



December Newsletter



Queens' Federation
Queen Emma
Primary School

Dear Parents and Carers

It has been yet another busy and eventful half term at Queen Emma, with lots of learning and lots of fun. We have much to share with you in this edition of our newsletter, so please do read on to find out what has been going on.

Firstly, I would like to begin by congratulating our families and children for working together with us to improve attendance at school. We understand that if children are genuinely unwell, they cannot attend school, however we have made remarkable gains in securing much better attendance for children over the last year. Thank you for co-operating by taking holidays outside of term time, for trying to get appointments outside of the school day and for encouraging your children to attend school if they just have a mild sniffle. The fact is, that we cannot teach your children if they are not in school and this has a direct impact upon your child's ability to achieve their full potential. Currently our persistent absence figure stands at 16%, which has reduced from 22% compared to the same time last year. This figure represents the children who are absent from school for 10% or more of the time. Although 16% remains relatively high, it is a good start and we are hopeful that with your continuing support that this can be reduced further.

We have continued to nurture the interests and talents of children in our school by providing many enrichment opportunities once again this half term, which reach beyond the curriculum. Children across Years 3 and 4 paired up with those at Queen Edith to become immersed in the world of poetry, with Michael Rosen. Michael visited our school to host a poetry workshop where children collaborated in writing poetry together that were intended to capture the reader's imagination.

A selected group of children from Years 5 and 6 attended our first ever cross country event, which was hosted at Coleridge School, whilst we entered a group of Year 6 children for a tag rugby competition, which was also a first for us! We have had several children who have shared their musical talents with the wider school by playing us into and out of the hall during assemblies. These have included Toby on his ukulele, who both played and sang music by Coldplay. Ruby wowed us all with her talents on the penny whistle, by playing some Irish tunes that got everyone's feet tapping. Our Christmas piano concert was a chance for our pianists to share their incredible melodies and to show us how far they have come, down to their hard work. Well done to all of our musicians and we are lucky to have so many talented children in our school.



January

- 8 Return to school
- 11 Open Morning Reception 2024
- 15 PSFA Meeting
- 24 Toucan Assembly
- 31 Polar Bear Assembly

February

- 1 PSFA Disco
- 2 Y4 Cake Sale
- 6 Online Safety Day
- 6 Parent Open Afternoon
- 7 Seahorse Assembly
- 8 Parent Open Afternoon

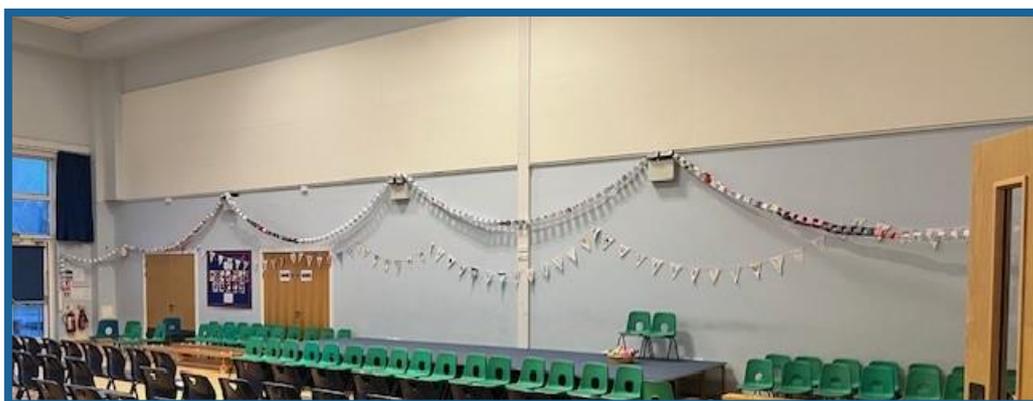
19th – 23rd
Half Term Holiday

Our enrichment opportunities at Queen Emma have continued this term, with our Year 6 classes visiting Duxford, to complement their knowledge and understanding of World War 2. Years 3 and 4 had 'History off the Page' days, which for Year 4 centered around enhancing their knowledge of the Roman way of life. Year 3 also had a visit from 'History off the Page' who helped the children to appreciate customs from Ancient Greece. Our Reception children had a parent visitor who came to talk about life in Japan, that helped them to learn more about the world around us. They were even shown how to make sushi and found out about traditional Japanese foods and tastes by sampling some for themselves. Our photograph shows how proud they were of their achievements.



