



NEWSLETTER

The Queen's C of E Primary School

Encouraging every child to reach their full potential, nurtured and supported in a Christian community, which lives by the values of love, compassion and respect.



15th October 2021

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A Message from Ms Stroud & Ms Demetriou

Dear Queen's families,

As we near the end of the first half term we celebrate the joys of being in school and how much has been achieved since the start of the term. See all the amazing learning in the photos below.

Our reception pupils have settled so well into school and are now managing their whole days without too many children falling asleep!

We have started school visits and many year groups have been or are planning their trips. Year 5 have been on their residential trip and school swimming lessons and some sports fixtures have re-started.

Staff update:

We are sadly saying goodbye to Mrs Martin, who has been a teaching assistant at The Queen's school for over 20 years and is retiring at half term. Over her time at Queen's, Mrs Martin has worked in every year

group and supported so many pupils in their learning. She will be greatly missed by us all and I am sure you will join us in wishing her a happy and fulfilling retirement.

Covid:

We understand that this is an anxious time for parents with COVID rates still rising, government speculation over other winter illnesses and an increase in positive COVID cases in schools.

We want to reassure parents that we are committed to keeping pupils in school and remain vigilant around health and safety measures to minimise infection with: increased ventilation, handwashing, hygiene and cleaning.

Last week we had several positive COVID cases that occurred on Year 5 school journey, with the nature of the trip: team building, cabin sharing, sleeping in the same room and coach journeys, all people on the trip were asked to take a PCR test due to close contact and to remain away from school. The situation was managed efficiently and effectively, following consultation with our governors and advice from the Department of Education COVID department, isolating further potential transmission across the rest of the school. Year 5 pupils were able to return to school quickly, following a negative test and a few more positive cases were identified. A big thank you goes to all year 5 families who responded so helpfully and quickly with testing and accessing remote learning for two days, ensuring a speedy and safe return to school.

As a reminder, if anyone in your family is symptomatic, please book a PCR test : <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>

Anyone who is a close contact of someone who has tested positive should also take a PCR test. PCRs are different to the Lateral Flow Tests that can be obtained at pharmacies, in packs with multiple tests in them; they are more sensitive than the Lateral Flow tests.

Coffee gatherings:

As part of our welcoming families back to school we would like to invite parents to join us for an outside coffee and chat. This will be organised in year groups, after drop off in the morning at 9:15am on a Tuesday or Wednesday. Sorry, but we can't make coffee at the moment, so we ask you to bring a takeaway coffee and join us in the playground gazebo from 9.15 – 9.45.am – we will provide the biscuits. **Proposed dates are as follows:**

Reception:	Tuesday 16 th November
Year 1:	Wednesday 17 th November
Year 2:	Tuesday 23 rd November
Year 3:	Wednesday 24 th November
Year 4:	Tuesday 30 th November
Year 5:	Tuesday 7 th December
Year 6:	Wednesday 8 th December

We do hope as many parents/carers as possible will, join us on these mornings. We will send out a parentmail after half term with reminders of dates.

Thank you to everyone who contributed so generously to our Harvest appeal, so far we have raised £518:00 for SPEAR, a charity for people experiencing homelessness in Richmond. If you still wish to make a donation, please do so through parentmail.

This half term we have been focusing on Saints and this week, on St Luke. Children have been reflecting on inclusivity – ‘welcoming all’ and how Jesus wanted us to know that God welcomes everyone into his family. No one need ever feel left out, everyone is welcomed and everyone is special.

Please share our prayer:

Dear God,

Thank you that you made us all differently.

Thank you that you love every one of us.

Help us to show care for all people.

Help us to learn to appreciate differences.

Help us to be inclusive and always make others feel welcome.

Guide us to be the person who makes a difference to someone else.

Help us to show compassion and friendship.

Amen

We wish everyone a peaceful weekend and a happy half term at the end of next week.

