



# Queensgate Primary School

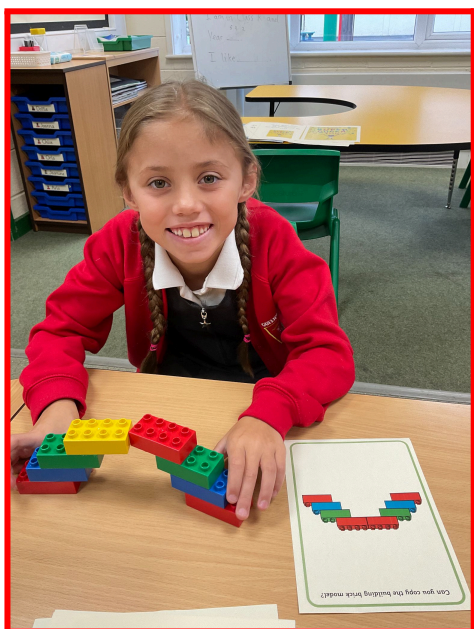
## Newsletter October 16th 2026

### Recent highlights



Year 6 enjoyed a busy day at the Imperial War Museum North gaining knowledge for their "Wars Through Time" topic. They loved meeting Norma, a WW2 evacuee who shared her experiences with the children.

Here are Year 2 in action performing, "Taking in the Scenery" that they learnt for National Poetry Day. We talk about our children being "loud and proud" when they perform and Year 2 certainly did exactly that!



One of our Class R superstars who embodies our 3Rs as she is respectful, responsible and reflective every day.

## Learning Postcards

If your child is in Year 1 - Year 6, they will be bringing home a blank Learning postcard next week to be completed together during the half term break. The postcard will have a question on it relating to the History or Geography topic that your child has been learning about this half term. We hope that you enjoy asking your children the question and writing down all their thoughts and ideas! This is a great opportunity for the children to revisit their learning and share their fantastic knowledge. Please return the postcard to school after the holidays in order that it can be stuck in their Topic book in school.

## A Guide to Our School Library

We are very proud of our school library. It is a calm, inviting space where children can explore new worlds, fuel their imaginations and build a lifelong love for books. Every child visits our library regularly to choose a book to take home. To help you support your child at home, here is a quick guide to how our library system works and what those books are for:

**Reading for Pleasure vs. Learning to Read** In class, your child works hard on learning the technical skill of reading through our daily phonics and reading lessons. They read books matched closely to their current phonic stage so they can practise decoding words independently. Our library books serve a different purpose entirely—they are all about reading for pleasure.

**Understanding the Books Brought Home** Depending on what your child chooses, their library book will fall into one of two categories:

**Independent Reads:** Books your child can read on their own with confidence. These are great for building fluency, stamina and self-assurance.

**Sharing Books:** Books that may be a little harder than your child's current reading level. These are not meant for your child to read alone, nor should they feel pressure to decode every word. Instead, these are special books for you to enjoy together.

### How You Can Help at Home

When your child brings home a book that feels a bit challenging: Read it to them: snuggle up and enjoy the story together! Listening to you read exposes children to richer vocabulary, complex story structures and deeper ideas than they can access on their own.

- **Talk about the book:** Look at the pictures, make predictions about what will happen next and talk about the characters.
- **Keep it positive:** Remember, sharing a book should be a relaxing, enjoyable experience—a chance to bond over a great story or non-fiction book. We are always looking to buy new books to refresh our current stock as over 800 new books are published each month!

If you would like to purchase a book for our library, we have a wish list that we regularly update on [bookshop.org](#). Please click this link [QPS Book wishlist](#). Thank you!

## World Mental Health Day

On Friday 9th October, it was World Mental Health day. We acknowledged the day by wearing something yellow, however, more importantly, we discussed ways that we can support our own mental health. During our KS2 Oracy assembly we discussed what mental health is and shared this definition.

**'Mental health is about our feelings, our thinking, our emotions and our moods. Looking after our mental health is important.'**

We also watched a short animation, featuring Her Royal Highness The Princess of Wales which was a great way for helping children understand mental health, recognise and express their feelings and feel more comfortable talking about how they feel.

The children then explored together the 7 steps to wellbeing (SMILERS) and created their own ways of supporting their wellbeing.

One of our parents, Dr Neesha Patel, Health Psychologist has shared some excellent resources to help provide a useful starting point for encouraging conversations about mental health and wellbeing among children and their families.

### 1. Anna Freud – [Talking Mental Health animation](#)

This short animation, featuring Her Royal Highness The Princess of Wales, is a useful resource for helping children understand mental health, recognise and express their feelings, and feel more comfortable talking about how they feel.

### 2. NHS – [Supporting children's mental health](#)

This resource provides further information for parents on supporting children's mental health, recognising when a child may be struggling and accessing additional help and support.

### 3. Anna Freud – ["You're Never Too Young to Talk Mental Health"](#)

## Our new Local Academy Committee

Following our conversion to an Academy in September, we have appointed a new Local Academy Committee (LAC.) Numerous members of the community are represented on the LAC and we meet on a regular basis. Governors are an important part of our school community and provide essential critical support for the school. Please see our [school website](#) for further details.

Our newly appointed Chair of Governors is Mrs J Thomas and the Vice-Chair is Mr A Titeloye. We are fortunate that whilst they are now co-opted governors, they are also current parents at the school and will be familiar faces to many of you.

