

February Newsletter



Dear Parents and Carers,

In this edition of our newsletter, I would like to share with you some information about our behaviour curriculum that has been rolled out since the start of this academic year. A behaviour curriculum is designed to enable children to have a real understanding of what is expected of them in school and have opportunities to practice what good behaviour looks like. A behaviour curriculum is not a 'one off' occasion, but is a planned curriculum that is developed over time and is regularly re-visited, just like a reading or maths curriculum. The aim is that children are 'taught' skills of good behavior, so they can work hard to achieve these at all times.

You may have heard your children talking about 'Fantastic Walking' or '3,2,1 star'. If you hear this, it means that we have been helping children to learn how to move safely and with consideration for others around all areas of our school building. The reference to '3,2,1 star', means that we have been teaching children explicitly, how to be ready for learning and to be free from distractions in learning time. When you visit our school, you may notice that children have visual reminders of these expectations, and I wanted to share these with you so that you are able to support our behaviour curriculum further. We have seen some great successes and have celebrated those who have shown outstanding commitment to our behaviour curriculum. In weekly assemblies, some children have been selected to be a 'star of the week' by their class teacher/s who have noticed individual children going the extra mile to ensure that our school is a happy, calm place to be. Our behaviour curriculum is heavily linked to our school rules of 'Be ready, be respectful and be safe'.

This half term, we have moved onto '**THINK**', encouraging all children to consider their words before speaking. The poster below has been discussed in assemblies with the children so that they can all recognise the positive or negative impact of their words before they leave their mouths. We know that many children based their New Year resolutions on some of these things!



Fantastic Walking

Show us your 'Fantastic Walking'....

- Line up quietly, one behind the other, facing forwards at all times.
- Walk on the left in the corridors and on the stairs
- · Arms by your side
- Walking without talking
- · Walking with purpose
- Enter school and your classroom quietly, ready to start your learning







On a slightly different note, we know how many children take healthy options in the way they travel to school. To support this, we have been fortunate enough to have secured a funding bid from one of the local housing developers. CALA have kindly donated a sum of money to the school, enabling us to purchase additional scooter/cycle rack space for those who require it, so look out for extra spaces soon.

Once again, children across our school thoroughly enjoyed our school discos, kindly organised by the volunteers of our wonderful PSFA. We hope that your children spoke positively of this experience and thank you to all of those who volunteered their time.

Finally an update on the tortoises.....still in hibernation!

By reading this newsletter, you can be informed about the varied and engaging learning happening in our school, so please do take time to enjoy its content. We would like to thank you for your support this half term. We have received so much positive feedback informally from parents and visitors recently, and it lovely to hear how appreciative our school community is.

Please note that following the half term break, the term starts for children on **Monday 24**th **February 2025**. We look forward to seeing all children back in school then.

Yours sincerely

Sarah Jarman

Executive Headteacher

Staff News

Mrs Rutter, who works as a Year 1 teacher has taken the decision to retire at the end of this academic year. Mrs Rutter has provided Queen Emma with 10 years of service to the school and has provided high quality teaching and care to all families she has come into contact with. Although we won't be saying goodbye to her just yet, we wanted to share this information with you.

Nursery and Reception







This half term, Cubs have been reading the 'The Three Little Pigs' and 'On the Farm'. We made delicious pig biscuits and created farm animals for our display in the corridor. We had fun in the tuff tray which was filled with sand to create a building site. We added straw, sticks and bricks with diggers to help build houses for the three little pigs. During physical education, we learnt how to dance and move like animals to music and also learnt some songs about the farm. The children also played a game listening to animal sounds and guessing what animal they were.

Foxes

This half term in Foxes, we have been comparing environments and animals in polar regions with those in jungles. We have enjoyed the stories 'Polar Bear, Polar Bear, What do you Hear?' and 'Rumble in the Jungle.' We have made ice and watched it melt in the classroom, and walked in the school grounds looking for signs of winter.



In Mathematics we carefully counted small groups of objects with 1 to 1 correspondence, realising that the last number reached determines the number of objects present. In Language and Literacy we have listened for repeated refrains and rhymes in stories and acted out 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt' following the story map we created. We loved celebrating Lunar New Year with making lots of bright decorations and creating a lion dance to music.





