



Queensgate Primary School Newsletter 8.9.23



Welcome back to school

I hope that you have all had a safe and happy holiday and are looking forward to the new school year. The children have made a very positive start to the year; showing kindness to others and a thirst for learning! They have also coped well with the extremely high temperatures, which is never easy. I would particularly like to welcome all the new children and families who have joined us this year. It has been a pleasure to see our new Reception children begin to settle into routines and start to make special friendships.

Here are some of our Year 3 children working brilliantly with their talk partners and Year 2 friends tucking into lunch.



Much of the information in this first newsletter is for our new families, but it will hopefully serve as a useful reminder for all families. Please note that whole school newsletters will be sent home via email on a Friday, every two weeks.

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 good 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. Please click [here](#) for our Respect policy and a [poster](#) highlighting how school and home can work together positively.

**KEEP UP TO DATE WITH WHAT IS HAPPENING IN SCHOOL AND FOLLOW
US ON X (previously known as TWITTER) @QueensgatePS**

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 the front gate 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 or email school and the message will be passed onto your child's classteacher. 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 Hamnett (EYFS Leaders). Mrs Lee (Deputy Headteacher), Mrs Rayner (Inclusion Manager). I can then be contacted if the matter is still not resolved.

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 completed 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 the school office and signed in electronically.

Welcome meetings for parents/ carers

We would like to invite all parents/ carers into school for our annual Welcome meeting. 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 20th September**. The timings are staggered so that families with more than one child can attend multiple meetings. Please be prompt, as we do have to stick to these timings. All 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**
- **PTA AGM in the Hall 6.45PM- please join us to hear how you can contribute to the PTA**

School uniform

Please ensure that your entire child's uniform is **labelled**. This is particularly helpful if an item goes missing. The lost property box is kept in the entrance area by the school office. 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. 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 are not permitted as a snack.**

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.

Health and safety reminders

- Children are not permitted to play on the **play trail 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 5 or Year 6** and you would 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.

Important dates coming up

All upcoming dates are on the school website/ Calendar on www.queensgate.stockport.sch.uk

20.9.23: Welcome meetings in 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

PTA AGM in the Hall 6.45PM

25.9.23: Cycle to School Week

27.9.23: 5pm Workshop for all current Reception parents, **"How to support your child's reading, writing and maths learning journey"**

29.9.23: 9.00 – 10.00AM Macmillan coffee morning in the Hall (cake donations gratefully received)

10.10.23: Year 2 trip to Staircase House, Stockport

16.10.23: School photographs being taken (individual)

19.10.23: 9.00AM Parent partnership meeting in school. All welcome.

***** 20.10.23: School closes for half-term *****

30.10.23: School re-opens

1.11.23: Year 5 classes visited by Maya archaeologist

2.11.23: 9.15 - 10.45 Open morning for prospective Reception 2024 parents

17.11.23: Children in Need (details to follow)

23.11.23: Flu vaccinations in school (details to follow)

22.11.23 & 23.11.23: Parents' Evenings (details to follow)

WB 27.11.23: Year 6 Bikeability course (details to follow)

29.11.23: 9.15 - 10.45 Open morning for prospective Reception 2024 parents

*** Dates for Christmas events will be shared in due course***

***** 22.12.23: School closes for Christmas holidays *****

Community news

TfGM in partnership with BikeRight! will be running FREE children's cycling courses at various venues across Greater Manchester from 16th September 2023 until the end of March 2024. The Learn to Ride course is aimed at primary school children and aims to give them a good start on their cycling journey. Places need to be booked and further details can be found below: -

Learn to Ride Course

Learn to ride a bike with BikeRight's experienced instructors.

Minimum age – 6 years old. Maximum age 16.

Bring along your own bike (with no stabilisers) and helmet. If you don't have your own bike, we may have a small selection to borrow (Please check details on each event).

The sessions are in small groups with two experienced Bikeability instructors. You can sign up for more than one session if you wish.

Important

Parents/carers must stay for the whole session. The training will go ahead whatever the weather (unless conditions are dangerous) so please dress children appropriately.

Places must be booked following this link

<https://bikeright.co.uk/courses/child-group/>

If you have any further questions, please email active.travel@tfgm.com

I hope that everyone has a lovely weekend. If you have any queries or wish to discuss any school matters, I am available before and after-school most days.

Mrs Hitchcock

Headteacher