Christmas is a magical time in school, and we are delighted that so many families and children enjoyed the festive events held this term. These have included Christmas dinner, festive parties and our ever-popular Christmas Fayre. Our nursery classes brought festive cheer to their families through performing a range of modern and traditional Christmas songs, that were followed by craft activities in their classrooms, to which their family members were invited. Our Reception children dazzled us with their performance of 'Christmas Around the World' that took us on a whistle stop tour to find out more about Christmas traditions across the globe. We were amazed by the children's singing and enthusiasm throughout their wonderful performance. Thanks to the children in Key Stage 1, we were able to hear their version of the Christmas story, told through their spectacular show that was named 'Born in a Barn'. Their singing, speaking and dancing skills were remarkable! Thank you to families for joining us and also to our committed staff who had very ably prepared the children for these performances.

We would like to thank the PSFA for organizing a fabulous Christmas Fayre for our families, once again this year. We are grateful to all of the volunteers who generously gave their time to prepare, work on stalls and to tidy away at the end. This community event was certainly enjoyed by those who attended and it was lovely to see faces, old and new, who managed to make it and have lots of fun enjoying the many activities on offer from face painting to visiting Santa or trying their luck at many of the stalls such as tombola and lucky jars. We appreciate your support. The term ended with all classes contributing to a 'peace chain' that stretched an amazing 24 metres. All children contributed their own image of peace to remind us all how to continue to be good citizens during times of unrest and to bring a positive message to our school community.



On behalf of all of us at Queen Emma, may I wish you a very happy and peaceful Christmas and new year. We look forward to seeing the children back in school on **Monday 8th January 2024**. As ever, thank you for your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely

Sarah Jarman
Executive Headteacher



Message from the Governors

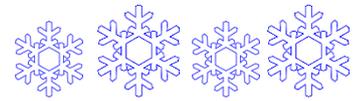
Dear Parents and Carers

I am really pleased to be able to report that both our schools have ended this momentous year for our Federation with a set of spectacularly good Key Stage 2 assessment results. The schools exceeded both the county and the national figures in combined Reading, Writing and Mathematics by a considerable margin. I can also report excellent progress in phonics at Key Stage 1 at both schools and good outcomes in the Early Years Foundation Stage. This is a wonderful tribute to the staff and, of course, to the children themselves. It is also a tribute to all of you, for the support you continue to give to the children's learning, both at home and at school.

It is also good to report that we have seen an improvement in attendance at both schools and a drop in both authorised and unauthorised absences. This is very good news and, again, many thanks are due to all parents who have responded to the school's message about the importance of getting children into school regularly.

On behalf of the whole Governing Body, I wish you all a happy and restful Christmas break and I hope we can look forward to a similarly successful new year.

Dr Sean Lang
Chair of the Governing Body



Cubs



This half term Cubs have learnt about fireworks and Autumn. The children made some firework pictures using paints and chinks on black paper. We enjoyed going outside on a nature walk looking at all the different colours in the leaves that have fallen from the trees and made a collage using the different natural materials we found. We have read 'Goldilocks and The Three Bears' and played in the tuff tray making porridge for the three bears. Cubs performed an amazing Christmas performance to friends and families and enjoyed a Christmas party too. Merry Christmas and a happy new year to you all.

Foxes

This half term, children in Foxes have enjoyed learning about pushes and pulls whilst reading the story of 'The Enormous Turnip'. They rolled pumpkins, conkers and cars down slopes and explored magnets. Our Forest School days have encouraged the children to look for, and collect, signs of autumn. Foxes have particularly enjoyed creating their very own 'Stick Man' using a wool-winding technique. They have also been thinking about keeping healthy, doing regular PE and dance sessions and talking about eating healthily. They have sorted food packages into healthy and not so healthy food types and cut out and stuck pictures of healthy food onto paper plates. They have recently been singing lots of seasonal songs with actions. We wish all our Foxes children and parents a very Happy Christmas!



