



Friday, 21st April 2017

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Trinity Term Welcome Back

Welcome back to our Trinity Term from all the Infant School Team. I do hope that you all feel well-rested after the Easter holiday and are recharged for our last term this academic year. I am sure that our pupils are eager to get back down to their studies and enjoy our many exciting activities planned with the weather getting brighter and warmer.

Looking back on our extremely busy and fun packed Lent Term, the pupils enjoyed both visits and trips. Pupils enjoyed trips to the Wild Boar Park and Blackburn Library and Year 2 enjoyed a thrilling visit from the Electricity LEGO workshop and were amazed with the visit from the Creepy Crawly Roadshow; the impact of both visits were particularly evident in the pieces of work and facts that each pupil subsequently produced and remembered! In addition to these outings, there were many whole school events that took place in school: World Book Day 2017, Science Week, our Respect Morning and Easter Events to name but a few. A huge thank you to our Infant School teachers who work so hard in ensuring these exciting experiences take place for our pupils. I would also like to thank you, our dedicated parents and guardians, for your ongoing support of the broad and balanced education we provide for your children at QEGS. Many of you offer the free time that you have to engage in events at school and support our outings – your commitment to us is recognised and we are most grateful.

Our Infant and Junior School Governor, Mr Clark, visited us again last term. On his most recent visit, we focussed on the high expectations in the department. Mr Clark noted how keenly the pupils responded academically and socially, in their movements around school, to the high expectations that all of our staff set. His feedback was extremely positive and it was again highlighted the positive impact our teaching methods, interventions and dedication has on ensuring that each pupil fulfils their potential. It is apparent just how hard our pupils work and how responsible they are becoming as they grow.

Trinity Term Dates

Looking forward to the term ahead, you will find attached a copy of the dates for the Trinity Term. Please do take the time to record these in your diary. Where necessary, further details for each event will follow in the form of a letter.

Staff Changes

As many of you will be aware, Mr Bartlett unfortunately left us at the end of the Lent Term. I wrote to all the Reception parents and guardians separately last term, but I would like to reiterate that we wish Mr Bartlett all the very best in his new ventures. We are also saying goodbye to Mrs Crane, as she leaves our department for a short time to start her maternity leave. I am sure again, like all the staff here, you will wish her all the very best for her new arrival. We welcome Miss Armstrong into Reception and Miss Tiffany into Year 1. Miss Armstrong will take over Mr Bartlett's teaching and form responsibilities for Reception and Miss Tiffany will take over Mrs Crane's teaching and form responsibilities, during Mrs Crane's maternity leave. Both Miss Armstrong and Miss Tiffany are committed and have variety of educational experiences both within education and beyond. We are delighted to have been able to employ them and they have already made a very strong start to their employment by spending a large proportion of the Easter holidays in School preparing for the new term.

Water bottles

The Infant School encourages children's 'readiness to learn'. For this reason, we ask for children to bring a small, named water bottle of pure still water, which they can regularly take sips from and fill up at the water fountains as necessary.

Summer Clothing

Although daily temperatures appear to have increased, please do ensure that your child brings a coat to school. The pupils may now, however, choose to wear summer clothing. Girls may choose to wear the regulation summer dress with white knee-high socks or white tights. Boys may choose to wear a white short-sleeved shirt with their grey trousers or grey shorts. Further details can be obtained via your child's teacher. Should the weather be warm and bright, pupils may wear a regulation school sun hat only, available from Grays. Such reminders are important in order to maintain the high standards of our school in relation to uniform. In addition to this, I would like to politely remind you that school trousers, socks and tights, with the winter uniform, should be plain grey.

Pupil Attendance

To ensure the smooth running of the Infant School and the safety of all children, parents are asked to inform school before 9:30 if their child is to be absent. Please telephone Mrs Tighe on 01254 686311 each day your child is absent. On return to school, the child should bring a signed note from their parent or guardian explaining the cause of absence. For the welfare of all children, parents should notify school immediately if their child is suffering from an infectious illness, or has been in contact with a serious infection. Absence from school for any reason other than illness is not allowed without obtaining prior written permission from the Head, Mrs Gammon. Failure to report a child's absence, or failing to seek permission for an absence, will result in an unauthorised absence being recorded and forwarded to the local authority.

I look forward to seeing you over our final term and I am confident that your children will continue to thrive and succeed in the many opportunities available to them. As always, if you do have queries or concerns about any aspect of your child's education, please don't hesitate to get in touch with us.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H Southworth', written in a cursive style.

Mrs H Southworth
Head of Infant School