





QUEENSMEAD PRIMARY ACADEMY

YEAR 1 TERMLY NEWSLETTER: SPRING TERM 2026

SCHOOL DAYS AND CARNIVAL OF THE ANIMALS

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

It is great to see all the children settled back into class after the Christmas break and excited about learning their topics 'SCHOOL DAYS' and 'CARNIVAL OF THE ANIMALS'. We would like to share with you some information about what your child will be learning over the Spring Term, as well as offering you opportunities to support your child's understanding of subjects studied.

HIGH EXPECTATIONS	<p>We expect a high standard of behaviour from all children which is monitored by all staff in the academy. The Behaviour Policy (which can be found on our website) explains the academy rules, rewards and sanctions in detail.</p> <p>Every week we have an online celebration assembly where achievements are shared, and certificates are awarded (including Star of the Week based on our routes to resilience word of the week).</p> <p>Unacceptable behaviour, both in and out of the classroom, will be dealt with firmly but fairly according to the academy's Behaviour Policy. You will be informed of any major incidences, or if your child's behaviour results in two or more detentions within a period of two weeks.</p>	UNIFORM	<p>Uniform is the same for Years 1-3. All pupils must wear correct uniform, including acceptable footwear. A letter will be sent home with pupils who have missing or incorrect uniform.</p>  <p>Please refer to the Uniform Policy on our website for further information, including PE kit. <u>Please label all uniform and P.E. kit with your child's name.</u></p> <p>P.E. will be on a Thursday morning and afternoon this half term. Thursday morning will be indoor P.E and the children will arrive at school wearing their kits. For Thursday afternoon, the children can come to school wearing suitable outdoor P.E kits in line with Academy policy.</p>	START OF DAY ACTIVITY	<p>This term we are having a focus on handwriting during this time. (8.45-9.00am)</p>  <p>During this time your child will have the opportunity to practise and improve their handwriting by writing words containing sounds they have learnt during their phonics sessions. We are learning to form each letter correctly and sit all letters on the lines.</p> <p>Children will also learn to form all capital letters and numbers correctly.</p>
	ARRIVE ON TIME		<p>For the first 15 minutes of every day (after registration) the focus will be handwriting exercises and skills. We also promptly start our Little Wandle phonics and reading sessions at 9am. If your child arrives late, they will miss this vital part of the school day. Therefore, it is important that your child arrives on time (by 8:50am) every day.</p> <p>Doors open at 8.45am, School starts at 8.50am and the gates shut at 9am.</p>		

YEAR 1 CURRICULUM	<p>English This term we will be focussing on non-fiction texts about Victorians. Children will be learning about the features of fiction and non-fiction texts. Children will be finding out about the life of a Victorian school child, Victorian toys and looking at the differences between our homes and a Victorian home. We will also be learning about Queen Victoria and her family. Children will be writing non-fiction text about Victorians and looking at the traditional tale called 'The Billy Goats Gruff' During the Carnival of the Animals we will explore 'Rumble in the Jungle' & 'The Very Quiet Cricket', with a focus on writing riddles and innovating their own stories.</p> <p>Mathematics We will be focusing on place value within 50, addition and subtraction this term in Mathematics. We will also be looking at Measurement. We would be grateful if you could practise counting in 2s, 5s and 10s forwards and backwards with your child as often as possible.</p> <p>Theme In the first part of the Spring Term our theme is 'School Days'. This is a history themed focus where the children will first learn about their own lives. They will learn about the life of a Victorian child and compare it to their own. We are also doing lots of exciting writing in Theme this half term to practise the skills we have learnt in our English lessons. In the first half term, we will focus on Appreciating the Arts. We will learn about an artist called Piet Mondrian, learning about his life and his famous pieces of art. We will then create pieces of abstract art in his style.</p> <p>Art/DT– In art we will learn about the artist Piet Mondrian and the art he created and using this to create our own masterpieces. We will be creating our own animal masks in DT.</p> <p>Music During the Spring Term we will be learning about rhythm and pitch. We will be learning about rhythm and pitch in a piece of music called 'Carnival of the animals'.</p> <p>PE We will be learning to dance like a carnival of animals using big and small movements.</p>	PHYSICAL EDUCATION	<p>PE is part of our academy curriculum, and we expect all children to bring/wear a full PE kit to school so that they can take part in their indoor and outdoor PE sessions.</p> <p>All jewellery must be removed. Earrings need to be removed on the day of PE or the child must be able to remove these themselves before the lesson.</p>	OTHER INFORMATION	<p>During the first half term we will be having a special Victorian Day to fully experience the school days of Victorian children. We will invite the children to dress up as a Victorian child and our classroom will look a little different! More information to follow.</p> <p>The children will be coming home with a Queensmead Quest to complete at home as part of their homework. Please can you look out for this and complete three activities of your choice from the selection provided by 12th February. These can be presented in any way you choose, on paper, in a notebook, photos etc. If you have any questions please ask your child's class teacher. Thank you.</p>
		READING	<p>In year 1 we expect children to be reading for at least 10 minutes daily. It would be beneficial if you could listen to your child read their e-book and discuss their e-book regularly to support their understanding. The e-book is the book your child reads at school during class reading sessions with an adult and it is particularly important that your child consolidates and practices reading this book at home, online.</p> <p>Please record how well your child gets on reading their e-book in your child's reading diary. You can also comment on any other reading your child does at home, e.g., magazines and their reading for pleasure book. Children will also be given the opportunity to bring home a 'Reading for pleasure' book each week. This book is not necessarily at their reading level but a book of choice to be shared and enjoyed with an adult.</p>	THANK YOU	<p>Thank you from all the year 1 team for all your hard work and support at home with your children.</p>