



# Newsletter

Spring Term - January 2024



## A Message from the Head

Well that half-term disappeared in the blink of an eye!

It's been great to see children getting out on the various trips and sporting events. As the weather brightens up, we are looking forward to more memorable visits for children.

Immediately after half-term our year 6's embark on their residential to Windmill Hill or, those not participating, will complete lots of activities as part of activities week. We're looking forward to hearing how they get on and are very grateful to the adults who will be accompanying our children!

We said goodbye to two very special staff members today. Mr. Davies has retired but will regularly be back in school for the tree planting project and Mr. Diaz who is returning to film and media. We wish them both all of the very best for their future and thank them for their dedication to our school.

Enjoy the half-term break and we look forward to seeing you all on Monday 19th February.

*Mrs. E. Gale*



# World Book Day (WEEK!) 4th - 8th March



The theme of World Book Day this year is '**Read Your Way.**'

How, what and where do you like to read?

These are some of the activities planned for Book Week at our School.

- ·A class trip to the Jubilee Library and school library
- ·Shared reading with a class in a different year group
- ·Opportunities to drop everything and read, children bring in their favourite reads, books, comics, magazines.
- ·Book swap

On Thursday 8th March, world book day, children may dress up in a costume which reflects their favourite fiction or non-fiction book. We encourage home-made costumes using recycled materials. If children prefer, they may make masks or hats in school.

Prizes will be awarded for the most creative and innovative use of materials.

Thank you very much and happy reading



## Where do you like to read?

We would love you to send in photos of your child/family's favourite place to read. Please email the school office and we will share them on our school's social media platforms.

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# JOIN OUR JOURNEY WE ARE IMPROVING IN.. Writing

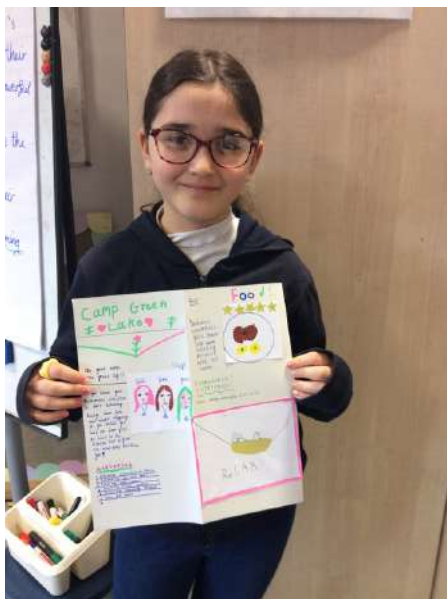
We are improving...writing by Ms. Jolley and Ms. Kingdon, writing leaders.

We are on a rapid writing improvement journey. At Queen's Park School, we believe that all children are writers. Writing is a life long skill and underpins every aspect of our curriculum. We provide valuable writing opportunities for our children, across all areas of the curriculum.

All children participate in exciting and engaging lessons which cover a range of genres specific to each year group. We have adapted our entire writing process so that it guides children through each stage of writing in a fun and inspiring manner. We have introduced new writing targets that specific for each year group. Learning walls within each classroom have been adapted so that children can use this as a tool when writing. As a school we have invested in brand new high quality texts that we are using as our writing stimulus.

In Year 5, children have written and published a persuasive letter using Holes by Louis Sachar, as the stimulus.

Here are some examples below of the children's lovely work and wonderful presentation.



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# JOIN OUR JOURNEY WE ARE IMPROVING IN.. Writing

In year 6 children have written a report on how to survive in the desert, inspired by Bear Grylls life experiences. The children have also enjoyed writing their own survival story using The Survivors text as their stimulus.



Our focus across both key stages is handwriting and presentation. By Y3, we expect all children to be joining their letters.

Tips for supporting writing at home!

