



Head Teacher's News in Brief

- I was an incredibly proud Headteacher at the annual Children Singing for Children concert held at St. Mary's Church which sees schools from across the town and surrounding villages each perform two songs before joining together for a mass choir for the finale. Queensway Choir were simply amazing. There wasn't a dry eye in the Church. A big well done to Miss Hollidge and her wonderful choir!
- It has been an interesting time with weather in Term 2 with heavy rain and snow! Please can I urge parents to ensure that children have suitable outdoor clothing so that they can still go outside for fresh air in cold weather. Thank you for your patience on 19th November when we had a delayed opening of 10am due to the snow.
- We said goodbye to our Place2Be counsellor Jonathan last week who has worked with many children during his few years here and we wish him luck in his next adventure. We will be welcoming Sarah McKenzie, our new Place2Be counsellor in January who is a very experienced practitioner and will be an asset to the Queensway Community.
- I also wanted to thank parents for their co-operation with the new start time in Year 1-6 of 8:35am. After a few days of getting into the new routine, the majority of children are in class on time. Those that are late, are the families who were late with the previous start time too!
- Thank you to all the families who supported the book fair in November. It generated £946.48 in total and raised commission of £423.24 for us to spend on books in school.
- Children in Need also raised a staggering £1202.72. The cake sale in particular was a real winner with half of these proceeds being split with the PTA. The School Council did a great job organising fun events throughout the day.
- A huge thank you to everyone who has supported our Christmas events this year. A lot of work goes on behind the scenes to make them such enjoyable events, so a big thank you to all the parents, staff and PTA for your contributions and support.
- Unfortunately, we were unable to film the Key Stage 2 carol concert due to there being a number of children that we do not have consent to film.
- Christmas is always a busy period, which is why we don't set English and Maths homework over the 2 week Christmas break, but please try to ensure you are still reading with your child as much as possible as this is such a crucial skill.
- Our new club timetable for Term 3 has now been published, so if you would like your child to attend any of the clubs, then please refer to the letter emailed on 3rd December. The new approach to lunch time clubs has been successful and has increased the number of children attending clubs.
- A date for your diaries - the next round of parent evenings will be Tuesday 11th March 3-7pm and Thursday 13th March 3-5:30pm. More information will follow nearer the time.
- Instead of class assemblies on Friday afternoons in Term 3 and 4, the children will be taking part in 'buddy reading'- where older children buddy up with younger children to share a book with the aim of increasing reading for pleasure.
- Our Nursery is full for the rest of this academic year, with bookings already in for 2025-2026. If you have a pre-school age child, then please think ahead early if you would like them to attend our nursery - it is in high demand.
- The Governors have approved an updated Parent Code of Conduct which can be found on our school website. Please could all parents and carers read and adhere to it.

- As always, we have been amazed at the level of parental support for our shared lessons this term. The average percentage of parents attending was between 65-70%. It means a lot to the children to see their parents/carers coming into their life in school. Please find the shared lessons timetable at the end of this email.

Class News

Nursery

What a fun and busy term we have enjoyed in Nursery. Our first week was an extremely messy one, as we focused our learning on Bonfire Night. Splatter painting and glitter filled the room beautifully! We were amazed at how quickly the firework poem was learnt by all and is enjoyed most days even now at the children's request!

Our learning continued as we looked at the different seasons Autumn and Winter. Focusing on the different coloured and shaped leaves that were collected from Welly Wednesday walks around the school grounds to create collages, leaf rubbing pictures and sharing stories, the Gruffalo being a firm favourite. As the weather took a very chilly turn, we investigated the much-loved snow and ice and what happened to it as we held it in our hands. The children became mesmerised as they watched it disappear like magic! We even made a mini snowman named Sammy!

We celebrated the story 'The Tiger Who Came To Tea' and our Robin's birthday, by writing invitations and birthdays cards and shared a lovely celebratory snack. We even had time for a dance in our best dressing up clothes.

During Maths we have all been working hard on counting objects one at a time and using our fingers for support. The children were amazing by explaining the total of the objects we had counted and even advised Mrs Robinson on where she went wrong and to have another go!

Christmas arrived with lots of magic and laughter. Together we learnt songs about 10 little reindeer and Christmas colours and even performed them to our friends in the Reception classes. We also created some fantastic artwork, which we hope you have all enjoyed looking at together.

We are all extremely excited to be welcoming our new Robins in January as well as continuing more learning together.

I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas break and look forward to seeing you all in the New Year.



Reception

We have had a fantastic term in Reception and the children are amazing us every day with their learning. Lots of you have commented on the children's reading and writing skills and we agree – they have learnt lots already and we are only in Term 2!