Hedgehog

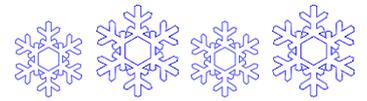


This half term, Hedgehog Class discovered an egg which had been left at their classroom door one Monday morning. Over the week, it started to hatch and after lots of different predictions, we discovered it was an owl. This led us to learn the 'Owl Babies' story. Using actions we performed the story to our family and friends at our half termly 'Share a Book' session. We have now learnt about the deep dark woods and natural and artificial light sources. We have now created and changed a story map, written a new story and even illustrated it to make our own book. The children have really enjoyed creating their own versions of the 'Owl Babies' story this half term.

Owl

This half term, Owl Class have been learning about different celebrations. We have celebrated fireworks night and recently had a Diwali carousel day where we explored different decorations, traditions and had parent visitors. Most recently we have been learning all about Christmas. We have decorated a Christmas tree, started adding our own advent stars to the tree and added stockings daily to our stocking door. We have been looking at different traditions from around the world and how different countries celebrate Christmas. We made this into a play which the children performed this half term. They wore some beautiful costumes and worked really hard to learn all of their lines and songs. Miss Coston is really proud of them all!





Dolphin

In Dolphin Class, we have been working extremely hard this term locating and discovering places that are near and far from us. We have also been studying different artists such as Paul Klee and Pablo Picasso and their unique styles of art. In Science, children have worked hard to understand day and night and learn the process of how the planets orbit the sun.

Seahorse

Seahorse Class have had a busy half term. A real highlight was our Science day where we learnt all about space. We went off in our rockets to learn a song all about the 8 planets in our solar system. We then coloured, cut out and ordered them correctly (the song really helped us with this!) Next we learnt about the relative sizes of planets, with Mercury being the size of a peppercorn, Earth a cherry tomato and Jupiter the size of a grapefruit! In the afternoon, we learnt about how day and night are made using torches and pretended to be Earth and the moon orbiting around the sun. Finally we made our own model with split pins to recreate the Earth and moon's orbit.



Penguin



Penguin Class have been very busy rehearsing for their production of 'Born in a Barn'. They have worked hard in English to use all the features learnt to write a fantasy story based on 'Once in a Lifetime'. They very much enjoyed their trip to Duxford Imperial War Museum as part of their 'Up, Up and Away' topic, have written a fact file about The Wright Brothers and created a poster showing the different types of aircraft. In Art and Design, Penguin Class have been practising their sketching skills, have looked in detail at Georgia O'Keeffe and drawn in the same style. In Science they designed, made, and tested a pet house to see which waterproof materials were suitable for the roof.

Polar Bear

Polar Bear Class have had a busy time learning about the history of flight and the Wright brothers' invention. In Mathematics, we have been adding and subtracting 2-digit numbers using partitioning and 'making 10'. In English, we had fun writing fantasy stories and 'What am I?' riddle poems. Science has been a wonderful adventure into the uses of the everyday materials and their properties; finding out why certain materials are suitable or unsuitable. We have really enjoyed 'buddy reading' with Year 5 children when we share our work and read with them.





Macaw



Macaw Class have had an exciting term learning all about the Stone Age through to the Iron Age. They loved their Stone Age day where they explored many pre-historic artefacts. The children used this knowledge to write some wonderful adventure stories based in the Stone Age. They have also really enjoyed learning all about rocks in Science.

Toucan

Toucan Class enjoyed becoming immersed in the Stone Age this half term. In English, they have written excellent adventure stories about a modern day person falling back into the Stone Age, showing off their fantastic knowledge of pre-history that they have learnt across our topic lessons. They particularly enjoyed spending a day in the Stone Age during our History Off the Page Day. They created furniture out of flint and clay, milled flour with rocks, investigated prehistoric houses and had a go at throwing spears and shooting arrows!



Falcon



Falcon Class thoroughly enjoyed performing their class assembly and have really immersed themselves in their Romans topic. They sang, acted and shared the culmination of their topic and art work. They also enjoyed a 'History Off the Page' day and participated in a variety of different activities such as amulet making, mosaic making, mixing herbs to make fragrant bags, making clay lamps, squeezing olives to make oil for lamps and many more! In the afternoon they had their own Roman feast which celebrated a battle win and entertained each other by dancing and performing plays. What a great topic!

