



NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2020

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Queen's Hill Primary



@QPrimary

Dear Parents and Carers,

The wonderful weather before half term felt a little bit like salt rubbed into the wound for all of us who had been expecting to be at Whitwell. I know many of you with children in Y3/4/5 made dens in your homes or gardens and I know of at least one family where the children packed their rucksacks and went on a small walk before arriving at "Whitwell" (home!). The creativity of both families and staff has been fantastic and I know many of us enjoyed experiencing "Virtual Whitwell".

Half term came and went with over 30 children attending the childcare facilities. We were able to provide this as our wonderful support staff have been on a three week rota since 23rd March and taking their Easter breaks and "half term" at a different time. Not all schools were able to offer this for their families and I feel blessed to have such a committed team here at Queen's Hill. With more children arriving over the next couple of weeks unfortunately we will not be able to offer childcare over the summer holidays as all staff will be needed during termtime. Hopefully by then some of you may be able to use extended family, as normal, over this period. I have asked the Local Authority to signpost us to childcare schemes as soon as they are able to and, of course, if we are approached by registered outside providers then we would be happy for the school to be used for Summer Childcare schemes.

Reception children are settling back into school life with 47 of them joining us on Monday. Seeing the joy on their faces and hearing laughter and chatter coming from their classes was great. We know that some parents and carers cannot, or are choosing not to, return their child to school and this is absolutely fine. The registers will be marked as an authorised absence, as per government guidelines, but you will not be fined for non attendance.

This week we have been preparing for Nursery children to return from Monday 8th June and Molly and Jasper are busy again with their starring roles in "Back to School" filming. Hats off to those in the Early Years team - and those who have joined it - as they adapt their classrooms to "pods", sort out drop off and pick up logistics, arrange groupings in the pods and adapt their planning, whilst still providing online learning to those who are at home. We will remind our youngest children to implement social distancing but we know this is very difficult for them (as Molly demonstrates in the film - that wasn't planned, it's just she's been missing the children and has become VERY needy!) which is why the government has limited the number of children who can be in a group in Nursery classes.

Next week we will begin our plans for Y1 and Y6 to return, the last of our priority year groups (as specified by the government). We currently have 5 childcare pods for key worker and vulnerable children, if we need to increase the number of pods needed for childcare (the government's priority group, prioritised above year groups) then we may need to look at a rota for the Year 6 pupils. Our numbers, and often the government directives, change daily so although probably not far away for you, the 15th of June seems a very long time away to put detailed plans in place when we know anything can happen in the meantime. We will of course keep you informed in the journey to get more pupils back into school.

To say the last few weeks have been challenging in the life of Queen's Hill school would perhaps be an understatement. Staff have learnt a new way of delivering learning from their homes, support staff have mixed with new year groups in childcare, and we have tried to maintain support for all of our families and those in the community, whatever their situation. Sainsbury's at Longwater have been incredible and provided us with perishable items almost daily. Foodbank, who we have been supporting, have in turn helped us out when we have needed it, South Norfolk District Council have been always at the end of the phone and sourced us much needed hand sanitiser and have helped families who have needed more than help than we have been able to provide as a school.

Throughout this time your support has been phenomenal and your kind words have lifted us when we have needed it most. I am still struggling with the idea the government has for all year groups returning before the end of term. On 15th June every classroom will be full. Of course we will work our hardest to ensure the pupils in the non-priority year groups (Y2,3,4 and 5) get some sort of closure, something that is also important for the staff... I'm just not sure in what format it can be done... "yet". The children will tell you we always encourage a "yet" at the end of "I can't do it" sentence as we foster a growth mindset! Watch this space - we will do something 😊

Thank you for your continued support - I have never felt prouder to be part of the Queen's Hills community.

Take care and keep safe.

Penny Sheppard



Calendar
JUNE 2020

Summer Term Dates
20th April to 21st July

Date	Time	Event
Mon, Tues, Weds, Thurs, & Fri	12 noon TERM TIME ONLY	Free School Meals collection from Kestrel Avenue Car Park
Mon & Thurs		Book Swap Please bring your books in a plastic bag or wrapped in cling film. If you are self-isolating, we can arrange doorstep book swaps. Please ring the school office.

Many of you will remember Mr Roughsedge who was our Deputy Headteacher

Congratulations



to Mike, Beth and Olivia Roughsedge
on the safe arrival of a baby boy on Tuesday
26th May 2020 weighing 9lb 9oz



There are still exciting times for PE coming up! It has been great to see so many of you being active at home, whether that be Joe Wicks, creating an obstacle course or walking/riding a bike. This term will see all school sport partnership events we were due to attend "go live," virtually. These include Kwik cricket, dodgeball, tennis, football and athletics. Keep an eye on social media throughout June/July for the details! The school with the most participants wins a prize, come on Queen's Hill!

Eloise Peek

Hello from the teachers!

