

October Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers

We hope that the first half of the Autumn term has enabled your child/ren to settle quickly into their new classrooms. Our Reception children experienced their first days of school life and we are pleased to report that they have all made a wonderful start to being members of our school. They have already enjoyed a wide variety of inspirational curriculum activities such as learning about the job of those who work in frontline services as part of their topic 'People Who Help Me'. This included an exciting and educational visit from both the police and the fire service. They were also visited by a nurse, who helped them learn lots about their bodies and how nurses help others. As part of this topic, the children also made a delicious soup, but first they had to plan the healthy ingredients to go into it. They should be very proud of themselves for settling in so quickly and making such a great start already.



We have been pleased to have continued developing our relations with The Perse this term as part of our growing partnership with them. Their English students will be visiting some of our Key Stage 2 classrooms after the half term break to hear children read and they will also be undertaking a drama workshop with both of our Year 5 classes. Not only that, we have had some students who have been helping in our Key Stage 1 classrooms where they have been lending a helping hand and getting to know more about what kinds of things children are taught in our primary classrooms.

Our Year 6 children have been busy in their learning and in becoming more active. We are particularly proud to tell you that a group of Year 6 children took part in their first school tag rugby competition that was organised through our membership to the School Sports Partnership. The children showed great teamwork and resilience throughout and can stake their claim for being the first ever Queen Emma tag rugby team! You can see them in action in our photograph. Year 6 also smashed the Coleridge Maths Challenge, so read on to find out how they did. We are very proud of them!

October

23-27 Half Term

30 Training Day
School Closed

31 Return to School

November

8, 10, 14 Scholastic Book
Fair

13 PSFA Meeting

17 Children In Need Day

24 Open Morning for
Reception 2024

24 Y5 Cake Sale

29 Falcon Class
Assembly

December

1 PSFA Christmas
Fayre

5 Nursery Christmas
Celebration

7 Nursery Christmas
Celebration

11 Reception
Christmas
Celebration

13 KS1 Christmas
Performance

14 KS1 Christmas
Performance

15 School Christmas
Lunch

18 Christmas Parties
(N-Y6)

20 Autumn Term
Closes



This term we have been seeking to improve the outdoor experiences for the children in our school by asking them to give their views about additional games equipment that we may purchase to enhance playtimes. Our newly appointed Sports Captains, who you will read more about in this newsletter, have gathered ideas from each class and are using these to decide how best to spend the money they have been allocated. We are keen to see a greater variety of games and activities happening on our playgrounds, other than just football, which seems very popular.

No doubt you will have also seen our communication about our brand new Forest School area that is under development. You can help us to further develop this area by visiting Tesco and using their blue token scheme to nominate us for a community grant. You will find an opportunity to take part in the following stores until **14th January 2024!** We know what a great community of families we have at Queen Emma, so please do help us to help your children, by donating your tokens to our cause.



We are pleased to inform you that our pond will be re-lined in November, with the help of a community grant from the local authority, together with 'On the Verge' who work on projects that are aimed at improving the biodiversity in urban environments. Sadly, the originally laid pond liner disintegrated and therefore became dysfunctional. Thanks to 'On The Verge', our children will once again be able to enjoy seeing which creatures emerge from our pond. Our next aim is to continue to develop this area for pond dipping by creating a useable raised platform that groups of children can safely utilise.

Thanks to the Queen Emma PSFA, children in Key Stages 1 and 2 enjoyed another fun disco that in turn raised money for extra provisions in our school. We are hopeful that donations to this event may go towards the purchase of a shade sail for our playground, together with other funds that have been raised through events such as the summer picnic. Thank you to all of the volunteers who made this happen.



Our commitment to Keeping Children Safe is ever present and to encourage children to 'Speak out and Stay Safe' we invited the NSPCC to work with our children in school. Years 5 and 6 had workshops that helped to reinforce our messages about children talking to 'trusted adults'. They learned more about who to talk to and how to address things with others if they felt unsafe in any situation. This work was supported by assembly materials for those who are not in Years 5 and 6, so that we were able to reach as many children as possible.

