



# Queensgate Primary School Newsletter 20.10.23



Happy half-term everyone! We have had 7 busy and enjoyable weeks in school. Our Reception children have made such a positive start to school life and are happily into the routine of school life. Our oldest children, Year 6, have risen brilliantly to the challenge of being outstanding role-models for the rest of the school on a daily basis. Well done Year 6.

## Learning postcards

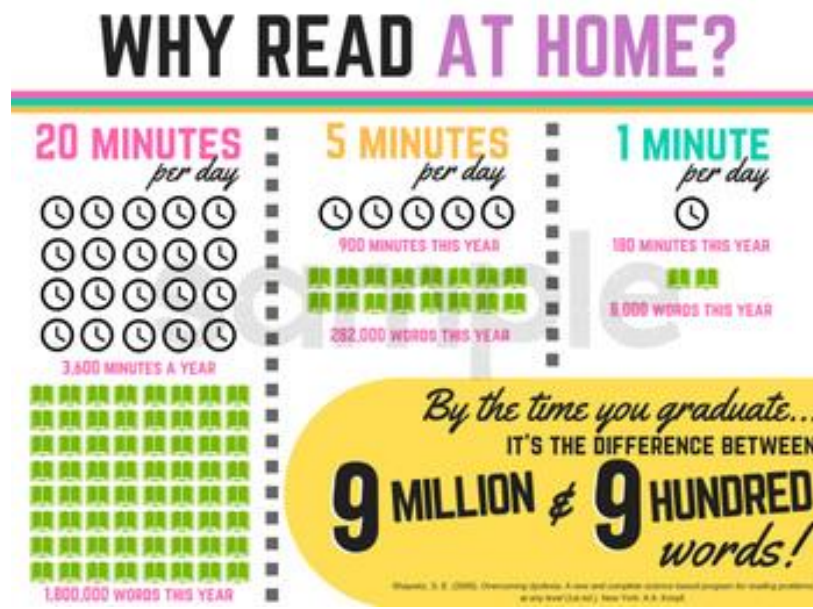
If your child is in Year 1 – Year 6, they will be bringing home a Learning Postcard this week as a short piece of holiday Home Learning. We send these home each half-term, so that the children can have the opportunity to talk to you, or another member of the family, about what they have been learning about in their current History or Geography lessons. This short retrieval task helps consolidate the learning for the children and hopefully provides you with an insight into what they have been learning about. Please ask your child the question on the postcard and then write a little about what your child said in response to the question. The postcard will then be stuck in your child’s Topic book. Thank you and we hope you enjoy hearing all about the topics!

## Home reading

Learning to read is the most important thing your child will learn at our school. Everything else depends on it, so we put as much energy as we possibly can into making sure that every single child learns to read as quickly as possible. We want all children to **love** reading – and to want to read for themselves. This is why we put our efforts into making sure they develop a love of books as well as simply learning to read.

Our new elected Reading Ambassadors have been busy selecting their recommended “Book of the Month” and have shared these in assembly.

It is wonderful to see how many of our children are reading a range of texts at home, as well as at school. A key element to making progress in reading is building “reading miles”. Children need to read as much and as widely as possible. This can be in the form of books, comics, newspapers, information leaflets, manuals etc. Reading in this way builds those reading miles and, as you can see below, a little bit of reading each day soon builds into thousands of words a year!



## Parent partnership meetings

We regularly hold an informal Parent Partnership meeting on the school premises and all parent/ carers are welcome to attend. The purpose of the meetings is for parents to meet members of staff, to share information about areas of the curriculum or initiatives that we are reviewing and to gain your views and suggestions. It is also a good way for parents/carers to meet other parents and be part of the Queensgate community. We are next meeting on **Thursday 23rd November at 9.00AM in Larks and Owls**. Refreshments are provided and we would love to see you there.

## School improvement

Each year, as part of our school self-evaluation and development process, we identify school improvement priorities for the year ahead. The areas below will be the main focus of school improvement work. Parents/carers that are able to attend our Parent Partnership meetings throughout year will be asked for input on these areas and their feedback is invaluable.

