

Not sure what this is?

Ask your child

about:

STOP IT

PLEASE!



March 2017

“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

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Dear Parents

Spring's such a brilliant time - new beginnings, new life and lighter nights all help to make me feel so optimistic. Throw a great Ofsted report into the mix and it gets even better. We are all delighted by such a positive report and I would like to thank personally all of those parents and children who support us in everything we do. I've said it before and no doubt I'll say it again but I want my school to be amazing, where children have the happiest days of their lives and go home at the end of each day buzzing with excitement. However close we may be to that ideal, I promise you that we will never cease in our efforts to make it even better.

David Skelcher, Headmaster

Reading Evening

The evening was a great success. Organised by Miss Miller. We had around 150 parents and children attend and we hope that when they left they had a good idea of what really goes on in our reading lessons. Pyjamas and hot chocolate added to the atmosphere as a variety of reading strategies were on display across the school. If parents still need any extra ideas for helping their children read at home, please contact the school.

Ofsted Report

All parents have now been sent a copy of the Ofsted report. If, for any reason you didn't get one, please contact the school or visit the Ofsted website where it is now available.

So, just how quickly can you do your times tables without any mistakes? Can anyone else in your family do them any faster? Challenge them to a competition... if you dare!

Ofsted and Attendance

This was a serious blot on our highly positive Ofsted landscape. No school can be outstanding if attendance falls below expectations. In general, we need to be hitting at least 96% every month which we have not been doing although this month our attendance is 96.3%, the best we have had for some time. The worst part for me is that we have 17% of children whose attendance is consistently below 90% - the equivalent of half a day every week. That puts us in the bottom 10% of schools in the country. It was certainly something that our Ofsted inspector found hard to understand. She said, "the school is such a great place to be, why would anyone not send their children in?" Sadly, I don't have an answer. On occasion, a child will be genuinely ill, and we have no issue with that - it can't be helped. In order to help us analyse the attendance data in more depth and focus on those families whose children seem to have an inordinate amount of short term illness, we will be raising the amount of co-operation that we currently have with ACE (the local authority Attendance, Compliance and Enforcement Service). It may result in home visits, referrals to the Local Authority and ultimately fines but I would like to think that we can sort it out without having to resort to those measures. Please support us in this as it is the children who are missing out.

Our Budget

There has been a lot of negative publicity lately about school funding and I know that many schools are finding life difficult.

Although Warwickshire is quite poorly funded compared to many areas of the country, at Quinton we have always been proud of how well we use our funds. With great support from Mrs Maxwell, I can say that we continue to manage the school budget well and have a positive outlook. If we have money to spend, resources to support the children's learning will always come first.

Sports News

Miss Johnson continues to organise a variety of sports events and the uptake from the children is increasing which is heartening. Thanks again to the small but intrepid band of children who keep turning up to the Saturday morning cross country - this has obviously helped to inspire lots of other children as we have more than 40 (a mixture of ages) running at Shipston High School on Monday! There has been government funding to support sport in schools for the last few years and we are hoping that it will continue after the end of this year. There are lots of rumours but nothing has been confirmed as yet.

Reading Improvements

We have noticed in school that many children seem to be reading more at home, since the Reading Evening. This is brilliant – thank you to all those parents who are making that extra effort. The impact in school is almost immediate and we are seeing children whose appetite for reading has increased as well as the positive knock-on effect on their writing - new ideas, better use of vocabulary and a real sense of pride in applying their new skills in school. When children come up to you in school and are just so pleased to tell you about the latest books they are reading or have read, it really has that WOW factor! That's the kind of difference parents can make.

Payment for Hot Lunches

Yes, our budget is positive but that doesn't mean we can afford to subsidise school lunches. We are currently owed over £350.00 for hot lunches that have been eaten but not paid for. We trust parents to pay for their children's hot lunches so please do not let us down. If you have a genuine case of hardship, come in and talk to us and we will do our utmost to find a solution. Simply not paying is not an option.

Governors' Questionnaire

There has been a great response to the questionnaire and once all the results are in, they will be collated and shared with the school and all parents. It is always interesting to see what parents think. I know that we will never reach that place where everyone agrees with everything we do but, within reason, we can try. The weekly parentmail is a direct consequence of the last questionnaire.

I would personally like to thank the governors for their input during the Ofsted inspection. The inspector was impressed by the work they are doing; how well organised they are and their level of knowledge about how the school works.



