



April Newsletter





Dear Parents and Carers,

So many engaging and interesting things have been happening this half term, it is difficult to know where to begin. Let's start with the dazzling performance from our Middle Years children, who confidently delighted their audience of family members with their performance of 'Wiz Wam Alacazam'. This delightful tale was all about good overcoming evil. Of course our talented wizards from Year 3 and 4 had to work as a team to achieve this and to chase away the ice creatures who frequently appeared on stage. It was a tale of ups and downs, but it ended on a high note with our victorious children saving themselves from a lifetime of darkness, by bringing sunshine back into their lives and defeating the ice creatures. We hope that our families enjoyed being proud of the performers, who did a fabulous job of entertaining their audience.





Our catering providers Aspens, kindly came into school to run some very informative workshops with children around what a balanced diet looks like. They used their 'smoothie making cycle' to combine different fruit, whilst our children became the chief taste testers. This was a lovely chance for children to learn about the origins of food and to understand why a balanced diet is important to our health.







You may have heard that two pupils from Queen Emma participated in a public speaking competition alongside seven other schools nearby. The two finalists, were selected from heats held in school and these participants then took to the auditorium stage at Peterhouse College to present speeches with the following themes: 'If you could go back to any period in history what would it be and why'? and 'A much-needed invention is.....'. Our children marveled their audience and the judges with their confidence and knowledge. Our pupils did so well and should be congratulated for their excellent diction, presentation skills and consideration for body language. We are so proud of them.





Book Week was particularly memorable this year as children from Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 had a special visit from CBeebies presenter, Andy Day, who is known for the popular TV series 'Andy's Dinosaur Adventures'. Andy told the children about his new series of books during an assembly at Queen Edith and how he came up with the characters and the storylines. He also entertained the children with a rap, which they joined in with. Activities across book week included 'read the rainbow challenges' that involved things such as 'drop everything and read', creating book reviews and hearing from a mystery reader. There was also a competition whereby the children created their own book character from a cardboard tube with prizes awarded by the judging panel! You can see these creations further on in this newsletter.

This half term, we have launched our new whole school WIG (Wildly Important Goal) – 'To be proud of me'. We have asked the pupils to do one small thing every day that makes them proud of themselves and have shared some suggestions of what kind of things they could do. However, we are sure they will have lots of ideas of their own.

Science day at Queen Emma is always an event that is well received. This year, thanks to another grant provided by The Royal Institute of Science we were able to offer the children two assemblies around a theme of 'energy live'. There was also an audience and participation event for children and their families from both Queen Edith and Queen Emma, with a theme of 'rockets'. All year groups completed a science lesson around energy and visitors provided hands on science experiences for the children. The children had so much fun investigating and enriching their knowledge about how energy travels and how it is used to advance technologies.















Thank you to families who were able to support Comic Relief this year. Please be reminded that the start of the Summer term is Tuesday 22nd April, when all children are expected to return from the Easter break.

Please do enjoy a lovely Easter holiday and fingers crossed for some sunny weather.

Yours sincerely

Sarah Jarman

Executive Headteacher



Staff News

From week commencing 5th May, we are welcoming back Mrs Hyde from her maternity leave. She will be reducing her contract to four days per week and will be teaching as a job share alongside Miss Barnes. Miss Barnes is returning to Queen Emma for one day per week, following her maternity leave. We look forward to seeing them again.

Nursery & Reception







This half term in Cubs we have been learning about planting and growing seeds. We read the stories 'Jack and the beanstalk' and 'Jaspers beanstalk' and spoke about what flowers and plants need to grow. The children enjoyed planting sunflower seeds and beans and have been watering them and watching them grow. The children have also been learning some Makaton sign language. We can now sign animals and colours.

Foxes

This half term Foxes have enjoyed learning about 'Change' in relation to lifecycles, and the children have loved looking at photographs of themselves as babies and comparing them to how they are now. We have also read the story 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar,' counting the increasing amount of food eaten by the caterpillar throughout the week, and its change to a cocoon and then butterfly. In Physical Education we have practised rolling balls and aiming to a target. In Forest School we have made caterpillars out of twigs and pipe cleaners and have looked for signs of spring, ticking these off on our clip boards. We have finished the term with some fun Easter celebrations, including craft activities and chicken songs with actions! We now wish all our families a very happy holiday.





