



Queensgate Primary School

Newsletter September 6th 2024

Welcome back to school!

I hope that you have all had a happy holiday and are looking forward to the new school year. The children have made a great start already as you can see from the pictures below! I would particularly like to welcome all the new children and families who have joined us this year. Much of the information in this first newsletter is for our new families, but it will hopefully serve as a useful reminder for everyone. Please note that whole school newsletters will be sent home via email on a Friday, every two weeks.



Welcome meetings for parents/ carers

We would like to invite **all parents/ carers** into school for Class Welcome meetings. This short meeting will be held in your child's classroom and it is a great way for parents/ carers to meet class teachers and find out about the routines, curriculum and expectations for your child. **Children do not attend these meetings** as they know their teachers/ classrooms well already and we would not have enough space for all the children plus all adults. These meetings will be held on **Wednesday 11th September**. Please be prompt, as we do have to stick to these timings. The timings are staggered so that families with more than one child can attend multiple meetings. Information will be shared on Seesaw following the meeting if you are not able to attend.

- Year 5 and Year 6 at 5.00PM
- Year 3 and Year 4 at 5.25PM
- Year 1 and Year 2 at 5.50PM
- Reception and Class R at 6.15PM

Our school values

We are committed to creating an environment where outstanding behaviour is at the heart of productive learning. Everyone is expected to maintain the highest standards of personal conduct, to accept responsibility for their behaviour and encourage others to do the same. All staff work to a consistent behaviour policy which celebrates positive behaviour. We encourage all pupils to take responsibility for their actions, and aim to develop self-respect and self-discipline.

Restorative approaches are at the heart of our ethos. Restorative practice is a term used to describe a way of being, an underpinning ethos, which enables us to build and maintain healthy **relationships**, resolve difficulties and repair harm when **relationships** breakdown.

You will no doubt hear your child talk about the **3Rs** at Queensgate, as this is central to our school ethos and behaviour policy. Our 3Rs are...

Be Respectful **Be Responsible** **Be Reflective**



You might also hear your child talk about the **Recognition Board** in their classroom. When we notice that children are showing any of the 3Rs, their name/ picture is moved onto the Recognition Board.

Who can I speak to in school?

We pride ourselves on being a welcoming school with approachable staff that go the extra mile to engage with Queensgate families. I am normally at one of the school entrances each morning and a member of staff is on the door at each of the pupil entrances.

If you would like to speak to your child's class teacher/s, they are usually available for a quick catch-up at the end of the school day after all the children have been collected. They are **not available in the morning** as they are working directly with the children from 8.45AM. Alternatively, you can ring (0161 439 3330) or email school admin@queensgate.stockport.sch.uk. Please add **FAO the name of the class teacher in the Subject** of the email. Emails are monitored and responded to within the school office opening hours (8.30AM - 4.00PM). We aim to respond to your email within 48 hours. Please avoid writing messages in the children's Planners as these are not looked at everyday by the staff.

If you would like to speak in more detail about a specific matter to a member of the leadership team, then please ask to speak to Mr Knowles (KS2 Leader) or Mrs Clough (KS1 Leader), Mrs Lee (Deputy Headteacher) or Mrs Rayner (Inclusion Manager). I can then be contacted if necessary.

Attendance

One of the most important ways that you can help your child enjoy and succeed at school is to ensure that they attend school every day. Regular attendance will help your child to develop friendships,

confidence, give them the best chance to achieve their potential as well as making them an integral part of the Queensgate family.

In line with local authority guidelines, we **do not authorise holiday absence during school term time**, except in exceptional circumstances. If you require your child to have any time absent from school you are required to complete an **Absence Request Form** from the school office or on our website. If your child is unable to attend school, we request that you inform the school office by 9.30am at the latest. If we do not receive a message the office staff will contact you to ascertain your child's whereabouts. Any child that arrives late to school (after 8.55) must be taken to the school office and signed in electronically. You might have read in the press about recent changes to Attendance-related Education Penalty Notices. These will be communicated with you at a later date.

School uniform

Please ensure that your entire child's uniform is **labelled (including coats.)** This is particularly helpful if an item goes missing. The lost property box is kept in the entrance area by the school office and you are welcome to come and check it if your child has lost an item of clothing. Any unclaimed items are disposed of at the end of each half-term.

Jewellery is not permitted, with the exception of a watch. In addition, if your child has pierced ears these must be small, plain studs that **must be removed for PE and swimming. Please make sure that your child does not wear earrings for school on a PE/ swimming day** or that they are able to independently remove and put their earrings back in. They will not be allowed to take an active part in the PE/ swimming lesson if they have earrings in. The wearing of nail varnish and make up is not permitted. Hair styles – very short/shaved hair or extreme hair styles are not permitted. Long hair must be tied back for safety reasons.

