



Have a lovely half term break!

Dear Parents and Carers,

A Busy Half Term

It has been a busy half term, back to normal in many ways, but staff absence and pupil absence has been very challenging in terms of all children keeping up with what they need to be learning. Good attendance makes such a difference to each child's progress and gaps that need to be filled. Hopefully, this will improve after the holiday.

Library Van

It was lovely having the library van in school this week. The children enjoyed going on to the van and choosing new books.

Author Visit

The Key Stage 2 children were entertained by Peter Murray. They were a great audience and listened really well to Peter but also interacted when required. Unfortunately, due to the school being closed the book signing hasn't happened—we will arrange for Peter to visit after the half term.



Half Term Holiday

Next week, Monday 21st February to Friday 25th February, is the half term holiday. We return to school on Monday 28th February at 8:40 am.

There are quite a few events happening in the first week back.

Parents and Carer Consultation Evenings are on Wednesday 2nd March from 3:10 to 4:50 and Thursday 3:30 to 6:50. Please sign up using Scopay. The meetings will be face to face in the hall.

PTFA Update

The PTFA have been very busy this term and have organised a number of highly successful events. Some include:

Raisin Challenge - The overall amount raised was £247.00. 1CE raised the most money with £34.18, 4AH were 2nd with £33.47 and 2KA were 3rd with £29.78. This money will go towards the sensory garden.

Disco - Last night saw the Valentine's disco - it's been a long time since the last disco and will have been the first for many of the children who attended from lower down in the school! They had a fantastic time and AJ the DJ was an incredible host - we shall be using him again!

Lottery - Don't forget you can buy tickets for the Queensgate Lottery by visiting <https://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/lottery/school/queensgate-foundation-primary-school>

Music Festival is taking place on Friday 4th March where Mrs W Webb will be taking our school choir to Ryde, here is a message from Mrs Webb:

To all parents and carers of the Festival Choir Club,

Thank you so much for your support of the Festival Choir. We are all really enjoying the songs and are looking forward to performing after half term. The details for the day are as follows:

Date	Friday 4 th March
Time	9.50am – Our class is at 10.15am but we do not want to disturb the choirs singing before us and classes can start earlier than scheduled.
Place	All Saint’s Church, Ryde – opposite Ryde School
Duration	90 – 120 mins – we are aiming to leave Ryde at approx. 11.30am and be back at school for 12.00pm
Children’s dress	Smartest uniform, neat hair and shiny shoes please so we look fabulous as we represent our school.
Transport	Mrs Kingsbury, Mrs W Webb, Mrs N Webb and Mrs Norsworthy will be taking the choir to and from the festival venue in the school minibuses. We will be leaving school at 9.00am
Cost	I believe it is free to spectate but bring some loose change in case this has changed.
Parking	There is no parking at the venue but there are car parks in Garfield Road and Lind Street – pay and display
Small brothers and sisters	This event is not suitable for young children as there is a lot of sitting and listening.

Over half term, encourage your child to have another look through the words to make sure they know every single one. Enjoy the half term! Mrs Webb



What’s for dinner next week?

(Remember all Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children are entitled to Free School dinners.)



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Macaroni Cheese	Allegra’s Chicken Filo Pie with Mashed Potato	Roast Gammon with Roast Potatoes and Gravy	Beef Bolognese	Golden Fish Fingers and Chips
Vegetable Burrito Wrap	Allegra’s BBQ Beans served with cornbread	Sweet Potato and Chickpea Roast with Roast Potatoes and Gravy	Butternut Squash and Tomato Bake with Rice	Meat-free Nuggets and Chips
Green Beans and Sweetcorn	Peas and Broccoli	Carrots and Cabbage	Broccoli and Sweetcorn	Baked Beans and Peas
Raspberry Ripple Ice Cream	Brownie	Shortbread Biscuits with Fruit Slices	Berry & Peach Oaty Crumble with Custard	Orange, Sultana and Carrot Cake Slice

Please note that all meals are subject to change due to availability of produce.



