

February Newsletter



Queens' Federation

Queen Emma
Primary School

Dear Parents and Carers

We have been delighted to welcome a new addition to our school team this half term, in the form of Ozzy, our friendly mentor dog! This has caused much excitement amongst our community. Ozzy's first steps were to visit the school to familiarise himself with the environment whilst it was empty. His next step was to meet a small group of children and take a treat from them, followed by visiting busy classrooms – he was so gentle and obedient. Last week Ozzy passed his dog mentor training with flying colours and so did his dog handlers. We hope that many of you enjoyed meeting Ozzy on the gate when he visited and you will be getting to know him better after the half term holiday. We hope that Ozzy will bring many benefits to the children in our school. For those of you who have not yet been able to meet him, here is a photograph, following his training.



As part of our continued work on the Leader in Me, we have once again renewed our class 'WIGs' (wildly important goals) that help our classes to set and measure targets for themselves, with the aim of contributing positively to our school community. We have had a particular focus this term on 'kindness' and all classes have tailored their WIGs to reflect aspects they will work together on, to ensure a harmonious school environment that mirrors our school values.

At the heart of our school vision is the statement 'Learning for Life' that underpins our core values. With this in mind, we have been inviting and encouraging our children to taken on leadership roles that are either in their classrooms or across the school. These roles include taking responsibilities for class jobs such as monitoring the cloakroom area for tidiness, handing out class books and being responsible for issuing iPads to other children in the class amongst many other things. Our children have negotiated with their teachers about the types of roles that ought to be present in their classrooms and will rotate these between them throughout the remainder of the school year. Our pupil led 'Lighthouse Team' have

February

19-23 HALF TERM

26 Return to school

March

- 7 Book Day Celebrations
- 11 PSFA Meeting
- 11 Parent Consultations
- 14 Parent Consultations
- 14 Bags2School Collection
- 21 PSFA International Food Evening
- 28 Term Ends

also been working hard on thinking about whole school responsibilities and will shortly be holding interviews for children who may like to become lost property leaders, environmental leaders and Key Stage 1 equipment leaders. We all depend upon each other at Queen Emma and this is a great way to show children that they play a very important role in our school community, that prepares them for life beyond our school.

Children throughout Key Stage 2 have been enthusiastically taking part in the heats for a very special public speaking competition. A number of hopefuls put themselves forward to try out for a place in the grand finale that will take place at Peterhouse College, Cambridge, in March. We know how passionate our children can be about certain interests and therefore wanted to celebrate the talents of our children alongside other schools within the 'Schools South of the River' cluster. The finalists will receive training in public speaking from colleagues at Peterhouse College to help them prepare for a speech to be performed in front of judges in the Peterhouse auditorium. Our finalists are: Rayan, Ha-Young, Ayanna and Sofia. This will be a hugely auspicious occasion and we look forward to finding out how well our children do.

Following the success of our school-to-school rugby event last term, we hosted our first ever inter school hockey matches between Queen Emma and Queen Edith this half term. Our Year 5 and 6 children demonstrated what excellent sportsmanship and teamwork skills they have and how far they have come in making sport not only competitive but also fun. We were so proud of how the children interacted with each other and how they came together as a community.



A group of children from Queen Emma attended the Maths challenge that was held at St Faiths School this half term. Our avid mathematicians from Year 4 tackled each round with great enthusiasm and skill and really demonstrated their confidence and ability in all things mathematical. There were a number of taxing rounds and we are pleased to tell you that one pair came joint second place with another school. Well done to our clever children.



Once again, our school disco that was organised by the Queen Emma PSFA was a huge success. Key stages enjoyed boogying to the sounds of Disco Dave and the bubble machine was as popular as ever. Thank you for supporting this and we hope that your children enjoyed it.

Please do not forget that we are inviting families to come into school to have a school meal with their child. Please see the letter previously circulated about this and if you have any questions then please do not hesitate to contact our wonderful office team, who will be happy to help you. By now you will also be able to see some photos of our school meals on the website by visiting us at: <https://www.queenemmaschool.org.uk> and clicking on **parents – important information – school meals**.

Following the half term break, please be reminded that school re-opens for children to return on Monday 26th February 2024.

