

March Newsletter



Queens' Federation

Queen Emma
Primary School

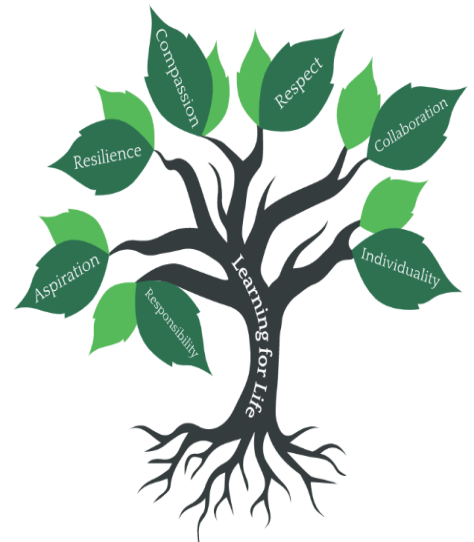
Dear Parents and Carers,

I am going to open this newsletter with extensive thanks to the large numbers of families who have contacted us in support over the recent weeks, following our Ofsted report at Queen Emma. We cannot tell you how much this means to have your unrelenting backing and kind words at this troubling time. We will of course be keeping you updated with our progress in this area and when we have more information about proceeding further. We will notify you when we will be holding a parent meeting, after the Easter break.

Needless to say, our resolve to continue to provide a nurturing, varied, safe and inclusive curriculum and environment continues. We hope to share some extracts of this in our newsletter, to provide just a small snap-shot of how proud we continue to be of our wonderful school, children and staff. Children from Year 3 got to grips with wax tablets and ancient Greek remedies during a workshop where they learned about the lives of the Ancient Greeks. They dressed in clothing of the time in order to really experience what it would have been like to have lived during this civilization. They learned about the importance of the Greek Gods and Goddesses to the people of Ancient Greece. As you can see from the photos, the children thoroughly enjoyed improving their historical knowledge and understanding in a practical, hands on way.



This term we once again celebrated our joy of reading and books through a wide range of book related activities during Book Week. Children waited in anticipation in their classes to see who would turn up to be their mystery reader and completed book swaps, quizzes and cosy bedtime story events. One of the



April

- 17 Start of Summer Term
- 21 Class and Y6
Leavers Photos

May

- 1 Bank Holiday –
School Closed
- 3 Toucan Class
Assembly
- 5 King's Coronation
Celebration
- 8 King's Coronation –
School Closed
- 9-11 Y6 SATs Week
- 15 PSFA Meeting
- 15 -18 Y6 - Bikeability
- 17 Zebra Toucan Class
Assembly
- 23 Queens Quest Day
- 26 Training Day –
School Closed

HALF TERM

29 May – 2 June

highlights of Book Week was a visit from the children's author, Ruth Eastham. Ruth shared her work and insights into how to write books that engage and captivate the reader. She supported the children with a series of workshops aimed at demonstrating how they could create atmosphere and tension within their storylines. Here you are able to see her providing some motivational teaching.



In the previous newsletter, I promised an update about how our Reception children had built upon their knowledge of caring for animals. Well the tadpoles have arrived and they are growing quickly! The children have learned that they need vegetation to survive and are finding out how they grow and develop from frogspawn, to tadpoles, then into froglets and finally frogs. We have just started to notice them sprouting legs. There is no better way to learn, than to see things first hand.



Our school choir brought a tear to everyone's eye, during their performances to the rest of the school and then to their parents. They sang two songs, one from the Musical 'Matilda' and the other from 'Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat'. They worked in harmony with both their large and small group ensembles and there was even a very brave solo. What confident children we are seeing at Queen Emma, thanks to the opportunities we give them. Thank you to Katie Attle, who runs our choir club and has encouraged the children to reach a very high standard, whilst also enjoying performing.

