects and pictorial representations e.g. using number lines, tens frames and counters. We will continue to look at a range of different numbers focusing in this term on numbers to 50, looking at number recognition, representing different numbers and continuing to build on our counting skills. We will be starting to look at counting in 2s, 5s and 10s during our counting sessions as well as consolidating our counting backwards and from any given number. When looking at time, children will be learning to tell the time to an hour and half past and drawing these times on a clock with the different hands. The children will start to look at multiplication using concrete objects and exploring arrays. Lastly, children will start to look at finding halves and quarters of objects, shapes and quantities.

Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education (PSHCE)

In Term 3 children will be learning about the importance of valuing differences. Children will be looking at similarities and differences between each other, learning about how to respect our differences and how to celebrate what makes us unique. We will also be exploring what makes different people special to us. In Term 4 the children will be learning about how to keep themselves safe. The children will be learning about the importance of sleep. They will learn about medicine and their uses, as well as how to be safe around medicine. They will also learn about who trusted adults are and who to speak to if they are feeling uncomfortable or unsafe.

To find out what we are learning in all the other subject areas please look at the '**Knowledge Organisers**' which can be found on the school website.

Homework

We really appreciate your help with homework as the work set consolidates the learning that has happened during the week in school. Homework is given in a homework folder on Fridays and is due back into school the following **Thursday** to be checked.

- **English**-Children will receive Spelling or phonics homework alternating each week. Spellings will incorporate practising for a test. Phonics will incorporate an aspect from their weekly phonics lessons.
- **Maths** – Children are set one piece of maths homework to consolidate the work we have been doing in class that week.
- **Reading**- All children are expected to read for at least 5 minutes each day with an adult.

Ways you can help your child at home

We hope your child will enjoy reading with you at home. We can't emphasise enough the importance of reading with your child. They will choose one book from our class library for you both to share, and we will also be sending home reading scheme books. These books will be changed after 3 reads, so it is important that your child brings his/her book bag every day. If your child would like to change their reading book during the week, they can put their book bag into the large box labelled 'Book Bags' in class and a member of staff will then change their book.

Term 3 and 4 shared lessons

Each term we will be having a shared lesson, where parents and carers are invited to come into school and take part in a lesson with their child. In term 3, this lesson will focus on Maths and how we teach Maths at Queensway and in term 4 our shared lesson will be DT and developing our skills of weaving.

Term 3 'Maths' shared lesson: **Wednesday 4th February 2-3pm**

Term 4 'Phonics' shared lesson: **Wednesday 11th March 2-3pm**

PE days

PE will be indoors on a **Wednesday** and outdoors on a **Friday**. Your child must not wear any jewellery on these days. Please can you make sure that they have appropriate clothing for PE in school all times.

Indoor kit: Navy shorts and plain white T-shirt. Indoor lessons are done in bare feet or plimsolls.

Please ensure that all clothing brought into school is clearly named.

Forest school

We will not be taking part in forest school for this term.

Snack

In Year 1 the children can bring their own morning snack to school with them. This must be a healthy snack of vegetables or fresh or dried fruit. They will still receive a free piece of fruit every day in the afternoon.

Finally, please remember to visit our Google Classroom. This is a great way to find out what we have been up to in our class.

If you have any questions about anything, please ask me at the door or email the office.

We look forward to the year ahead,

Yours sincerely,

Miss McLaughlin
Class Teacher