



Head Teacher's News in Brief

Staffing: Miss Taylor is leaving us at the end of June to have her baby followed by Mrs Lock in mid-July. We wish them both well as they begin their maternity leave.

Class allocations: For those families new to Queensway, we always re-shuffle the classes each academic year. Teachers use their professional judgement based on what they know of the children within school. We cannot base our decisions on parental requests. We will always make the decision on what is right for the children and the cohort overall. Even if children are in the opposite class to someone they really want to be with, remember, they still have break and lunch times together as a year group. Thank you for your co-operation.

Year 6 walking to and from school: After half term, some children in Year 6 may be allowed to walk to and from school without their parents. Parents have to sign a contract to state they take full responsibility and if there are any reported incidents of poor behaviour en-route, this privilege will be removed. Year 6 children cannot be responsible for bringing their younger siblings to school.

Reception and Nursery Sept 2024: We are delighted to say that both our Nursery and Reception classes are full from September. Therefore, if you have a child that is due to start nursery in the future, it is highly recommended that you book a place early.

Diary dates: The website has all the Term 6 dates now published in the calendar. Please also keep an eye on the class blogs and emails for further information. If you have any queries, then please don't hesitate to ask either your child's class teacher or the school office.

Book fair: A huge thank you to everyone who visited the book fair. The commission raised helps to fund books for our own school library. We hope the children enjoy their new books.

Residential: I am delighted that 43 of our Year 6s are off to Conover Hall straight after half term for a 2 night residential packed full of outdoor activities. I know they will have an amazing time. We have also got over 40 children in our current Year 5 who have signed up for the residential in October when they are in Year 6. It is such a fantastic experience for the children.

Parent Governor position: Have you ever considered becoming a Governor? There will be information coming out over the coming weeks regarding a parent election to recruit two new Parent Governors. If this is something you might be interested in, I would be more than happy to have a chat with you to explain the role.

Shared lessons: As the last shared lessons of this academic year come to an end, I would like to say a big thank you to all the parents, grandparents and carers that have supported them. The children really enjoy the experience and I hope you do too!

Fresh Start Caterers: Thank you to all the parents who have now navigated the new booking system for ordering lunches. Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. The food looks incredibly appetising, with the

freshness being the biggest selling point. Please encourage your children to utilise the salad bar, bread and additional fruit that they are also entitled to every day, alongside their booked meal.

Scooters: Please can I remind all families that children are not permitted to ride scooters whilst on the school site as it is not safe on such narrow pathways that already have 430 children plus their parents/carers walking on. If you allow your child to use their scooter on the journey then they must get off them immediately when entering the school grounds and carry them. Scooters cannot be stored in school. Thank you for your co-operation.

Social media: Please can I ask all parents to regularly check their child's mobile phones if they have one, including WhatsApp, as we are dealing with more and more issues of mobile phone misuse which is a distraction away from our primary role of teaching and learning. Friendship disputes are often played out over social media then spill into school, or vice versa. We often receive screen shots of abusive texts which may be passed to the Community Police team. Please keep checking and ensure you have open conversations about appropriate behaviour on mobile phones and through social media. We will of course continue to learn about this at school too.

Class News

Nursery

We cannot believe how quickly this term has whizzed by for us in Nursery. Together we enjoyed learning all about creepy crawlies and working together hunting for them in different places around the school grounds, come rain or shine.

With much excitement we had the arrival of our caterpillars, the children watched over them with great care and observed them grow as well as waiting patiently for them to spin their cocoons and eventually turn into beautiful butterflies. We fed them our left-over fruits before setting them free in the garden and singing '*There's a tiny caterpillar on a leaf*' song.

We continued to work hard throughout all our lessons on the carpet. During Literacy we introduced the children to tales tool kit where we concentrated on becoming story tellers and focused our learning on 4 main parts, the character, setting, problem and solution. We were amazed at how creative the children's imaginations were when it came to the problem aspect in our stories!

During Maths the children particularly enjoyed measuring and weighing and with the help of our giant wooden scales were able to quickly identify the heaviest and lightest objects around the garden.