It was fun, fun, fun at the school disco again this term. Thanks to the work of the PSFA volunteers, the children had another fabulous evening of dancing and singing with their friends, whilst also raising valuable funds for our school. The children made their requests to Disco Dave and kept him busy all night with their selection of lively music, including the conga!

Red Nose Day for Comic Relief was an opportune time to practice our school value of compassion. Children in all year groups were invited to wear red for the day and in turn raise money for this national fundraising event. All proceeds were passed onto Comic Relief, to help those facing poverty in the UK and around the world, so thank you for your generosity in supporting this cause.

To round off our newsletter, we have saved the best for last. Year 3 and Year 4 performed their astounding performance of 'Wiz Wam Alakazam' to a full house on both performance evenings at the end of this half term. We were met with a mythical world in which wizards and ice creatures had to put aside their differences and work together to overcome the challenges that they faced, looking to the valuable skills that each one of them had to offer. Our staff and children worked their socks off to bring us this performance, that was well worth waiting for, and we would like to thank them for a wonderful evening of entertainment.



Once again, thank you for your support during the teacher strikes, it has been helpful to have your co-operation under such circumstances. All of us at Queen Emma would like to wish you a very happy and peaceful Easter break, and we will see the children back in school on **MONDAY 17TH APRIL**.

Yours sincerely

Sarah Jarman
Executive Headteacher

Queens' Quest

On Tuesday 23rd May parents and carers will be welcomed into school at 2.45pm to find out what the children have been up to! More information about our space mission will be sent home soon.

Cycles, Scooters and Dogs

For the safety of everyone, please be reminded that cycles and scooters should be dismantled on school premises. It is also the case that dogs are not permitted on the school site.

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 (children in Years 5 and 6 require a pair of black indoor shoes (often plimsolls))

White, black or grey socks / tights

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

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.



Cubs



The Cubs Room children have really enjoyed reading the story 'Jack and the Beanstalk' and 'Jaspers Beanstalk'. In particular they enjoyed planting seeds, watering them and watching them grow. We are now experts at retelling the story and changing our voices to become different characters.

Foxes

This half term in Foxes we have enjoyed the popular stories of 'The Runaway Pancake' and 'The Gingerbread Man,' acting these out and joining in with repeated refrains. We have learnt about life cycles and how these follow cyclical patterns, looking at caterpillars to butterflies, eggs to crocodiles and eggs to chickens. Our walks during Woodland Wednesday and Forest Friday have encouraged the children to look for signs of spring, to collect a variety of natural objects and to make stick and wool caterpillars and bird feeders. We have also focused on some 2D and 3D shapes, thinking about their properties and joining them to make new pictures and models. The oval shape has been developed during our move towards Easter - printing eggs, modelling them with added sequins and beads, designing patterns on them and hunting for egg-shaped pictures in our nursery garden!



Hedgehog



This half term, the children in Reception have enjoyed a range of celebrations. We had a special week celebrating Mother's Day! The children made their own cards by carefully doing observational drawings of daffodils to go on the front of them, using oil pastels. They then used their understanding of phonics to write heartfelt messages to their loved ones. The children then worked together to make delicious scones and invited their mums into school to share the scones with them! We have also enjoyed learning about Easter and the children attended a special assembly all about it! The children learnt about why Christians celebrate Easter and loved watching the puppets!

Owl

This half term in Owl Class we have been learning about traditional tales such as Red Riding Hood and Goldilocks. We have used clues to work out which traditional tale we would be focusing on each week. We have learnt about the big bad wolf from lots of different stories like Mr Wolf's Pancakes and Little Red Riding Hood. We have learnt actions to each of our traditional tales, made props and acted each of the stories out. Most recently, we have looked at the Three Little Pigs story. We talked about what made the brick house strong so the wolf could not blow it down. The children were very keen to talk about cement and how this was our glue to hold the house together! We then designed and labelled our own houses and used these to help us create our own houses which would be safe for the pigs to live in.