## Poppy Appeal

**Year 6 will be supporting the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal by selling poppies in school during the first week back to school after October half term.**



## Who can I speak to in school?

We are all here to help! Below are the Year 2, Year 3 and Year 4 members of staff.



**Mrs Lofthouse**  
Year 2 teacher



**Mrs Griffiths**  
Year 2 TA



**Mrs Makinson**  
Year 3 teacher



**Mr Berger-North**  
Year 3 teacher and joint Maths lead



**Ms Mellish**  
Year 3 and Year 2 TA



**Mrs Crawford**  
Year 4 teacher



**Mrs Lee**  
Year 4 teacher and English lead



**Mrs McQuade**  
Year 4 and Year 1 TA



**Mrs Marshall**  
Year 4 TA

## New Allergen & Anaphylaxis Policy: Key Information for Parents

In light of Benedict's Law, all schools in England are now required to implement an [Allergen and Anaphylaxis Policy](#) to ensure a safe, inclusive environment for all pupils. Whilst the school cannot guarantee a completely allergen-free space, robust safety measures and emergency procedures are in place and there are a number of procedural changes that everyone in the school community need to be aware of.

### Parent Responsibilities:

- Information: Parents must complete the **Pupil Allergy Declaration Form**. **This will be sent home for completion in the w/b 19th October.**
- If your child's allergy details change you must notify the school office and update SchoolGrid immediately.
- Food Guidelines: Pupils may **only bring food into school for their own packed lunches, playtime/club snacks, or specific school projects**. Food sharing or trading between pupils is strictly prohibited. **This will be in place from when we return to school after the October break. Thank you for not sending your child into school with sweets/ cake on their birthday.**
- Medication: Clearly label any required medication (such as prescribed antihistamines and adrenaline auto-injectors/AAls) with your child's name and class, and hand in to the office with a completed Medication Permission Form.

### Emergency Procedures:

- The school stocks spare AAls for life-threatening emergencies (anaphylaxis).
- In an emergency, staff will administer adrenaline without delay and immediately contact emergency services (999) and parents.
- Staff undergo annual allergy awareness and emergency response training.

If you have any questions or need to discuss your child's Individual Healthcare Plan (IHP) or Allergy Action Plan (AAP), please contact the school office.

## Christmas card competition

Our local MP has invited the children to take part in his annual **Christmas Card Competition**. This year's theme is **Christmas around the World**. Every child who enters will receive a certificate, the winner and runners-up will receive book tokens, and the winning design will be featured on a Christmas card which is delivered to over 40,000 homes across our constituency. A few guidelines:

- Please send the original design, not a photocopy or scan.
- Designs should be on A4 paper (the winning design will be reduced and printed at A6).
- Fun, creative and vibrant is encouraged! Please avoid glitter, glue, cotton wool and other stick-on items, as they don't reproduce well in print.
- Pupils should write their full name, school year and age on the back of their design, otherwise we won't know who has won!
- The winner's name, age, year group and school will be printed on the card, so please only include entries where the pupil and their parent or guardian are happy for this.

**Closing date: Monday 2nd November 2026.**

**Post/Drop off entries to: [44 Station Road, Cheadle Hulme, Stockport, SK8 7AB](#)**

# Dates to remember

- |                           |                                                                              |
|---------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| • 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                                            |
| • Wednesday 4th November  | Year 5 Maya Workshop                                                         |
| • Monday 9th November     | Lego train engineering workshops, Year 3 and Year 4                          |
| • Monday 9th November     | Y5 Elm start swimming                                                        |
| • Tuesday 10th November   | Parents' evening (times to be confirmed)                                     |
| • Wednesday 11th November | Parents' evening (times to be confirmed)                                     |
| • Tuesday 1st December    | Choir performance at the Bridgewater Hall                                    |
| • Wednesday 2nd December  | AM- Year 4 carol concert rehearsal                                           |
| • Thursday 3rd December   | 2.45PM Year 1 Christmas songs for parents/ carers                            |
| • Friday 4th December     | AM Y1 and Y2, "Jolly Christmas Postman" at the Lowry                         |
| • Friday 4th December     | 2.45PM Year 3 Christmas songs with parents/ carers                           |
| • Monday 7th December     | 9.30AM Year 2 Christmas play                                                 |
| • Tuesday 8th December    | 9.30AM Reception and Nursery Christmas show                                  |
| • Tuesday 8th December    | 6.30PM Yr 4- 6 carol concert, Bramhall Methodist Church                      |
| • Wednesday 9th December  | 9.30AM Year 2 Christmas play                                                 |
| • Wednesday 9th December  | AM Reception "Jolly Christmas Postman" at the Lowry                          |
| • Thursday 10th December  | 9.30AM Reception and Nursery Christmas show                                  |
| • Friday 11th December    | Christmas jumper day and Christmas lunch (orders not yet Live on SchoolGrid) |
| • Friday 11th December    | Year 5 and Year 6 Declamations Finals                                        |
| • Monday 14th December    | Christmas parties will take place during this week                           |
| • Friday 18th December    | School closes for 2 weeks                                                    |
| • Monday 4th January      | School re-opens for the children                                             |

Please remember that myself or Mrs Lee are available before and after school every day to discuss any school matters.

**Mrs Hitchcock and Mrs Lee**

**Headteachers**