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Friday 5th March 2021

Issue 22 2020 - 2021

**Queensgate Foundation  
Primary School**



## A Very Warm Welcome Back to you all

Dear Parents and Carers,

### Return to School

We are delighted that schools are re-opening to all children this coming Monday - 8th March. We are very excited about seeing all the children. The Covid 19 Risk Assessment has been updated. Here is the link to it: <https://www.queensgateprimary.co.uk/assets/images/branding/Overall-whole-school-Risk-Assessment-QGP-2021-updated-Monday-1st-March.pdf>

Please note we are taking a cautious approach to re-opening, following the DFE guidance. The children will remain in year group bubbles and will not yet be mixing across the school. Children are expected to wash their hands with soap and water or anti-bac gel when they arrive at school, between lessons, before and after break and lunch time. There are lidded bins in all rooms and we will continue to encourage the children to catch it, kill it, bin it.

We will also keep the staggered starts and finishes in place. Reception, Year 2, Year 4 and Year 6 will need to arrive at 8:40 and Year 1, Year 3 and Year 5 will arrive at 8:50. Please pick up Reception, Year 2, Year 4 and Year 6 at 2:50 pm and Year 1, Year 3 and Year 5 at 3:00 pm. Please continue to wear a mask for drop off and pick up times, as well as at any time when you may need to speak to someone in the office. Please continue to use the one-way system as before Christmas.

Please could I ask Year 3 parents not to crowd the doors at the end of the day, but stand well back on the other side of the path so that the teachers can see you and the children are not overwhelmed by lots of adults?

Please remember to social distance and not congregate whilst waiting for your child.

### Traffic Outside the School

As you are probably aware, York Avenue is closed and all traffic coming in and out of East Cowes is coming along Beatrice Avenue, which is making it busy and dangerous. There is no parking on Beatrice Avenue now, to enable the traffic to flow more freely. Please walk the children to and from school. Please cross the road at the official crossings so that the traffic will be at a standstill when the children are crossing the road. Please talk about the dangers of this increased traffic especially to older children who are walking, riding or scooting to school without supervision.



## Out & About

The children in school have enjoyed their last 'lockdown' sessions on the Patch this week. We are looking forward to welcoming everyone back next week for lots of Out and About adventures over the Summer Term.

To continue Year 1s work on Pets, the children shared the story *My Pet Star* by Corrinne Averiss. They used hammers, nails, wooden disks (cut from the Christmas tree!) and wool to create their own pet stars. The children were very proud of their little stars.

Year 2 explored maps of the Island, looking for their favourite and familiar places. They used compasses to hunt around the Patch looking for hidden photographs of Isle of Wight landmarks and attractions. The children were able to then locate them on the OS maps.

The children in Year 3 are learning about Plants in Science. The Year 3 'bubbles' planted basil seeds whilst on the Patch. They are looking forward to watching their herbs grow in the classroom before taking them home to eat in their pasta sauces, salads or on pizza.

The Year 4 'bubbles' were challenged to research and create a habitat for different woodland animals that could live on the Patch. They worked really well in small teams to gather natural resources and thought carefully about what the animal needed from its habitat.



Working together for a successful future



# What's for dinner next week?

(Remember all Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children are entitled to Free School dinners.)



| Monday                                | Tuesday                                       | Wednesday                               | Thursday                          | Friday                  |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Cheese and Tomato Pizza with couscous | Sausage roll / Mexican Vegan Roll with Wedges | Roast Chicken, Roast Potatoes and Gravy | Macaroni Cheese with garlic bread | Fishfingers with Chips  |
| Filled Jacket Potato                  | Filled Jacket Potato                          | Filled Jacket Potato                    | Filled Jacket Potato              | Filled Jacket Potato    |
| Selection of vegetables               | Selection of vegetables                       | Selection of vegetables                 | Selection of vegetables           | Selection of vegetables |
| Lemon & Orange Shortbread             | Fruit Crumble with Custard                    | Fruit and Ice Cream                     | Fruit Sponge Cake                 | Oaty Cookie             |

## NHS Return to School Countdown Resources

On our website we have uploaded some resources from the NHS to help children with the return to school. There are daily activities to carry out, 10 top bedtime tips and small steps to improve every day (see below). There is also some useful advice for parents around Acknowledge, Validate, Normalise which is worth a read. The link is here: <https://www.queensgateprimary.co.uk/assets/images/branding/NHS-resource-for-students-Return-to-school-countdown-Secondary-and-Post-16.pdf>

It is under the parents tab, the Covid-19 information tab then it's the second option down.

## These are the things you can every day to help improve your return to school



Identify your emotion/s about returning to school. If this is difficult, use emotions cards or the feelings wheel to help (these can be found online or you can ask your school)

- If you've been getting up late, start to get up a little earlier each day
- Take care of your personal hygiene
- Get dressed and make yourself presentable
- Make a short, achievable list of goals for each day. Don't make one huge list that rolls over each day. It's better to make a short list and, if you achieve it and want to do more, take something from tomorrow's list. Make expectations small and manageable.
- Reward yourself for the things you achieve
- Make a list of "What ifs" and identify whether these are worries that can be resolved. If they can, make a plan of action. If they can't, try talking to somebody about them and then physically throw the worry (list) away!