Queensgate Foundation Primary School

Headteacher: Samantha Sillito B.Ed (Hons) NPQH
Deputy Head: Robin Chubb B.Sc (Hons) PGCE NPQSL
Assistant Head: Clare Grant B.Ed (Hons)
Assistant Head: Peter Tilling B.Sc (Hons) NPQSL

18th February 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

Parent Governor Vacancy

We have two vacancies for Parent Governors, which we need to fill as soon as possible. Queensgate Foundation Primary School has always aimed for a partnership with parents which undoubtedly brings great benefits to the children. One of the most significant ways you can help in promoting this aim is to volunteer to be a parent governor.

The governing board's main tasks are:

- to ensure that the school has a clear vision, ethos and strategic direction
- to hold the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils
- to oversee the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent

Parent Governors are welcomed as valued members of the team and play a vital role in ensuring the governing board is aware of the views of parents and the local community. We feel sure that there are parents prepared to take on this important role and give their time and commitment to helping us to continue to improve the school's performance.

In looking to fill this vacancy the governors of the school have identified the following skills, experience and attributes that they feel would help strengthen the governing board.

- A background knowledge of Education
- School sector HR and policies
- Procurement and purchasing
- Financial management
- Accountability and collective decision making
- An awareness of Safeguarding and child care would also be beneficial

If you have any of these, or indeed if you have other skills you believe would enhance the governing board then we would like to hear from you.

Training and support will be available to help you develop into the role. This will include in-house mentoring and support as well as access to external governor training.

If you feel you can help in this capacity please contact the office or email Mrs. Selle (Clerk to Governors) admin@queensgateprimary.co.uk for an application form, which will need to be completed and returned to the school by the closing deadline of **12.00 noon on Monday 7th March 2022**.

The guidelines giving full details about how vacancies are filled can be found on the school's website. You should also look at the information for prospective governors on the [Hampshire Governor Services website](#).

Please note that for the protection of children all governor appointments are subject to an identity check.

If there are more applications than vacancies, we will hold an election and you will be sent a voting paper in due course. You may return the ballot paper either via your child or by post.

Yours sincerely,

Out & About

The Out and About group from Mrs Barnett's class managed to miss the worst of the rain on Tuesday morning when they visited Hersey Nature Reserve. The children spotted Sanderlings, camouflaged amongst the pebbles on the shoreline of the Duver beach. Sanderlings migrate from Siberia to winter along the beach from Ryde to Seaview. The children also spotted a heron, swans, coots, moorhen and mallards in the reserve. They enjoyed a hot chocolate and snack whilst listening to bird stories and looking at non-fiction bird books in the hide whilst escaping from the rain.



On Wednesday morning the 1CE Out and About team had a slight change of plan due to the weather forecast and visited St Helen's causeway and duver (instead of Newtown). The children met Charlotte from Bird Aware Solent who taught them about the different birds we might see at the coast and their key features. They used binoculars to spot different birds including cormorants, lapwings, gadwall ducks, rock pipits and redshank. The children explored the shoreline to identify what the birds like to eat (cockle shells, sea grass, sea lettuce etc) and chose a few favourite shells to take home with them.



All of our Year 3 and 5 swimmers have worked so hard this half term during their lessons and are making great progress. We are looking forward to continuing lessons after the half term break.

Our Year 3 Super Swimmers from this Wednesday are; Zachary S, Hayley S, Abigail, Emily B, Brooke P and Isabella M.

This week our Year 5 swimming certificates are awarded to; Jack D, Jack EJ, Malachi, Ellie, Roxy, Jada and Leo L.

Out and About after half term...

Please ensure your child wears warm play clothes, lots of layers, hat, scarf, gloves, wellies and a warm waterproof coat. Bring shoes in a named bag to change into for the afternoon.