Quinton Cygnets Easter Fete & Open Day



**Craft Stalls - Activities – Egg Hunt – Face
Painting – Tombola Prizes - Refresh-
ments**

**Please come and join us on Sunday 23rd
April 11-3pm
All visitors Welcome!**

QPA

Our ongoing thanks to the QPA who keep on raising money for the school which, amongst other things, helps to fund school trips. If you can help in any-way please contact the school office.

***It doesn't cost any-
thing to smile!***

Year 4 Reading Presentation

Year 4 have been reading “The 13-Storey Treehouse” by Andy Griffiths and used it to create Quinton Primary 13-Storey Treeschool. Originally this was part of a competition to respond to the book in a creative way and then present your response to some other schools at Alcester library. The whole class responded in an amazing way and produced an information booklet describing all the rooms in this new school. The most remarkable thing, however, is the scale model they have made between them- it stands around 2 metres high and includes all the rooms in intricate detail. With this model, four children from Year 4 were chosen to make the presentation.



They rehearsed it - including speech and actions - to perfection and, without a shred of nerves, produced a world-class performance on the day.

Afterwards there was a quiz in which they came third but for me the highlight was their show-stopping presentation.

Sharing Work

We met up recently with staff from the other six schools in our group and teachers from each age group were able to get together, compare work and discuss/challenge each others judgements. In all year groups, the quality and quantity of the work in Quinton's books was confirmed as very high.

Why do we do this?

Since the old system of levels was withdrawn, there is no national benchmark for where a child should be until the end of the year. These meetings help to improve the accuracy of the teachers' judgements which leads to a more rigorous assessment of the children to help raise standards.

Staffing

We have appointed a new teaching assistant, Mrs Groves who will work with Year 4 in the mornings and join our team of lunchtime supervisors; she is also a qualified teacher.

Mr Roger has been appointed as a handyman for 10 hours per week and he will help to maintain and repair the school premises. He has taken to his new role with vigour and will be a great asset to the school.

Mrs Hopkins will be returning from maternity leave very soon where she will once again become the Year 5 class teacher with support from Mrs Betteley who has recently qualified as a fully fledged teacher. Mrs Hopkins job title will also be changing from Assistant Head to Deputy Head. In Year 3, after Easter, Mrs Gibson will be teaching for three days per week and Mrs Havard for two. They work extremely well as a team which can only benefit your children.

Maintenance - Done and To Do

Mr Roger has already been in action:

Done:

Repaired a number of gate/door latches;
Removed some unwanted shelving from year 2 corridor to make it safer and create more space;
Repaired leaking windows in staffroom (we had Niagra Falls, inside, whenever it rained);
Dug out the drain that keeps flooding the entrance path. (this may still need some more work);

To Do:

Bike shelter roof;
Storage system in P.E. cupboard;
Ongoing maintenance in classrooms as and when is needed.

What To Do?

We often get asked for work, if a child is off ill and parents are very keen that their child should not miss out as much as possible.

My advice would always be,

Times tables:

We want every child to have instant recall of all times tables up to 12 x 12 and to know the related division facts, (inverse operation) eg:

$$5 \times 4 = 20; \quad 20 \div 5 = 4; \quad 20 \div 4 = 5$$

Reading:

To read a book and understand every word;

To read with expression, showing understanding of the punctuation;

To predict what comes next;

To read for pleasure.

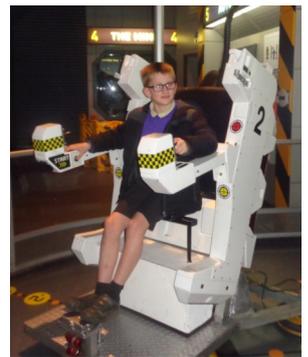
Afterwards try to review the book and say what you like and don't like with reasons why.

Year 5 National Space Centre Trip

This week, Year 5 went to the National Space Centre in Leicester as part of their topic. It was a brilliant day out and they had the chance to be really "hands on" for the day as they explored all the different areas.

They were certainly buzzing on their return. It's been particularly exciting for Year 5 recently as they have also experienced the alien spaceship that landed on the school grounds, leading to an alien

finding its way into the school library. There's no doubt that we now have lots of budding astronauts who can't wait to whizz off to different parts of the galaxy!



Post Office Visit for Year 1



Year 1 had a walk to the post office this week. They have been writing letters to one of their former classmates who moved away to Ireland. They've used their literacy skills for the actual letter and their maths skills, including fractions, to work out how to fold the letter

accurately to fit in the envelope and then in the village post office they each went and bought a second class stamp and posted their letter in the post box. They had a great time and many thanks to all the staff at the post office for their patience and also some of the regular customers who were keen to be in on the act too.



If you haven't visited the school website, please have a look -

quintonprimaryschool.co.uk