



**NEWSLETTER  
FEBRUARY 2014  
NO. 15**

Dear Parents and Carers,

We spent the last half term waiting for the Ofsted to arrive to inspect the Queen Emma Nursery. They have to see new nurseries within six months of them opening and for this inspection we get no notice. The inspector simply announces their arrival to the staff in the office and regardless of what we all have in our diaries the inspection has to take priority. It was with a mixture of fear and relief that our inspection took place on the last Friday before half term and we all went off on the holiday jubilant that the experience was over! We cannot share the results with you yet but as soon as we receive the report we will send it out to everyone.

The completion of the inspection felt like the culmination of five years of frantic activity to get to the point where the Federation is established and providing great education opportunities across both sites. It was in November 2009 when the Local Authority representatives first informed us that they planned to open a new school in our catchment area. On September 28<sup>th</sup> 2010 we were given the opportunity to run the school following a fierce competition. Less than a year later, and with only four classrooms built, Queen Emma opened its doors to 44 reception children. In May 2012 Queen Edith was refurbished and half of the school moved to the upstairs classrooms at Queen Emma. In November 2012, despite the upheaval of being on two sites, Queen Edith had a very successful Ofsted inspection confirming our children were making good progress and had benefitted from great teachers. In April 2013 Queen Emma's first nursery class opened and, just six months after Queen Edith's inspection, Queen Emma was inspected for the first time and received another positive report which celebrated the many strengths and great achievements of the eighteen months since opening. Now with the nursery inspection completed we can embed all the routines, policies and practices and ensure we are never complacent about our teaching and the children's achievements.

We will send out questionnaires to parents next term to gather suggestions about future developments and will consult with the children about their ideas for clubs, lunches, educational visits, playground equipment and other aspects of school life.

We are looking forward to the next busy half term with lots of class assemblies, Kingswood residential trip for Year 5, a Fair Trade cafe and PSFA disco being some of the highlights.

Best wishes,

Caroline Peet  
Headteacher

# SCHOOL MEALS

School meal prices are:

**£2.10 per day**

**£10.50 per week**

Cost for 2<sup>nd</sup> half of term (29 days) = Total = £60.90

Total for Spring Term = £60.90

Cheques should be made payable to:

**“QUEENS’ FEDERATION”**

All meals should be paid for in **advance**.

***Our new online payment system for dinner money “Agora” is now up and running. If you would like to check your child’s balance please ask the office for a new registration letter in the New Year.***

If your child is not in at the beginning of the school day (because of appointments, etc) but will require a school meal, it is important that you ring in and advise us before 10 am, otherwise the numbers catered for are incorrect and the last children may not receive the advertised meal.

We believe there are pupils who are eligible for FREE SCHOOL MEALS who are not yet claiming them.

Applications can be done online and the process is extremely simple. If you need help doing this please come to the office. If you are receiving the following benefits you are probably entitled to free school meals:

- Income Support
- Employment Support Allowance
- Child Tax Credit and parents whose annual income does not exceed £16,190 and who are not in receipt of Working Tax Credit

If you are at all unsure whether you qualify please come to the office and talk to Miss Perry.

## **PACKED LUNCHES**

Please can we remind parents that children are not allowed sweets or bars of chocolate in their lunchboxes. Please do not send any nuts or nut products as we have children in school with severe nut allergies.

Children should also only have water in their water bottles.

(Juice cartons can be bought in for lunch).

Many thanks.

## Dates for the Diary .....

### March 2014

M	3	Governors Cttee Meetings	5.30 pm
Tu	4	Parent Open Afternoon	2.45 pm
W	5	Management Cttee	9.30 am
		<b>Parent Consultations</b>	
F	7	Reception	1.30-4 pm
M	10	All classes	4-7 pm
Tu	11	Middle years - Yr 3/4	1.30-4 pm
W	12	Later Years - Yr 5/6	1.30-4 pm
Th	13	KS1- Yr 1/2	1.30-4 pm
F	14	Bag2School	9 am
M	17	PSFA Meeting	7.30pm
	19 <sup>th</sup> – 21 <sup>st</sup>	Year 5 to Kingswood	
F	28	PSFA Disco	5pm; 7pm
M	31	Governing Body Meeting	6 pm



### April 2014

<b>F</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>Term Ends</b>	
<b>Tu</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>Training Day – school closed</b>	
<b>W</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>Start of Term</b>	

## Snow Days ....



If snow is forecast please check our website to confirm that we are open. We will endeavour to have a message on the website by 7:30 am and also send a parentmail.