- Encourage your child to write a diary that they can share with you.
- Create a writing corner in your home that has pens/pencils, paper and post-it notes to hand as creative prompts.
  - Ask your child what genre of writing they have been focusing on in class and encourage discussions around these genres.
- Encourage your child to put their weekly spelling words into exciting sentences to share with their class teacher.



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# Subject Update

## What's happening in...PSHE?

By Mrs. Collings, PSHE lead

We are pleased that, next half term, the children will be taking part in a series of PSHE lessons based on two topics – “Good To be Me” and “Growing an Anti-Racist School.” These lessons have recently been revised and rewritten by a group of Anti-Racist lead teachers, employed by the Brighton and Hove City council, along with the PSHE team and are informed by the newly developed Brighton and Hove City Council’s Primary Racial Literacy Curriculum Framework.

This work is part of the Council’s Anti-Racist Strategy, whose vision is to create a community of anti-racist education settings where:

- the complexities of our diverse interwoven histories are acknowledged,
- where every child can learn and thrive,
- where everyone feels safe and equal
- where we all have a strong sense of identity and belonging.

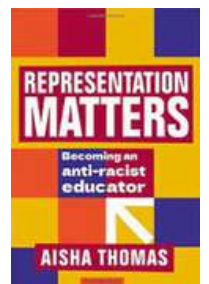
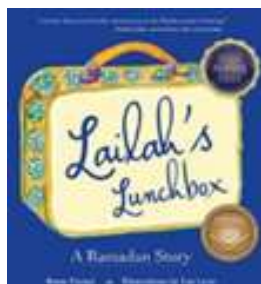
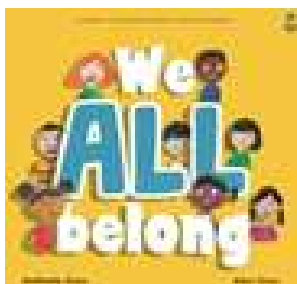
The framework is structured around five key themes:

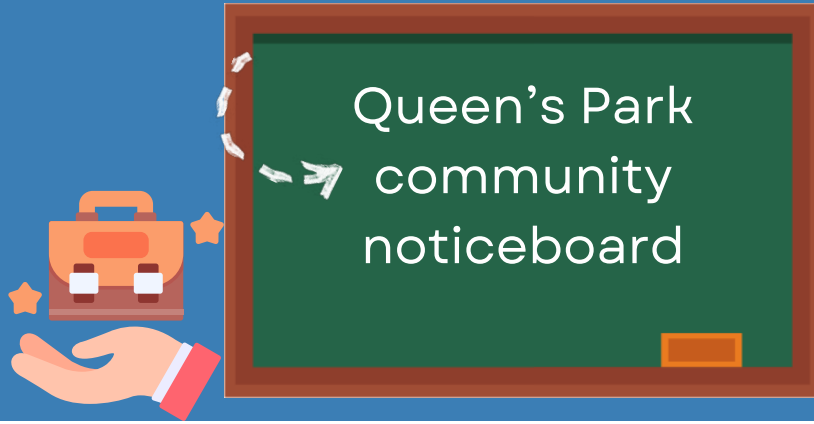
1. Physical features (skin colour, hair texture and other physical characteristics)
2. Identity, community, culture, ethnic heritage & religion
3. Stereotypes, stereotyping and assumptions
4. Prejudice and discrimination
5. Historical context and structural issues.

Anti-racist education, like all our equalities education, is always appropriate to pupils’ ages and stages of development and is an essential part of safeguarding.

All teachers at Queens Park Primary School have been recently trained in Racial Literacy themselves and have had further training on how to deal with questions around race and racism. At Queens Park Primary School, we have been careful to listen to pupil, parent and teacher voice through surveys and meetings.

If you have any other questions or queries, would like some more information or feel there is something you would like to inform your child’s class teacher about, please do not hesitate to contact your class teacher or the PSHE co-ordinator, Lisa Collings.





