



# QM Newsletter

'Strive, Believe, Achieve'



**Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2015**

Dates for your diary	
Event	Date & Time
Nursery return to school	<b>Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September</b>
Unit parents coffee morning with Phoebe du Parcq (new Deputy Head and Head of Inclusion)	<b>Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> September 9 am in the Community Room</b>
Parents information / meet your teacher	<b>Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> September</b>

## Welcome and welcome back.

We would like to extend a very warm welcome to all our new families and staff and hope that academic year 2015-16 is a very successful year. We would also like to say welcome back to all our existing school community and look forward to working with you again.

During assembly this morning we discussed the excitement of the new academic year and focussed on what we would like to achieve this year. Children identified that they would like to improve their skills in English, Maths and computing and they said that they wanted to improve presentation in their books so that QM books look amazing. To enable this, we have changed the timetable slightly so that children across the school will be practising their handwriting with much greater frequency.

There will also be other changes ahead mostly notably with how we assess children. We have now moved away from levelling children and will focus on how children achieve in line with key indicators and expectations according to their year group. We will be publishing more information about this in coming weeks and you will have the opportunity to ask questions during the parent 'meet and greet' on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> September. It will be great if you can attend this meeting as it sets out our expectations for the year.

Following the parent survey in June, we have taken note that you would like children to participate in more activities to enrich the curriculum and as such, the staff enjoyed a staff away day in London on Tuesday. Staff went off in teams to find galleries, museums, experts, events and exhibitions that linked in with their half termly topics. We hope that children enjoy these opportunities as much as we did on Tuesday.

## REMINDER – Rhyme Time

Rhyme Time will resume at 9am on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> September in the Community room. The session is free and is open to babies and pre-schoolers in the local area who are welcome to attend with their parents/ guardians.



**Queen's Manor celebrates Queen Elizabeth II's reign.**

Queen Elizabeth II will be the longest reigning British Monarch on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> September and we would like to mark this momentous and historical occasion by asking children to wear red, white and blue on Wednesday. You can go all out on flags etc. or be a little more discreet but we would like to take a photograph to send to HRH Queen Elizabeth herself to say "congratulations".



## Parent reps

We are looking for a team of willing volunteers to become parent reps for classes. You will be responsible for liaising with the staff team and sharing information across your class. If you think you could do this role, please see the classteacher; it's a great way of supporting the school and getting to know all the other parents.



## Reading volunteers

Whilst we're on the subject of support, we need your help to improve reading at QM. If you can spend an hour or two listening to children read we would welcome you with open arms (although we will need you to do a DBS check). Please let the school office know your availability and we will get back to you with a start date. Thank you in anticipation.



## Reading book protectors

We have noted that reading books are often being returned in poor condition and as such we are issuing every child with a reading book/ homework protector to keep school books clean and in good state when they transfer between home and school. The protectors should last for a good few years if looked after properly. If your child loses or damages his/her book protector, parents will be asked to pay for a new protector at a cost of £1 to enable their child to continue to take books home.



### Pupil Leadership positions

Year 6 have been set the task to write letters of application for pupil leadership positions at QM. The roles they are applying for include Head Girl, Head Boy, Team Captains and Prefects. Interviews will be taking place next week and we look forward to

announcing who will take up these positions for the year.

### Dinner money

- Please remember that school meals money must be paid in advance to the school office.
- The school office needs to be informed of any variations to school meal patterns. So for example, if your child has a packed lunch for two days and school meals for three days, we need to know which days and if this changes through the year we need this information provided in writing.



### Reminder – school uniform

It was terrific to see all the children looking so smart during assembly this morning and we hope that they remain just as smart throughout the school year. May we once again remind parents / carers that the school cannot be held responsible for lost or damaged personal items including uniform. We strongly recommend that parents/carers label all items of clothing including school sweatshirts, polo shirts, trousers, skirts, PE kit, coats, bags, hats and shoes to help us to reunite children with clothing.



We were very proud of our new Reception children who walked into assembly and sat beautifully throughout – super achievement on your second day; well done.

(PS – Donna is obviously so excited to be back she is dancing a little jig at the back there!!)

### Reminder - School shoes

All children must wear sensible black school shoes to school every day. Children will not be allowed to change shoes to trainers at lunchtimes. Children will only be allowed to wear trainers for PE lessons and after school sporting activities / tournaments.



### Reminder - Hair

We would like to take this opportunity to remind children and parents that:

- Long hair should be tied back off the face.
- Children should wear discreet hair accessories.
- Hair should not be cut into Mohicans or extreme cuts.
- There should not be any shaved designs in hair.

### Recycle, re-use



If you have uniform (in good condition) that your child has grown out of, we would be very happy for you to recycle it through the Friends of Queen's Manor (FoQM – QM's parents and staff association) who hold regular second hand uniform sales. If you send the items to the school office we will pass it on for you. Also, if you would like to donate some new packets of knickers or boys briefs (aged between 4-8 years) for 'little accidents' we would be very grateful.

### Clubs

After school clubs will start in the week beginning 21<sup>st</sup> September.

### Congratulations



We would like to say well done and congratulations to Lauren and Donna who successfully passed qualifications over the summer holidays – it just goes to show that learning is life-long and doesn't stop at school.



And finally...

We are very proud to tell you that Nigel Westwood (site manager) and Debbie Canfield (TA/ Breakfast Cub Manager and Staff Governor) are both in their 25<sup>th</sup> year working at QM – we would like to salute you and thank you for your ongoing commitment to the school.

# Queen's Manor School Council



*What is School council?*

*School Council is made up of two children from each class, we meet every other week and the meetings are led by us, the children. We talk about our views and opinions of the school and what we feel we can do to help make Queen's Manor an even better school. We also feed back any thoughts from our friends around the school and ensure that we are the voice of all of the children at Queen's Manor.*

*"School council is good because I get to meet with children from different parts of the school." Penn (Year 1)*

*"I like school council because I get to help my friends around the school by voicing their ideas at meetings." Kai (Year 4)*

*Would you like to be part of school council? We will be electing new members soon...so get your thinking caps on!*

*Why you would like to be part of school council? What ideas do you have to improve our school even further?*

*What we have achieved:*

*We have ordered new sports equipment for lunch times. We were also lucky enough to help with the recruitment of our new deputy head. Once again we played the part of DJ's and created the playlists for the disco. We helped plan and create the new suggestion board in the bottom hall. In addition we attended an FOQM meeting and gave our ideas. Also we helped choose the librarians to look after the school library. And we still have ideas to develop the playground even further so watch this space!*