Please do enjoy finding out about the many other exciting curriculum events that have taken place in our school as you read on further in this newsletter. Please do not forget that the school will be closed to children for a training day on Monday 30th October, following the half term break. We look forward to welcoming the children back on **Tuesday 31st October**. On behalf of everyone at Queen Emma, we wish you an enjoyable half term.

Yours sincerely



Kind regards

Sarah Jarman
Executive Headteacher



Foundation: Nursery & Reception



Cubs



We have been amazed how the children have all settled into the Cubs room and how they are already following some simple classroom routines. They have enjoyed exploring their indoor and outdoor environment and resources. Our first topic of the year was 'Dear Zoo'. Makaton actions helped us remember the different animals in the story and the children became very good at retelling the story using repetitive phrases.

Foxes

In Foxes, the children have explored 'Ourselves', creating faces and self-portraits in lots of different ways from making collage faces to cutting spaghetti to make hair. We have been thinking a lot about how to help and care for each other, including working as a team to tidy up and using kind hands to look after the babies in the water tray.



Hedgehog



Hedgehog Class have had an amazing start to their school journey! We have settled in, learnt our daily routine and made lots of new friends. This half term, we have been learning all about people who help us. We were fortunate enough to have visits from the fire brigade, the police and a nurse! We also learnt about dentists and enjoyed a special day learning about teeth and how to keep them healthy and clean. Well done Hedgehogs for all of your hard work this term.

Owl

This half term the children in Owl Class have been settling in, learning all about their new school lives and making lots of new friends. One of the topics we have been learning about is 'People Who Help Us'. We have been lucky enough to meet lots of these people, ask questions and learn all about their jobs. We have seen a fireman and fire engine, had an awesome smile dentist day where we learnt about how to clean our teeth. We have also met a nurse who let us use lots of medical equipment such as oxygen masks and syringes. We even met a policeman and midwife during this topic too. We have had circle times to talk about how they help us and the similarities and differences between them all. The children have loved learning about all of these people who help us and have recreated what they have learnt in our role play area. We have had a great first half term in Owl Class!





Dolphin



In Dolphin Class we have been looking at different types of materials and their properties. We carried out an experiment to find out what materials are absorbent and what materials are waterproof. We discovered plastic is waterproof and polyester can be very absorbent. What a fantastic start we have had to our year!

Seahorse

Traction Man has helped us kick off our exciting topic, 'Action and Adventure' inspiring us in lots of our lessons. In Science we thought about which materials Traction Man could use for a sturdy and strong helmet. In History we have spent many weeks discussing old toys and comparing them with new toys. We especially loved sharing some of our favourite toys and their memories with our friends. Finally we have worked hard in PE practicing our gymnastic skills learning lots of different balances and poses like tuck, pike and straddle. All the staff in Seahorse Class are so proud of how the children have adapted to life in Year 1 and we are looking forward to carrying on our learning next half term.



Penguin



Penguin Class have had a fantastic start to the new academic year! In English, we have written our own wonderful journey stories based on 'The Way Back Home' and our very own fact files on England. In Mathematics, we have been developing our place value knowledge using manipulatives such as bead strings, dienes, and number lines to help. During Computing we have been making pictures based on different artists, such as Mondrian. These have made a lovely display in the corridor outside our classroom. During our gymnastics lessons, we created a conditioning phase using moves such as tuck, v sit and an arabesque. Finally, we finished off the half term, by making our own healthy sandwiches. They were very yummy!

Polar Bear

Polar Bear Class have had a busy time learning about the countries of the UK and their capital cities. We also found out about compass directions and we sorted physical and human features. In English, we really enjoyed writing information texts about England and our own journey stories based on 'The Way Back Home' by Oliver Jeffers. We have also worked hard as mathematicians learning about place value of two-digit numbers and addition. It's been fun!