Qw

This half term in Owl Class, we have been learning about different traditional tales such as 'The Gingerbread Man' and 'The Three Little Pigs.' We have been using clues in the classroom to work out which traditional tale we would be focusing on each week. During our learning about the Gingerbread Man, we had a visit from the real Gingerbread Man. He ran out of the school so fast shouting "Run, run as fast as you can, you can't catch me I am the Gingerbread Man'.

We sent out a message to everyone to ask them to send us postcards if they saw him. We received around 30 postcards from different places he had been spotted including the beach, a forest and even Vietnam and Australia. As well as learning about traditional tales, Owl Class now have a new class pet - Frogspawn. The eggs have now started to hatch and become tadpoles. We have learnt that they first grow gills to help them to breath before getting lungs. We have been enjoying watching them grow.





Dolphin

We have had an exciting half term in Dolphin Class learning about life in a castle. During our history lessons, we have found out about the features of castles and the lives of people who lived in them. All of this was brought to life when we were visited by History off the Page. The children were able to take part in creative activities such as making ink to write a message with a feather quill, creating candles and soap. In the afternoon, they took part in a banquet where they were entertained by children who had learnt a play, or a dance, or to be jester or to joust. In English, we have read stories based on dragons and created short narratives based on George and the Dragon.

Seahorse

'Castles' has been a fantastic topic! We have learnt so much about different types of castles, their features and what the lives of the people may have been like. We really enjoyed our History Off the Page 'Castle Day' when we explored different crafts such as making soap, grotesques and wax candles. In the afternoon, the hall was transformed for a medieval banquet. We feasted on bread, cheese and fruit, and had jesters, dancing and jousting to entertain us!





Penguin

Penguin Class have had a thoroughly enjoyable half term. We started our topic with a 'Great Fire of London' day by History Off the Page. It was a wonderful way for the children to experience life during the time of 1666. They made artefacts from the time and enjoyed the archaeological dig in the afternoon. In English, the children have watched a film clip called 'Zahra' to inspire their own character and setting descriptions, before writing their own narrative based on the film. We enjoyed a whole art day, where the children created their own fire pictures using primary colours and black paper for the buildings. In Mathematics, we have all worked really hard to deepen our knowledge of division and understanding of 2d and 3d shapes.

Polar Bear

During Science Polar Bear Class have have been discussing different habitats and how creatures have adapted to suit their environment in order to survive. We explored the habitats of a lion and polar bear, discussing the features of their appearance and diet that ensures they can survive. Furthermore, we ventured outdoors to discover microhabitats such as logs, rocks and grass to discover which minibeasts might be living there and how they have adapted to suit their environment. During Woodland Explorers, the children created their own nests using the natural resources around them while discussing which materials might be best for a bird, squirrel or mouse home.



Middle Years





Macaw

Macaw Class have had a busy term with their History topic, learning all about the Ancient Greeks and how they still influence our lives today. The Ancient Greek day was a fantastic experience for them all. They have also been busy designing and making their own Greek salad in Design and Technology! They have also enjoyed rehearsing for their Middle Years Production and what a fabulous performance they gave!

Toucan

This half term the children have enjoyed learning about Ancient Greece, the children were amazed to find out how much of their daily lives are influenced by the Ancient Greek legacy. This topic continued into our English lessons, we have been using 'Theseus and the Minotaur' as our inspiration for our powerful writing. Our Mathematics lessons have seen the children develop efficient strategies for mental addition. In Design and Technologies, the children enjoyed designing and making their own Greek inspired salad. Of course, the highlight of this term has been the children's musical extravaganza Whiz, Wham Alakazam!





Falcon

Falcon Class have been enjoying learning all about electricity in Science this half term as you can see from the photo! They have made circuits and have also investigated switches. The children then used all of this knowledge to make torches in pairs in Design and Technology. They have also learnt about climate and biomes in Geography. They took part in an online session from the Scott Polar museum which followed on from their previous visit and reinforced all of their knowledge about polar explorers. Our next topic is 'Across the Atlantic'.