A highlight for us all this term was 'The Elves and the Shoemaker' story where the children were sent deliveries and notes from the elves! It created quite a lot of excitement and encouraged lots and lots of writing and drawing. We were so pleased to see the children's love of learning flourish with this story.

We had so much fun this term in singing assembly learning lots of new songs, which I am sure you have had renditions of at home!

It was the turn of the Doves to go to Forest School this term. The children have had a great time exploring the Forest School, finding fairy doors, climbing trees and doing lots of digging. We particularly enjoyed a week of bug hunting where we found some very wiggly worms!



Year 1

What a term it has been! The children have enjoyed innovating their own instructions on 'How to Trap a Dragon' and remembering all the features needed when instruction writing. In Maths, we have been consolidating number knowledge and learning to add and subtract, thinking about the various ways this could be completed.

In History, the children have enjoyed learning about old toys and new toys – linking in with our Science topic of materials as the children have thought about what old toys were made from. In Science, we have been taking part in several Science experiments, one specifically was to create a bug house for Forest School that could stand in the wind. Miss McLaughlin's class have had a wonderful time in Forest School this term; many children have been trying to trap the dragon. Mrs Lawrence's class are looking forward to Forest School again next term.

It has been fantastic to see so many parents/carers attending our class assemblies and shared lessons. Thank you to those who have been able to attend. We are looking forward to another exciting term after Christmas.



Year 2

What a jam-packed Term 2 we have had! The children have worked so hard and have been fantastic with all the different activities we have taken part in this term!

In English the children started the term by completing non-fiction writing on the Gunpowder Plot based on their history topic. We were amazed by how much they could remember about the event and how they constructed their writing in a mature manner!

The children have enjoyed learning and innovating the story 'The Papaya that Spoke'. We had some fantastic innovations ranging from talking toothbrushes to talking baguettes! The children have also been writing instructions for fairyland and creating their own poems inspired by the poem 'Wings' by Pie Corbett. The children have enjoyed learning about shapes and statistics this term! They have also thoroughly enjoyed the launch of Times Table Rockstar, and it has been brilliant to see so many children logging on at home. Well done to Miss Dineen's class on winning the first of many Year 2 class battles! Please continue to log on and enjoy earning coins.



In Science, children have enjoyed learning about the human life cycle and looking at the different offspring animals have. We have been looking at what animals and humans need to survive!

Lastly, we want to say a massive thank you to all adults that attended the shared lesson this term as well as the Nativity performances. I am sure you will all agree the children were absolute superstars! We are so proud of all of the children and we hope you all enjoy a well deserved rest over the holidays.

Year 3

This term in Year 3, we have continued to enjoy learning about the Stone Age. They particularly enjoyed learning about the Stone Age settlement of Skara Brae in the Orkney Islands during our Geography lessons.

In English, we started the term by writing non-chronological reports about the Stone Age, using a range of interesting facts. We then moved onto reading a variety of legends and identifying the features of them. We learned to retell 'George and the Dragon' and the children did an amazing job of using words and actions. We then created our own legend plans based on 'George and the Dragon' and the children wrote a character description using adjectives and similes to describe their hero character. The children also wrote setting descriptions using imaginative words to paint a picture in the reader's mind. We then finished the term by writing some Stone Age house adverts using rhetorical questions and appealing language to sell some rather unappealing houses!

In Maths, we have been learning about fractions, measurement and shape. The children have worked hard to understand the new concepts that we have been learning and have enjoyed our hands-on, practical lessons which have helped them to learn important skills. The children particularly enjoyed making 3D shapes and learning about the properties of them.

In DT, the children have been learning how to sculpt using different materials. The children enjoyed sculpting Stonehenge out of plasticine and designed and made Stone Age necklaces using salt dough.



In Science we have been learning about rocks, fossils and soils. The children enjoyed being 'Rock Detectives' and carried out investigations to try to find out the different rock types. We also investigated different types of soil, and the children enjoyed digging two soil samples to investigate which held water the best.

We are very proud of how hard the children have worked this term. We hope that you all have a lovely Christmas Break.

Year 4

What a term it has been! We've had yet another fantastic and exciting term. The adults have been extremely impressed with the children's focus, resilience and enthusiasm towards their learning when taking on new challenges across the curriculum. In English this term, we have worked hard on our cross-curricular writing, creating persuasive texts about a class pet, researching and writing non-chronological reports about sound and writing postcards in RE. The children's knowledge and understanding of the technical vocabulary has been great!

As part of our Geography topic this term, the children have learnt all about maps and how these are created before using this knowledge to create their own map of Queensway School. Children have even started to use and record grid references.

In DT, the children have also worked hard to use their learning from last term all about Anglo Saxon jewellery and the designs used, to create their own Anglo Saxon inspired brooch out of clay.