This half term, we have learning about 'Hot and Cold'. We started the half term focusing on the North and South Pole. We learnt that penguins are from Antartica and polar bears are from the North Pole. We learnt all about penguins and their igloos! We learnt that igloos are made from compressed ice blocks and contained stalagmites and stalactites. We continued our learning about freezing by making our own apple sorbet by freezing apple juice which the children loved! After this, we started to learn about opposites and therefore looked at 'hot' places. We began by reading 'Handa's Surprise' which is set in Kenya. We created maps from a bird's eye view and thought about what a map might include. We tried all of the fruits from Handa's basket to see if we liked them. During our learning about hot places, we learnt about melting and made our very own rice Krispy cakes by melting chocolate! As well as learning about 'Hot and Cold' places, we also celebrated Chinese New Year by trying Chinese Foods, creating paper snakes, using playdough to create fortune cookies and even watched a real Chinese Dragon dance for us. We have had a great half term and can't wait to continue all of our fun learning and adventures next half term too!



Dolphin



In Dolphin Class, we have had a lovely half term exploring 'Under the Sea'. In Art, we have learnt about collages. We studied work created by Matisse and Mukherjee and then created our own versions. We worked on the skills of cutting, tearing and overlapping to create some lovely pieces. We concluded by using all we had learnt to create under the sea collages In English, we have enjoyed listening to the stories 'The Secret of Black Rock' and 'Grandad's Island'. We wrote narrative sentences based on these stories, trying to include adjectives and the conjunction and. We have also been working really hard in our phonics lessons to continue to learn new phonemes and recognise these in real and alien words.

Seahorse

We have learnt so much about 'Under the Sea'! In Art, we created wonderful collages including amazing sea creatures. In Science, we found out about the different animal groups: we are now experts on mammals, fish and birds. We have had lots of fun in Physical Education where we have worked on our throwing, catching and passing skills using balls and bean bags.



Penguin



Wow! What a busy half term Penguin Class have had. We immersed ourselves in our new topic, with a Traditional Tales Day. We spent the day making puppets, before performing our own version of 'The Three Little Pigs'. In English, we have written our own stories based on the text, 'Little Red Reading Hood' and wrote a set of instructions on 'How to make a magical pizza' for The Giant, in Jack and the Beanstalk. In Design and Technology we made our own bridges, with the purpose of getting The Three Billy Goats Gruff across the water safely - without being eaten by a troll! In Mathematics, we have continued to develop our understanding of the 2, 5 and 10 times tables. We have all worked really hard!

Polar Bear

Polar Bear Class have enjoyed our 'Once Upon a Time' topic. In English, we created alternative versions of 'Little Red Reading Hood' and wrote instructions for creating magical pizzas using time conjunctions. In Mathematics, we focused on multiplication and solved a range of problems. We had fun in Geography using map skills and learning how to interpret the symbols in a key. In Design and Technology we helped the Three Billy Goats to reach the lush grass by designing and making bridges out of a variety of materials. We have been very busy!



Middle Years





Macaw

Macaw Class have had a busy term using their geography skills when learning all about Crete and comparing it to Cambridgeshire. They used their science learning on rocks and soils from last term to help them write fantastic explanation texts about the world that goes on beneath our feet. They also wowed with their Class Assembly on the Stone Age and have enjoyed playing maths games!

Toucan

In English, the children have been researching the wondrous world beneath our feet and have written fantastic explanation texts using their knowledge. In Mathematics, they have been gaining confidence in adding and subtracting three-digit numbers using a range of strategies. In Science the children have been learning about forces and magnets whilst developing their skills in planning and conducting investigations. Finally, we have been creating printing blocks inspired by Greek meanders in our Art lessons.



Falcon



This half term Falcon Class have enjoyed learning all about the land around them and what it is used for in Geography. We have written interesting stories based on the book 'Farther' by Graheme Baker-Smith in English. In Art the children have explored various methods of using watercolour paint including washes, wet on dry and wet on wet techniques. In Mathematics they have continued to practice their times tables every day with their 'Going for Gold' envelopes. Last week, we started the new topic 'Race to the Pole' with a trip to the Scott Polar Museum. There Falcon Class were allowed to handle some of the artefacts used on Scott's journey of exploration. They also dressed up in some older and also current clothes which were used for exploring the poles.

Kestrel

Kestrel Class have worked very hard this half term! We have practiced persuasive writing based on a local park, which ties in with our Geography topic. In Mathematics, we have continued to develop and consolidate our calculation skills, in particular when using the distributive law. We have learnt about the properties of solids, liquids and gases in Science. In Art, we have produced watercolour paintings using a range of techniques for effect. We have also practised gymnastics routines and learnt dribbling, passing and tackling skills in hockey lessons.