Dolphin

We have had such a busy half term! We kick-started the term with our 'Castles Day', where we were transported back into the reign of King Stephen. We loved helping the King by making many different items to keep our castle safe and secure. In Design and Technology, we have been busy getting creative, making our own castles with a lever or slider mechanism. It has been a wonderful topic and we look forward to another new and exciting adventure next term!

Seahorse

'Castles' has been a fantastic topic! We have learnt so much about these amazing buildings such as the four different types of castles, their features and who may have worked there including what their lives may have been like. The highlight of this term was definitely our 'Castles Day' where 'History off the Page' came in and immersed us in a medieval castle. We made lots of different crafts such as soaps, grotesques and wax candles. In the afternoon the hall was transformed into a medieval banquet where the children were grouped into either royalty, performers or servants. We then feasted on bread, cheese, fruit and even blackcurrant wine! The children had a fantastic day and learnt so much going back in time.



Penguin

Penguin Class have had a very busy and enjoyable half term. One of the highlights was the class assembly 'Penguin Class Have Got Talent' which was thoroughly enjoyed by the children and the adults that watched. The children worked hard on the topic 'Fire, Fire', taking on the role of Samuel Pepys and acting out the story of the fire in groups. We had amazing dance lessons where the children composed a dance about the Great Fire and performed it with gusto!

Polar Bear

Polar Bear Class really enjoyed our 'Fire, Fire!' topic which involved travelling back in time in History to 1666 to learn how and why the Great Fire of London spread and who the significant people of the time were. In English, we wrote diary extracts as if we were at the Great Fire of London! In Mathematics, we consolidated our learning on division, explored 2D and 3D shapes and learnt to add two-digit numbers. We especially enjoyed creating 3D 'Skeleton Shapes' in Mathematics using straws and modelling clay. PE was fun too, creating a dance to represent the Great Fire of London. We have been busy achieving our class WIG 'to focus and be independent'!





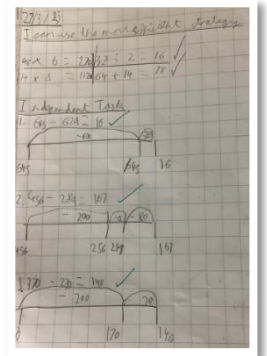
Macaw



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 enjoyed rehearsing for their Middle Years production and what a fabulous performance they gave!

Toucan

Toucan Class have enjoyed writing their Greek Myth this half term. Within our Greek theme, the class have enjoyed their Greek Day, trying some Greek food in Design and Technology, learning about the Gods and Goddesses and what life was like in Ancient Greece. During Mathematics, we have been consolidating our understanding on using number lines for subtraction and using the column method.



Falcon



This half term we have been busy learning all about climate, biomes and ecosystems as part of our topic 'Race to the Pole'. We wrote diary entries in English as if we were someone in Shackleton's expedition. We added our feelings at different points in the diary entry and thought about how our feelings would change during the journey. We had an interesting session with the Scott Polar Museum where we found out lots about what it was like to be an Antarctic explorer during the time of the first explorations. We have also had a huge focus this term on our performance of 'Wiz Wam Alakazam' and the children have been amazing at learning their lines and the songs in the performance.

Kestrel

We have been getting to know each other in Kestrel Class and it's been a super half term doing so! In Literacy, our 'Race to the Pole' topic has taken us on an imaginary expedition with the great Shackleton himself. We were also lucky enough to have the opportunity to interview him over Zoom! We have been busy learning about different climate zones and biomes around the world. Our focus in Mathematics has been learning to calculate the perimeter and area of given shapes. Without a doubt, the highlight of the half term has been the 'Wiz Wam, Alakazam' production – it has been an absolute joy and the children have worked really hard! Well done Kestrel Class! Enjoy the Easter holidays with your families.





