



Head Teacher's News in Brief

I want to take this opportunity to flag up a few things which all fall under the theme of 'safety.' I make no apology that they are a list of reminders and may appear quite naggy, but we are highlighting these so we can work together to ensure your child is safe:

- **Adventure Playground:** Please could I ask that all families respect the safe use of the adventure playground after school. A number of children play on it, whilst their parent talks with other parents. Please can you ensure you are supervising your child, as it is a parental responsibility at this point. During break and lunch times when it is used, we always have an adult supervising, but before and after school, staff are not responsible, it is up to the parents to supervise.
- **Gazebo:** Please could families take note that when the wooden gazebo has the red tape pulled across it, this means it shouldn't be used. Some parents are allowing their young children to run in and out, pulling on the tape as well as climbing up over the windows. We don't allow children to do this during the day due to the risk of them falling and hurting themselves, so please can all parents prevent their child from entering the gazebo if the tape is across the entrance.
- **Parking:** Parents have often come to the main office to report illegal parking. As a school, we have no power to enforce safe parking, only to encourage it for the sake of our children's safety. Therefore, if you wish to report parking issues, please contact either the Council or the Police using the non-emergency number, 101.
- **WhatsApp:** We have been very alarmed at the number of abusive WhatsApp messages which are being sent between children whilst out of school, especially in Year 6 in recent weeks, despite continuous input about online safety and cyber bullying. Please can all parents check their child's phone regularly and if you allow your child to use an app that is for 13yrs+, be even more vigilant, perhaps removing them from groups or blocking certain 'friends'. We have passed on screen shots to the police.

Class News

Nursery

In Nursery we jumped straight into exploring all about 'Paws, Claws, and Whiskers' this term. We had so much fun using our imaginations during our role play, taking it in turns to be the vet, receptionist and the owner of a pet. Our communication and language skills were used to take phone calls, book appointments, and express our concerns about our poorly pets, the most worrying being a rainbow cat who had lost his head! We shared our own pet photos as a class and produced some very colour masterpieces using paint and tissue paper.

During Maths we have worked well as a class but also independently in counting to 10 confidently, recognising numerals also up to 10 and focusing our learning on one more and one less than a given number. The wooden bricks were used to create some amazing kennels for dogs and cats. The children could explain how many bricks long or tall their structures were.

Phonics continues to go from strength to strength with the children learning a new sound weekly and their knowledge around hearing blending is impressive especially when I ask them to j-u-m-p! 'Bertha the bus going to the zoo' challenged us to hear the initial sounds in animals and we did so with smiles on our faces. This term has been a very active one as we welcomed Youth Activators back. We learnt new games and followed instructions well. Moving around the garden being different animals and the traffic light game were very enjoyable and tested our listening ears however these quickly became the favourite of them all.

We finished our term off nicely with a very special visit from Miss Dai. She came in to celebrate Chinese New Year with us and spoke about her home country, showed us how to use chop sticks and even allowed us to try on some beautiful Chinese clothing. Together we learnt and performed our dragon song with colourful scarves and moved our bodies in a variety of ways.



We hope you all have a good half term break; we look forward to welcoming everyone back for Term 4.

Reception



Our topic this term has been Space. The children have been fascinated by the adventures of Neil Armstrong and Tim Peake and loved being astronauts in our space station. We all enjoyed a fantastic shared lesson creating stars, rockets, and planets in many different ways. Thank you for all your support in attending.

We continue to be amazed by the children's phonics learning. They have loved the new Golden Writing Box, where we pick a daily winner for their excellent independent writing. This writing is then displayed in the classrooms for everyone to celebrate.

The Planetarium this term was a huge highlight, and I am sure that the children will have been talking about it a lot! Science Oxford was amazing, and we even convinced them to sing Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star as we sat underneath the night sky in the dome!

Have a wonderful half term Reception families.

Year 1

The children have been working very hard this term. They have impressed us with their amazing writing especially innovating 'Handa's Surprise'.

The children have enjoyed their Maths this term especially learning to tell the time. Please practice learning o'clock and half past at home as they have all tried very hard.