In Science, the children have been learning all about electricity and have thought carefully about what is needed to create a simple circuit along with which materials allow electricity to pass through and which do not. The children loved seeing if they could light up the bulb in their circuits.

In addition to this, we also had our Science Day, which involved planning and completing an investigation to discover which biscuit was the best tea dunker. The children really enjoyed doing this and were able to utilise all their scientific skills.



We have also had great shared lessons this term and enjoyed developing our sewing skills in order to create decorations for your homes. We hope they all look fabulous either on your trees or around your homes. We would like to wish everybody a very Merry Christmas and we hope you have an enjoyable yet restful break.

Year 5

In Year 5, we have had another fantastic term, and the children have really impressed us with their knowledge and enthusiasm to learn. In English, the children were inspired by a 'virtual visit' from a Canary Girl, a Land Army lady, and an ARP warden, which was clear to see in their fantastic non-chronological reports on the lives of the women in World War Two.

The children have also conducted research on peace promoters during RE and English lessons which has deepened the children's understanding on what peace means to others and the influential figures in history that have promoted this, such as Martin Luther King and Nelson Mandela.

As we settled back into school after half-term, we all had a great visit to Banbury Museum where we learnt all about life during World War Two. The children were able to immerse themselves in the experience by taking on the role of different people during this time and understanding how their lives drastically changed. After this, we had the opportunity to look at the artefacts from this period of history.

We are incredibly proud of the children for all their hard work this term. We are also so grateful to all the adults that were able to share our shared lesson with us. It is always a wonderful opportunity for special helping hands to come into class to share a learning journey with us and we hope you have enjoyed all these opportunities as much as we have so far this year.

Year 6

What a fantastic term we have had in Year 6! The children have worked extremely hard in all their lessons and they have created some wonderful pieces of work. Our learning has been filled with interesting topics that range from Deforestation to Charles Darwin's Theory of Evolution. In our English lessons, the children have really enjoyed having the chance to research Charles Darwin and investigate how his theory changed modern science. They completely immersed themselves in the topic by writing biographies about Darwin's childhood,

voyage and legacy. The children were able to take part in a live Science lesson which explored how animals have adapted to survive in their environment by camouflaging.

In Maths, the children have explored fractions, BIDMAS and algebra. In addition, they have continued to practise applying the four operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication and division) to a range of questions. The children have developed their resilience when solving more complex problems during their Maths lessons this term.

At the start of the term, the children visited The Horton Hospital to take part in IMPS training. During the morning, they had the opportunity to learn about what to do in a medical emergency. Furthermore, the nurses taught the children how to perform CPR and they enjoyed putting their learning to the test when practising on dummies.



Some children had the privilege of attending The Geography Game Show at Tudor Hall. The workshop was filled with exciting opportunities to develop their geographical knowledge and skills whilst learning about different areas around the world.

To finish the busy term, the children performed in the Queensway Carol Concert and they all did themselves proud. They worked hard to learn the songs and the final performance was a joy to watch.

We hope that the children have a restful winter break and come back ready to begin the new year of learning.

After School Club

What another busy and exciting term we have had in the After-School Club! We have loved making the most of the last bit of sunshine and dry weather, playing group games, football, and scavenger hunts on the playground. We have had lots of fun making funky music on the iPads, playing with Lego, and following step-by-step drawing videos. On Fridays, we have had a combination of films and Just Dance, which the children thoroughly enjoy.

In the lead-up to Christmas, music has been filling our hall, as well as singing and dancing. Our children have been getting into the Christmas spirit by competing in a Christmas quiz, doing lots of fun, festive crafts, and joining in with Christmas musical chairs. Also, we loved taking part in a paper chain competition to see who could make the longest decorations. We've certainly had lots of laughs this term!

Wishing you all a lovely Christmas and restful break. We look forward to welcoming you back in the New Year!

School Council

We could not believe the huge success on the back of Children in Need. We wanted to say a big thank you to everyone that contributed to making and buying all the delicious goodies for our bake sale, as well as dressing up for the occasion in brightly coloured clothes. We all became extremely competitive (including Steve) during the whole class lunges and star jump challenges. A huge well done to Mrs Lawrence's class and Mrs Thripland's class in winning overall.

We had so many interesting guesses of Guess the Name of Pudsey's friend from 'Bow, Beary, Cuddles to name a few but it was Mia in Year 4 that had guessed the bears name as Ezra, congratulations Mia!



Finally, we used our imaginations and creativity to design so many different gladiators with a variety of powers. A very hard decision for School Council but we concluded that Zahra from Year 6 was a very worthy winner with her gladiator being a 6ft tall, powerful beast. All this

contributed to a very memorable day and raising money for Children in Need which will help support so many families around the UK.



