

# QI Newsletter

Issue 6 | January 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are already nearly halfway through the academic year! To keep you informed on your child's progress, you will have had the opportunity to look at your child's learning through the Drop-In session on 24 Jan and received your child's Interim Report on 26 Jan. We are pleased that over 91% of our parents have booked a **Parents' Evening Consultation for 1, 6 & 7 February**. We really value the close partnership between school and parents and see the positive impact this has on our children. We are always happy to answer any questions, discuss any concerns or listen to any worries, so please do get in touch with us rather than ever think 'the school can't do anything'. Although we will always try, even if we can't help we may know someone who can! 😊

Mrs Allen

## New Information

**School Meals** – we are delighted to announce that **from 15 April 2024, Dolce Schools Catering** will be taking over from HC3S as our catering provider. Dolce is a family run business with a passion for delivering good healthy food with the best customer care. School Meals will remain at £3.00. Dolce use **SchoolGrid** – an award-winning online pre-ordering system which allows you to pay for school meals either by Direct Debit or credit/debit card. More information will be communicated to parents during February.



**Safer Internet Day** – as part of our focus on Internet Safety, Lee Hayward from Online Safety UK will be in school on **Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February** to run a workshop with our children in Years 4 and 6 and lead an assembly for children in Years 1 to 6. Lee will also be available to **Parents** in the hall from **8:45 to 9:15am and 3:20pm to 3:50pm** to give advice and support and can assist with setting up parental controls on portable devices brought in from home. We hope that parents will seize this opportunity to ask Lee's advice.

 **NSPCC Free Webinar – Keeping children safe while gaming online – 7<sup>th</sup> February, 7pm-8pm.** Fact: 89% of children in the UK play video games, but online harms are increasing. To book your free ticket, please visit - [https://ww1.emma-live.com/GameSafe/purchase\\_tickets](https://ww1.emma-live.com/GameSafe/purchase_tickets)



## Workshop for parents, carers and those working with families

Price Per Ticket

Free

As part of the NSPCC Game Safe Festival in February 2024, we'll be encouraging adults to have conversations with the children in their lives about online gaming. Our webinar 'Keeping children safe while gaming online' will give you an understanding of how young people game online and some tools and resources that can help to keep them safe. We'll have expert advice from GamCare and hear from young people with their tips on how we can help keep children safe whilst online gaming.

**Choking Hazards** – tragically, a child dies in the UK every month from choking and hundreds more require hospital treatment. It can happen quickly and it can happen to anyone. Whilst eating, children must always be within sight and hearing of an adult. For those children who bring a fruit/veg snack or packed lunch to school, the following foods represent a high risk of choking and should be cut length wise or into small pieces: hard vegetables (such as carrots), whole grapes, compressed tube-shaped food such as sausages and long stringy food such as cheese strings. Any Fruit Winders and Bear Yoyos or similar items, are not permitted in school under any circumstance. We appreciate your support in helping us to ensure our snack and lunch times are low risk. Thank you 😊

**Attendance** – an Attendance Certificate for the Autumn Term 2023, was included with your child’s recent Interim Report. We usually share an annual Attendance Certificate with parents/carers at the end of the academic year but we feel that it would be beneficial to send them home mid-year as well.



As you know, from previous school communications, we regularly monitor attendance and punctuality at QI. The Local Authority and the Department for Education (DfE) collect attendance data and use it to provide regional and national statistics.

You may be interested to know that our whole school attendance for the Autumn Term 2023 was **96.72%**, which is good overall and higher than it was the previous year. We thank all those Parents and Carers who ensure their child has good and punctual attendance which enables them to be included in every learning opportunity available to them.

A total of 1,127 sessions were lost due to illness, 80 sessions for medical appointments and 509 sessions for holiday related absences/parents keeping their child off school without a valid reason. We also recorded 230 late arrivals – **the register is taken at 8:45am and any child who arrives after 8:50am must sign in at the office and will receive a late mark.**

We continue to support a number of children who are regularly absent and we will continue to identify barriers and offer our support to those parents to improve punctuality and attendance.

