

QI Newsletter

Issue 5 | December 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,



It was a pleasure to see so many of you at our Christmas events over the last 2 weeks – Foundation's production of 'A Twinkly Nativity', 'The Christmas Story' performed by Years 1 and 2 and the Key Stage 2 service held at Waterloooville Baptist Church. The children put a great deal of effort into rehearsals and it was wonderful to have such large audiences on the day. We hope you enjoyed these as much as we did!

To keep you informed regarding your child's progress, we will be sending home Interim Reports next half term and also hosting formal Parents' Evenings in February. However, you are always welcome to contact your child's teacher if ever you have a question about their learning and progress.

I would like to thank you all once again, for your continued support and partnership. I wish you all a wonderful Christmas with your loved ones and a Happy New Year for 2024.

Mrs Allen

New Information

Choir Performance – Mr Saxton was delighted to take our choir to sing to the residents of Apsley Lodge and Two Beeches Nursing Home. The children sang songs they've been learning at after school club and Christmas songs. The staff and residents thoroughly enjoyed listening to the children – apparently it was the highlight of their day. ☺

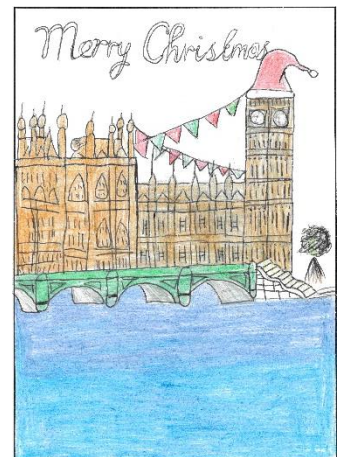
Competition Winner - for the second year running, we submitted entries to the 'Meon Valley MP Flick Drummond's Annual Christmas Card Competition' - the theme was Christmas in Parliament. Our entries were amongst those from other schools but the quality of our submissions was so good that we were chosen for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place!



Competition winner Holly (Year 5)



Isabella (Year 6)



Ameerah (Year 4)



We are delighted to announce that Holly won with her brilliant design which will be printed on the front and the runner up designs by Isabella and Ameerah on the back. The cards are sent to people across the country and abroad, including Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, who received his by hand from Flick.

MP Flick Drummond attended our assembly on 15th December to present the children with their prizes (book vouchers) and thanked all those who submitted an entry – the standard was extremely high!

Congratulations to them all.

Curriculum Enrichment

Twelve children from Year 2 went to a Gym festival where they learnt a small gymnastics routine, used the vault, tried the sprung floor and had great fun in the foam pits. They all thoroughly enjoyed the experience. One child commented 'we didn't have a good time.... we had the best time!' 😊

Updates and Feedback

Breakfast Club and After School Clubs – following the recent announcement made by Planet Education to place the company into liquidation, Mr Murray has stepped up to ensure that there is minimal impact to QI. Both he and Miss Rowlands will continue to provide continuity and run Breakfast Club and the After School Clubs as usual. We are extremely grateful to them both for their ongoing commitment to QI. We have been given the names of the 30 children that were already booked onto a Planet Education After School Club before their announcement was made – that money is not recoverable but Mr Murray will honour those bookings so that our children do not miss out. Please refer to the 'Clubs' page on our website for further information - <https://www.queensinclosure.hants.sch.uk/page/?title=Clubs&pid=149>. **After School Clubs will resume week commencing 8th January.**

Staff Update - we bid a fond farewell to Miss Harris, who has been a Planet Education P.E. coach at QI for five years – we wish her well in her new job and will miss her very much.

PTA – as always, Present Buying Day was a wonderful opportunity for the children to think of others, make decisions on what to buy, learn money skills, wrap gifts and collaborate, as the older children support the younger ones. We hope families will enjoy the gifts chosen for them ♥.