In Art, we have been studying the artist Guna Stolz and learning how to weave. The children had the opportunity to weave using paper and using wool. We really enjoyed the shared lesson and the children produced some fantastic work with their adults. Thank you to everyone who attended the shared lesson.

In Geography, we have been finding out about our local area and the children can now name human and physical features. When walking around the local area you may like to chat with your child about what they can see and why Banbury is a town. We hope you enjoyed the pictures on Google Classroom from our Gymnastics lessons, they have enjoyed using the apparatus with Mr Mawn.

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

Year 2

What a fantastic term we have had! The children have enjoyed learning about explorers and have been fascinated by all the different facts about Neil Armstrong. They have written some brilliant information paragraphs on the life of both Neil Armstrong and Christopher Columbus. In English, we have also explored the story of Very Little Red Riding Hood, and we have enjoyed comparing it to the original version as well as writing the story.

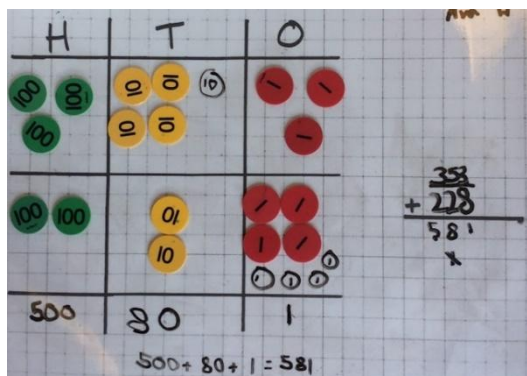
In Maths, the children have continued to wow us with their determination and focus! We have been learning how to add and subtract 2 two-digit numbers, more strategies to solve multiplication and division number sentences and learning all about money. Please ask the children to show you their strategies so they can continue to practice and encourage them to keep earning coins on times table rockstar.

We have been learning all about materials and their properties in Science and we have conducted different investigations to test our knowledge. It was brilliant to see so many adults at our shared lesson so thank you for coming.

Other highlights of this term have been making rockets in DT, learning a song on the glockenspiels, making gymnastic routines and the planetarium. We hope you have a lovely half-term and please keep encouraging your child to read.

Year 3

We have been busy in Year 3! In Maths, the children have confidently learnt how to add and



subtract three-digit numbers. They've learnt a variety of methods, including the column method. Then we learnt how to multiply and divide, moving from repeated addition and subtraction to grid method and chunking. After developing these methods, we then focused on worded problems and the children applied their strategies. The children also used RUCSAC to approach these questions in a logical way.

In Science, the children have been learning all about forces and magnets and even carried out their own investigation into friction. The children have made great conclusions based on their results and are clearly scientists in the making.

In writing we started off the term by creating our own adventure stories based on the book 'The Lift'. The children used their imaginations to create a new world that their magical lift button would take them to. We then moved on to learn about the Romans. The children imagined they were soldiers and wrote letters back home, telling their parents all about life in the army. The children amazed us with their detailed research of life in the Roman army and their writing gave us a real sense of how tough life in the army could be.

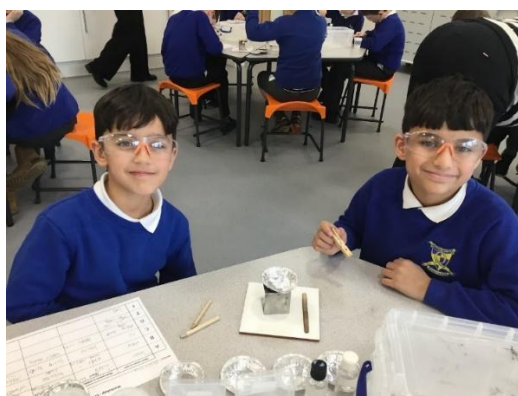
We thoroughly enjoyed our trip out to the Woodstock Museum to tie in with our history topic about the Romans. We got to dress up as everyday Roman citizens, practise marching in formation and play some popular Roman games, some of which are similar to games we still play today!