Very best wishes,

Ms Demetriou & Ms Stroud –Turp Co–Headteachers

Ms Wilson – Assistant Head

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Dates for Your Diaries

Mufti Day

Friday 22/10 - We're celebrating a (hopefully) plentiful week of food donations (see [PSA News below](#)) with a No - Uniform day

Half-Term

Monday 25/10 – Friday 29/10

Parent teacher meetings

Monday 15/11 – Thursday 18/11 to discuss your child's progress. These meetings will be held via video and further details will be sent out after half-term

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COVID 19 UPDATES

Tests

We would like to take this opportunity to remind families that **lateral flow tests** are useful for identifying asymptomatic cases in the community and are available at pharmacies and testing centres.

Please note that if a child or adult is **displaying any of the symptoms** of Covid, then they should **book a PCR test**. <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>

If you have any of these 3 coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms, even if mild, use this service to get a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test as soon as possible:

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough
- you've lost your sense of smell or taste or it's changed

You can order a PCR test kit to be sent to your home or book an appointment at a walk-in or drive-through test site.



If you have symptoms, [self-isolate](#) straight away until you get your results. Do not leave home, except to post a test kit or for a PCR test appointment. [Check if the people you live with need to self-isolate on NHS.UK.](#)

When to isolate

With the change in guidance around self-isolation, make sure you know what is expected:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-and-treatment/when-to-self-isolate-and-what-to-do/>

Other Covid 19 Information

Please be assured that, in line with government guidance, we are maximising ventilation within the school. All classrooms are equipped with CO2 monitors, and we have reduced the target CO2 level from 800ppm to 400ppm to increase the amount of fresh air being brought in. Windows and doors are also left open wherever practical. As we move towards winter, this does mean that classrooms may be cooler than they would otherwise be. Please do ensure that your children bring warm clothing with them as the days become colder. We also continue to promote good hygiene practices, which have the added benefit of helping prevent the spread of tummy bugs.

Department for Education COVID-19 helpline

The [Department for Education COVID-19 helpline](#) and the PHE Advice Service (option 1) is available to answer any questions you have about COVID-19 relating to education settings and children's social care.

Department for Education guidance

Our guidance to support education providers, local authorities and parents during the COVID-19 pandemic can be accessed using the link: [What parents need to know for the autumn term](#)

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Safeguarding

Designated Safeguarding Leads: Co-Headteachers - Ms Voulla Demetriou & Ms Jenny Stroud-Turp

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads: - Ms Hilary Wilson (Assistant Head) & Ms Polly Watkinson
(Senco)

SPA

If you are concerned about a child's well-being you can make a referral or seek advice from Richmond

Single Point of Access - 0208 547 5008

Out of Hours Duty Social Worker

0208 770 5000

National Domestic Violence Helpline - 0808 2000 247

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Annual Governors' Appeal

During the last year we have all been focussed on the issues affecting our families and community as a result of the pandemic. From the school's perspective this has meant ensuring the high standards of teaching and learning have continued, remotely and on site, as well as looking after staff and managing the school budget as cost effectively as possible.

I'm sure you have all have read about the very real problems schools are facing to adequately fund themselves amid the trend of declining school budgets. Our school is no exception.

As a Voluntary Aided Church School, we are required to cover from our own funds 10% of the cost of any capital works – improvement or major maintenance – for which we receive government funding. This year, for example, we have been awarded funding for £70,000 of work to improve the external lighting and to motorise the emergency gate, which means that a £7,000 contribution from Governors' funds is required.

Therefore, each academic year we ask parents to consider making a voluntary donation to our Maintenance Fund through the Governors' Annual Appeal. The governors' fund covers (a) our subscription to a Diocesan scheme that covers the 10% contribution for major **maintenance** works; and (b) our 10% contribution for **improvement** works not eligible for the Diocesan scheme. Although our school building is still very new, and we are benefiting from a period in which maintenance costs are relatively low, as governors we have a responsibility to plan ahead and ensure funding for maintenance and improvement of our building and grounds is available when it is needed. The only other way we can fund these works would be via use of the school's revenue funding, but doing so would divert funds away from the day-to-day costs of educating our children.