The PTA welcomed the opportunity to interact with families attending the Christmas performances – the surplus mince pies will be donated to Waterlooville Food Bank! We would like to thank Santa and his elves for visiting our Foundation learners - seeing the children's faces light up when they entered the outside classroom that had been transformed into Santa's Grotto, was magical and they all left with a small gift. Santa and his elves visited every classroom afterwards and treated children in Years 1 to 6 to a candy cane to take home. The Christmas jumper donation was a success and we are looking to introduce more swap shop initiatives - our next one will be costumes for World Book Day as dress up will be optional. We have some fantastic PTA events coming up thanks to the big boost in PTA Committee membership – thank you to our new members for their help and support. More details of 2024 events to follow soon! The PTA wish everyone a Happy Christmas and peaceful New Year.

Fundraising: We collected a total of £241.51 through donations made at the recent Christmas events which will be given to our international charity, Village Africa towards their new ambulance appeal. Caroline Johnson, the Charity's Ambassador, will be visiting QI in January to update us on how village life is. For more information about Village Africa, please visit <https://villageafrica.org.uk/what-we-do/about-us/>. We know that your contributions will be put to good use and thank you as always, for your generosity.



As you know, we welcome feedback all year round so please share your comments, suggestions or questions with us via our 'Feedback Form' located on the 'Contact Us' page of our website. Thank you.

Volunteers



We would like to say a BIG thank you to our great team of volunteers:

Our PTA Team for organising our annual Present Buying Day - it was wonderful to see the joy in the children's faces as they chose and wrapped gifts for their family. We know the amount of time, effort and planning involved is considerable, but worth every minute. They also organised a special visitor for our youngest learners!

We have a number of volunteers who listen to children read, help out on school trips or even come and share their knowledge or skills with the children. Thank you to all of you for your contribution, it is really appreciated.

And last but not least, to our Governors who give up their time to attend termly meetings throughout the year, carry out monitoring visits and support the staff at information sessions. It has been lovely for them to join us at the recent Christmas events we have held and we really appreciate their commitment to the school. Our Chair of Governors, Mr Marcus Cator is stepping down from the Governing Body at the end of December and we are most grateful to Mr Scott Richardson who has been elected to take over as Chair from 1st January 2024. Mr Cator has seen us through two Ofsted Inspections and a Pandemic and will be greatly missed. We are also very pleased to welcome a new Governor, Mr Oliver Dockerill.

Child and Family Support Worker

It's the Christmas holidays...

Excitement, seeing family we might only see once a year, staying up later, presents, travel, new experiences, and ... presents! That is a lot of energy and emotion to manage. Here are a few things we need to be mindful of over the holidays.

Sensory Overload - Christmas can be an over-whelming time of year and for a lot of people sensory overload can be a problem. Bright lights, loud noises, crowded spaces to name a few. Know your child and know what is likely to be too much for them. Provide simple sensory breaks such as finding a quiet corner to relax in, use noise-cancelling headphones, provide fidget toys to help them focus and stay calm. Try to avoid places you know they will find difficult to manage or if that's not possible then consider the extra support your child may need with this.

Routines - be aware that the change in routine over the holidays for some children can give them a sense of feeling unstable and unsettled. Try to maintain a consistent routine as much as possible, including regular mealtimes, bedtimes and daily activities. Children thrive on structure and predictability, so while you think you're treating them to that later bedtime, it may have adverse effects when you then need to get them back into a routine for school.

Self-Regulation - involves children developing the ability to regulate their own emotions, thoughts and behaviour to enable them to act in positive ways toward a goal. Children can get over-excited around Christmas and this for some children can be difficult to control. Let's adjust our expectations around the holidays and assume that children are going to have a harder time of self-regulating and they may need you to help them with this. Use deep breathing exercises, mindfulness techniques, or simple calming activities like counting to ten and back again or squeezing a stress ball. Encourage them to have some downtime in the day where they can feel more grounded. As adults, modelling self-regulation is a great way to help our children learn. Ensure you take care of your well-being too, as this is have a direct impact on your ability to support them.