Improving school attendance is everyone’s business and, to tackle the challenge we face, we need to work together. From 8 January, the Government is launching a national campaign between January and March 2024 to remind parents and carers of the importance of school attendance.

### Ofsted Quote: ‘Successful schools ‘don’t tolerate’ persistent absence’

**Holidays** – as we look ahead to the spring & summer terms, when holiday absences peak, we want to politely remind Parents/Carers that we are obliged to adhere to the Hampshire County Council’s Code of Conduct for Issuing Penalty Notices for holidays of 10 sessions (5 days) or more – all HCC maintained schools must follow this protocol – not just QI!

We get no satisfaction from issuing Penalty Notices - they are time consuming to produce and can cause angst when parents feel aggrieved at receiving them. HCC use the income generated from the fines to take legal action against those who do not pay the fine or repeat offenders, the school never receives any of this money.



Did you know that a Penalty Notice is intended as a ‘one off deterrent’? This means that you should only ever receive one in your child’s entire educational journey from Year F to Year 11 and any subsequent holiday is very likely to result in legal proceedings.



On occasions, parents report their child as sick directly before or after a holiday, which can be a tactic to avoid a Penalty Notice. For the school to authenticate the sickness absence, we require evidence in the form of prescribed medication or holiday information as verification.

## Child and Family Support Worker

A simple approach to a happier home.... ‘Back to Basics’

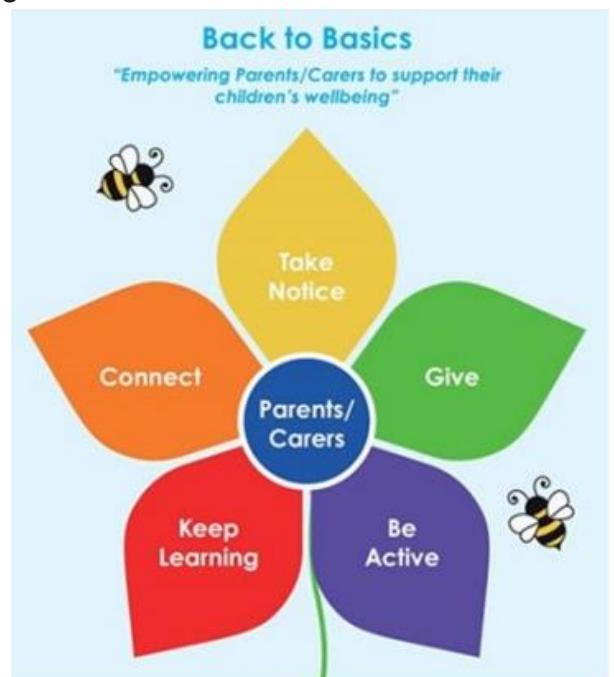
**“When a flower doesn’t bloom, you fix the environment in which it grows, not the flower.” - Alexander Den Heijer**

Are you:

- Struggling to manage behaviour at home?
- Feeling disconnected from your children?
- Noticing a general feeling of unhappiness around the home?

Hampshire County Council have put together a scheme called ‘Back to Basics’ that focuses on empowering parents/carers to support their children’s wellbeing.

Sometimes it’s good to be reminded of the basic ways in which we can look after ourselves as well as our children and this programme is based around the 5 ways of wellbeing.



(Continued....) There is an array of resources and information that support this approach. We recommend watching the 5 short videos which help break down each petal of the flower logo - <https://www.hants.gov.uk/socialcareandhealth/childrenandfamilies/back-to-basics>



## Take Notice

For the next 5 months, we will be focusing on one area of the Back-to-Basics approach – one per month. Think about your home environment and what small changes you can make together as a family.

Take notice of everything around you. Life can get very busy and it's easy to become overwhelmed by everything. Ground yourself, take 5 minutes.