Macaw



Macaw Class have really enjoyed their Design and Technology learning this term where they have explored, designed and built their own shell structures. As geographers, the children have learnt about the regions and counties in England and have developed their map skills. In Mathematics, they have been using their resources effectively to understand numbers up to 1000.

Toucan

Toucan Class have been exploring the composition of multiples of ten by bridging 100. Using counters, they made groups of 10 tens to equal one hundred, then they counted the additional tens to find the total. It has been wonderful to watch the children's conceptual understanding grow as we dive into the Year 3 curriculum, they have worked very hard!



Falcon



Falcon Class have had a wonderful start to Year 4. We have been learning about the Romans and have written some excellent adverts and Roman diaries in our English Lessons. We have been studying Picasso in Art and have drawn some amazing self-portraits. The children have also been investigating teeth and the digestive system in Science, the highlight being our experiment to discover how to keep our teeth healthy.

Kestrel

Kestrel Class have made an excellent start to the year! We have enjoyed learning about the Romans in our topic and this has linked in to our English work on diaries and persuasive writing. We also produced a newspaper report. We have been practising mastery of number skills when adding, subtracting and rounding. In Science, the children have learnt about teeth and the importance of keeping teeth healthy. We have enjoyed working on portrait and self-portrait pencil drawings, inspired by the artist, Pablo Picasso. In addition, the children have enjoyed working on improving their dancing skills in PE!





Giraffe



During Mathematics, Giraffe Class have learnt how to round numbers to the nearest tenth, hundredth and whole number. We are now solving problems that involve money. In English, we have written a persuasive speech, and have written our very own 'Just So' story inspired by the author Rudyard Kipling. In French we have been saying what animals we do or do not have.

Zebra

This half term our topic has been Ancient Britain. The children have enjoyed learning about what it was like to live as an Anglo-Saxon and Viking. They learnt about the Anglo-Saxon justice system and the types of crimes committed and punishments awarded during that time. The children wrote a diary entry, from the point of view of either a Monk or Viking, detailing the raid on Lindisfarne. They have also discussed artefacts that were found at Sutton Hoo, designed their own Anglo-Saxon village, created posters about a Pagan God and created their own drawings of a Viking longboat.



Jaguar



Our first outing of the year has been to Duxford Airfield. This opportunity has worked perfectly with our topic of WWII this half term as it has allowed us to better visualize the realities of the time. We were able to spend the day observing aircraft which would have flown during WWII, some military support vehicles which would have been active and the conditions in which the soldiers would have lived. It was truly eye-opening, and a lovely way for us to wrap up the topics of the term, and look forward into next term where we will have an additional focus on WWII strategies and battles.

Panther

We have come to the end of our first half term and what a half term it has been! We have been fully engaged with many different activities in school, and have also had the opportunity to engage with some out-of-school competitions. One activity has been the Maths Challenge held at Coleridge School. The success of the Queen Emma squad speaks for itself, and one which we can credit with classroom activities. Using manipulatives has enhanced our learning this half term and has helped to put our understanding into context. We look forward to even more challenges in the year ahead!



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.

Scooters and Cycles

Please be reminded that scooters and cycles **MUST** be dismantled before entering the school grounds, by both adults and children. We would also appreciate co-operation in avoiding chaining or leaning cycles on the fences next to our paths, but to use the dedicated racks provided. Cycles left on the fences can create an obstruction for pedestrians who are trying to use the paths and may fall onto people as they try to navigate past them.

Parking

Now that the evenings are becoming darker earlier and the weather has turned colder and wetter, 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.

Scholastic Book Fair

WHEN: Wednesday 8th November, Friday 10th November and Tuesday 14th November 2023

WHERE: In the Studio - please access the Studio via the outside door.

Books sold at the book fair help to raise money for our school and enable us to buy new books for our classroom reading areas and our school libraries. Last year, we raised over £600.