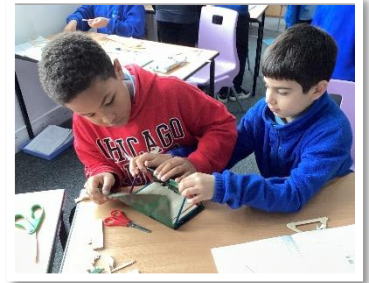
Giraffe



We have reached the end of the spring half term in Year 5 with great focus and success. In Science, we have focussed on 'Animals, including Humans'. The children have learnt about lifecycles, gestational periods and life expectancy. In PSHE, we have discussed managing our emotions. We have travelled to Antarctica in English, learning facts about emperor penguins to support our writing of a non-chronological text. We have continued to develop our guided reading skills with the text: 'Journey to the River Sea'. In Mathematics, we have used our times table knowledge to calculate volume, cubed numbers and three-factor multiplication.

Zebra

Zebra Class have had a busy half term and enjoyed a wide range of experiences. We studied the extraordinary lives of Emperor Penguins as part of our writing project, and learnt how to select effective vocabulary and grammatical structures when writing reports about them. We completed our studies of mountains and rivers, culminating in researching, designing and building free-standing structures to build tents for mountaineers! In music we have had fun learning how to generate beats and rhythms, using their bodies as percussion instruments! One of the highlights of the term was our book week, with the children getting involved in a range of fun and exciting activities, including a 'mystery reader' session.



Jaguar



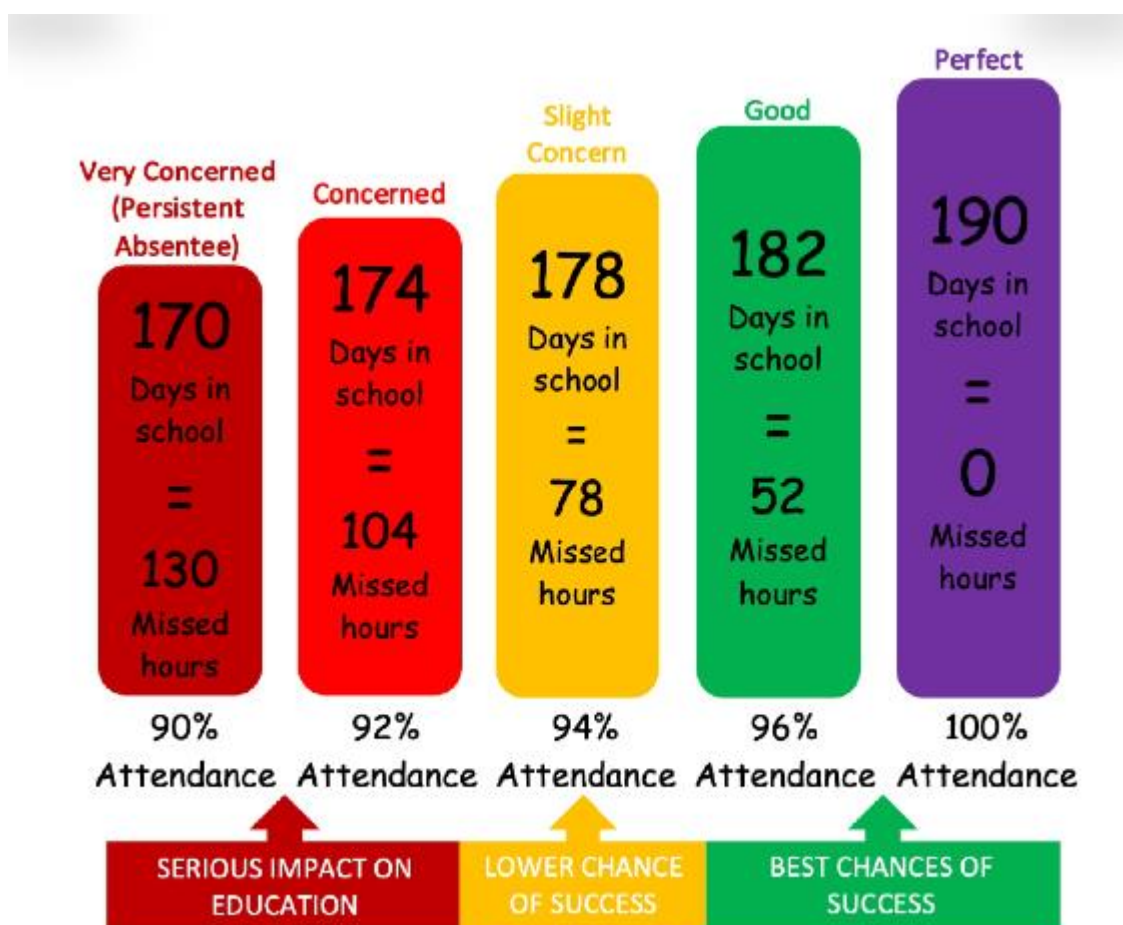
While Science is always a fascinating subject, this term saw a focus on 'living things,' including microorganisms. We studied some examples before growing some of our own with amazing results. Our vision was to observe microorganisms develop, and investigate similarities and differences in characteristics. Using our different variables, we were able to write about the investigation clearly using a scientific method, showing how these living things developed over a period of time. They are still tucked in the classroom to have a final check at the beginning of next half term. Something to look forward to!