Yours sincerely



Sarah Jarman
Executive Headteacher

Winning House Revealed

Congratulations to members of **Darwin House** who earned the most house points this half term. House points are awarded to pupils who are demonstrating the use of the 7 habits in and around school.

We hope members of **Darwin House** enjoyed your non-school uniform day on Friday 16th February. Congratulations to everyone who earned house points this half term. Keep up the amazing work.

Darwin House = 1455

Hawking House = 1450

Newton House = 1340

Franklin House = 1314

Nursery and Reception

Cubs



This term in Cubs we have been enjoying the story of 'The Three Little Pigs'. The children have created houses for the pigs using paint, playdough, sticks and bricks and they had great fun baking Percy Pig Buns. Outside we have learnt how to play 'What's the Time Mr Wolf?' taking turns and following simple instructions. We have also been thinking about the topic 'On the Farm'. The children pushed tractors through paint to make tracks and created farm animals out of paper plates. A favourite song has been 'Old Macdonald had a Farm' with the children making animal noises and doing animal actions.

Foxes

This term in Foxes we have been concentrating on the topic 'Hot and Cold'. We have enjoyed the stories 'Polar Bear, Polar Bear, What Do You Hear?' and 'Rumble in the Jungle'. We compared the cold environment the animals live in to those found in the hot jungle. In Forest School we searched for ice, bare trees and other signs of winter. We have also made bird feeders and created homes for hibernating animals using leaves, sticks and stones. In Mathematics we counted our collections of winter objects, learning that the last number reached is the total amount. We have also extended our learning of positional language using over, under and through.



Hedgehog



This half term, Hedgehog Class have had lots to celebrate! We have celebrated the start of a New Year by thinking about the goals we want to set for the year ahead. It has been lovely to welcome some of the Hedgehog Class parents to join us for a Share a Book session, giving the children the chance to share their favourite books. We have also celebrated the Chinese New Year by learning about what different foods symbolise and we had a go at copying some Chinese numbers. Hedgehog Class have also had great fun making tissue paper flowers, cards and baking cookies to give to our guests to show them how much we love them. This was as part of our Valentine's Day celebration.

Owl

This half term, we have been learning about the 'Snow Queen'. She sent us a letter and asked for our help because she had lost all of her animal friends. We wrote letters back to her saying say we would love to help, which we posted in our local post box. We found out, through learning the Snow Queen story, that the animals were hibernating because it was too cold. We conducted science experiments to work out how we could melt ice, we told the Snow Queen our findings and she sent us an email back to say she had made a fire which melted the ice, making it warmer so her animal friends came out of hibernation and arrived home. Owl Class have loved this unit of learning and are very happy they could help the Snow Queen!



Key Stage 1

Dolphin



In Dolphin Class we have thoroughly enjoyed experimenting with different materials to make our own under the sea collage. The children worked as a team with their peers at their tables to produce some magnificent artwork. We have also been learning about the Islamic faith and how Muslims celebrate Eid. We had the chance to hold a Qur'an, a prayer mat and some prayer beads. In Geography we have enjoyed singing our lungs out to the, '7 continents' and '5 Oceans' songs. We can now label the continents and oceans on a world map. In Mathematics we have been practicing our number sentences through telling a story (first, then and now).

Seahorse

We have learnt so much this half-term about 'Under the Sea'! In Art and Design we spent a whole day making collages using different materials to create under the sea pictures. We took lots of care to add lots of detail and they look fantastic on our corridor display. In Science, we found out about different animal groups. We are now experts on fish and mammals. Exploring new stories in English fired our imaginations. We loved 'The Secret of Black Rock' and had fun acting it out and writing descriptions using amazing adjectives. We are looking forward to our 'Castles' topic next half-term.



Penguin



Wow! What a busy half term Penguin Class have had. We immersed ourselves in our new topic, with a Traditional Tales Day. We spent the day making puppets, before performing our own version of 'The Three Little Pigs'. In English, we have written stories based on the text, 'Little Red Reading Hood' and written a set of instructions on 'How to make a magical pizza' for the giant in 'Jack and the Beanstalk'. During Design and Technology we made our own bridges, with the purpose of getting The Three Billy Goats Gruff across the water safely, without being eaten by a troll! In Mathematics, we have continued to develop our understanding of the 2, 5 and 10 times tables. We have all worked really hard!

