

April 2015



“We want to unlock the learning potential of every child in our school, remove any barriers to learning and offer every child opportunities to develop the skills they need for a happy and successful life”

## Newsletter

Quinton Primary School, Lower Quinton, Stratford-upon-Avon, CV37 8SA  
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Dear Parents

After a spell of lovely weather, during Easter, I hope that all the children have come back to school suitably refreshed and ready for the summer term. Certainly, for the Year 6 it can be a stressful time, as we lead up to the SATs which start on 11th May. They have worked so hard and will soon have the chance to demonstrate just how brilliant they all are. I am sure you will all join me in wishing them the very best of luck. Historically, these children will be the last Year 6 to take this style of test as levels well and truly disappear.

*David Skelcher, Headteacher*

### Computer Programming

Another aspect of the new curriculum is that all children are expected to learn about basic computer programming. Following a staff training session, the school has bought a new software package which will be used by all the children from this term. The initial response has been excellent. Before you know it they will be designing their own computer games and APPs.

### Moderation With Other Schools

As you are aware, we work with a number of other local schools which make up our PLC (Professional Learning Community). After two terms, where there is no longer a benchmark for national assessment and each school has been developing its own assessment system, staff had the opportunity, last week, to meet with their peers from other schools to compare children's work. The outcome was positive and across all age ranges, the quality and quantity of work produced by the children at Quinton was at least equal to and often better than the other schools in our PLC. Our assessment system has proved to be not only easy to use and understand but also effective and precise. We feel confident that we have a strong foundation on which we can build to ensure accurate and relevant monitoring across the whole school.

### Music And The New Curriculum

Music now includes a number of more technical aspects than before so we have enlisted the services of Mr Kemp (who currently provides private music tuition in the school), to deliver Music across the school. He will work with two classes per half term and during that time, cover the skills demanded by the new curriculum. This started after the Easter break.

### School Budget

Following the recent meeting in school with the Local Authority finance officer, the governors were able to sign off the budget submission document which predicts funding and our financial position for the next three years. We continue to run an efficient budget which ensures that both staffing and equipment are well-resourced and allows the children to experience the best possible learning opportunities.

**Reminder: Monday 4th May is a bank holiday - school is closed.**

### Important Bits and Pieces

- Change of contact details? - don't forget to let Mrs Maxwell know;
- Are you registered for Parent-mail?
- School Lunch has now gone up to **£2.10**;
- Don't forget sun cream and hats for the sunny weather;
- Please label your child's school uniform;

### Local Authority Health and Safety Audit

A team from the H+S department spent 3 hours in school last week, with myself and Mrs Maxwell to carry out an audit of our H+S systems and management. Overall, it was a positive meeting and we await the report and recommendations. As part of the process, the governors will be receiving a 2 hour training session from the LA in the near future in order for them to be able to monitor H+S in the school more efficiently.

### Better Late Than Never

Thank you to all those Year 1 parents for your patience. We finally managed to have our second Year 1 parents' evening, this week, following a difficult time due to some staffing issues. Your positive comments and support mean a lot.

### Attendance

It's a bit like trying to fill a watering can that's full of holes. Ofsted's 95% target is proving elusive. Following our statutory audit by ACE (Attendance, Compliance and Enforcement Service), letters will automatically be sent out each month if a child's attendance drops below 95%. Obviously we can't predict illness but it is important to maintain a high level of attendance.

### Cygnets News

At Cygnets we have been making the most of the warmer weather spending lots of time outside - we have been busy planting lots of seeds including sunflowers, tomatoes, peppers & beans which we will keep a close eye on as they grow. We also had a lovely visit from a lamb, which the nursery children named Walker. The May half term will soon be here, for information about our holiday club please call us on 01789 721161.

### Sport

Our Year 5/6 football team played well in a tournament at Shipston High School where they got through to the final rounds of the knockout competition. They may have lost 4 games but they drew 3 and won 1. Well done! Events for the younger children are few and far between so it was great to see our Year 1/2 children putting so much effort into their Multiskills tournament.. Non-stop running, jumping and throwing - exhausting!. We are waiting for the results to come through.

### It's Hard Work Being A Child!

If you spent a day in school as a child, you would see just how much they do so it is vitally important that children arrive in school as well-prepared as possible. We can't expect to get the best out of them if they are already tired and hungry when they arrive. The fact is that children tend to be very honest when they talk to staff and we are still surprised at what time some of them go to bed and how stressed they are by their (lack of) morning routine. They're worn out before they start! It's only fair on them to give them the best possible chance.

### New Arrivals

This week saw the first of three open mornings for our new Nursery children (and their parents) who will be joining us in September. It was a chance to see what goes on; to meet the staff and to ask any questions about life at Quinton school.

### Building Excellence Award

We were delighted to receive a certificate in the post to let us know that the school has won the "Best New Public Building" category in the Stratford-upon-Avon district council Building Excellence Awards for our new extension. **Wow!**

### Lambs visit Early Years

It seems that we had the same idea as Cygnets this week as the EYFS children had the chance to get up close to some lambs that were kindly brought in by one of our parents, Mr Higgins. Many thanks for taking the time out of your busy day to do that.