Panther

As the term draws to a close, we have been fortunate enough to have Active Science in every week to help guide us through some elements of health, physical fitness and how our body works. In each new week, we were able to study a different aspect to health, and then use investigations to demonstrate these ideas practically. This will fit well in the upcoming term as we further challenge ourselves to understand healthy lifestyles, and ways to improve them. Thank you again to Cambridge United who have provided us with an exceptional foundation for the upcoming term.



Attendance Matters!



Class	Attendance %	Class	Attendance %
Hedgehog Class	90.9%	Toucan Class	95.8%
Owl Class	90.4%	Falcon Class	95.4%
Dolphin Class	94.8%	Kestrel Class	95.9%
Seahorse Class	92.1%	Giraffe Class	94.2%
Penguin Class	93.1%	Zebra Class	95.0%
Polar Bear Class	93.4%	Jaguar Class	95.7%
Macaw Class	94.2%	Panther Class	91.0%

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

You may be aware that we have started to send letters to parents / carers when a child's attendance drops below 96% (the government expected level of attendance). There may be valid reasons for your child's absence, which we understand and accept, however, it is our statutory duty to keep you informed of your child's overall attendance level. Receipt of this letter is for information only and does not mean that you or your child will be penalised in any way.

Primary Maths Challenge – Second Round Winner!

In the Autumn, a group of Year 6 children took part in the online Primary Maths Challenge. We are delighted to let you know that Kshitij's score allowed him to progress to the second round of this national challenge in March. He scored 23/25, which is a fantastic achievement!

Congratulations to Kshitij for taking part and being a great Mathematics representative for Queen Emma. He was awarded with a certificate and a brain game book in a recent whole school assembly - well done!



Book Week Reading Challenge

What an amazing response we received from our Book Week Reading Challenge! 180 children from across the school returned their completed forms to school this week, earning up to 2800 house points each for their house team (100 house points for each day of the reading challenge).

As a result of the reading challenge, Darwin House earnt 135,700 house points, Newton House earnt 135,400 house points, Franklin House earnt 121,800 house points and Hawking House earnt 104,900 house points.

Congratulations to Polar Bear Class who were top of our Reading Challenge Leader Board...

1. Polar Bear Class = 52,900 house points
2. Penguin Class = 50,000 house points
3. Toucan Class = 48,200 house points

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. This half term, the usual house points were added to those earnt in the Book Week Reading Challenge.

We hope members of Darwin House enjoyed your non-school uniform day on Friday 31st March. Congratulations to everyone who earnt house points this half term. Keep up the amazing work.