A wide selection of books will be available to buy, suitable for children aged from 2 to 11. This year payments can be taken in cash or via an online payment system, accessed through a QR code displayed at the fair. If we sell out of the particular book that you would like, this can be ordered and will be delivered to school by Wednesday 15th November.

We are looking forward to seeing as many of you there as possible.

SCHOLASTIC TRAVELLING BOOKS

COME TO the BOOK FAIR!

FREE BOOKS FOR YOUR SCHOOL WHEN YOU BUY AT THE BOOK FAIR!

A POP-UP BOOK-STORE WITH HUNDREDS OF BOOKS FROM JUST £2.99

NEW TOM GATES THE FIVE STAR STORIES **Hardback only £7.99** (original price £12.99)

NEW SPEAK UP! **£7.99**

NEW OH! MAYA GODS! **£7.99**

DOG MAN TWENTY THOUSAND FEET UNDER THE SEA **Hardback only £9.99** (original price £12.99)

PERCY JACKSON AND THE OLYMPIAN THIEF **GREAT DEAL only £2.99** (original price £7.99)

THE BADDIES **£7.99**

BLUEY BARKY BOATS **£6.99**

LOOK

HELP EARN FREE BOOKS

Scholastic is one of the largest providers of free books to schools via our Reward scheme which helps to ensure that as many children as possible have access to books that support reading for pleasure. Every time you buy from the Book Fair, you help to make a difference by supporting literacy in your child's setting. Last year, with your help, we gave over £5.3M worth of free books to schools nationwide, which stocked school libraries and classrooms.



House Captains 2023

Our new house captains have been appointed...

Following in the formidable footsteps of previous house captains, eight Year 6 pupils have been chosen to lead our four houses of Franklin, Hawking, Newton and Darwin. We look forward to seeing the positive contribution that you all make to life at Queen Emma this year!

Franklin house captains think they will be good at helping others and being confident at delivering messages to their house. Their motto is, 'always believe in yourself.' One of Franklin's leaders has aspirations to become an NBA player and the other has her sights on being a teacher!



House captains for Hawking House said, "Even if you feel like giving up – keep trying!" One house captain loves playing football whilst the other enjoys spending her time helping younger children. In the future, one Hawking house captain would like to be a teacher and the other a lawyer.



Newton house captains are keen to encourage their house members to always do their best and give everything 100% effort. They both like being creative and enjoy sewing and drawing. Our Newton house captains are hoping to be a neurosurgeon and an artist in the future.



Leaders for Darwin House believe they have the ability to be approachable at all times and listen to the concerns of their house members. One house captain would like to be an engineer whilst the other loves Mathematics and one day hopes to work with numbers.



Year 6 Maths Challenge

We are so proud of the children who represented Queen Emma at a Year 6 mathematical challenge at Coleridge Community College on Friday 29th September. The two teams competed well and one of them came first!

Here is what they had to say:

- 'I liked working as a team' Emily
- 'It was very challenging but I enjoyed competing' Sofia
- 'We got the victory by hard work and perseverance' Meher
- 'I really enjoyed working on the more challenging questions' Quiao
- 'Coleridge gave us some fun challenges' Liam
- 'Although the challenges was very tricky we found it fun working as a team' Serene
- 'I enjoyed all the challenges' Stephen
- 'I enjoyed the start-up round the most' Delwyn
- 'I liked the down/across challenge' Sarmika
- 'The problem solving round was the best' Bowen
- 'It was especially exciting when they announced the results - 1st!' William

Congratulations on taking part and being great Maths representatives for Queen Emma!

Mrs Rutter





**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.

It has been lovely to see so many of you again this term and to welcome new faces, too!

Fundraising to benefit the school community

Outdoor Equipment: At present we are fundraising for equipment for the outdoor playgrounds. We are delighted to see the lovely new blue picnic benches which we have funded for the back playground, and we are looking forward to a shade sail for the summer months. Thank you everyone for helping to make our outdoor spaces a lovely area for the children to enjoy!