We hope you all have a lovely half term.



Year 4

What another busy and exciting term! We have been very impressed with the enthusiasm towards our topics, especially during our school trip to Science Oxford. It has been great to see the pupil's curiosity grow in Science and see them applying what they have learned as well as exploring the different activities on our trip.



In Writing this term, we started by focusing on 'The Dragon Slayer', which was a video clip where children then wrote character descriptions of the slayer and also wrote alternative endings, thinking about leaving the reader on a cliffhanger! We certainly loved the twists the children all added to the end of their stories! We have also really enjoyed diving into our new topic of 'The Vikings' and have become historians, writing our own non-chronological reports about how the Vikings travelled and what they ate.



This term, we have also had many opportunities to show our creative sides, designing and creating our own Viking purses in DT, focusing on our stitching techniques.

In Science, we have certainly enjoyed looking at 'States of Matter'. We have explored the differences between solids, liquids and gases, completing an experiment with fizzy drinks and chocolate! We then moved on to the 'Water Cycle' and it was fabulous watching our

understanding develop through the term, especially when the children became 'Danny the Droplet' and wrote diary entries about their day in the water cycle.

In PE, the children have taken to gymnastics fantastically, working on partner balances as well as exploring hockey, focusing on the push pass and developing their understanding of a game situation.

You have all worked incredibly hard this term and we would like to wish you a wonderful half term. We can't wait to see you back and ready to learn in Term 4!

Year 5

In Year 5, the children have had a great start to the year and have continued to impress us with their knowledge and enthusiasm! We love hearing all the facts that they have found out at home related to our learning in school.

This term, the children have started to explore the Ancient Greeks. They have been using their developing vocabulary to write some wonderfully descriptive Greek myths, including their very own fearsome mythical beasts! The children have been enjoying discovering facts about Science. It was lovely to see so many of you at our shared lessons last week. We hope you enjoyed designing games which put our space knowledge to the test.



In Maths, Year 5 have been applying their times tables knowledge to formal multiplication and division methods, as well as fractions. It would be great if they could continue practising on TT Rockstars or through games over the half term to keep reinforcing their tables knowledge, which is vital to their Maths learning.

In Art, the children have been inspired by the work of Peter Thorpe to design and create a space-themed piece using oil pastels and paint techniques such as dripping and splattering. They are very bright and eye-catching.

We would like to wish everybody a very restful half term. Stay safe and have fun!

Year 6

What a busy term it has been in Year 6! The children have worked extremely hard and we have been impressed with their resilient attitudes. They 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 exploring the tale of Goldilocks and the Three Bears by writing discussion texts and journalistic articles. They thoroughly enjoyed taking part in our Classroom Court Case as we debated and presented the evidence to decide whether Goldilocks was guilty of her crimes. The children then did some fantastic writing based on this topic and had the chance to read alternative versions of the famous narrative.

In their History lessons, the children have enjoyed learning about the ancient Mayan civilisation, making discoveries about their way of life and inventions through studying artefacts and conducting their own research. Working carefully and with precision, the children have created their own artwork inspired by the many works of William Morris. They are extremely proud of their final pieces and I'm sure they will be excited to show you.

Additionally, a group of Year 6 children took part in an athletics tournament. Although they did not make it through to the finals, there were some fantastic efforts from our children and they did the school proud.

We hope you have a restful break and look forward to seeing the children back soon!

After School Club

It has been so wonderful welcoming you all back into After School Club this year. The children have thoroughly enjoyed getting creative celebrating Chinese New Year. We have been busy making dragon heads to re-enact the Chinese festivals. Lots of crafts, Lego, games and knitting has filled our hall this term, as well as the children's favourite, dressing-up. It has been so lovely having children from all year groups, reading stories to the whole After School Club. The children have worked together, in teams, to take part in a song quiz, which they loved! We have been playing lots of group games and we hope to be able to carry this on next term in the sunshine!

Have a restful break, we look forward to seeing you next term.