Try simple techniques such as noticing 5 things you can see, 4 things you can hear, 3 things you can feel, 2 things you can smell and 1 thing you can taste.

Take notice of behaviour and mood changes, and how your child is responding to boundaries. Take notice of sleeping patterns and eating habits, and how your child seems during these times. Take notice of your child and look at why these things might be happening. Tune in to what your child might be trying to tell you with these behaviours.

Let them know you are there to listen to them. Implement consistent routines in their day. Practise simple breathing techniques with your child. Encourage them to take notice of their environment and surroundings. Focus on one task and remove distractions. Talk, give eye-contact and have purposeful contact with your child. Try to be more present with them.

If you'd like further support with this, please pop in to see Miss Farrell at the office or send her an email [CFSW@queensinclosure.hants.sch.uk](mailto:CFSW@queensinclosure.hants.sch.uk)

## Curricular Enrichment Events

On 5<sup>th</sup> January, as a post-Christmas treat, all our children enjoyed a surprise 'virtual' pantomime experience called 'The Incredible Christmas Story'. The children really enjoyed this fun event.



Crookhorn College invited 12 of our Year 5 children to experience an exciting Art event based on the Artist Cheryl Cochran, the children created upcycled birds using painted card and paper. They learnt different painting techniques and how to combine different media in a final piece.

The following sporting events were attended as part of the Havant and Waterlooville Sports School Partnership:



- 2 teams of 6 children from Year 6 attended a Dodgeball Festival. Both teams finished first in their respective groups and had a great time playing lots of games of Dodgeball against 8 other schools.
- Years 5 & 6 had 2 teams of 4 children who attended a Badminton Competition. The children played a series of fixtures before progressing through to the event finals. Amazingly we came 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> out of the 12 teams. Our winning team will now go on to represent Havant at the County Finals later this year.
- In November last year, our Years 5 & 6 were successful in reaching the Basketball County Finals which took place at Solent University in Southampton in January. The children competed against 17 other schools in a series of 3 on 3 matches. The children showed tremendous resilience against some of the County's best young basketball players and finished a respectable 11<sup>th</sup> out of 18.
- 2 teams of 6 children from Year 4 attended a Dodgeball Festival. They played lots of games against 8 other schools and had a very enjoyable afternoon. One child commented it was the best day ever!
- A team of 12 children from Years 5 & 6 went to an indoor Athletics competition. They each competed in a running and relay race and 2 field events (jumping or throwing). The scores were then totalled and we eventually finished a brilliant 2<sup>nd</sup> place out of the 10 competing schools.
- 10 children from Year 1 had an amazing time at the Year 1 Gym festival. The children got to learn a sequence, learnt how to do a forward roll, use a trampette and jump into a foam pit!



Thank you to all those children who participated for their efforts and for being such great ambassadors of QI. As always, our great appreciation goes to Mr Murray and Mrs Jarrom for organising these events and to Mrs Farrell, Mrs Champion and Mrs Sadler for driving the minibus!

## Updates and Feedback

**Staff Updates** – we are delighted to announce that Mr Porter has been appointed as our new Site Manager and will be joining us on 19<sup>th</sup> February 😊. Mr S Murray (Site Manager) left earlier this month to pursue other interests and we wish him every happiness for the future.



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

## Future Dates for the Diary

Please check the [website calendar](#) for Year Group specific events.

### Spring Term 2024

5 February	<b>NEW</b> Lee Hayward, Online Safety UK will be available for parents to drop in and ask questions - in the hall between <b>8:45 to 9:15am and 3:20pm to 3:50pm</b>
1, 6, 7, February	Parents' Evenings – by appointment
8 February	<b>NEW</b> School Disco for children in Years 1 to 6 – the permission slip will be sent home on 5 February - please remember to hand it in with the £3.00 admission fee on the door 😊
12 – 16 February	Half Term
7 March	<b>NEW</b> World Book Day – Dress Up is optional
11 March	School closed for INSET (Staff Training)
29 March – 12 April	Easter Holiday