Nursery	Reception	Year 1	Year 2
<p>We have enjoyed seeing everybody's learning on Tapestry. We have seen some very creative junk model houses, and it has been lovely to watch everybody keeping active through our wiggly writing videos! The children have really impressed us with their phonics, and we have seen some super sound writing and reading as a result! We would like to say a big well done for working so hard and thank you to the adults for making it possible for us to see all of the wonderful learning on Tapestry. From Miss Compton and Miss Wright</p>	<p>It has been another busy month in Reception. Thank you to all of the families for getting so involved with learning at home and for helping us with the mysterious things Mrs Spicker found at her house! We realised that these must have been from Little Red Riding Hood and Granny. Lots of children got busy baking Little Red Riding Hood bread rolls and getting creative in our virtual explorers cafe in May. The Reception team continue to be amazed listening to children read, seeing the wonderful writing and amazing art work that has been shared on Tapestry each week.</p>	<p>It's been another busy month of home learning for Year 1s. It's been great to see you keeping up with daily phonics lessons and making your own clock and calendar in maths. We have also been amazed by all of the colourful artwork you've been sending into us. We hope you've enjoyed seeing all of your work in our Year 1 online gallery.</p> <p>Remember to keep being kind to your family. Try to make time for a bit of reading every day and make sure you get your daily dose of exercise to keep both your body and mind healthy!</p> <p>Mr Cross, Mrs Walden, Miss Stephens and Miss Denmar</p>	<p>We have felt so proud of you all throughout this month as you've taken on different learning challenges. You have shared brilliant artwork, written instructions and stories, joined in with our spelling practice and continued learning phonics through our daily lessons. We have really enjoyed seeing your designs for your ideal park and nature artwork you created using sticks, leaves and petals.</p> <p>We would also like to say thank you to your grown up who have been supporting you during this home learning experience!</p>
			

Hello from your teachers!

Year 3

The engagement with Year 3 home learning has been fantastic. The Year 3 team have commented on how lovely it has been to see siblings, parents and carers getting involved and enjoying the activities set. VE Day brought the Queen's Hill Community together and, again, it was heart-warming to see children baking using rations, building scarecrows and decorating bunting. Virtual Whitwell was a success too with lots of families building dens, toasting marshmallows, going on bat walks, designing t-shirts, designing flags, safely building fires and much more!



Year 4

Ms Taylor and Miss Hunter have been so impressed with how much time and effort you have been putting into your home learning. We have really enjoyed seeing all of your photos and videos showing your fantastic work and creativity. Your responses to the virtual Whitwell activities were great to see, there were some extremely cosy dens, thoughtful nature art and challenging obstacle courses! We can't wait to see more of your brilliant home learning, keep up the good work.



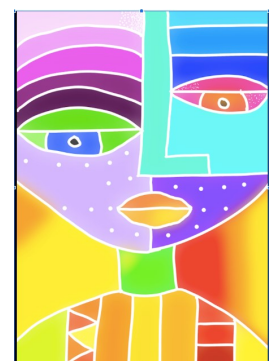
Year 5

Mr Emmens and Mrs BM have been extremely proud of the continued attitude to learning exhibited by pupils both at home and in school. We have loved receiving photos and videos of all of your hard work and creativity. It has been great to see so many children engaging with the revision sessions we compiled for maths and reading too - got to keep those skills sharp!



Year 6

Year 6 are very pleased with how the majority of children have settled independently into using the Google Classroom platform for their home learning. This is excellent preparation for their transition to high school in September. Our art work was simply stunning last half term, where we looked at the work of abstract and cubist artists. Attached is a child's interpretation of a portrait by the modern Canadian artist Sandra Silberzweig.



Parent and Carer Support

Although the school is closed to some pupils, we are still here to support families and pupils.

School Contact

Whilst we are unable to have visitors on site, we welcome parents and carers to get in touch with us via the school office. Please email office@queenshill.norfolk.sch.uk or call 01603 746857 with any queries. Office staff will direct you to the relevant member of team who will be happy to help. Our school Designated Safeguarding Lead is Mrs Sheppard. Alternative safeguarding leads are Mrs Sims, Mr Cross, Miss Compton and Mrs Eastaugh.

Family Support Work

We are still able to offer support remotely to families. Laura Baker is our school Parent Support Advisor (PSA). Please do get in contact with her if you have any difficulties on 07825130002 or laura.baker@benjaminfoundation.co.uk. If you are unable to get through on the phone line, please leave a message with your name and contact details.

Parent and Carer Support Page – School Website

Our parent and carer support page on the school website has lots of useful links signposting you to agencies who can help or support you and your family.

The following services may be of particular interest to our families at this time:

Just One Norfolk: www.justonenorfolk.nhs.uk

A local resource providing advice on all aspects of life for a child/ young person. Specific information about emotional health for young people and parents. An App is also available.

ChildLine: www.childline.org.uk or 08001111

Lots of advice for children, young people and parents/ carers. Plenty of ideas for activities too.

Young Minds: youngminds.org.uk/

Lots of information about young people's mental health, with various resources available. Parents' helpline also available. Visit their website for more information regarding their Coronavirus advice and mental health support.

Net Aware: www.net-aware.org.uk/

Resources to help and support with how to keep children and young people safe online.