Further details about the different sources and uses of funding at Queen's can be found on <https://www.queens.richmond.sch.uk/page/?title=School+Finance+and+Funding+FAQ&pid=468>

Contribution to the Maintenance Fund is wholly voluntary, but we suggest, if you are willing, an annual contribution of £50 per child. It would be wonderful if you felt able to give more, but any support you can give would be greatly appreciated.

All funds raised by the appeal are ring-fenced for use exclusively on maintenance and repairs (when needed) and, at governors' discretion, projects that enhance the children's school life. We are unable to use this fund for staffing and related resource.

Donating is simple:

- By standing order—simply complete the form on the school website [here](#) and return to the school office, together with the gift aid form if applicable;
- A cheque made payable to the Queen's School Governors, which you can drop into the school office, attached to the form on the school website [here](#);
- A donation using Parent Mail + Pay
Select the amount you wish to donate and remember to tick the gift aid box if you are a UK Taxpayer to help make your giving go further.

We thank you in advance for your help with this responsibility.

Yours sincerely

Mark Ollard,

Chair of the Finance Committee

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A New Vision for The Queen's School

The Queen's School needs a new Vision for the next three years (2022 to 2025). The Vision sets out our Mission Statement and the school's priorities during this period. It is a statement of who we are, and also where we want the school to be in the future.

Have your say

It's important that our new Vision is appropriate, ambitious and achievable – one that we can all embrace and embed in our school life. We want to hear from everyone in our school community, and will be running a formal stakeholder engagement process over the coming weeks to seek the views of parents and carers, staff, children and our broader community on the proposed new Vision, as well as any ideas you may have about areas of focus for the school over the next few years.

Next steps

We will be circulating further details regarding the proposed Vision, and a short survey to complete, before half term. Further details about The Queen's School Vision will also be available on the website.

Taking part in this important exercise will help us to continually improve as a school. We will gather all the views and feedback we receive and use them to finalise our new overall Vision so we have the right, ambitious plan for our School's development and continuous improvement over the next three years.

With grateful thanks,

The Governing Board

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Parent/Carer Helpers Needed

We value and appreciate any time that parents/carers can offer to the school and look forward to welcoming you as a parent helper at The Queen's School.

We are ready to welcome parent/carers volunteers into school to support in the following roles:

Readers:

We need helpers 8:45 – 9:15am and/or 2.45 – 3.15pm each day

We have many children across the school who would benefit from daily reading aloud to an adult. **If you can spare 30 minutes on a regular day each week – we need you**

Lunchtime:

We need helpers 11.45 – 12.30pm Monday - Friday

Many children in KS1 (Reception, year 1 and year 2) need help at lunchtime:

- Choosing their meal
- Cutting up their food
- Using cutlery
- Showing good table manners
- Focusing on eating their lunch

We also need to keep the area clean and wipe tables and any spillages.

If you have 45 minutes you can spare on a regular day each week – we need you

Key Stage one library:

We need helpers any afternoon over the next few weeks (2:00pm – 3.00pm)

We are starting to put our KS1 library back in use and need some help to sort the books into colour bands and organise on the shelves.

If you are interested in supporting the school in any of the above roles, please contact Ms Wilson via:

info@queens.richmond.sch.uk detailing:

- the role you are interested in
- the days/times you can offer
- the year group of your child(ren)

We will offer an induction session for all parent/carers helpers to ensure you understand the role and expectations.

We will be expanding the roles on offer, so if you are interested in supporting the school at a later date, please let us know.

If you would like to be a helper/volunteer at The Queen's School, **You will need to have a current DBS certificate for The Queen's School and complete the induction for volunteers on our website:**

www.queens.richmond.sch.uk. The induction can be found in the [here](#) (**For Parents - Volunteer Induction**), where you will be required to read information and complete the Induction Form (*all parent helpers will need to complete the induction, even if you have previously done so*).