## Why not join our Governing Body?




It's been a bright start to the new year, which governors started full of enthusiasm, galvanised by the recent news that our campaign against plans to reduce our school places has been successful. Well done and thank you all, what a fantastic endorsement of our school.

The campaign reminded me of why – as a parent, a long time ago - I decided to get involved in our school's governing body: A core belief that this school is a vital hub of our community worth fighting for. Since then, it has been an absolute joy to be involved in the school's improvement journey.

## Did you know?

The Governing Body is the strategic leader of the school. The team consists of the head teacher, staff and parent governors, as well as co-opted governors, who are all volunteers.

It has a vital role to play in making sure every child gets the best possible education, and focuses on three core functions:

 <p>Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction</p>	<p>Holding the leaders to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, and the performance management of staff</p> 	<p>Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent</p> 
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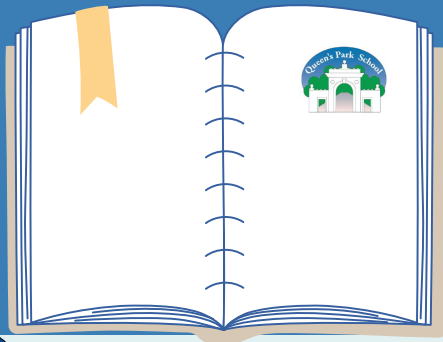
You don't see much of us, but we are closely involved in the school and are currently looking for parent governors to join our team.

Because governors' work is not very visible, it may feel that a lot of specific knowledge is required to take on that role, however that's not the case.

It's a voluntary role, a great opportunity for personal development and a wide range of training and support is available. All you need is a passion for our children's schooling!

We want our governing body to reflect and represent our diverse community and we will work actively to overcome any barriers prospective Governors may have to joining our team.

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# Dates for your Diary



01273 686822

@ admin@queenspark.brighton-hove.sch.uk

Our opening hours are  
**8.30am to 3.45pm.**

19/2/2024 - 23/2/2024 Year 6 residential and year 6 activities week

21/2/2024 8.30am-9.30am Coffee at the gate - Writing

23/2/2024 - Tea and Teaching Session (See flyer in this newsletter)

**KEEP THE DATES!**

12/03/2024 Parent's Evening 1

14/03/2024 Parent's Evening 2

- Our QPSA Cafe will be open for both parents' evening dates so come and join us in the main hall.

## On this day..

09TH FEBRUARY.. 2009

Around 30 firefighters tackled a blaze at the disused Sussex Ice Rink in Queen's Square Brighton. This 60 by 40 ft Ice Rink closed in May 2003.



Remember our coffee mornings are for our Queens Park community. Everyone is welcome..and it is free! Coffee mornings are a safe space for parents / carers to get to know each other, voice their opinions, concerns or ideas.

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# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about ROBLOX

Roblox is one of the most popular video games on the market. By 2020, the game's makers were claiming that more than half of children in the USA play it. As a 'sandbox' title, Roblox offers a huge amount of creative freedom: it lets players create their own gaming experiences with the Roblox Studio to build custom levels and games, which can then be shared with other players online. Roblox fosters creative thinking and enjoys a robust online community of fans.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

Roblox encourages players to communicate online (including a group chat facility). This could expose children to risks such as scammers, online predators, harassment, griefers and more. The in-game chat has some filters, but isn't perfect. Players can still send harmful messages to others – such as scam links or general hostility – while predators can reach out to children directly.

### PUBLIC SERVERS

Roblox has private or VIP servers which allow people to play exclusively with their friends, but this costs money. Most Roblox players will instead be on public servers that anyone can join. Servers can host games which focus on all kinds of aspects, including direct player interaction. Some games and servers, therefore, will put children more at risk of contact from strangers than others.

### ONLINE DATERS

These are also called 'ODers' and are quite common in Roblox. An ODer is an individual who joins a game with the intention of finding someone to date online – and eventually meet in person. Such online dating is against the Roblox community guidelines, but this usually doesn't deter ODers. Some player-built Roblox game worlds have even been designed with online dating specifically in mind.