## Positive Quote

"No matter how many mistakes you make or how slow you progress, you're still way ahead of everyone who isn't trying."

## Benji Blog

We are delighted to announce that we will be welcoming a new member of staff to our team. We are pleased to introduce Benji. Benji was born on the 14<sup>th</sup> January 2021. Benji belongs to Miss Radcliffe. Miss Radcliffe has been in close contact with the breeder and has met Benji's mum – a wonderful cocker spaniel and Benji's dad – a delightful poodle. Miss Radcliffe will be attending special puppy training classes with Benji. Benji will spend his early days at school in my office. Benji will be starting work on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2021.

We decided to get a school dog to help with post Covid schooling. There are many benefits to having a school dog:

**Cognitive** – companionship with a dog stimulates memory, problem-solving and game playing.

**Social** – a dog provides a positive mutual topic for discussion amongst children, encourages responsibility, wellbeing and focused interaction with others.

**Emotional** – a school dog improves self-esteem, acceptance from others and lifts moods, often provoking laughter and fun. Dogs can teach compassion and respect for other living things as well as relieving anxiety.

**Physical** – interaction with a dog reduces blood pressure, provides tactile stimulation, gives motivation to move, walk and stimulate the senses.

**Community** – a dog in school increases the sense of a family environment, with all of the above benefits continuing long after the school day is over.

**Motivational** – spending time with a school dog (whether stroking, walking or reading to it) gives children the motivation to stay focused and on task.

During next week, I will do an assembly (on Zoom) with the children explaining about Benji joining the Queensgate family. Benji will be introduced to the staff and children slowly, so that he does not become overwhelmed with people.

We are happy to host small group and one-to-one sessions with children who are fearful of dogs to help build their confidence. Benji has an ideal temperament to help with this. He is a cockapoo so he does not shed hair which helps minimise the possibility of allergic responses, however if you are concerned about your child possibly having an allergy to dogs please let us know.

If you have any individual questions or queries, please do not hesitate to speak to Miss Radcliffe or myself.

Please complete and return the electronic survey by Friday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2021. If the survey is not completed, we will assume that you consent to your child/ren being involved with all aspects of caring for the school dog. Here is the link of the survey <https://surveyhero.com/c/4147c929>

– it will take five minutes to complete.

**And Finally... See You all on Monday**



Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sillito".

**Samantha Sillito**  
Headteacher

## **Availability of financial support for families in your communities who are struggling financially due to COVID-19**

As part of our connect4communities programme, and in addition to the funding distributed to childcare providers, schools and colleges for food vouchers and discretionary grants, we have provided Citizens Advice IW funding to help families and individuals with energy bills over the Winter period.

If you are being approached by parents and carers for support with financial hardship, please ensure that those parents and carers are aware that they can approach Citizens Advice IW for assistance with energy costs – gas, electric and water.

Additionally, we would welcome your help in making parents and carers aware of this help through your usual communications to them e.g., within a newsletter.

Parents and carers can use these contact details

Telephone 01983 823859 or press the red button on <http://islehelp.me/>

Please note that the team will complete a quick eligibility check and financial or other practical support will be provided to the family or individual seeking help.

The eligibility criteria for this support - to heat homes - is wide-ranging to ensure the money is as accessible as possible and is as follows:

### ***Families with children:***

Families in receipt of benefits related free school meals

Families including 16-18-year olds previously eligible for Free School Meals

All children with a social worker

All children open to Early Help

All households with 2 - 4year olds accessing childcare and eligible for Early Years Pupil Premium

Households with a young carer

Those who it is believed will struggle to afford to heat their home adequately and/or maintain a reasonable standard of living this winter

### ***Households without children:***

Care leavers

Households that have been identified as going into debt for the first time

Households or individuals with no other way of obtaining funds, e.g. those who face choosing to pay either rent or bills (considered unmanageable debt)

Those who it is believed will struggle to afford to heat their home adequately and/or maintain a reasonable standard of living this winter



Support from this fund, distributed by the Citizens Advice IW, can take the form of:

Pre-paid energy cards or the payment of a fuel bill on behalf of an eligible household

### Other sources of welfare support

Local sources of other welfare support can be found through:

Connect 4 Communities on Isle Find It <https://islefindit.org.uk/item/connect4communities/>

Connect to Support Telephone Helpline and Connect to Support Online Resources:

<https://www.iow.gov.uk/council/OtherServices/Public-Health-Coronavirus-COVID-19/Advice1>

### About connect4communities

'connect4communities' is a programme of support provided by Isle of Wight Council, in collaboration with other agency, voluntary and charitable partners. It is funded by the Authority's £2.89 million Covid Winter Grant from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP).

**FOR PARENTS**

**FREE\***  
**YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH  
AWARE TRAINING**

*\*discretionary donations encouraged*

**Bookings now open for our March Course.**

*5pm - 7pm Monday, 15th March AND Tuesday 16th March  
Only 25 places available - first come, first served.  
Bookings essential. One booking per person.*

Contact the Youth Trust  
01983 529 569 [info@iowyouthtrust.co.uk](mailto:info@iowyouthtrust.co.uk)  
[iowyouthtrust.co.uk/aware](http://iowyouthtrust.co.uk/aware)

**“youth trust”**

**MHFA England**  
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