Kestrel

Kestrel Class have had a very busy half term! We have worked hard to develop our English skills by writing a myth based upon our Roman topic. We have also been practising calculation of the perimeter of 2D shapes in Mathematics. In Science, the children have learnt how sound travels and how volume and pitch can vary. We have learnt new sewing skills in Design and Technology. The children have continued to develop dancing skills in Physical Education and practised passing and dribbling a football. Our recent Roman Day was a huge success and children enjoyed the practical activities that helped them to understand various aspects of ancient Roman culture.





Giraffe

In Mathematics, we have practised solving multiplication problems using the 'column method', and used the 'bus stop method' to help us solve division problems. In Art and Design, we have created our own space themed artwork using the artist Peter Thorpe as our inspiration.

Zebra

This half term, Zebra Class have become space explorers. Armed with Oreos, our young astronomers recreated the lunar phases. They also learnt about how the Earth moves in relation to the Sun and Moon, creating a model to demonstrate this. Equipped with VR headsets, they embarked on a virtual expedition, researching a planet from our solar system. Collaborative minds then crafted captivating posters, showcasing their newfound planetary expertise.



Jaguar



We have managed to power through our second half term with great focus and success. We have focused on light and electricity in Science, competed in rugby and hockey, discussed the rights of the child in PSHCE, touched on Buddhism and considered God incarnate during Religious Education. We were able to spend a full day immersed in art: 'Clay Day' allowed us to express our inner artist with some impressive results. Finally, an 'experience day' for our writing unit on Kensuke's Kingdom had us exploring the on-site forest school to gain additional perspective for our narrative. A busy first term, with even more planned in the upcoming terms! In the meantime, the whole Year 6 team is wishing you and your family a healthy and happy new year.

Panther

As our topic of World War 2 draws to a close, we can reflect on the information we have learnt. Initially we focused on the day war was announced, then thought about evacuees, the Blitz and soldiers involved in action and what that meant to people living in the United Kingdom. World War 2 day was the perfect way to end our first topic. We have worked incredibly hard throughout the term, and have truly earned our break. With the New Year around the corner, we have even more planned in the upcoming terms, but for the moment a break to reflect on our progress. A happy and healthy new year to all Queen Emma families and friends! We will see everyone in 2024.



Staff news



Miss Clark and Mrs Foster who job share in Year 5 will be sadly leaving us at the end of this term. Mr Evans will be joining the school to teach the class and I am sure you will join me in welcoming him to the Queen Emma team. Miss Newman will also be leaving Queen Emma to go travelling, and Mrs Dunn will be replacing her.

Winning House Revealed

Congratulations to members of **Hawking House** who earned the most house points this half term. House points are awarded to pupils who are demonstrating the use of the 7 habits in and around school.

We hope members of Hawking House enjoyed your non-school uniform day on Tuesday 19th December. Congratulations to everyone who earned house points this half term. Keep up the amazing work.

Hawking House = 2722

Newton House = 2599

Darwin House = 2546

Franklin House = 2439



Reminder

Please be reminded that scooters and cycles **MUST** be dismantled before entering the school grounds, by both adults and children. Please also be reminded that the large vehicle gate at the front of the school is not suitable for pedestrians and cyclists to use. Please use the smaller gate to access the site.

Please ensure that you continue to think about our children and community by parking considerately. We liaise regularly with the parking control team and notify them of any concerns we might have. It is not acceptable to park on the zig zag lines or to use the entrance to the school as a drop off point. This creates a danger for our families and children.





School Meals

School meals are now provided by Aspens. Aspens use an online booking and payment system called 'Select'. You will need to order and pay for your child's meals using this system. It is very important that you order your child's school meal before 8.30am every day. School meals can be ordered a number of weeks in advance if you prefer. Please be reminded that the price of a school meal will increase to £2.75 per meal from Monday 8th January 2024.