Offer choices - give children age-appropriate choices where possible. This helps them feel empowered and in control of their own decisions, promoting self-regulation. You could let them be involved in what holiday activities you do, which might make it a more enjoyable time for all of you.

We have included some information offering Top Tips for children to enjoy a tech-free Christmas, which you may find helpful.

Have a brilliant time with your little ones!



Future Dates for Your Diary

School Closure: Staff will be receiving training on **Tuesday 2nd January** and **Monday 11th March 2024**.

After School Clubs – the timetable of our spring term clubs and letters are available to view and download on the 'Clubs' page of our website

<https://www.queensinclosure.hants.sch.uk/page/?title=Clubs&pid=149>

Spring Term 2024	
2 January	School closed for INSET (staff training)
6, 7 & 8 February	NEW Parents Evenings by appointment (booking via website from 22 - 26 Jan)
11 March	School closed for INSET (staff training)

As always, year group specific events and information will be communicated via the Year Group emails.



12 Top Tips for Children and Young People to Enjoy a TECH-FREE CHRISTMAS

The Christmas holidays are tailor made for families to enjoy relaxed quality time in each other's company – but with distractions like pinging phone notifications, the lure of games consoles and online Boxing Day sales, that can be more difficult than it sounds. Staying off our phones, laptops and tablets, however, can really help us to appreciate the things that genuinely matter at this special time of year. Follow our 12 top tips for a tech-free festive season ... Yule be glad you did! Merry Christmas!

CHRISTMAS CRAFTING

Get out the paper, glue and scissors and have a go at hand-making cards or gift tags. You could also create your own decorations to add a uniquely personal touch to the Christmas tree.

NATURE QUEST

Try a scavenger hunt in the garden or your local park. Challenge yourself and your family to find natural treasures that are symbolic of this time of year – like holly or pinecones, say.

CAROL KARAOKE

Sing your hearts out with a Christmas carol karaoke night. Pick out your favourite tunes and enjoy a musical celebration with family and friends.

WANDER DOWN MEMORY LANE

How about making a scrapbook filled with your favourite memories from Christmases gone by? Unleash your creativity while you enjoy reliving those magical holiday moments.

TRY REFLECTIVE JOURNALLING

Jot down your thoughts, feelings and reflections on the holiday in a notebook or diary – you could also list some of your main goals for the new year.

WRAP IT UP

Take time to get inventive with some luxurious gift wrapping. Break out the wrapping paper, ribbons and bows to make parcelling up those presents into a creative adventure.

WALK IN A WINTER WONDERLAND

Delight in the great outdoors with some gentle walks over the holiday. The family can all wrap up warm as you add to your step count and savour the crisp winter air together.

BE A SEASONAL CHEF

Get the whole family working together in the kitchen for some Christmas cooking. Choose a recipe and whip up a festive feast that all of you can enjoy.

ENJOY A CHRISTMAS STORY

Christmas is a perfect time for sparkling stories. Get cosy and lose yourself in a brilliant book, from Dickens to Dr Seuss or a more modern favourite by Chris van Allsburg or Tom Fletcher.

SNOWY SCULPTURES

If we're fortunate enough to get a white Christmas this year, make the most of the opportunity by having a family snowman-building competition!

GAMES NIGHT GALA

Dive into some old-school fun with a tech-free games night. Classic board games and card games have stood the test of time for a reason!

GOODWILL TO ALL

You and your family could spend a day volunteering – perhaps at a food bank or helping a local charity. After all, kindness and thinking of others are part of what Christmas is all about.

Meet Our Expert

Minds Ahead design and deliver the UK's only specialist postgraduate mental health qualifications. They also provide training and support to education organisations and local authorities – empowering school leaders and staff with the knowledge and tools to shape their settings into inclusive communities where the mental health of pupils and personnel is prioritised.



The National College



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