Later Years







This half term, Giraffe Class have embarked on an exciting journey back in time to explore the wonders of Ancient Egypt. They have been captivated by the mysteries of mummification, the significance of the River Nile in Egyptian life and the role of the Egyptian gods and goddesses. Taking inspiration from 'Marcy and the Riddle of the Sphinx' by Joe Todd Stanton, Giraffe Class took on the role of Marcy and wrote an emotive diary entry, full of thoughts and personal feelings to describe their adventures in Ancient Egypt. Giraffe Class were then invited to take on the role of junior reporters for The Daily Echo, writing detailed and informative reports about the amazing discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb. We are very proud of everyone in Giraffe Class and can't wait to see what we will all discover next half term, as we head 'Down the River Nile!'

Zebra

This half term, Zebra Class has been adventuring into the fascinating civilisation of Ancient Egypt! We have learned about the importance of the River Nile, the Pharaohs and the process of mummification. We also enjoyed using watercolours to create our own artwork inspired by images of Egyptian gods. We even had a visit from Howard Carter to hear first-hand about his discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb, in preparation for writing our own newspaper reports. Sharing our learning in our class assembly was a real highlight of the half-term!



Jaguar

With our topic of South America this half term, we had many opportunities to refine our research skills. We used safe online sites to look for information about regions and ecosystems of South America, as well as understanding human and physical geography within environmental areas. Comparative activities were also incorporated into our learning as we looked at the similarities and differences between the UK and Brazil. We have worked incredibly hard this term, and have truly earned our break.

Panther

We have had a short, but full half term. With everything from coordinates, fractions, area and quadrants in Mathematics, to John Reilly's painting in Religious Education, to basketball skills in Physical Education, we have done a lot! Perhaps the most interesting aspect however was in Science where we focused on Darwin and Wallace and their understanding of evolution. After learning about natural selection and bird beak studies, we honed our investigation skills to help prove some of the theories we now understand. An exciting term!



Winning House Revealed

Congratulations to members of **Darwin House** who earnt 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 Newton House enjoyed your non-school uniform day on Friday 14th February. Congratulations to everyone who earnt house points this half term. Keep up the amazing work.

Darwin House = 1982 Hawking House = 1975 Newton House = 1772 Franklin House = 1722

Friendship Games

Ten pupils from Year 5 enjoyed a trip to the Friendship Games during the morning of Wednesday 22nd January. The games took place at Coleridge Community College and pupils took part in a range of activities including table tennis and climbing.

Pupils shared that they really enjoyed taking part in a wide range of activities, enjoyed working together in a team, supporting and encouraging each other.











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:

At present we are fundraising for equipment for a sensory classroom, as well as for funds to help cover the costs of class trips and experiences. Thank you for your contributions – every little helps!

PSFA events

Bake Sales: Thank you to Year 4 for their wonderful Bake Sale on Friday 24th January. Everyone enjoyed their tasty treats, and the event raised a fantastic £215.90. Well done Year 4!

We look forward to finding out who will win the bake sale competition this year 2024-2025, and best of luck to all!

Second Hand Uniform Sales: Thank you to all those who have donated or purchased second-hand uniform recently. We raised over £60 at the uniform sales on 24th January. We will be there with more uniform at the next bake sale but, in the meantime, please email us with any requests and we will try to 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 Discos: Very many thanks to all the children who came along on 6th February, and huge thanks to the many parents and staff who made the evening possible, by kindly volunteering to help. It was wonderful to see everyone having such a lot of fun! We took £808.10 at these events so, once expenses are paid, we will have raised a fantastic amount. Well done all!

PSFA Survey: A huge thank you to all those who have heard our pleas for help and have responded to the PSFA survey! Those who have offered specific help will receive an email from the committee with more details. Thank you and please keep a look out for our events and how you can be involved!

Please go ahead and complete the survey if you haven't yet had a chance to do so. It will only take a few seconds and the link is here: **PSFA Survey**

Next half term:

PSFA Committee meeting: Mon 10th March, 2pm in studio: All are welcome to join us, do come along and find out more.

Bag2School charity collection: Thursday 13th March, 9am: Bring your pre-loved clothing in before this date and it will help raise funds for the PSFA.

Year 3 Bake Sale, Fri 14th **March, 3.15pm in studio:** It's Year 3'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 3.

Classlist:

Thanks to all those who have joined **Classlist**, the communications system which enables Queen Emma parents to communicate across the school community. **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

Ongoing Fundraising:

Remember this easy way to raise funds for the school, whilst doing your own shopping:

Easyfundraising:

Classlist.

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 restful half term break.