We are very lucky that most of our staff live locally and thus we can usually keep the school running, even when other local schools have to close.

If the snow is heavy and we need to clear a pathway into school then the route between the Godwin Way gate and KS2 hall will be cleared. Please remember to use this entrance on snowy days. The Wulfstan Way gate will remain locked if the path is unsafe.

Please remember while the weather is cold to send children in warm clothes and suitable footwear. If it snows the children will have a great time playing together on the field but need to be well wrapped up! Thank you for your cooperation.

Year 1 recently had “Explorers Day” in the Small Hall. Here are some of 1.2’s comments:-

“I enjoyed making my Himalayas box because it was fun” – Ben

“I made a yak and a snow leopard out of clay for my Himalaya box” – Tom

“I enjoyed playing games about the world map and where places are” – Emma

“My favourite part was making clay animals. My best animal was a fish” - Vatan

On Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> February, Year 3 took part in BIPS Day – a day to focus on Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

The children did lots of activities, including making/eating food, creating animal masks, designing henna patterns, and dancing. Everyone dressed in traditional BIPS outfits – including the adults! Everyone had a wonderful time! Thank you to all the parent helpers involved who made the day possible. Here are some of the children’s comments:-

‘I really liked making the chapatis’ – Raine

‘My favourite part by far was making the animal mask’ – Archie

‘Lots of people enjoyed playing chess’ – Conor

‘I liked making the cheetah animal mask’ – Salwa

‘I enjoyed making the flower garlands’ – Sarasa

‘I went to the area where someone helped us write our names in Tamil’ – Paul

‘My favourite thing was drawing rangoli patterns’ – Samuel

## **LOST PERSONAL PROPERTY**

The Office has a growing collection of personal lost property including:

- Car and house keys
- Purses
- Key Rings
- Jewellery

All of these items have been found within the school grounds and all have distinctive features about them. If you have lost anything of this nature please come and describe your item to the office staff and see if we can help you.

## County Football Finals

Having won the Cambridge stage of the English Schools Football Association Cup in November, our footballers progressed to the County Finals at King's School, Ely on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> January. Busy traffic and a not particularly helpful map meant that most of our team arrived a few seconds before our first match. With barely enough time to put on football boots, a draw was a very creditable result (especially as Westfields, the school we were playing, went on to win the competition). A bit more warmed up now, we won our next two group games comfortably to finish top of our group.

The semi-final against Holywell was a very tight match. Trailing 1-0 to an early goal, we fought back well to equalise, taking the game to extra time. Again, we conceded, but this time, despite some heavy pressure, couldn't find the goal we needed to take the game to penalties. After the disappointment of missing out on a place in the finals, we recovered well to win the third place play off 2-0 against Histon and Impington, the school we had beaten in the final of the City competition.

There will be more friendly matches in the second half of the spring term, but this is still a good opportunity to reflect on an excellent season so far, having won the City competition, finished third in the county and as runners up in the Perse tournament. The players should feel very proud of their achievements.



Queen Edith footballers at the County Finals

### **Indoor Athletics**

Following a very successful House Indoor Athletics Competition, organised by our Sports Captains and Bronze Ambassadors, ten Queen Edith children were selected to represent the school in the School Sports Partnership finals at Netherhall on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> January. The children competed in five scoring events, testing their running, throwing and jumping skills, with points awarded for each event.

We finished in sixth place overall, but the competition was incredibly close, with about twenty points separating fourth place and seventh. There were some excellent individual performances, notably Poyraz's excellent time in the 'High Stepper' event and Lehan's fantastic jump of over 2m in the standing long jump.

Well done to everyone who took part.



The High Stepper



Standing Long Jump

### **U-9 Korfball Tournament**

On Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> February, Queen Edith korfballers again took part in a tournament against local club and school teams. This was the third U-9 tournament this year and we were aiming to improve on our previous fifth place finishes.

Our first match was against Cambridge City, who had beaten us 9-2 in the previous tournament in December, so a 3-1 win was an indicator of how much progress our players have made in the last couple of months. We won our next game 5-0 to top our group, meaning we would play against the other group winners – both teams from Milton Road School. The first match was much closer, but we eventually won 4-3, with some excellent attacking play making up for a few defensive lapses. We saved our best performance for last, though, winning our final ten minute game 6-0 to ensure we won the competition in style.

