



Queensgate Primary School

Newsletter September 3rd 2026

Welcome back to school

We hope that you have all had a happy holiday and are looking forward to the new school year. The children have been full of smiles today and made such a positive start. A very special welcome to all the new children and families who have joined us this year. Much of the information in this first newsletter is for our new families, but it will hopefully serve as a useful reminder for everyone.

Welcome meetings for parents/ carers

We would like to invite **all parents/ carers** into school for Class Welcome meetings. This short meeting (30 minutes) will be held in your child's classroom and it is a great way for parents/ carers to meet class teachers and find out about the routines, curriculum and expectations for your child as they do change each year. **Children do not attend these meetings** as they know their teachers/ classrooms well already and we would not have enough space for all the children plus all adults. These meetings will be held on **Wednesday 9th September. Please be prompt, as we do have to stick to these timings.** The timings are staggered so that families with more than one child can attend multiple meetings. We know parents really value having the opportunity to meet the teachers and see classrooms.

Year 5 and Year 6 at **4.00PM**

Year 3 and Year 4 at **4.30PM**

Year 1 and Year 2 at **5.00PM**

Reception and Class R at **5.30PM**

Our school values **Be Respectful** **Be Responsible** **Be Reflective**

We are committed to creating an environment where outstanding behaviour is at the heart of productive learning. Everyone is expected to maintain the highest standards of personal conduct, to accept responsibility for their behaviour and encourage others to do the same. All staff work to a consistent behaviour policy which celebrates positive behaviour. We encourage all pupils to take responsibility for their actions, and aim to develop self-respect and self-discipline. Restorative approaches are at the heart of our ethos. Restorative practice is a term used to describe a way of being, an underpinning ethos, which enables us to build and maintain healthy **relationships**, resolve difficulties and repair harm when **relationships** breakdown.

You will no doubt hear your child talk about the **3Rs** at Queensgate, as this is central to our school ethos and behaviour policy. You might also hear your child talk about the **Recognition Board** in their classroom. When we notice that children are showing any of the 3Rs, their name/ picture is moved onto the Recognition Board.

Who can I speak to in school?

We pride ourselves on being a welcoming school with approachable staff that go the extra mile to engage with Queensgate families. Myself or Mrs Lee are normally at one of the school entrances each morning and a member of staff is on the door at each of the pupil entrances. If you would like to speak to your child's class teacher/s, they are usually available for a quick catch-up at the end of the school day after all the children have been collected. They are **not available in the morning** as they are working directly with the children from 8.45AM. Alternatively, you can ring (0161 439 3330) or email school

admin@queensgate.stockport.sch.uk. Please add **FAO the name of the class teacher in the Subject** of the email. Emails are monitored and responded to within the school office opening hours (8.30AM - 4.00PM). We aim to respond to your email within 48 hours. Please avoid writing messages in Reading Records. At this time of year, we realise that there are a lot of **staff in school** and lots of faces for you to recognise. Over the next few newsletters, we will include some staff names/ pictures from different areas of the school. Here are the admin team, our caretaker and some of the school leadership team.

			
Mrs J Wakefield School Business Manager	Mrs L Shepherd School secretary	Mrs S Houlbrooke Clerical assistant	Mr K Pereira de Jesus Caretaker
			
Mrs Rayner Class R teacher Inclusion Lead	Mr Knowles Year 6 teacher Key Stage 2 Leader Deputy Headteacher (Thursday/ Friday)	Mrs Lee Year 4 teacher Deputy Headteacher (Monday- Wednesday) Headteacher (Friday)	Mrs Hitchcock Headteacher (Monday - Thursday)

Safeguarding

Staff will soon learn the familiar faces of the adults who pick up the children at the end of the school day. If there are any changes to collection arrangements e.g. someone else is picking up your child, we must be informed by email admin@queensgate.stockport.sch.uk or phone, preferably before 11:30am. We will not allow anyone else to take your child home without your permission.

End of the day arrangements

If you have children in multiple year groups, please note that the **oldest child/ren should be collected first**. Staff will make sure that those children with siblings in Nursery or EYFS, will be placed at the front of the line leaving school. Nursery and EYFS children will remain in their classroom until their familiar adult comes to collect them.

In order to make pick-up quicker for yourselves and staff, can you please **step forward to collect your child when you see them with the member of staff**. Children and staff sometimes find it hard to locate parents and this delays the pick-up process further.

Attendance

One of the most important ways that you can help your child enjoy and succeed at school is to ensure that they attend school every day. Regular attendance will help your child to develop friendships, confidence, give them the best chance to achieve their potential as well as making them an integral part of the Queensgate family.

In line with local authority guidelines, we **do not authorise holiday absence during school term time**, except in exceptional circumstances. If you require your child to have any time absent from school you are required to complete an **Absence Request Form** from the school office or on our website. If your child is unable to attend school, we request that you inform the school office by 9.30am at the latest. If we do not receive a message the office staff will contact you to ascertain your child's whereabouts. Any child that arrives late to school (after 8.55) must be taken to the school office and signed in electronically.