Queen Emma PSFA

Online Safety Day

During 11th February children took part in a number of different activities including creating cautionary tales using some known stories to raise awareness of internet safety issues, making posters and taking part in the BBC live lesson. Please encourage your children to talk about how to be safe when using the internet – there is more advice here... <u>saferinternet.org.uk</u>



8

Keep your personal information safe. When chatting or posting online don't give away things like your full name, password or home address. Remember personal information can be seen in images and videos you share too. Keep them safe to keep yourself safe.



M

Meeting up with someone you only know online, even a friend of a friend, can be dangerous as this person is still a stranger. If someone you only know online ever asks you to meet up, for personal information or for photos/videos of you then tell an adult straight away and report them together on www.thlnkuknow.oo.uk





Think carefully before you click on or open something online (e.g. links, adverts, friend requests, photos) as you never know where they may lead to or they may contain viruses. Do not accept something if you are unsure of who the person is or what they've sent you.





You cannot trust everything you see online as some things can be out of date, inaccurate or not entirely true. To find reliable information compare at least three different websites, check in books and talk to someone about what you have found.





Tell a trusted adult if something or someone ever makes you feel upset, worried or confused. This could be if you or someone you know is being bullied online. There are lots of people who will be able to help you like your teachers, parents, carers or contact Childline – 0800 11 11 or www.ohlldline.org.uk





BE SMART WITH A HEART

Remember to always be smart with a heart by being kind and respectful to others online. Make the internet a better place by helping your friends if they are worried or upset by anything that happens online.

WWW.CHILDNET.COM

Book Week 2025



On Thursday 6th March 2025, Queen Emma will be celebrating World Book Day by completing a set of 7 'Read the Rainbow' challenges. We would like to invite each year group to come to school dressed in a colour of the rainbow.

Nursery and Reception	Red	
Year 1	Orange	
Year 2	Yellow	
Year 3	Green	
Year 4	Blue	
Year 5	Dark Blue	
Year 6	Purple	

Across the day, each class will complete a set of challenges. This will include reading a new book purchased through the money raised at our recent Scholastic Book Fair, writing a book review, listening to a mystery reader, completing a book themed quiz and taking part in a competition to create a well-known book character.

We will also be taking a whole school 'rainbow' photograph! We are looking forward to a fun filled day of reading.

Cardboard Tubes Needed!

On World Book Day, we are going to be making book characters from cardboard tubes. Over the next few weeks, please collect your cardboard tubes and bring them into school. We are trying to collect 399 – one for each member of the school!







Attendance Matters!

Our school day starts at 8.45am.

Our doors open at 8.40am every morning to ensure that everyone is able to arrive and be ready to start their learning at 8.45am. If you arrive after 8.45am, you will be asked enter school via the main office. As the table below illustrates, even being a few minutes late each day can have an impact on your child's learning.

The importance of punctuality		
Minutes late	Impact on your attendance in 1 year	
5 minutes late per day	3.4 days missed	
	98.4% attendance	
10 minutes late per day	6.9 days missed	
	97.6% attendance	
15 minutes late per day	10.3 days missed	
	94.6% attendance	
20 minutes late per day	13.8 days missed	
	92.9% attendance	
30 minutes late per day	20.7 days missed	
	89.2% attendance	

If your child arrives after 9.15am, this is recorded in our registers as a U code. This means they have missed their morning register mark and the absence will affect their overall attendance figure.

We continue to track and monitor pupil and class attendance on a weekly basis. The government sets a target for attendance of 96%. This is the figure we are aiming for on a weekly basis.

Congratulations to Panther Class for achieving the highest level of attendance so far this year.

Class	Attendance %	Class	Attendance %
Owl Class	87	Falcon Class	94
Dolphin Class	91	Kestrel Class	93
Seahorse Class	94	Giraffe Class	94
Penguin Class	95	Zebra Class	95
Polar Bear Class	95	Jaguar Class	95
Macaw Class	94	Panther Class	96
Toucan Class	95		

Term Dates

Spring 2025

Half Term 17th February to Friday 21st

February

Spring Term Closes Friday 4th April 2025

Easter Holidays Monday 7th April – Monday 21st

April 2025

Summer 2025

Summer Term Opens Tuesday 22nd April 2025

May Day Monday 5th May – School Closed

Staff Training Day Friday 23rd May 2025

Half Term Monday 26th May to Friday 30th

May 2025

Summer Term Closes Wednesday 23rd July 2025

Reminders

February 2025

17 – 21 Half Term Holiday

24 Return to School

March 2025

- 3 In-School Parent Consultations 3.45-6.30pm
- 6 In-School Parent Consultations 3.45-6.30pm
- 6 World Book Day Celebrations
- 10 PSFA Meeting 2pm, School studio
- 13 Bags2School Collection
- 14 Y3 Cake Sale
- 24 Y3/4 Production
- 27 Y3/4 Production

April 2025

- Term Ends
- 7- 21 Easter Holidays





Queen Emma Primary Schools, either for a one-off event or as a regular letting, please contact Mrs Anna Biard by emailing community@queenedith.cambs.sch.uk or

calling 01223 712 200

School Meal Balances

Aspens - Select Ordering

Our catering providers Aspens, have asked us to let you know in advance that our school will be moving to a new system after the Easter break.