To finish our fun, busy weeks off nicely, it was our turn to experience Forest School. The children showed how fearless and determined they were when given the freedom to explore tree climbing, creating concoctions in the mud kitchen, and swinging on the hammocks, risk taking was taken to the next level, but of course with lots of due care. It was so lovely to see so many parents join us for our shared lessons, we hope you enjoyed Forest School as much as we do!

All the Robins have worked so incredibly hard throughout the year so together we decided to have a pyjama party to celebrate! We danced with scarves to music as well as having our hair and make-up applied. We finished by sharing treats and listening to a story before all heading home – this was our highlight of the term.

We hope you all have a relaxing half term and look forward to welcoming you back for the last term before the summer break.



Reception

We have had a lovely term with our focus being plants and growing. The topic was kicked off with our shared lesson at Forest School - thank you for such a great turn out of visitors. The children loved planting the range of beans and seeds with you and have shown what green fingers they have by taking excellent care of them back in our classrooms.

The stories of Jack and the Beanstalk and The Enormous Turnip have been really enjoyed by all. The children have loved creating scenes from the stories using paint, small world figures and themselves as the actors. We have had so much fun singing the songs "Fee-Fi-Fo-Fum" and "Pull, Pull" too.

The Big Write has been a huge hit and the children have impressed us with their independence at writing sentences by themselves about a given picture twice a week. They are showing us how ready they are for the challenges of Year 1 already!

We have also been blown away by the children's ball skills in PE. They have shown such control over a range of different sized balls, moving them with different parts of their bodies and in different ways. They are also now so independent with getting changed. Well done everyone.

We cannot wait to start our final term in Reception. Have a lovely half term break.

Year 1

What a term we have had! Firstly, a massive thank you to all adults that attended our final shared lesson and for continuing to support the children at home with their homework and reading. We have had a very busy term and we have been learning lots of new things which the children have thoroughly enjoyed.

In English, we have been busy exploring 'The Three Little Pigs' and 'The Three Little Aliens'. The children have been able to spot how the stories are similar and have learnt not one but both stories. We have then seen some fantastic ideas being used in their own versions of 'The Three Little' including The Three Little Astronauts, The Three Little Dinosaurs and The Three Little Monkeys. The children have continued to use their full stops, capital letters and finger spaces with confidence and have been working especially hard on including all their alternative graphemes in their writing.

In Maths, we have introduced money to the children. They have been recognising the different coins and using these coins to create different amounts. The children enjoyed being shop keepers and selling different items to their friends. We have also continued to build on their number knowledge focusing on numbers to 100 and the children are becoming so confident in comparing, representing, and ordering.

We have also enjoyed learning about what is around us. The children have spent lots of time outside exploring our topic, plants. They have been observing sunflowers growing and have enjoyed looking after them and watching the different changes. They have also been looking at different types of wildflowers and

garden flowers as well as deciduous and evergreen trees. In Art, the children have been focusing on artist Andy Goldsworthy and have used natural objects to create patterns, pathways, and shapes. We have all enjoyed searching the playground to utilise what had fallen from trees.

Year 2

The children have really enjoyed this term and have got to go out and about in the community including our Library visit and Multi Skills Festival at Wykham Park Academy. During the library visit all the children chose a book to bring back to class. They also found out about how to find books in the library. At Wykham Park Academy, we got the opportunity to participate in lots of fun sporting activities organised by Year 7 and 8 children.

The children have really enjoyed our topics about the weather and habitats this term. They are all now fantastic weather reporters! They can also tell you lots about different habitats and the animals you might find there. They have enjoyed designing their own animals made from recycled materials. In English, they have relished writing adverts about habitats as well as writing their own stories based on the book 'Leaf'.