Kestrel

Kestrel Class have worked really hard this half term! We have written diary entries based on Shackleton's expedition to the South Pole. To help with this, we visited the Scott Polar Research Institute in Cambridge. In Mathematics, we have continued to develop our skills, working on coordinates and negative numbers. We have thoroughly enjoyed preparing for and participating in our Middle Years production of Wiz Wham Alakazam! We have also continued to develop gymnastics routines in Physical Education and worked on fitness.





Giraffe



This has been another wonderful half term in Giraffe Class. Travelling 'Down the River Nile,' we have identified the key features of rivers and investigated the three stages of a river's journey. We also revisited our learning about the hydrological cycle, more commonly known as the 'water cycle!' A highlight of the half term, was the completion of our Design and Technology project. Year 5 received a message from Ra, the Sun God, inviting them to design, make and evaluate a burial chamber fit for a pharaoh! Joining and triangulation techniques were investigated to ensure our creations would be strong and sturdy before we embarked on the making process.

Zebra

We are nearing the end of another fantastic half term in Zebra Class. We have been travelling 'Down the River Nile' investigating features of rivers and the three stages of a river's journey. Our Design and Technology project was great fun. Year 5 received a message from Ra, the Sun God, inviting them to design, make and evaluate a burial chamber fit for a pharaoh! Joining and triangulation techniques were investigated initially, when we worked together on creating an Eiffel Tower, using only newspaper and tape! We also enjoyed celebrating the joys of reading on World Book Day and created new front covers for our guided reading text and created models of our favourite book characters.



Jaguar



Along with our regular daily activities, we have also been able to participate in some regular Physical Education competitions. For most of the term, we have focused on improving our gymnastics skills, including balancing, rolling and creating short routines with connecting movements. There has been a lot to understand and demonstrate, but we have done incredibly well. We have also been fortunate to participate in a football tournament with Queen Edith School and another against several local schools. Our resiliency and drive has shown through and our sportsman-like behaviour will hopefully ensure another federation activity in the future. Great work!

Panther

Our topic of Fairtrade has certainly been an interesting one! We have spent time reviewing geographical locations for products which carry the Fairtrade symbol, identified some produce we know are supported by this movement and then visited our local Coop shop to identify first-hand products that are certified Fairtrade. This has been the focus for the term and we hope this has made an impact on the year group. Well done to all who used research materials, internet sites and their own observational skills to learn more.

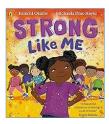


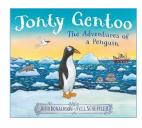
World Book Day

What a wonderful day we had on Thursday 6th March celebrating World Book Day.

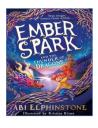
Across the day, each class took completed 7 'Rainbow Reading' challenges and shared books with their teachers and classmates.

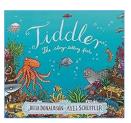
Thanks to your generosity at our most recent Scholastic Book Fair, the day began with a special delivery. Each class received a new book to read and a reading buddy – a bookworm, made by our very own Mrs Hart.











Owl Class, Year 1 and Year 2 enjoyed a special reading session with GoGo the Gazelle from Mini Athletics and we all had a wonderful time at Queen Edith meeting and listening to CBeebies star Andy Day read us part of his new book 'Dino Dad Big School Talent Show.'





Each class collaborated to create a fantastic book review poster. These are now displayed in the atrium area of school for everyone to enjoy.







Mrs Holman and Ms Stubbs were very impressed by the hard work and effort that had gone into creating a book character from a cardboard tube. Congratulations to our three winners, we hope you enjoy spending your book voucher on a book of your choice.





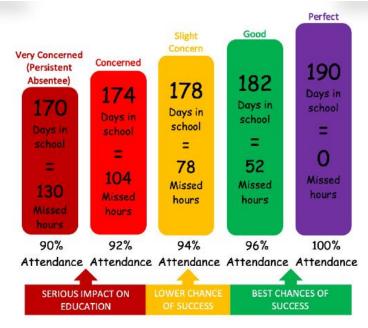
And finally, what a wonderful way to end of day – a fantastic whole school rainbow photograph. Thank you to everyone for a wonderful day – it certainly was one to remember.



Attendance Matters!

Earlier this month, the government produced a report entitled 'The Link between Attainment and Attendance in an Assessment Year.' The report investigates the link between attainment and attendance for pupils at the end of KS2 and at the end of KS4. Key findings relating to attainment at the end of KS2 (Year 6) stated...