When you have completed your Induction form please bring it to the school office.

Please be aware that all volunteers need to have completed this induction and have a current DBS certificate before helping in school. I am sure that you all realise the importance of this safeguarding procedure. If you require any support in completing this induction please contact the school office.

We value and appreciate any time that parents/carers can offer to the school and look forward to welcoming you as a parent helper at The Queen's School.

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Secondary School Transfer in September 2022

Transferring to Secondary School in September 2022

If your child is currently in Year 6 at a primary school,
you need to apply for a secondary school place now

Apply online, visit our website www.richmond.gov.uk
for more information and an easy step-by-step guide

The closing date is 31 October 2021
Don't be late

For information and advice contact School Admissions on
020 8547 5569 between 9am and 2pm
E: richmond.admissions@achievingforchildren.org.uk



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A Time to Reflect

Our reflection and quiet zone in the playground is an area where children can read, draw, chat or just sit and think in peace. Over the last year Mrs Coulson (and her husband!) have worked hard to ensure that this and our grow zone is full of a variety of flowers and pollinating insects. A little haven in our busy school day.

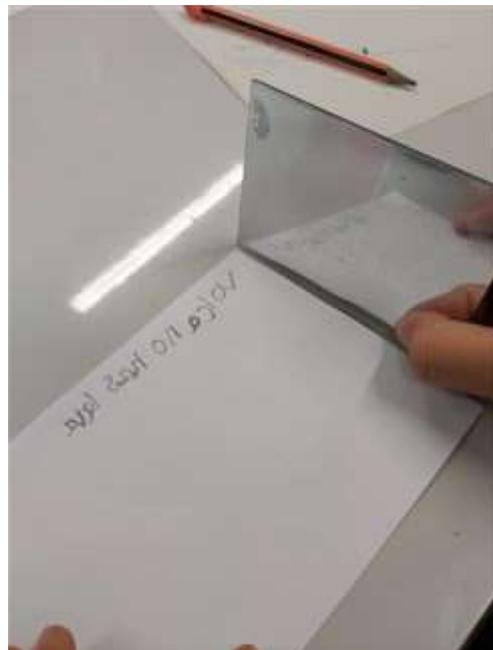
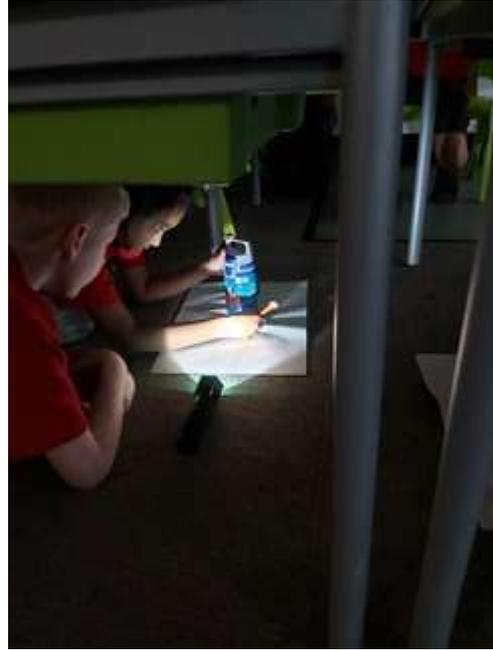


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Year 3 Take a Look in the Mirror!

We loved looking at mirrors in science and we worked out how to use mirrors to bend light, write messages in code and walk along a wobbly line.

Can you see what we've written?