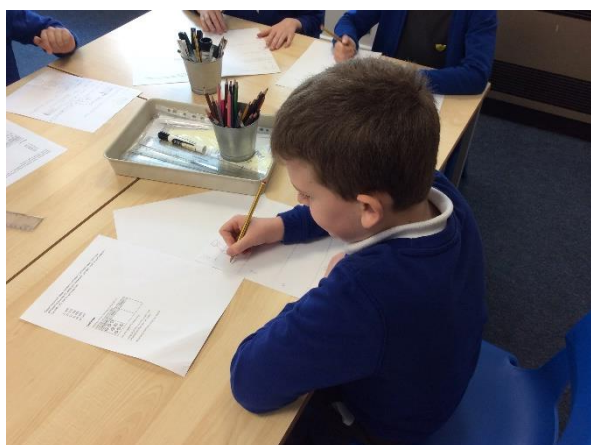
In Maths, we have been working hard to consolidate all the key methods as well as apply these to written questions. We have been so impressed with how well they are writing out their calculations. We have finished the term off with our Maths Shared Lesson. Thank you to everyone who was able to attend.

Finally, we are really excited for next term and our trip to experience a Victorian Workshop at the Woodstock Museum on Wednesday 3rd July. This should be a brilliant day where the children will get to take part in lots of different activities and look around the museum.

Year 3

This term in writing, we have looked at the story 'The Lost Thing' by Shaun Tan. We began by using the front cover to make predictions and then designed our own lost thing. Finally, we became journalists and created newspaper reports about the mysterious machine that had been spotted in our town. We have also carried out lots of research on Henry VIII and wrote biographies based on him. The children have thoroughly enjoyed finding out about this famous monarch. The children have loved focusing on 'Righteous Royalty' where they have been researching different monarchs, including William the Conqueror and Henry VIII. The children have enjoyed designing their own castles, creating Henry VIII fact files and researching Queen Anne using historical sources.

In Maths this term, we have been busy focusing on measurement, including measuring lengths, masses, and capacity. The children have loved practising their skills and can now confidently convert between different units of measure. They have also learned how to add, subtract and compare masses, all of which are useful life skills.





In Art the children enjoyed looking at royal portraits and compared the work of Isobel Peachey and Hans Holbein. We discussed how royal portraits have been used in the past to present a royal person in a particular way. The children then enjoyed using sketching pencils and watercolours to recreate Henry VIII portraits in the style of Hans Holbein. We enjoyed showing off some of these and other History work at our exhibition.

We also had a very successful trip to the library in town. The children learned all about how information books are classified and the wealth of exciting books that they can borrow. The children all had the opportunity to take a book

out and they are really enjoying reading these at school. We would encourage parents to get their child a library card as many were keen to join in with the Summer Reading Challenge run by the library.

Year 3 have certainly worked extremely hard and we hope you all have a well-deserved break.

Year 4

Well done to Year 4 for completing another busy and exciting term. They have all continued to work hard and we are very proud of them!

A highlight of this term has been one particular demonstration which the children completed in Science, to help them learn about the digestive system. It started with a banana sandwich, a foil tray, and a pair of scissors...the photographs say it all! The children have also written up their amazing knowledge about the topic using formal language in their non-chronological reports in their English lessons along with creating some fantastic poems in Science entitled 'From my mouth to the south'. Well done!



In Maths, the children have been busy learning all about units of measure. They began by exploring and deepening their understanding of telling the time before converting between different units such as seconds, minutes, and hours. They have then looked at other units of measure such as centimetres and millimetres, metres and kilometres, before applying this skill to converting between grams and kilograms, using our knowledge of multiplying and dividing by 1000.

In History, we have been exploring the topic of Ancient Egypt where the children have discovered lots about the Ancient Egyptian civilisation and how the River Nile played an important part in everyday life. They have

also learnt all about the discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb and the important artefacts that were discovered there to help our understanding of the ancient world.

Alongside this, in Art, the children have been busy investigating and learning about Ancient Egyptian art, using the styles, patterns, and colours to create their own designs. They have then created their own versions of papyrus paper to add their designs to.

Another exciting day this term was rockstar day, when all the children dressed up as a rockstar and we spent the morning practicing our times tables in a variety of different ways before having a 'battle of the bands' competition across both classes. Congratulations to the winners!

We wish you all a lovely, restful half term.