School uniform

Please ensure that your entire child's uniform is **labelled (including coats.)** This is particularly helpful if an item goes missing. The lost property box is kept in the entrance area by the school office. Any unclaimed items are disposed of at the end of each half-term. Jewellery is not permitted, with the exception of a watch. In addition, if your child has pierced ears these must be small, plain studs that **must be removed for PE and swimming. Please make sure that your child does not wear earrings for school on a PE/ swimming day** or that they are able to independently remove and put their earrings back in. They will not be allowed to take an active part in the PE/ swimming lesson if they have earrings in. As temperatures drop, the children will need to wear a plain black top over their white t-shirt. This top should not have a hood as these are not permitted in PE lessons.

The wearing of nail varnish and make up is not permitted. Hair styles – very short/shaved hair or extreme hair styles are not permitted. Long hair must be tied back for safety reasons.

Fruit and snacks

Children in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are offered a free piece of fruit or vegetable each day (provided by the National Fruit Scheme). Children in Year 3 – 6 are encouraged to bring a piece of fruit or a vegetable into school each day to eat at morning playtime. **Crisps, chocolate, sweets and anything containing nuts are not permitted as a snack.** Children should also bring a **named water bottle** into school with them each day. This bottle should only contain water.

Starting Primary School and Road Safety

As your child begins school it's an exciting time for them and full of new experiences. The journey to and from school is an important part of their new daily routine. It's a perfect opportunity to form good habits that will last a lifetime. Walking, scooting and cycling to school have many benefits. They form part of the daily exercise children need and are recognised as contributing towards children arriving at school refreshed, fit and ready to learn.

Walking enables you to talk with your child about the day ahead or what they have done at school. It's also a great way of helping them to learn about Road Safety. For example, talk about safer places to cross the road, how to cross using Stop, Look, Listen and Think and why running across the road is not a good idea. Using the school journey as an opportunity to develop good Road Safety habits will help build up your child's confidence and road awareness. Set a good example, your children will learn from you.

Vehicle congestion around schools can have an effect on everyone. It can compromise safety, cause conflict with residents and contribute towards poor air quality. If you do drive, please consider parking away from school and 'park and stride' walking the last 5 or 10 minutes. Also ensure you park considerately and legally.

Health and safety reminders to keep our children safe

- Children are not permitted to play on the **play trail, climbing frames or in the school grounds before 8.45AM or after 3.15PM.** There is no supervision from the staff at these times and the children should not be using these facilities.
- **Dogs are not permitted** on the school grounds.
- **Use of mobile phones on the school grounds is not permitted** for the safety of all our children.
- As we have a number of children with **severe nut allergies**, please ensure that any food brought into school is free of nuts i.e. no nutty cereal bars, nutella spread sandwiches. We also request any sweets with sticks e.g. lollipops are not sent into school for an event such as your child's birthday.
- If you have a child in **Year 6** and you would like to give your permission for them to walk/cycle to or from school independently, please put this in writing in an email to the school office. Only Year 6 children can bring mobile phones into school and a Mobile Phone Consent Form must be signed and handed in to the teacher.

Greater Manchester Education Trust

On the 1st September, Queensgate officially joined the GMET (Greater Manchester Education Trust.) This is an exciting next step for the school; providing us with additional support and capacity from the Trust.

We are the second Stockport primary school to join the Trust as Alexandra Park Primary joined in January 2026. Our staff already have strong links with this school and have collaborated with them for a number of years. They are another recently Ofsted "outstanding" school as well as an EEF Research school. Joining GMET will provide us with additional support, resources, and opportunities to enhance our offer for every child at Queensgate Primary School.

If you have any questions regarding this change, please feel free to speak to myself or Mrs Lee.

Dates to remember

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| • Monday 7th September | Year 5 Oak swimming starts |
| • Wednesday 9th September | Welcome meetings in the children's classrooms |
| • Friday 11th September | Year 3 start Forest Schools |
| • 11th to 18th September | Year 5 Bikeability training |
| • Wednesday 16th September | Year 4 Crowden River trip |
| • Thursday 17th September | AM Pinocchio theatre production |
| • Wednesday 23rd September | Author visit for Year 1 and Year 2 |
| • Wednesday 23rd September | 5pm Reception meeting, "How to support your child's learning at home" |
| • Thursday 1st October | National Poetry Day |
| • Friday 2nd October | 1.30 - 3.00PM Y3- Y6 parents/ carers workshop |
| • "Parenting in the Digital Age" | |
| • Wednesday 7th October | Parent Partnership Meeting 2.45- 3.15 PM- all welcome |
| • Friday 9th October | World Mental Health day- please wear something yellow |
| • e.g socks, hair bobble, t- shirt | |
| • Monday 12th October | School photography day- individual |
| • Monday 19th October | Year 2 trip to Staircase House, Stockport |
| • Tuesday October 20th | Year 3 trip to Tatton Park |
| • Friday 23rd October | School closes for 1 week |
| • Tuesday 3rd November | School- re opens for the children |

Myself or Mrs Lee are available before and after school every day to discuss any school matters.

Mrs Hitchcock and Mrs Lee

Headteacher