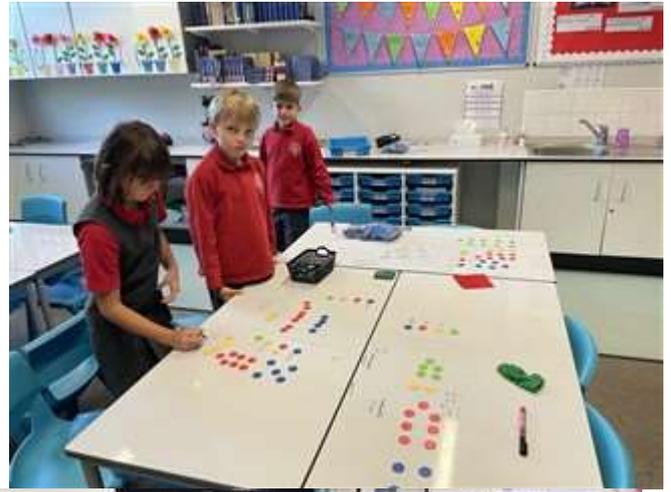


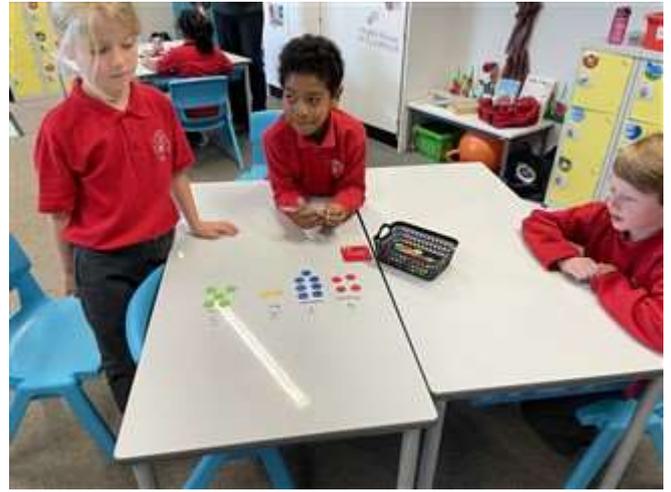
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Year 4 Know Their Place!

Year 4 have thrown themselves into their Maths lessons and have been getting practical with place value. Here we are practising exchanging between columns when adding.







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Can You Hear Me Year 4 – Over?

In science, Year 4 have been investigating the properties of sound, including that old chestnut of an experiment with two cups and some string. Looks like you might need to pull some of that string a bit tighter year 4!





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Year 5 Get Away

Last week Year 5 went away for a four-day residential trip to High Ashurst near Box Hill. They took part in a range of activities to develop their teamwork, communication, listening, leadership and participation skills. They also had a great deal of fun along the way! You can see lots more photos and a school journey blog on the school website here [Year 5 School Journey](#).





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Year 6 Get Mysterious!

In Year 6, we began our study of mystery and suspense writing this week, focusing initially on describing a setting in order to create atmosphere. Here are some examples of our writing:

*The flickering streetlights glowed faintly as the inky sky darkened. The ghost-like fog blinded the eyes of any souls. Fear crept up through my bones and a deathly chill ran through my heart as I felt like I was being watched. The smell of tobacco burned up my nose. A silhouette of a person's shadow emerged from the depths, then I heard footsteps.
I froze...*

Harris R

*I approached as the streetlights flickered into life, with their dim amber glow. One such streetlamp stood beside me, engulfing the inky black that had disguised me. Snow blew against a nearby window as the children inside awaited Christmas Day. The walls of the houses trapped me, with only their glowing light for entertainment. The meow of a cat awoke my ears as the crisp evening air slapped my face. I took five paces along the cobbled street and in the distance, I saw a torch.
I froze.*

Bea G

Next week, we will move on to describing a character. Watch this space for more great writing... (Left you in suspense there.)

PSA Christmas Fair - reminder!

The Christmas Fair will be held on 4th December. Please save the date in your diaries. Your support and attendance will make a huge difference to the event.

A major contributor to the proceeds raised is always the Silent Auction, and we need your help!