Darwin House = 136,708

Newton House = 136,249

Franklin House = 128,126

Hawking House = 127,019



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 this term...

This half term our Bag2School collection raised £35 for the PSFA and the fabulous Year1-6 discos raised over £400. Thanks to all who took part so enthusiastically and thank you to every parent who gave up time to help!

Funds to benefit the school community...

Outdoor Equipment: The school management has plans underway to invest in some new outdoor equipment for the school, and we look forward to being able to use the funds we have raised to benefit the children and their classes. Look out for the new picnic benches arriving next term, and possibly a shade sail too! Let's hope for sunny weather!

Getting involved...

Many thanks to Alison Stockham for serving as Treasurer and Trustee on the PSFA Committee for the past 5 years, we are so grateful for all your hard work. And many thanks now to Craig Dyer who is coming on board to take on this role. Thank you to all those who help so willingly with the PSFA events and who give up their time and energy to do so! We would love to hear from more parents who might now consider getting involved, so please do get in touch if you can: queenemmapsfa@gmail.com

Ongoing Fundraising...

Remember an 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 can simply set up **Easyfundraising** on each device you shop from:

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

Second-hand uniform...

Many of you have donated and purchased second-hand uniform this term. Thank you! If you still require some uniform, do please email us (queenemmapsfa@gmail.com) to let us know the item and size that you require, and we will check our stocks for you. We hope to hold an outdoor, in-person uniform sale as soon as the weather brightens up, so look out for more details to follow.

Please note that at present we are unable to accept second-hand uniform donations via the school office, as we have run out of storage space. When collections resume, please could we remind parents that we take donations of school-branded sweatshirts / cardigans, school-branded polo shirts and blue/white gingham dresses. Non-branded uniform can be donated at the Bags2School charity collection.

Upcoming PSFA events...

PSFA Committee Meeting – 2pm, Monday, May 15th
Bags2School Charity Collection – 9am, Tuesday, June 6th
PSFA Summer Picnic – 4.30pm, Friday June 30th

We wish you all a very happy Easter break. With many thanks indeed, the PSFA

School Lunch Menu - Summer Term

WEEK ONE W/C 17 April, 1, 15 May					
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
MAIN CHOICE	Breaded Fish Fingers (G) Garden Peas Oven Baked Wedges (G) Mixed Salad	Chicken Curry (G) Rice (G) Green Beans Mixed Salad	Jacket Potato with Tuna Mayonnaise/Beans/Cheese (G/D/E) Mixed Salad & Sweetcorn	Roast Turkey Roast Potatoes Broccoli, Carrots & Sweetcorn	Cheese & Tomato Pizza (G/D) Oven Baked Chips Baked Beans/Sweetcorn Mixed Salad
VEGETARIAN CHOICE	Homemade Cheese & Tomato Swirls (G/D) Oven Baked Wedges(G) Mixed Salad	Vegetable Curry (G) Rice (G) Green Beans Mixed Salad	Jacket Potato with Baked Beans/Cheese (D) Mixed Salad & Sweetcorn	Macaroni Cheese (G/D) Roast Potatoes Broccoli, Carrots & Sweetcorn	Cheese & Tomato Pizza (G/D) Oven Baked Chips Baked Beans/Sweetcorn Mixed Salad
DESSERT	Fruit Crumble & Custard (G/D) Selection of Fresh Fruit Yoghurt (D)	Fruity Flapjack (G) Selection of Fresh Fruit Yoghurt (D)	Lemon Muffin (G/D/E) Selection of Fresh Fruit Yoghurt (D)	Fruit Jam Sponge & Custard (G/D/E) Selection of Fresh Fruit Yoghurt (D)	Raisin Cookie (G/D) Selection of Fresh Fruit Yoghurt (D)