Sport

This term, we have been busy taking part in both indoor and outside sports, such as gymnastics and hockey. Mr Mawn has continued to support children in PE making lessons fun and exciting. The children, as always, have showed the School Games values, getting stuck into each lesson. It has been lovely seeing some children demonstrating key skills in class assemblies.

Some of our Year 6 children were able to take part in an orienteering event at Wykham Park Academy. They had a fun-filled morning focusing on teamwork skills and map reading skills. The children thoroughly enjoyed this event.

Children in KS2 took part in a Hotshots basketball tournament at Danes Camp Leisure Centre. They played 5 teams from other schools and were the overall winners! Well done to those who took part.

Debbie's Diary

A reminder please to label your children's clothing including coats, hats and gloves as we accumulate a huge pile of 'lost' items every term.

Please contact me if you need a foodbank voucher Hsclw@queensway.oxon.sch.uk or Citizen's advice on 0808 278 7906.

Alternatively:

<https://www.sofea.uk.com/community-larder/the-banbury-larder/>

<https://livewell.oxfordshire.gov.uk/Services/5108/Banbury-Community-Fr>

Citizens Advice Community Help & Information Points (CHIPs) – meets at Sunshine Centre every Wednesday 10am -12pm. Drop in, no need to book.

Orinoco Banbury, The Oxfordshire Scrap store – High Street Banbury – open to pick up a bargain, have a cuppa or do some crafts with your child.

Have a lovely break!

Governors Update

As I am sure you know the role of the governing body can be summarised in the following 3 points:

- Setting the strategic direction of the school
- Holding the school to account, both in terms of educational outcomes and safety for all

- Ensuring financial probity

Undertaken of course, in a respectful manner.

Since September we have welcomed new Governors to the Governing Body. It is excellent news that there are no vacancies on the Governing Body and elections had to be held for the posts of parent Governors.

At our meeting on Tuesday 3rd December, we enjoyed a guided tour of the school by Mrs Horbury-Jakeman. All Governors were really impressed by the quality of the environment that we saw, as well as the way the displays were used to help children's learning. It was clearly an excellent place for children to learn. We also saw for ourselves the popularity and success of the After School Care and how challenging it was to provide high quality care in the school hall.

At all Governor meetings Mrs Horbury-Jakeman provides either a verbal or written report on the successes and challenges of the term. At our last meeting she spoke about the good news that the Nursery is full as well as the challenges that being a popular school can bring in terms of parents wishing their children to join during the school year.

At our meeting we also heard reports from Governors on the training that they themselves had completed as well as about the Governor visits to the school that had recently been undertaken. These included Friday Assemblies, discussing the role of Pupil Leaders in school and seeing a Personal Social Health Education lesson in action.

Matthew Ingall
Chair of Governors

PTA news

The PTA have again been delighted to support refreshments at the Nativity and Carol Concert – such special occasions to be a part of during this term. Other events have also taken place so a massive thanks to the parents who've made tea, sold glow sticks, wrapped presents and folded uniform!!

On 9th December we supported the Round Table Santa Float which raised over £1000! A massive thank you to the families who supported this event and deserve a special call out given the chilly and wet conditions.

The next PTA meeting will be held 16th January 2025 at 6pm at school.

Wishing you all the best this festive season.

Term 3 Dates

Friday 20th December – **Last Day of Term 2**
Monday 6th January – **School re-opens**
Friday 14th February – **Last Day of Term 3**



Shared lessons, Term 3 and 4, 2024-2025

CLASS	DATE	TIME	SUBJECT
Owls - KG	28.1.25	2-3pm	Art
	17.3.25	2-3pm	Understanding the World
Doves - AP/ST	29.1.25	2-3pm	Art
	21.3.25	2-3pm	Understanding the World
1FL	12.2.25	2-3pm	Maths
	27.3.25	2-3pm	DT
1LM	13.2.25	2-3pm	Maths
	31.3.25	2-3pm	DT
2MR	7.2.25	8:45-9:45am	Science
	26.3.25	2-3pm	History
2MD	6.2.25	8:45-9:45am	Science
	2.4.25	2-3pm	History
3KR/EHS	6.2.25	2-3pm	Science
	18.3.25	8:45am	DT
3PH	11.2.25	2-3pm	Science
	19.3.25	8:45-9:45am	DT
4AT	4.2.25	8:45-9:45am	Maths
	20.3.25	2-3pm	Geography
4SM	5.2.25	8:45-9:45am	Maths
	24.3.25	2-3pm	Geography
5LR	13.2.25	8:45-9:45am	Science
	1.4.25	2-3pm	History
5ASN	14.2.25	8:45-9:45am	Science
	3.4.25	2-3pm	History
6LH	12.2.25	8:45-9:45am	Maths
	26.3.25	2-3pm	Reading
6MJ	11.2.25	8:45-9:45am	Maths
	25.3.25	2-3pm	Reading