Polar Bear

Polar Bear Class have enjoyed our 'Once Upon a Time' topic. In English, we created alternative versions of 'Little Red Reading Hood'. We also wrote instructions for creating magical pizzas using time conjunctions and published a class recipe book for the giant. In Mathematics, we focused on multiplication and solved a range of problems. We had fun in Geography using map skills and learning how to interpret the symbols in a key. In Design and Technology we helped the Three Billy Goats to reach the lush grass by designing and making bridges out of a variety of materials. We have been very busy!



Middle Years



Macaw

Macaw Class have had a busy term using their geography skills when learning all about Crete and comparing it to Cambridgeshire. They used their science learning on rocks and soils from last term to help them write fantastic explanation texts about the world that goes on beneath our feet! They also created their own block prints in art, inspired by Greek meanders.

Toucan

In English, the children have been researching the wondrous world beneath our feet and have written fantastic explanation texts using their knowledge. In Mathematics, they have been gaining confidence in adding and subtracting three-digit numbers using a range of strategies. In Science, the children have been learning about forces and magnets and developing their skills in planning and conducting investigations. Finally, we have been creating printing blocks inspired by Greek meanders in our Art and Design lessons.



Falcon



Falcon Class have been working hard this half term on our Geography topic 'How We Shape Our Land'. We learnt about the different types of land use and made maps of the local area using a key. In Art and Design we have been painting our own seascapes using watercolour paints. In English, we wrote persuasive letters and a story based on Farther by Grahame Baker-Smith. We used rich vocabulary to explore the emotions in the story and interesting verbs to describe the action. Our photograph shows one of our guided reading sessions when we used a freeze frame drama technique to show what the Vikings looked like when they were running away from the ferocious Green Death dragon in 'How to Train Your Dragon' by Cressida Cowell.

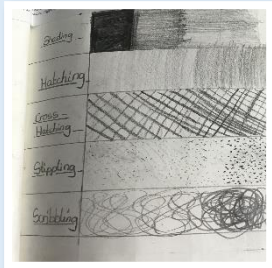
Kestrel

Kestrel Class have worked very hard this half term! We have practiced persuasive writing based on a local park, which ties in with our Geography topic. In Mathematics, we have continued to develop and consolidate our calculation skills, in particular multiplying and dividing by multiples of 10. We have learnt about the properties of solids, liquids and gases in Science. In Art and Design; we have produced watercolour paintings using a range of techniques for effect. We have also practised gymnastics routines and learnt dribbling, passing and tackling skills in hockey lessons.



Later Years

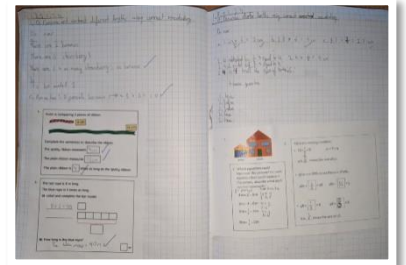
Giraffe



In English, we have written our own non-chronological report, learnt how to say which rooms we have in our house (in French) and even created a piece of artwork in the style of Gary Hodges. It has been a busy half term!

Zebra

This half term, Zebra Class have worked hard to demonstrate their growing mastery of a range of literary devices, in the form of non-chronological factual reports. We were required to analyse examples, conduct research, form detailed plans, and write multiple headed paragraphs. Understanding and using mathematically specific language has been a large focus this term, especially in relation to describing relationships of length, height, and weight in a variety of units. Further to this, we have continued to sharpen our skills in multiple digit multiplication.



Jaguar



Jaguar Class have certainly hit the ground running at the start of 2024, and have come back to school feeling ready and motivated. They have especially loved our learning on Evolution and Inheritance, particularly enjoying the various practical science experiments that we have done. We have then gone on to apply this learning about adaptation and variation in our English unit on a non-chronological Report. The children worked hard to create their own species of bird and wrote clearly about its habitat, diet and key characteristics. They also enjoyed a hockey tournament against Year 6 children from Queen Edith Primary School.