At KS2, pupils who attended school nearly every day in Year 6 (with an attendance rate of 95 - 100%) were 1.3 times more likely to achieve the expected standard in Reading, Writing and Mathematics compared to pupils who only attended 90 - 95% of the time. This means missing just 10 days of Year 6 reduced the likelihood of reaching the expected standard by around 25%. Pupils who attended school nearly every day were 1.8 times more likely to achieve the standard than persistently absent pupils who only attend 85 - 90% of the time. This relates to 4 – 6 weeks more time in school.



The diagram below links % of attendance to missed hours of learning at school.

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 Toucan Class for achieving the highest level of attendance so far this year.

Class	Attendance %	Class	Attendance %
Owl Class	87.7	Falcon Class	94.9
Dolphin Class	91.4	Kestrel Class	93.5
Seahorse Class	94.1	Giraffe Class	95.4
Penguin Class	95.4	Zebra Class	94.4
Polar Bear Class	95.8	Jaguar Class	95.4
Macaw Class	94.4	Panther Class	95.4
Toucan Class	95.9		

We are committed to supporting you and your child in establishing regular attendance at school. If you are ever concerned about your child's attendance or face challenges in ensuring regular attendance, please do not hesitate to contact us.



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 the school environment.

Fundraising to benefit the school community:

At present we are fundraising for the sensory classroom equipment, for repairs to the outdoor trim trail, 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 3 for their Bake Sale on Friday 14th March. Their tasty treats were much enjoyed, and the event raised a fantastic £116.51. Well done Year 3!

We look forward to finding out who will win the bake sale competition this year 2024-2025, so best of luck to Year 2 for their bake sale coming up on Fri 2nd May and Year 1 on Fri 6th June!

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 14th March! 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. And if you have items to donate, please drop them in at the school office.

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

Bag2School: Very many thanks to all who donated to the Bags2School charity collection. We raised £30.40 for the PSFA, so well done all! The next Bag2School collection will be on 12th June, so please start collecting items now!

PSFA involvement: A huge thank you to all those who have heard our pleas for help and have responded by getting involved! Welcome to new class reps: Sarah Richards for Year 2, Lelane van der Poel in Year 3 Macaw, Shimona Patel in Foxes and Agne Prochorskaite in Cubs. We are still on the look-out for class reps in Reception, so do get in touch if you are a Reception parent and might be interested: queenemmapsfa@gmail.com

Next half term:

PSFA AGM Committee meeting: Mon 12th May, 2pm in studio: All are welcome, so do please come along if you can.

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 2 Bake Sale, Fri 2nd May, and Year 1 Bake Sale Fri 6th June 3.15pm in studio: Year 2 and Year 1 have the chance to run the Bake Sales this half term, and we all look forward to buying their treats after school, so thank you in advance!

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 Classlist.

Ongoing Fundraising:

Remember this easy way to raise funds for the school, whilst doing your own 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 restful Easter break.

Queen Emma PSFA



School Uniform and PE Kit

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
White, black or grey socks / tights
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.

Comic Relief 2025

Thank you to everyone who helped us raise £261.64 for Comic Relief 2025.



Parking

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. We receive a significant number of e-mails from upset local residents, informing us of parents/carers who block driveways or park illegally. This takes up a large amount of time to manage, so your co-operation in parking lawfully and mindfully is appreciated.

Scooters and Cycles

Please be reminded that scooters and cycles **MUST** be dismounted before entering the school grounds, by both adults and children. We have noticed an increase in the number of cycles that are being propped up against the fences along our pedestrian pathways. This presents a danger to those using the path, particularly young children. Please park cycles in the dedicated spaces, even if you are just dropping off or collecting a child. This will reduce the risk of cycles falling over and potentially injuring passers by.

Winning House Revealed

Congratulations to members of **Franklin 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 Franklin House enjoyed your non-school uniform day on Friday 4th April. Congratulations to everyone who earnt house points this half term. Keep up the amazing work.