School Uniform



Grey skirt, pinafore, trousers or shorts

Blue and white checked summer dress

Royal blue sweatshirt or cardigan

Pale blue polo shirt

Black shoes or black trainers

White, black or grey socks / tights

Leggings may be worn instead of tights, but not instead of trousers

No jeans please.

PE Kit



Children need plain black shorts, a white t-shirt and plimsolls/trainers. Depending on the weather, children will also need a tracksuit and trainers for outdoor games lessons. Children will continue to arrive in their PE kits, when it is their PE day.



Jewellery

Jewellery may not be worn in school. The only exceptions are watches, studs for pierced ears, and cultural or religious adornments, which must be removed during lessons involving physical exercise. If such items cannot be removed the individual is not prepared in an acceptably safe way and cannot continue as is, so must take part in modified activity. The school will not accept responsibility for removing or storing studs. Long hair should be tied back for PE and DT activities.



**Queen Emma Primary School
Parents, Staff and Friends
Association (PSFA)**



The PSFA are a group of parents, staff, and friends of Queen Emma Primary School, focussed on developing a sense of community, organising events and raising funds to enrich our school environment.

Fundraising to benefit the school community

Outdoor Equipment: At present we are fundraising for equipment for the outdoor playgrounds. We are so happy to see the new blue picnic benches in use now in the back playground – these were funded through our events of the past couple of years, and we are looking forward now to a shade sail for the summer months. Thank you everyone for helping to make our outdoor spaces a lovely space for the children to enjoy!

PSFA events

Bake Sales: Thank you to Year 5 for a fabulous Bake Sale on 25th November. Everyone enjoyed their delicious treats and the event raised an incredible £216. Well done Year 5 and thank you!

Second Hand Uniform Sales: Thank you to all those who have donated or purchased second-hand uniform recently. The uniform sale on 25th November raised £110, so thank you all! We hope to run more in-person uniform sales next term but, in the meantime, please email us with any requests and we will look out the items for you.

(Suggested donations: school fleece £4, school jumper/cardigan £2.50, trousers/shorts/skirts/dresses £1, polo-shirts 50p)

PSFA Christmas Fayre: It was a joy to be able to run the Queen Emma School Christmas Fayre on 2nd December again this year! We were delighted to see so many families at the event and lots of children having such fun, and we do hope that you all had a very happy afternoon! Thank you very much to those of you who helped by running a stall, setting up before the event, clearing away afterwards or by donating items for the fayre. Thank you especially to those who helped for the first time. It is very much appreciated indeed. The event brought in over £1,800, so well done everyone and thank you! Our thanks go also to *Vision for Education* and to *Bond Education* for their generous sponsorship of the event, which went towards Santa's Grotto and the children's crafts tables.



Reception tea towels: The Reception classes have produced some beautiful designs for their tea towels this year and these are being sold at 3 for £12, or £5 each. There are still some remaining, so do get in touch if you would like one, or if you require any extras: queenemmapsfa@gmail.com

PSFA Christmas Raffle: We are excited to be running the PSFA Christmas Raffle online again this year. Tickets are selling until noon on Friday 15th December so we are looking forward to seeing how much we can raise! Thank you to all those who have purchased tickets, as well as to the many local business and individuals who kindly donated some fabulous raffle prizes – we hope that the winners will enjoy them!

Next half term:

PSFA Discos for Reception to Y6, Thurs 1st Feb: Come and enjoy fun with your friends and Disco Dave's music!

Year 4 Bake Sale, Fri 4th Feb, 3.15pm: It's Year 4's turn to run the Bake Sale this half term, and we all look forward to buying their treats after school, so thank you in advance, Year 4!

Getting involved:

Thank you to those who help so willingly with the PSFA events and who have given up their time and energy to help this term! We would love to hear from more parents who might now consider getting involved. We do need more volunteers to come forward to help, so that future PSFA events can go ahead for the families and children at school. We are also looking for more volunteers to join our committee, to help in a range of ways, and we would love to hear from you, so please do get in touch: queenemmapsfa@gmail.com

Classlist:

Thanks to all those who have joined **Classlist** this term, the communications system which enables Queen Emma parents to communicate across the school community. This is a great way to get in touch with one another, to keep up with what the PSFA is doing, or to post messages and announcements. **Do consider joining or rejoining, as follows....**

1. Go to: <https://www.classlist.com>
2. Click on the Find Your School link
3. A dropdown menu will come up and you will be asked to find the name of your school: Queen Emma Primary
4. You will be asked to register your details.