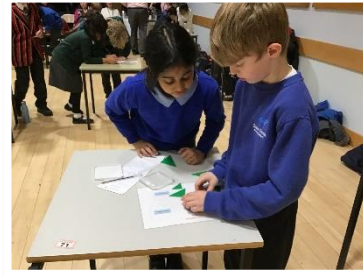
Panther

With our topic of South America this half term, we had many opportunities to hone our research skills. We used safe online sites to look for information about regions and ecosystems of South America, as well as understanding human and physical geography within environmental areas. Comparative activities were also incorporated into our learning as we looked at the similarities and differences between the UK and Brazil. We have worked incredibly hard this term, and have truly earned our break.



Year 4 Maths Challenge

Many congratulations to our Year 4 teams for proudly representing Queen Emma in an exciting Maths Challenge for Cambridgeshire schools at St Faith's on 25th January. Well done to Jonathan, Sebi, Vaishnavi and Yino who all really enjoyed competing, plus travelling by taxi! They each received a certificate in a recent whole school assembly.



"I enjoyed the variety of the rounds, some were more challenging than others. I am happy that we came joint second as a team."

"I really enjoyed the Dominoes round, which was moderately difficult."

"Jonathan and I worked well as a team and we came joint second!"

"My favourite round was the Dominoes and I am proud that Sebastian and I worked well together."

Over 50 pairs of children from 22 schools around Cambridge battled it out through six rounds of questions.

Staff News

My long standing Personal Assistant, who is Mrs Vassiliou will be leaving at the end of the Spring term. Mrs Vassiliou will be taking some time for herself and is aiming to spend more time with her family. She will be very much missed by all of us at Queen Emma, particularly by me! We wish her the very best for the future and a recruitment process has already started for this post.

Reminders

Please be reminded that scooters and cycles MUST be dismantled before entering the school grounds, by both adults and children. Please also be reminded that the large vehicle gate at the front of the school is not suitable for pedestrians and cyclists to use. Please use the smaller gate to access the site.

School Uniform

Grey skirt, pinafore, trousers or shorts

Blue and white checked summer dress

Royal blue sweatshirt or cardigan

Pale blue polo shirt

Black shoes or black trainers

White, black or grey socks / tights

Leggings may be worn instead of tights, but not instead of trousers

No jeans please.

PE Kit

Children need plain black shorts, a white t-shirt and plimsolls/trainers. Depending on the weather, children will also need a tracksuit and trainers for outdoor games lessons. Children will continue to arrive in their PE kits, when it is their PE day.



Comic Relief 2014



Red Nose Day is just around the corner and we've decided to join in the fun! On Friday 15th March, everyone is invited to come to school wearing something red. You could choose to wear red socks, a red hair band, a red wig or even dress in red from top to toe! If you are able, please make a donation of £1 to help raise money for Comic Relief. The money we raise will be used to change lives, both here in the UK and worldwide. Children can hand their money to their class teacher upon arrival to school on the day. We hope that everyone will be able to join us and support this important cause on Friday 15th March.

Parking

Please ensure that you continue to think about our children and community by parking considerately. We liaise regularly with the parking control team and notify them of any concerns we might have. It is not acceptable to park on the zig zag lines or to use the entrance to the school as a drop off point. This creates a danger for our families and children.



**Queen Emma Primary School
Parents, Staff and Friends Association
(PSFA)**



The PSFA are a group of parents, staff and friends of Queen Emma Primary School, focussed on developing a sense of community, organising events and raising funds to enrich the school environment.

Fundraising to benefit the school community

Outdoor Equipment: As you know, we are currently fundraising for equipment for the outdoor playgrounds. We hope soon to have enough to be able to purchase a shadesail, ready for the summer months.

PSFA events

Bake Sales: Thank you to Year 4 for a fantastic Bake Sale on 2nd February. Everyone enjoyed the tasty treats, and the event raised an impressive £248. Well done Year 4 and thank you! You are currently winning the competition between the year groups to raise the most at the 2023-2024 Bake Sales! Let's see how Year 3 do next!