### School Development Plan September 2023/24

*"Inspiring a love for life and learning"*

**This year, we will support our children to become more confident and successful learners by...**

- Developing our whole school approach to **oracy**; enabling all children to have a strong command of the spoken word
- Supporting children to continue to making significant progress from their individual starting points in **writing**
- Supporting children to plan, monitor and evaluate their learning more effectively
- Ensuring that our **assessment mechanisms** are focussed on the most important knowledge or concepts that pupils need to know and that these assessments lead to effective feedback, retrieval practice for all children

## Children in Need 2023

The children are invited to wear any spotty items to school on **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November** with a £1 donation for the Children in Need appeal. As Queensgate is a cashless school this should be done online using this [link](#). This year the focus of the appeal is to raise funds to change young people's lives across the UK. Thank you for your support.

## Queensgate MPs

At Queensgate, we have our very own School Parliament. Two children from each class are elected by their peers to become MPs and represent their class at regular School Parliament meetings. The first meeting has already taken place and the new MPs have shared their initial ideas.

Year 6 Cedar: Ellis and Scarlett

Year 6 Pine: Tara and Ben R

Year 5 Birch: Abigail and Cicely

Year 5 Ash: Maddie and Teddy

Year 4: Liam and Yara

Year 3: Evie and Seth

Year 2 Oak: William and Olivia

Year 2 Elm: Phoebe W and Tom

Year 1: Neve and Thomas



**\*\*\* Please remember that the play trail by the mobile classrooms and the climbing frame by Early Years is not to be used by the children before or after school \*\*\***

## Destiny Garden School update



*It was lovely to receive this photograph from DGS school in Mombasa following the Y6 Pine cake sale and hear about how the funds we raised will be used to start repairing the girls' toilets as they were badly in need of repair. There is a real danger that the toilets would flood during the upcoming rainy season (October to December). They will now be raised above ground level to reduce the flood risk.*

## School Dinners

Dolce does not offer credit, and no longer has the option of paying by Direct Debit, so asks for all SchoolGrid accounts to be kept in credit at all times, by parents and staff. They do accommodate a three meal 'emergency' zone for incidents such as damaged or forgotten packed lunches, parents forgetting to top up their account etc. and a reminder email will be sent to parents from SchoolGrid to top the account up.

School will never allow a child to go without lunch, but if an account has not been topped up after this limit is reached the children are now being sent to the school office so that we can authorise the meal and pay for it. We will then ask parents to reimburse us for this via ParentPay.

### Important dates coming up

**30.10.23:** School re-opens

**1.11.23:** Year 5 classes visited by Maya archaeologist

**2.11.23:** 9.15 - 10.45 Open morning for prospective Reception 2024 parents (book before coming)

**17.11.23:** Children in Need (details to follow)

**22.11.23 & 23.11.23:** Parents' Evenings (details to follow)

**23.11.23:** Flu vaccinations in school for Reception to Year 6 (details to follow)

9.00AM Parent partnership meeting in school. All parents/carers welcome.

**WB 27.11.23:** Year 6 Bikeability course (for those who booked on)

**29.11.23:** 9.15 - 10.45 Open morning for prospective Reception 2024 parents (book before coming)

**5.12.23:** AM Y4- Y6 Carol Service rehearsal, Bramhall Methodist Church

6.30PM Y4- Y6 Carol Service, Bramhall Methodist Church, parents/ carers welcome

**6.12.23:** Reception trip to Sale Waterside to see "The Snow Queen"

**7.12.23:** Year 6 trip to Stockport air-raid shelters

**8.12.23:** Friends of Queensgate Christmas Fair

**12.12.23:** 9.30AM Reception play for parents/carers

2.00PM Y2 play for parents/carers

**14.12.23:** 9.30AM Y2 play for parents/carers

2.00PM Reception play for parents/carers

**15.12.23:** Christmas jumper day (Nursery – Y6)

Christmas lunch for the children

**15.12.23:** Y1 and Y3 Carols and mince pies in the playground, parents/ carers

**18.12.23:** Nursery, Reception parties

**19.12.23:** Y1, Y2 Christmas parties

**20.12.23:** Y3, Y4 Christmas parties

**21.12.23:** Y5, Y6 Christmas parties

**\*\*\* 22.12.23: School closes for Christmas holidays \*\*\***  
**\*\*\* Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January- School re-opens \*\*\***

Have a lovely holiday with your loved ones.

Mrs Hitchcock  
**Headteacher**