1. Do you have a second home in the UK and can you donate a 3 night stay redeemable over the next 6 months?
2. Can you donate professional services that can be redeemed such as Career coaching, interior design, CV review, guitar lessons?
3. Do you get any perks through the company you work for that can be turned into a donation? For example, if you get a big corporate discount at Superdrug, could you donate a bath & body gift set that we could auction for full price?
4. Do you work for/own a company that could donate a voucher or set product? For example, a parent who works for a skin care company is donating a hamper of this year's new products.

If you can pledge anything, it would be tremendously appreciated. If you can, please email us via the following link.

QueensKewAuction@gmail.com

Canned Food Drive for Richmond Food Bank 18th - 22nd October

Richmond Food Bank provide emergency food to local people, who are referred to them in crisis. This is a wonderful opportunity to support the local community and whilst all tinned food is gratefully received, specific items requested are:

Long-life milk & juice
Canned meat & fish
Cleaning materials

There will be plastic bins at each school gate to receive your donations.



PSA General Meeting

This will be held via Zoom on 20th October at 8pm. Please access via the following link.

Topic: Queen's PSA General Meeting

Time: Oct 20, 2021 20:00

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84843851834?pwd=TVdZMmd0cUIKWIZHbXErbGpGMStmUT09>

Meeting ID: 848 4385 1834

Passcode: 709861

No - Uniform Day

We're celebrating a (hopefully) plentiful week of food donations with a No - Uniform day!! Friday 22nd October!

PSA Conker Collection

We look forward to organising more Christmas Wreath workshops again this year and believe it or not, half term is the perfect time to start collecting & foraging for our Christmas Wreath materials.

Why not use the half term break to start gathering conkers (horse chestnuts) or any other interesting natural materials for the wreaths that you see when out walking? The PSA team will be on hand on the first Monday back to collect any foraged items.

You can always check upcoming events and volunteer opportunities on our PTA Events website - <https://www.pta-events.co.uk/queenskewpsa/>

Many thanks!

The PSA Team

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Raise Money for The Queen's School Whilst Shopping Online

Thank you to those of you who signed up to Easyfundraising and used Amazon Smile for your Christmas shopping. Just a reminder that these function throughout the year so please continue to use them.

The PSA & School Governing Body

AMAZON SMILE

AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon with the same products, prices, and shopping features as Amazon.com. The difference is that when you shop on AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price to the chosen charity.

On your first visit to the site, you will be asked to log in to your Amazon account with existing username and password (you do not need a separate account for AmazonSmile). You will then be prompted to choose a charity to support. During future visits to the site, AmazonSmile will remember your charity and apply eligible purchases towards your total contribution—it is that easy!

The link below will set you up immediately with Queens as your chosen beneficiary.

<https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/283103-0>

EASYFUNDRAISING

This site works in a similar way to AmazonSmile but for many more online retailers such as John Lewis (2% transaction value), M&S (1.5%), Argos, Sainsbury, eBay, booking.com and many more. So long as you enter those sites via Easyfundraising the PSA will get a % of your transaction value.

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/queensprimary/>

Follow the link above.

Click on 'Support this cause'.

Then you need to set up an account, and shop via the home page from then on.

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Mayor's Christmas Card Design Competition

The Mayor is searching for budding artists to design his annual Christmas card.

The winner will have their design made into a real card and the Mayor will send these out. The winner will also be invited to have tea with the Mayor in his parlour along with the runners up (usually two or three runners up will be chosen).

About the competition

The competition is open to primary school children aged 5 to 11 who live or go to school in the borough of Richmond upon Thames.

Entries should be:

- A5 in size (just fold an A4 sheet in half)
- Colourful
- Your own original image
-

Please write the name of the child, their age and their school or address on the back of their entry so we are able to notify them if they win.

How to enter

Designs should be submitted to the Mayor's Support Officer, by **5pm on Friday 12 November 2021**.

Submit your entry by post to:

Mayor's Christmas Card Competition
Mayor's Office
York House
Richmond Road
Twickenham
TW1 3AA

Or email to mayors.office@richmond.gov.uk

Unfortunately, entries cannot be returned due to the volume we receive.