Second Hand Uniform Sales: Thank you to all those who have donated or purchased second-hand uniform recently. The uniform sale on 2nd February raised £41. If anyone couldn't make it and needs uniform, please email us with any requests and we will look to see if we have the items in stock.

(Suggested donations: school fleece £4, school jumper/cardigan £2.50, trousers/shorts/skirts/dresses £1, polo-shirts 50p)

PSFA Discos: It was delightful to see the Year 1-6 children having such fun at the discos on 1st February. Many thanks again to Disco Dave for his fabulous music and fun, and special thanks to all the parent volunteers who gave up their time and made it possible for us to run the event. This is much appreciated indeed. The event raised over £485, once expenses were paid, so this is a fabulous amount towards our fundraising.

Next half term:

PSFA Committee Meeting Monday 11th March 2pm: Do come and join us!

Bag2School Collection Thurs 14th March: Feel free to leave your bags of second-hand clothing at school anytime from Monday 11th March, ready for this collection. Every bag helps us raise more funds, so if you are having a clear out over half term, do put the items aside, to help towards this cause.

Year 3 Bake Sale, Fri 22nd March, 3.15pm: It's Year 3's turn to run the Bake Sale this half term, and we all look forward to buying their treats after school, so thank you in advance, Year 3!

Getting involved:

Thank you to those who help so willingly with the PSFA events and who have given up their time and energy to help this half term! We always need volunteers, so that PSFA events can go ahead for the families and children to enjoy at school. We are also urgently looking for volunteers to join our committee, to help in a range of ways, going forward. Many committee members have now left the school as their children have moved on, so we urgently need some

new committee members to join us. Please do get in touch to find out how you can help:
queenemmapsfa@gmail.com

Easyfundraising:

Don't forget this easy way to raise funds for school....Nearly 3,000 retailers, including Amazon, John Lewis, Aviva, thetrainline, Sainsbury's, Ebay and many more, will donate a percentage of the amount you spend to Queen Emma PSFA to say thank you for shopping with them.

You simply have to set up **Easyfundraising** on each device you may shop from:

1. Go to <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/queenemmapsfa>
2. Sign up for free and make use of it whenever you shop online!

We send you all our very best wishes for happy and restful halfterm break.

With many thanks indeed,
Queen Emma PSFA



Lunchtime Supervisor Required Queen Emma Primary School

Full Time / Term Time Only

Working Hours: 11.45 – 1.15pm

Salary: £11.59 per hour

The governors of the Queens' Federation are seeking to appoint a lunchtime supervisor at Queen Emma Primary School to support our pupils during the lunchtime period. You will supervise our youngest children whilst they are eating lunch in Nursery and then will support some of older children in their play on the playground.

Applicants should have a keen interest in working with children and have the ability to work as part of a team.

Queen Emma and Queen Edith Primary Schools are in a Federation, sharing a leadership team and Governing Body. The Queens' Federation is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. The offer of employment is subject to satisfactory pre-employment clearances including the right to work in the UK, ISA registration, enhanced DBS check, medical checks and two satisfactory references.

Closing date: Monday 26th February

Interview date: WB Monday 26th February

Online Safety Day

Queen Emma School enjoyed taking part in the Online Safety Day on 6th February. We joined the BBC live lesson about AI and safety issues connected with it and took part in other activities to increase knowledge around being safer online. The link below will take you to the Q and A part of the UK Safer Internet Centre website which gives some helpful suggestions to parents and carers.

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2024/parents-and-carers>

NSPCC Kids Safety Net Online Workshops for Parents/Carers



These 45 minute workshops are FREE and can be accessed by Zoom and are designed to help parents/carers to:

- Understand how children and young people access the online world
- Explore a range of resources and tools that can be used to help keep children and young people safe online
- Have informed, constructive and positive conversations about online safety

Wednesday 20th March 2024 – 6pm to 7pm

[Kids Safety Net Workshop Tickets, Wed, Mar 20, 2024, at 6:00 PM | Eventbrite](#)

Further details about the Kids Safety Net Campaign across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough can be found here: [NSPCC Kids Safety Net Campaign 2024 - Healthy Schools \(healthyschoolscp.org.uk\)](https://healthyschoolscp.org.uk)