### IN-APP PURCHASES

Roblox is actually free to download and play, but bear in mind that there are some hidden costs. Players are encouraged to make purchases in the game, for example, using real money. People can also buy extra Robux (the in-game currency) to spend on cosmetic items in the game, while it's possible to purchase a private or VIP server.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### SET PARENTAL CONTROLS

Roblox comes with several parental control options, which are explained well on the game's official website. It's essential to enter the correct date of birth for your child, as that allows Roblox to automatically apply the appropriate chat filters. The game also allows parents and carers to set monthly spending restrictions and monitor their child's account.

### DISABLE PRIVATE MESSAGING

Roblox's private messaging function raises the risk of children being contacted by people they may not want to speak with – potentially leading to bullying, harassment, toxicity and scam attempts. The game allows you to disable messages from anyone who hasn't been added as a friend on your child's account.

### PRIVATE SERVERS

If your child has some genuine friends to play Roblox online with, paying for a private or VIP server decreases the risk of contact from strangers. Even then, however, some players could invite other people – who might not necessarily be child friendly – into the private server. If your child is a Roblox fan, it's important to talk with them regularly about who they are playing the game with.

### MONITOR SPENDING

If they don't understand they're using real money, it's easy for children to accidentally spend a sizeable amount in the game. Using parental controls to place limits on their spending will help avoid any nasty financial surprises. Ensuring that you have two-factor authentication on your payment accounts also makes it harder for your child to spend money inadvertently.

### DEALING WITH STRANGERS

At some point in their development, your child will need to learn how to deal with strangers online. Show them how to block and report any users who are upsetting them or asking uncomfortable questions. Talking to them about what's OK to discuss – and what they should never tell a stranger online – will help them understand how to communicate with other people online safely.

## Meet Our Expert

Clare Godwin (a.k.a. Lunawolf) has worked as an editor and journalist in the gaming industry since 2015, providing websites with event coverage, reviews and gaming guides. She is the owner of Lunawolf Gaming and is currently working on various gaming-related projects including game development and writing non-fiction books.



National Online Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday

Sources: <https://www.theverge.com/2020/7/21/21333431/roblox-over-half-of-us-kids-are-playing-virtual-parties-for-nits>  
<https://ocp.roblox.com/parents/>



# Awards!

*Congratulations to this weeks*

## STARS OF THE WEEK

Reception - Butterflies and Ladybirds

Year 1 - Agnila, Aleen

Year 2 - Arlo, Laila

Year 3 - Jude Y, Jacob

Year 4 - Duressa, Taym

Year 5 - Hillary, Liliana

Year 6 - Jonas, Finn, Kaylan

you are  
**A STAR**

*Well done for Good*

# ATTENDANCE

ATTENDANCE FRED HAS  
BEEN AWARDED TO

# Glow worms

*Well done Hot Chocolaters!*

SCARLETT, FREDDIE,  
TAWFIQ, ISABELLA,  
AMELIA, DARIA, ABDUL,  
AISHA, DYLA, LAYLA

# Hot Chocolate



## FRIDAY

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# Brighton Skate Scheme

FREE SKATEBOARD LESSONS FOR REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS



3rd January to 7th February AND 21st February to 27th March

Every Wednesday from 6:45 to 7:45 | All equipment provided

Loxdale English Centre, Locks Hill, Portslade, BN41 ZLA

To find out more go to [linktr.ee/BHSA.Brighton](https://linktr.ee/BHSA.Brighton) or scan the QR code below







# Free Swimming

Now available for 18 year olds and under

King Alfred Leisure Centre  
Prince Regent Swimming Complex  
St Luke's Swimming Pool

Call **0845 803 5519**

Visit **[www.freedom-leisure.co.uk/freeswimmingBH](http://www.freedom-leisure.co.uk/freeswimmingBH)**



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7728 / March 2023



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