Once you have submitted your details, you will be moderated by a PSFA administrator (a safety step, to ensure that new members are part of the school). After this you will be able to start contacting other parents via Classlist.

Festive Fundraising:

During this festive season, remember this easy way to raise funds for the school, whilst doing your shopping:

Easyfundraising:

Nearly 3,000 retailers, including Amazon, John Lewis, Aviva, thetrainline, Sainsbury's, Ebay and many more, will donate a percentage of the amount you spend to Queen Emma PSFA to say thank you for shopping with them. You simply have to set up **Easyfundraising** on each device you may shop from:

1. Go to <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/queenemmapsfa>
2. Sign up for free and make use of it whenever you shop online!

We send you all our very best wishes for a safe and happy festive season.

With many thanks indeed,
Queen Emma PSFA

Exciting Mathematics in Year 6!

We have been delighted to welcome students from The Perse School to share some additional Mathematics activities and challenges with Year 6 on a regular basis.

In addition, some of our Year 6 children took part in the annual online Primary Maths Challenge in November and here is what some of them had to say about it:

- 'The last question was quite hard and we spent the last 10 minutes trying to figure that out.'
- 'All people were focusing and it was quite tense!'
- 'We had to use a computer so it was different to other challenges.'
- 'It was hard to conserve the time until the last question!'
- 'We weren't allowed to talk to each other.'

We are so proud of our Maths challenge competitors. We are awaiting news to find out if any of them have made it through to the next round. Congratulations on taking part and being great Maths representatives for Queen Emma!



Anti-Bullying Week

Each year, we recognise 'Anti-Bullying Week' in order to raise awareness of bullying and to highlight ways of preventing and responding to it. This included 'Odd Socks Day', which is a fun way to celebrate individuality and diversity. Across the school we discussed the meaning of bullying in order to stop it from happening, act quickly when it does take place and to avoid misidentifying it, sharing the same definition across the school – *The repetitive, intentional hurting of one person or group by another person or group, where the relationship involves an imbalance of power. Bullying can be physical, verbal or psychological. It can happen face-to-face or online*'. During this week, we shared our key messages of Queen Emma's no tolerance policy to bullying and the importance of reporting things that are not right. Throughout the year groups, discussion took place regarding how to understand and manage conflict, who the children can talk to if they have concerns and strategies are explored to help them respond to bullying, both online and offline, alongside considering how bullying makes people feel and what we can do to be good role models.



FREE Parental Conflict course for parents - Getting it Right for Children

When parents are separating or separated, children can often get caught in the middle. Getting it Right for Children is a free online course designed to help families parent co-operatively. Parents will learn: how to stay calm and listen, why it's helpful to see things from a different point of view and what to do to stop a discussion from turning into an argument.

Parents living in Cambridgeshire or Peterborough can access it for free at <https://www.oneplusone.org.uk/parents>

This course is not suitable for victims of domestic abuse.

It's Christmas Time!



A Parent's Guide to Social Media



A Parent's Guide to Sharing Pictures



A Parent's Guide to Gaming



A Parent's Guide to Online Grooming



scan the QR code with your phone's camera to see the guides on our website



A Parent's Guide to Live Streaming



A Parent's Guide to Online Influencers



A Parent's Guide to Fake News



A Parent's Guide to Privacy Settings

It's always best to be prepared

Many parents may be planning to give electronic gadgets to their children this festive period.

Our guide is designed to help parents take a realistic approach to help keep their children safe when using the internet, social media and playing online games.

Scan the QR code to find out more.

Online safety is when young people know who they can tell if they feel upset by something that has happened online.

Parents please contact your school to enquire attending their next e-safety workshop or have any concerns.

Working with Home Office 'PREVENT', The Police and Crime Commissioner and Children's Safeguarding Partnerships to help keep children safe online.

Skips Educational Email: info@skipsed.com Tel: +44 121 227 1941

Developed in partnership with



Skips

www.skipssafetynet.org