Home learning

All home learning tasks will be shared electronically on Seesaw each Friday. Further details regarding Home Learning will be shared at your child's Welcome meeting. Any new children to the school will be issued with Seesaw login details in the coming days.

Fruit

Children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are offered a free piece of fruit or vegetable each day. These are provided by the National Fruit Scheme. Children in Year 3 – 6 are encouraged to bring a piece of fruit or a vegetable into school each day to eat at morning playtime. **Crisps, chocolate, sweets and anything containing nuts are not permitted as a snack.**

Children should also bring a **named water bottle** into school with them each day.

Safeguarding

Staff will soon learn the familiar faces of the adults who pick up the children at the end of the school day. If there are any changes to collection arrangements e.g. someone else is picking up your child, we must be informed by email admin@queensgate.stockport.sch.uk or phone, preferably before 11:30am. We will not allow anyone else to take your child home without your permission.

Starting Primary School and Road Safety

As your child begins school it's an exciting time for them and full of new experiences. The journey to and from school is an important part of their new daily routine. It's a perfect opportunity to form good habits that will last a lifetime.

Walking, scooting and cycling to school have many benefits. They form part of the daily exercise children need and are recognised as contributing towards children arriving at school refreshed, fit and ready to learn.

Walking enables you to talk with your child about the day ahead or what they have done at school. It's also a great way of helping them to learn about Road Safety. For example, talk about safer places to cross the road, how to cross using Stop, Look, Listen and Think and why running across the road is not a good idea. Using the school journey as an opportunity to develop good Road Safety habits will help build up your child's confidence and road awareness. Set a good example, your children will learn from you.

Vehicle congestion around schools can have an effect on everyone. It can compromise safety, cause conflict with residents and contribute towards poor air quality. Sustainable travel can help reduce these issues and have a positive effect.

If you do drive, please consider parking away from school and 'park and stride' walking the last 5 or 10 minutes. Also ensure you park considerately and legally. However you travel, give yourself plenty of time and plan your route.

Queensgate Bowling Club



Before the holidays, Year 6 spent six weeks learning how to play Crown Green Bowls with volunteers at Queensgate Bowling Club. This is an annual treat for Year 6 and they benefit so much from mixing with the older members of our local community. This year, two of our children were asked to contribute to **Stockport's Talking Magazine** and share their experience. This newspaper is produced for visually impaired Stockport residents.

Well done to Rocco and Scarlett who accompanied Mr Knowles to the recording studio! You can listen to their interview here stockporttalkingnewspaper.org.uk (September Magazine, Track 9.)

Health and safety reminders

- Children are not permitted to play on the **play trail, climbing frames or in the school grounds before 8.45AM or after 3.15PM.** There is no supervision from the staff at these times and the children should not be using these facilities. Your support with this matter will help us to keep the children safe.
- As we have a number of children with **severe nut allergies**, please ensure that any food brought into school is free of nuts i.e. no nutty cereal bars, nutella spread sandwiches. We also request any sweets with sticks e.g. lollipops are not sent into school for an event such as your child's birthday.
- If you have a child in **Year 6** and you would like to give your permission for them to walk/ cycle to or from school without your supervision, please put this in writing in an email to the school office. We will not allow the children to do this without your written permission.

Dates to remember

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| • Monday 9th September | Year 5 swimming starts |
| • Tuesday 10th September | Year 3 Oak start Forest Schools |
| • Wednesday 11th September | Welcome meetings in the children's classrooms
→ Year 5 and Year 6 at 5.00PM
→ Year 3 and Year 4 at 5.25PM
→ Year 1 and Year 2 at 5.50PM
→ Reception and Class R at 6.15PM |
| • Tuesday 24th September | European Day of Languages |
| • Wednesday 25th September | Year 5 trip to Jodrell Bank |
| • Wednesday 25th September | 6pm Reception meeting, "How to support your child's reading at home" |
| • Friday 27th September | 9AM, Macmillan Coffee morning |
| • Thursday 3rd October | National Poetry Day |
| • Thursday 3rd October | Reception - Year 6 flu vaccinations (details to follow) |
| • Wednesday 9th October | Year 3 Stone Age workshop (in school) |
| • Thursday 10th October | Year 6 trip to Imperial war Museum North |
| • Friday 11th October | Year 2 trip to Staircase House, Stockport |
| • Friday 18th October | School closes for 1 week |
| • Monday 28th October | School- re opens |

Have a lovely weekend everyone, ready for a full week next week!

Mrs Hitchcock,

Headteacher