School Council

Together we continue to take our role as School Council very seriously and have been meeting fortnightly to discuss future plans. We have lots to organise regarding the upcoming event of Comic Relief, so watch this space.

We have recently talked about and reviewed the lunch menus and what is working well with Fresh Start and things we would like to put forward to maybe change.

Sport

This term, we have been busy taking part in both indoor and outside sports, such as Sports Hall Athletics and invasion games. 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. We have also had a brilliant selection of sporting achievements from outside of school being shown during celebration assembly.

Some of our Year 5 and 6 children were able to take part in the Sports Hall Athletics events at Wykham Park Academy. They enjoyed competing in different events such as speed bounce, long jump, javelin throw and relay races. As always, our children were mentioned by other schools for their excellent behaviour and great team spirit during these events. We also came 4th at this event which was a fantastic achievement.

This term, we have also had the Cherwell District Council Youth Activators coming in to deliver lunchtime PE sessions. Children in Yr 6,5,4 and 2 have enjoyed taking part in these sessions and have come back to the playground with lots of fun activities to set up and complete independently.

Debbie's Diary

Squid Game – Rating age 15+. We are aware that some of our children are watching this programme and would urge parents to be vigilant. It is very violent in nature and therefore not suitable for primary-aged children.

WhatsApp/Snap Chat – We are aware of a number of these groups circulating, largely amongst our older children. The recommended age for both is 13, so we would advise parents to keep a close eye on their children's usage. Whilst these are clearly accessed outside of school, we have seen evidence of messages which are vile and abusive, and parents should be aware that this information has been passed to Police.

Governor's Update

At the Governing Body meeting earlier this term we looked again at the school's Uniform Policy because at the last review of this policy the wearing of fleeces was inadvertently omitted. We appreciate this has caused confusion for parents and children and made it very difficult for the Leadership Team to implement the policy, for which we apologise. The policy has now been amended to include specific reference to the times when Queensway fleeces can be worn, with the revised policy to be implemented from September 2025.

We also looked at the results of the Parent Survey which was sent out in January. We would like to thank all parents who took the time to complete the survey. There were 108 responses. The main outcomes were:

- 98% of those who responded reported that their child is happy at school
- 99% stating that their child feels safe at school
- 90% indicated that they thought children were well-behaved
- 86% stated that their child had not been bullied in school; if they had been bullied the vast majority indicated that it had been dealt with in-line with school's behaviour policy
- All parents thought that the school encourages their child to "rise to the challenge and be the best that they can be."

We concluded our meeting by considering whether the Governing Body effectively balance challenge and support the school leadership team.

Matthew Ingall
Chair of Governors

PTA news

Over the last couple of years, the PTA has seen the number of volunteers increase back to pre-COVID levels (many of us weren't here then!), allowing regular events to be held again. More events have enabled more funds to be generated, so at the last meeting (16th January) it was agreed that it's time for a school community project!

The school presented several suggestions and voted that PTA fundraising will work towards replacing the adventure playground on the playing field outside Mrs Horbury-Jakeman's office. The "TRIM TRAIL" is over 15 years old and has undergone many repairs, but it's tiring with frequent use and could use a fresh replacement. Progress will be tracked on a barometer near the school office, so keep an eye on it!

A great way to get involved is to attend the "Quiz & Curry night" on 22nd May!! More information to follow.

A big thank you to everyone who supported the Hamper Raffle held at the start of this term. We raised an impressive £243.40, and the winners of the staff-donated hampers were Steve Mold, Molly Knight, Autumn Jones, and Evie Steele. Congratulations to you all; we hope you enjoyed the hampers.

Thank you also to everyone who signed up for the Asda cash pot initiative before Christmas. This raised £143.53, which is another great amount to add to the PTA funds.

The next PTA meeting will be held at school at 6 pm, 3rd March 2025.

Term 3 Dates

Friday 14th February – **Last Day of Term 3**
Monday 24th February – **School re-opens**
Tuesday 11th and Thursday 13th March – Parents Evening (letter to follow)
Friday 4th April– **Last Day of Term 4**