Year 5

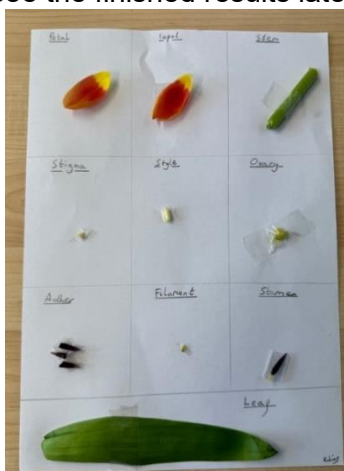
Year 5 have had a very busy term and have continued to work hard, impressing us with their enthusiasm and knowledge for our topics.

This term, we have been learning about the natural disasters that occur on our planet: volcanoes, earthquakes, and tsunamis. The children have been learning about the structure of the Earth and why these natural disasters hit in certain places around the planet, including the Ring of Fire. They have created their own models of volcanoes, written some detailed non-chronological reports, and have explored the advantages and disadvantages of living next to a volcano.

In addition, the children have also linked their knowledge of natural disasters to their English writing, where they have imagined what it would have been like to experience the eruption of Mt Vesuvius, in Pompeii, in 79AD. They have created some very thought-provoking and descriptive diaries, focusing on emotions and a 'show not tell' approach. In the final weeks of Term 5, the children have also been writing poems inspired by Miroslav Holub's poem, The Door. The children worked hard to think about the term 'connotation' and have applied this to Holub's poem. They have also worked hard to think about the structure of their poems and how this supports the overall meaning. We can't wait to see the finished results later this week!

In Science, the children have really impressed us with their knowledge, whilst exploring the life cycles of different animals, as well as how plants reproduce. The children thoroughly enjoyed dissecting plants last week, looking at the different parts and functions.

Finally, in Art, the children have been looking at the artwork of Hokusai but have focused in detail on 'The Great Wave'. The children's imitations of



the great wave were fantastic, and all children developed their skills whilst using pencil and water colours.

Year 6

Wow, what a busy term! Firstly, we would like to say a huge well done to all of Year 6 for their hard work, determination, and resilience during their SATs. The children blew us away with their focus and dedication to their revision in the build up to their tests. We are incredibly proud of how they all took on this challenge. Additionally, we would also like to take this opportunity to thank all the parents and carers for their support over the year, particularly this term.

In our English lessons this term, we have had a fantastic time exploring the book 'The Island'. This inspired the children to write some wonderful pieces where they thought carefully about their use of description, powerful and adventurous vocabulary, and a range of punctuation. The children used this text to write a setting description about the dark seas before the stranger arrived on the island; they used adjectives, adverbs, similes, and metaphors to create their excellent creative writing. In Science, the children have enjoyed learning about electricity, specially constructing their own electrical circuits! And in PE, we have thoroughly enjoyed our cricket and athletics this term (and some sunshine!).

We have lots of exciting events and celebrations happening over the next term for the children to look forward to. As well as the opportunity for the children to visit their secondary school for transition.

We hope you have a lovely break, and we are looking forward to having you all back for your final term at Queensway!



After School Club

Once again, we have all enjoyed a very busy and fun term together! Most of our afternoons have been spent in the wonderful sunshine on the field, on the adventure playground, doing relay races and rounders matches. It has been fantastic having the Youth Activators back on a Wednesday afternoon as well for some multi-skills activities. The children have also been exploring the school grounds - building bug houses and doing scavenger hunts. On the rainy days, along with the many of the games we play, we have been doing quiz afternoons and lots of group activities.

We are looking forward to having even more games on the field next term, so let's all keep our fingers crossed for blue skies and sunshine!

School Council

The School Council have continued to work hard this term, collecting pupil voice from children in Years 3 to 6. They have carried out a pupil survey focusing on the school, the lessons, as well as after school clubs. The children are keen to continue making a difference and hope that the responses will impact the new academic year.

Sport

This term, we have been enjoying the sunshine and taking part in a range of different sports and activities e.g. striking and fielding and athletics.

This term Year 2 attended a multi-skills event at Wykham Park Academy. They loved the range of different carousel activities practicing many skills including: throwing, agility, sprinting and catching. The children returned to school beaming with pride and certainly represented Queensway well.

Some of our Year 5 students attended a cricket festival at Banbury Cricket Club. This was a brilliant opportunity for the children to experience a real cricket ground and develop some of their cricket skills. The children enjoyed the experience and once again represented Queensway School brilliantly!