Tuesday 1st March am - RSJ

Hersey Nature Reserve

Ellis, Amelia-Lily, Joe, Marleigh, Macie, Ava, Harry N, Edward, Arlo, Amelia, Logan, Clay, Kaiya and Isabelle.

Wednesday 2nd March am - 1KS

Newtown wak

Ellie, Ethan, Daisy, Lilly, Miller, Oliver, Max, Daniel, Samuel, Juniper, Corey, Eve and Chloe.

Swimming lessons after half term:

Tuesday pm - **Year 3** (lesson 6 of 10)

Wednesday pm - **Year 5** (lesson 7 of 10)

Please ensure your child has a swimsuit/ swim shorts, goggles and a towel with them in a bag. Please note, the coach and minibus will not return to school until approximately 3.15pm. Thanks in advance for your support and understanding.



QUEENSGATE SPORT ROUNDUP

Two teams had friendly football matches at Holy Cross; the Year 4 team had a fantastic match but ultimately lost 3-2. The U-9 girls played their toughest match to date and although they lost, Queensgate did score the best goal of the game.

Reminder to those filling in the active travel data sheet, the final day is Feb 28th and the sheets need to be handed into the office or Mr Giles.



Year 5 football team – remember you have a match on Tuesday March 1st at Holy Cross – remember to bring your slips back.

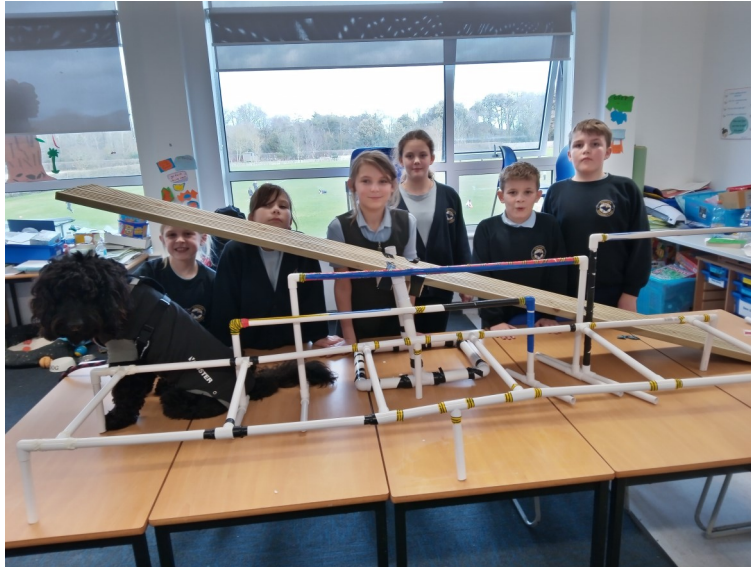
Punctuality

It is really important that the children get to school at 8:40 this is a crucial time for hearing readers, times tables practise, catch up groups and pre teaching. Please don't let your child go to the park unattended on the way to school. It means that if there are problems at the park that we need to spend time in school sorting it out. This happened with some of our Year 6 children this week. It is parental responsibility to ensure the children are in and learning on time.



Benji Blog

This half term the children have been making a range of agility equipment for Benji. The final piece they made was a seesaw. Next half term the children will be teaching Benji how to walk carefully along the seesaw and making mini agility circuits for him using all the equipment.



Year 6 will be visiting Osborne House on Wednesday 2nd March for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Canopy Project. The reserve day is Thursday 3rd March.

World Book Day is on Thursday 3rd March. Please chat to your child about which book character they would like to come as. Maybe you could have a think about how to make the costume over the half term break. This does mean, of course, some of the teachers will be in character for parents' evening! Always fun! There will be prizes for the best costumes.

Clubs after half term

Please note no clubs will run the first week back due to Parents Evening.

Y5 & Y6 Homework, Benji DT, Badminton and Festival Choir Club will stay the same.

Boys & Girls Football, Cookery and Computer Club will finish and change to new children.