The new Swift system will offer better access by way of a mobile phone app as well as online ordering. Service at lunchtime will also be improved with all orders and allergy information being given to the kitchen in real time by way of tablet computers.

This change will require payments to be made to the new Swift system, so please try and run down any credit on your child's existing Select account during the second half of spring term. This will avoid the need for a refund to be issued by Aspens.

TRADITIONAL

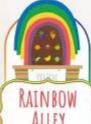
Week 1

FOOD

EVENT



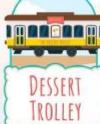
MEAT-FREE MAGIC Veggie Dish



Vegetables and Salads



Beans, Cheese or Tuna Mayo



Toffee Frozen Yoghurt

Sweet Potato Brownie

Forest Fruits Jelly Pots

> Cookie Dough Apple Crumble

> > Jammy Thumbprint Biscuits





Autumn Winter 2024-25:

2/9, 23/9, 14/10, 4/11, 25/11, 16/12, 6/1, 27/1, 10/3, 31/3.

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

Margherita Pizza Slice and Wedges

> **BBQ Cheesy** Chicken

Roast Chicken, Stuffing, Roast Potatoes and Gravy

Lasagne

Golden Fish Fingers or Salmon Fingers and Chips

Veggie Pepper and Sweetcorn Pizza Slice with Wedges

Vegetable Curry

Quorn Sausage, Roast Potatoes and Gravy

Vegetable Lasagne

Veggie Burger and Chips

Sweetcorn

Apple Slaw and Wholegrain Rice

Peas and Carrots

Green Beans

Baked Beans

Week 2

FOOD By Aspens

Autumn Winter 2024-25: 9/9, 30/9, 21/10, 11/1, 2/12,

23/12, 13/1, 3/2, 24/2, 17/3

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY



Cheesy Tomato Pizza Muffins

Chicken Tikka Curry

Roast Chicken, Stuffing, Roast Potatoes and Gravy

> Classic Cottage Pie

Battered Fish and Chips



MEAT-FREE MAGIC Veggie Dish

BBQ and Sweetcorn Pizza Slice

Vegetable Curry

Cauliflower Cheese, Crispy Onion Topping & Roast Potatoes (You don't have to have the onlons)!

Roasted Sweet Potato Pastry Roll and Mash

Cheese and Tomato Toasted Wrap with Chips



ALLEY Vegetables and Salads

Wholegrain Pasta Salad and Green salad

> Rice and Carrots

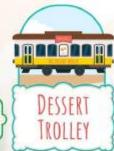
Mixed Greens

Peas

Baked Beans



Beans, Cheese or Tuna Mayo



Toffee Apple Sponge and Custard

Chocolate Sprinkle Iced Cake

Raspberry Coconut Jelly

Fresh Fruit Salad

> Anzac **Biscuits**





Topped Pasta Hot Pasta topped with Homemade Tomato Sauce & Cheese

TRADITIONAL

Week 3

FOOD

Autumn Winter 2024-25:

16/9, 7/10, 28/10, 18/11, 9/12, 30/12, 20/1, 10/2, 3/3,24/3.

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY



American Style Mac Cheese

Chicken Sausage Casserole and Mash (in beef casing)

Roast Chicken, Stuffing, Roast Potatoes and Gravy

Meatballs in Tomato Sauce with Rice

> Golden Fish Fingers and Chips



MEAT-FREE MAGIC Veggie Dish

Veggie Wholegrain Pasta Bolognese

> Vegetable Pot Pie and Mash

Quorn Sausage, Roast Potatoes and Gravy

Mild Veggie Bean Chilli Loaded Wedges with Cheese

Vegetable Fingers and Chips



RAINBOW

Carrots

Roast Root Veggies

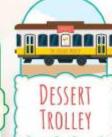
Peas and Sweetcorn

Broccoli

Baked Beans



Beans, Cheese or Tuna Mayo



Marble Cake

> Apple, Cinnamon Raisin Flapjacks

> > Orange and Mango Jelly

Banana Bread Muffins

Gingerbread Cookies





Topped Pasta

Hot Pasta topped with Homemade Tomato Sauce & Cheese