I have also enjoyed reading the children's active diaries towards the end of this term. It has been brilliant to see so many children trying different sports and activities outside of school. Keep up the good work and reaching for those 60 active minutes per day!

Debbie's Diary

EVERY MINUTE COUNTS for your child in school and being absent can mean they miss key information and learning, as well as time to socialise with their friends. If your child wakes up feeling unwell, but they haven't been sick or have a temperature, they can still come to school and don't have to miss the whole day.

If your child is recovering from a stomach upset and the 48hrs is up during the day they can return to school for the remainder of that day.

Please support your child to make the best progress by being in the classroom.

Please, please, please label your children's clothing, including hats and water bottles. Every term a huge pile of lost property is produced which costs you money!

Citizens Advice have a drop in on Wednesdays at the Sunshine Centre 10-12 and at their office in Cornhill, Monday – 9.30-11.30, 2-4pm and 4.30-6.15pm. Tuesday-Friday – 9.30-11.30am.

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

The Breadline Project is also open Tuesday-Friday 5-7pm and Saturday 9.45-12.

Governors

As a Governing Body we continue to work closely with Mrs Horbury-Jakeman and the Senior Leadership Team to oversee aspects of the school. Over the last term this has included reviewing the evaluations of how well the school supports pupils' Personal Development. This has always been a strength of the school, and this year there has been a focus on making further improvements in this area. Some examples of supporting Personal Development across the school include:

- A weekly class link with Frank Wise School.
- Working in partnership with other schools in Banbury as part of Safeguarding Children in Banbury. This includes ensuring consistent learning across the town in cyber bullying and other elements to support them to have a greater understanding of how to stay safe and where they can get help from.
- Place2Be, which provides an on-site counsellor to be available to children two days a week.
- Encouraging pupils to play a key role in wider school life, for example taking on pupil leadership roles such as Wellbeing Warriors, Play Leaders, School Council and Sports Council membership.

Hopefully all parents have seen the Queensway Song that pupils composed this year which is based on the values and mission statement of the school. If not, it can be found here:

<https://www.queensway.oxon.sch.uk/news/?pid=3&nid=4&storyid=125>

Finally, an important aspect of Personal Development are the opportunities pupils are given to attend trips and off-site opportunities. At the start of next term it is the annual Year 6 residential trip to Conover Hall, in Shrewsbury. This is an activity centre and will be a great chance for new experiences with friends.

PTA news

From the recent parent survey we carried out at parents evening, it was clear that community events were of the most importance to you all. Participation in these events not only shows your support for your child's education but also demonstrates commitment to the wider school community. Building strong connections with other parents and teaching staff creates a supportive network that benefits everyone involved.

This term saw the return of the Quiz and Curry night. A fantastic evening with a superb selection of raffle prizes and a delicious curry with all the trimmings, special thanks to Mrs Jabeen for the delicious onion bhajis, they were a big hit! We would also like to thank the parents and staff that have very generously donated raffle prizes and to our amazing teachers who made up most of the teams, thank you.

We're delighted with the collaboration of Year 6 parents and Embroidery and Printing World (www.epworld.co.uk) to form the "Year 6 leavers working party" who are actively arranging t-shirts and/or hoodies that have been hugely discounted and subsidised by the PTA.

We've seen an encouraging response to the Family Picnic on 4th July with commitment ranging from an hour to help set up or half an hour to support an activity during the evening. Community support is essential to provide activities such as these, so thank you once again for all your promises of help and support.

Don't forget to pull together any unwanted uniforms during the half term to donate via the office after half term for our second-hand uniform sale that will be happening in Term 6 and come say hi to us on Sports Day when we'll be selling refreshments!!

The next meeting will be held online at 6.30pm on 6th June where the focus will be on the Family Picnic! Everyone is invited to join the call – please email pta@queensway.oxon.sch.uk or pop into the office if you're able to join.

Warmest regards,
Sarah Arrowsmith
PTA Chair

Term 5 Dates

Monday 27th May – Friday 31st May – **School closed**

Monday 3rd June – **School re-opens**

Friday 19th July – **Last day of Term 6**