These will be available to book on Tuesday 1st March via Clubbly at 6pm.

Please do not re-book your child into Computer's or Cookery Club if they already attended as these are very popular clubs.

Boys & Girls Football Y4-6 will change to a mixed club of Cricket.

Have a great half term everyone!

Whole school attendance 93.81%.

Remember that good attendance will help your child to succeed at school.

This week 3BM achieved 97.0% attendance!
Well done.

Thank you for your support.

Best wishes,

Samantha Sillito

Headteacher

Half Term Heritage Activities

Family Activity day at Newport Roman Villa

Monday 21st February – 10am – 2pm

Special admission fee of just £1 per person

Come and explore Newport Roman Villa on this special family day. There will be a food photo hunt to complete as you go around the site and a free activity pack to take away.

The activity room will not be open on this special day.

For more information

museums@iow.gov.uk

01983 823433 / 01983 529720 (on the day)

www.iwight.com/museums

Newport Roman Villa, Cypress Road, Newport, PO301HA



Free Entry Museum of Island History

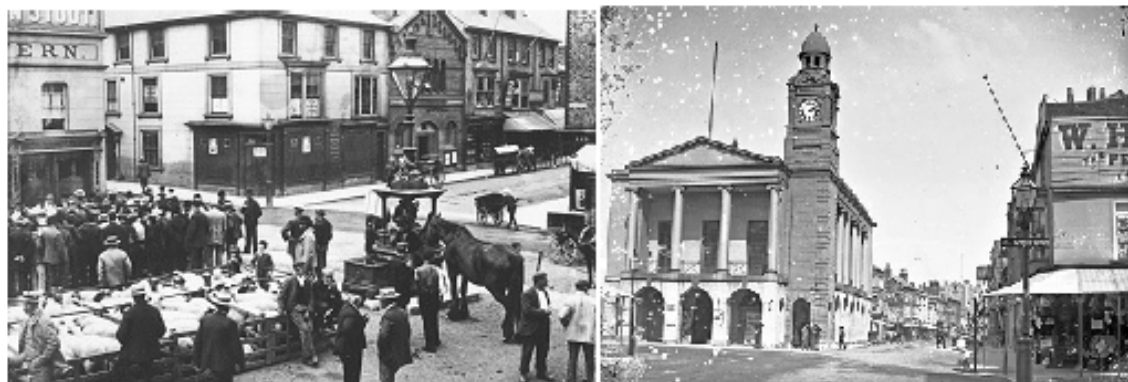
Tuesday 22nd and Thursday 24 February 10am – 1pm

Find out more about the history of Newport in the newly opened exhibition. Activities for families, photo hunts and games. Come and tell us your memories and stories of Newport and help us develop the exhibition.

The Newport exhibition has been supported by a grant from Historic England as part of the Heritage High Street Action Zone Cultural Programme.

For more information - museums@iow.gov.uk 01983 823433

www.iwight.com/museums Museum of Island History, High St, Newport, PO301TY



The events are organised by the Isle of Wight Council's Heritage Service.





HM Government

NHS

Meeting friends or family?

Meeting outdoors is safer.
If you meet indoors, let fresh air in.

IT'S MUCH SAFER TO MEET OUTSIDE



[keeptheislandsafe.org](https://www.keeptheislandsafe.org)

Working together for a successful future

Have your say on new walking and cycling routes!



**Do you live or
work in East
Cowes or
Whippingham?
Your views are
needed to help
unlock funding!**



Where are the routes you would like to use?

What's putting you off walking and cycling?

Please complete the anonymous survey at:

<https://secure.journeysurveys.com/answer/1558>

**Or phone Plan Research on the local rate number
0845 508 3085 and leave a message with your views.**

You are invited to public consultation meetings on:

24th February 6pm-8pm

25th February 2pm-4pm

East Cowes Town Hall

York Avenue, East Cowes PO32 6RU