WEEK TWO W/C 24 April, 8, 22 May					
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
MAIN CHOICE	Beef Bolognaise Fusilli Pasta (G) Green Beans Mixed Salad	Homemade Chicken Pie (G/D) Mashed Potatoes Broccoli Mixed Salad	Jacket Potato with Tuna Mayonnaise/Beans/Cheese (G/D/E) Mixed Salad & Sweetcorn	Roast Chicken Roast Potatoes Carrots & Sweetcorn	Chicken Sausages (G/D) Oven Baked Wedges (G/D) Broccoli & Cauliflower
VEGETARIAN CHOICE	Tomato & Vegetable Sauce Fusilli Pasta (G) Green Beans Mixed Salad	Homemade Vegetable Pie (G/D) Mashed Potatoes Broccoli Mixed Salad	Jacket Potato with Baked Beans/Cheese (D) Mixed Salad & Sweetcorn	Macaroni Cheese (G/D) Roast Potatoes Carrots & Sweetcorn	Vegetarian Sausages (G) Oven Baked Wedges (G/D) Broccoli & Cauliflower
DESSERT	Blueberry Muffin (G/E) Selection of Fresh Fruit Yoghurt (D)	Cherry Tiffin Tray Bake (G/D) Selection of Fresh Fruit Yoghurt (D)	Fruit Crumble (G) Selection of Fresh Fruit Yoghurt (D)	Vanilla Sprinkle Cake (G/D/E) Selection of Fresh Fruit Yoghurt (D)	Frozen Yoghurt (D) Selection of Fresh Fruit Yoghurt (D)

This menu is subject to change due to supplier availability.

(D) contains Dairy, (G) contains Gluten, (E) contains egg. Children with D, E or G allergies will be offered suitable alternatives. If your child has special dietary needs please inform the school office. Items cooked on the premises are cooked with reduced sugar wherever possible (e.g. the flapjack is sweetened with apple puree) and the portion sizes are child age appropriate.

There will also be a selection of yoghurts and a fresh fruit platter served daily.

Cambridge Festival

Join staff and students from the Mathematics Faculty to find out what patterns you can discover, explore your creative thinking and reasoning and develop your problem-solving skills with hands-on mathematical activities and games for all ages from 8 to adult. Join us to explore, experiment, discover, question and enjoy!



Date: Saturday, 1 April 2023 - 12:00pm to 4:00pm

Location:

[Centre for Mathematical Sciences, Wilberforce Road, Cambridge CB3 0WA](#)

"A mathematician, like a painter or a poet, is a maker of patterns", said the famous Cambridge mathematician G.H Hardy.

This event is part of the [2023 Cambridge Festival](#). No booking required - drop in throughout the afternoon.

Please note that all under-16s must be accompanied by a supervising adult.

The Maths Cafe will be open throughout the afternoon, serving light lunches, cakes, and hot and cold drinks. Find [directions and a site map of the Centre for Mathematical Sciences here](#).

Level: General public

Level additional information: All ages from 8+



The Macmillan Cambridge Quiz - Fun & Facts for all the Family!



Looking for something to do in the Easter holidays?

A family-friendly quiz through central Cambridge.

Discover interesting and quirky facts whilst testing your observational skills.

Use the QR code or link to download the quiz and donate to Macmillan. <https://macmillan-org.enthuse.com/cambridge/profile>



Education Inclusion Family Advisor Easter Holiday Drop ins

We are offering county wide online drop-in sessions over the Easter holidays with our team of Education Inclusion Family Advisors.
We welcome any Parent/Carer with a child/ren in primary school that would like to join.

This is being held by Microsoft Teams, log in details to join are below:

Tuesday 4th April 2023 10am – 11am

Thursday 6th April 2023 2pm – 3pm

Tuesday 11th April 2023 10am – 11am

Thursday 13th April 2023 2pm – 3pm

Meeting ID: 328 447 023 071

Passcode: NUbK9b

For more information speak to your school's link Education Inclusion Family Advisor