Getting involved with the PSFA:

We would love to hear from those of you who might be interested in getting involved with the PSFA, so please get in touch: queenemmapsfa@gmail.com

Class reps play an important role in connecting the classes with the wider school community and the PSFA initiatives. We currently have several vacancies, so do please email us for more details if you think you could help!

PSFA events

Bake Sales: We are delighted that Bake Sales are back on the calendar! Thank you to Year 6 for a fantastic start to the year with their Bake Sale on 6th October. Everyone enjoyed their yummy treats and the event raised £158.85. Well done Year 6!

Bag2School: Thank you to all those of you who donated pre-loved clothing for the collection on 9th October.

PSFA Discos: Very many thanks to all the children who came along on 12th October, and thanks especially to the many parents and staff who made the evening possible, by kindly volunteering to help. It was wonderful to see everyone having such fabulous fun! After expenses were paid, our total profits came to over £520, which will go directly to our PSFA fundraising initiatives. Thank you everyone!

Second Hand Uniform Sales: Thank you to all those who have donated or purchased second-hand uniform recently. We hope to run some in-person uniform sales after half 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)

Next half term:

Family Quiz Night Fri 3rd November: We are sorry that this new event has had to be postponed until the Spring – watch out for more details coming then!

Year 5 Bake Sale, Fri 24th November, 3.15pm: It's Year 5's turn to run the Bake Sale this half term, and we all look forward to buying their treats after school, so thank you Year 5!

PSFA Christmas Fayre, Fri 1st December, 3.30 pm: We are looking forward to this wonderful annual event on the school calendar. We do need more stallholders and helpers, so if you or anyone you know might like a stall to sell crafts/goods/festive treats etc, or if you can offer help, please email and let us know (queenemmapsfa@gmail.com). More info to follow over the next few weeks, so keep a look out!

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, if you have not already done so, 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.

Easyfundraising:

Together we have the chance to raise a huge amount for the PSFA at Queen Emma through our usual online shopping, so please sign up, if you have not already done so. Many of us will soon start shopping for the festive season, so let's try to make the most of this opportunity to benefit the school at the same time:

Nearly 3,000 retailers, including Amazon, John Lewis, Aviva, thetrainline, Sainsbury's, Ebay and many more, will donate to Queen Emma PSFA a percentage of the amount you spend, at no extra cost to yourself.

You simply have to set up **Easyfundraising** on each device you may 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!

Many thanks, and we wish you and your families a happy and restful half-term break!
Queen Emma PSFA Committee

Winning House - Autumn 1

Congratulations to everyone who has earned house points this half term. Franklin House can enjoy their non-school uniform day on Friday 3rd November.

Franklin House = 1209

Hawking House = 1200

Darwin House = 1087

Newton House = 1030

Queens Federation Governing Body

We are very sad to lose the services of two of our Governors, Jo Gurvidi and Victoria Renfro, who have had to step down with changes in their work and family commitments; we thank them for all their hard work. At the same time, we are very pleased to welcome Nicole Wilson as our new Staff Governor and Sarah Steele as our new Queen Edith Parent Governor.

We do have openings for others to join the Governing Body. We are especially looking for governors with backgrounds in areas finance, IT, law, business, health and safety and (of course!) education, but we welcome people from any background. If you are interested in joining us please email the Clerk to the Governing Body, Mrs Zoe Vassiliou, on zvassiliou@queensfederation.cambs.sch.uk.

Dr Sean Lang
Chair of the Governing Body

X (Formerly Twitter)

To see more of what Queen Emma has been doing please follow us on X (previously known as Twitter). If you are an existing X user, then you will be able to follow us at: @qem_school

If you do not currently have an X account then please use this link to find out more about how to create an account <https://help.twitter.com/en/using-x/create-x-account>