All five players contributed really well both in attack and with some tigerish defending: with Mekhi's amazing cross pitch passing creating lots of opportunities, Asha deadly around the post, Toby's awareness of his team mates and excellent movement and Sophia always available for a free pass and staying switched on to mark her attacker. Special mention, though, to Matthew, who came along to the korfbal session on Learning Saturday, decided to join the club and, after just two coaching sessions, scored five goals in the three games he played. There are lots of opportunities in junior korfbal and with four of our Year 6s – Anna, Isla, Saif and Safi – recently representing the County (three of them in the team that finished as runners up against regional teams from across the country) our U-9s should be looking to emulate them in the next couple of years.

### **Tag Rugby and Football Tournaments**

Unfortunately, bad weather put paid to the tag rugby and Netherhall Pride football tournaments, in which we had entered two teams. All being well, we will have reports on the rearranged tournaments in the next newsletter.

Photos and information on all things PE and School Sport can be found at:

<http://queenedithschool.org.uk/curriculum/physical-education>

**Year 4 enjoyed a trip to Netherhall on Thursday 6th February for a Dance Festival. Netherhall students from Years 10 and 11 led the children in a range of different activities, from street dance to cheer leading. When chatting about the event, some of the children commented:**

Bryony "My favourite activity was the cheerleading because it was fun shaking the pom poms."

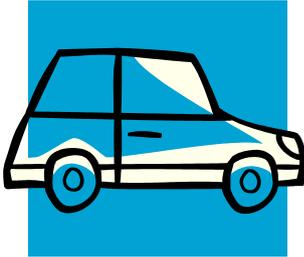
Giorgia "I particularly liked the disco dancing because we got to do some funky moves."

Katie & Jeroen "We really enjoyed the dance mats because you had to keep up with the music and press the right part of the mat at the right time."

Maryam "Everyone had a great time and didn't want it to end!"

Franco "The best part was the music games, playing musical statues."

Franklin "I liked the music for the street dance."



*Can we please remind parents that extra vigilance is required when parking and exiting your vehicles at school drop off and collection times. We recently had an incident where someone opened their car door without looking back and knocked a child off their bike.*

*It is also important that parents DO NOT park on the zig zag lines or double yellow lines, even if it is only to drop off or collect children. The lines are specifically put around school entrances to ensure that there is good visibility and space for children to enter and leave school safely.*

Here are some comments from the Safer Routes to School team:

Children who generally travel to and from school by car, bus or other vehicle are more likely to be overweight at age 5 than those who walk or cycle. Walking just 1 mile burns over 100 calories! A mile is only about 20 minutes walk.

The journey to or from school is an ideal opportunity to take exercise. What's more it enables parents and carers to participate in healthy activity and gives them some quality time with their children.

You can save up to £170 every year by walking instead of driving to school.

In the summer term we will be arranging a Bike Club for older children and Balance First Club for younger children to learn safe cycling skills. More information will be sent out before Easter.



## **PSFA - What's been happening!**

### **Santa's Grotto on 20 December**

The Early Years had another visit from Santa in his Grotto this year. He brought some lovely books with him. Look out for more pictures like this of the Grotto on the school website.



### **Learning Saturday 25 January**

The PSFA provided refreshments all day for The Learning Saturday this year including; hot dogs, tea & coffee. Thank you to everyone who made cake for the café. We made £378.52!

### **What's coming up?**

#### **Bag2School on 14 March**

Your child should have brought home with them a bag2school bag at the end of this half term. Please bring in unwanted clothes, bags, shoes and soft toys to help raise money for the school. We'll let you know soon how much was raised.

#### **Disco on 28 March!**

Finally a big thank you to all the Parents in Year 3 who have helped organise and bake for the cake sale on the 14 February, after school in the dining room, we hope to see lots of you there!

Happy Half Term

The PSFA



**Footballers who finished third in the county  
finals in Ely:**

Nat Baxter  
Poyraz Cimen  
Ellis Desborough  
Aaron Garner  
Jack Joslin  
Kyle Moran  
Bradley Pilsworth  
Max Roberson  
Theo Vassiliou  
Jack Watts

**Children who represented the school in an  
indoor athletics competition at Netherhall:**

Hannah Adams  
Sienna Brodie-Gold  
Poyraz Cimen  
Maxim Demydchuk  
Felix Kohler  
Francesca Melville  
Martina Rudhun  
Safi Terywall  
Lehan Wang  
Hana Yokoyama-King

**Korfballers who won the U-9 tournament at  
Chesterton Sports Centre:**

Asha Bharadwa  
Toby Jones  
Matthew Monie  
Mekhi Osman  
Sophia Terywall

**Our New Year 5 Bronze Ambassadors:**

Aaron Garner  
Alexine Macpherson