Franklin House = 1310

Newton House = 1140

Hawking House = 1160

Darwin House = 1045

Term Dates

Spring 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

April

- 22 Start of Summer Term
- 24 Earth Day
- 25 Class and Y6 Leavers Photos

May

- 1 Penguin Class Assembly
- 2 Y3 and Y4 Bikeability
- 2 Y2 Bake Sale
- 5 Bank Holiday
 - School Closed
- 8 Kestrel Class Assembly
- 12-15 Y6 SATs Week
- 12 PSFA Meeting
- 19 22 Y6 Bikeability
- 22 Seahorse Class Assembly
- 23 Training Day School Closed
- 26-30 Half Term



LUNCHTIME

TRADITIONAL

Week 1



AVAILABLE DAILY

Spring Summer

21/04/25, 12/05/25, 02/06/25, 23/06/25, 14/07/25, 04/08/25, 25/08/25, 15/09/25, 06/10/25

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY



MAÏN Event

All Day Breakfast With Chicken Sausage (Boef casing)

> Picnic Style Chicken Sausage Roll Lunch

Roast Chicken, New Potatoes, Stuffing and Gravy

Chinese Chicken Chow Mein

Golden Fish Fingers or Salmon Fingers and Chips



MEAT-FREE MAGIC Veggle Dish

Margherita Pizza Slice and Wedges

Picnic Style Veggie Sausage Roll Lunch

Cheese & Onion Puff Pastry Slice with New Potatoes

Veggie Noodle Stir Fry

Cheesy Bean Wrap with Chips



RAINBOW ALLEY

Vegetables and Ideas:

Baked Beans

Crudites

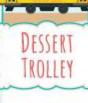
Carrots and Cabbage

Green Salad

Peas



Beans, Cheese or Tuna Mayo



Toffee Biscuit Bars

Classic Trifle

Banana Loaf Cake

> Strawberry and Pineapple Jelly

Chocolate Coconut Crisp





Hot Pasta topped with Homemade Tomato Sauce & Cheese

W1



LUNCHTIME

TRADITIONAL

Week 2



AVAILABLE DAILY

Spring Summer

2025 28/04/25, 19/05/25, 09/06/25, 30/06/25, 21/07/25, 11/08/25, 01/09/25, 22/09/25, 13/10/25

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY



MAIN

Beef Bolognese Pasta

BBQ Chicken Wraps and Potato Wedges

Roast Chicken & Stuffing, Skin on Roasties and Gravy

Chicken Sausage and Mash with Gravy (Beef casing)

> Battered Fish and Chips



MEAT-FREE MAGIC Veggle Dish

Veggie Bolognese Pasta

BBQ Veggie Wrap and Potato Wedges

Roast vegetable Filo Pie with Skin on Roasties

Veggie Sausage and Mash

Cheese and Onion Burger with Chips



ALTEA KATINBOM

Vegetables and Salads

Sweetcorn and Peas

Green Beans

Mixed Greens

Carrots and Green Beans

> Baked Beans



Beans, Cheese or Tuna Mayo



Jam Sponge and Custard

ans, Watermelon ese or Wedge

> Oaty Cornflake Crunch Bar

> > Apple Sponge Pudding

> > > Vanilla Cookie





Hot Pasta topped with Homemade Tomato Sauce & Cheese

W1



LUNCHTIME

TRADITIONAL

Week 3



Spring Summer 2025

05/05/25, 26/05/25, 16/06/25, 07/07/25, 28/07/25, 18/08/25, 08/09/25, 29/09/25, 20/10/25

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY



MAÏN EVENT

BBQ Sweetcorn Pizza Slice with Wedges

Chicken Korma Curry with Rice

Roast Chicken, Stuffing, Skin on Roasties and Gravy

Lasagne

Golden Fish Fingers and Chips



MEAT-FREE MAGIC Veggle Dish

Macaroni Cheese

Vegetable Korma with Rice

Cheese and Potato Pie with Roasties

Veggie Pasta Bolognese

Vegetable Fingers and Chips



RAINBOW ALLEY

Vegetables and Ealad

Green Salad

Green Beans

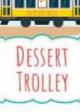
Carrots and Peas

Sweetcorn

Baked Beans



Beans, Cheese or Tuna Mayo



Strawberry Frozen Yoghurt

Coconut

Peach & Pineapple Jelly

Toffee Apple Crumble and Custard

Brookie (Brownie & Cookie Mix)





Hot Pasta topped with Homemade Tomato Sauce & Cheese