



# Newsletter

Autumn Term – 8th September 2023



## A Message from the Head

Dear Queen's Park Families,

Welcome back everyone!

The weather has typically caught up just as our children return to school! It has been so lovely to welcome our children and families back.

We have welcomed all of our new reception children into Butterflies and Ladybirds class over three days this year and warmly welcome them and their families into our community.

We have had a very strong start back at school this year. I have been in and out of classrooms and have been thrilled to see children really settled and focused on their learning. I am looking forward to seeing what achievements this year brings for both individual children and for the whole school.

Thank you for sending children into school in their correct uniforms, they look very smart and it really does promote a sense of belonging across the school.

As we were last year, we will be continuing with our rapid improvement journey - developing all areas of the school and ensuring we keep you in the loop with what we are doing through our regular coffee at the gate sessions. Please do come and join us for some and let us know your thoughts and ideas for our school.

As it is the start of the school year, we have packed this newsletter with useful dates and reminders.

See you at the gate!

*Mrs. E. Gale*

# School Announcements



## **Pick up time**

Pick up time can be very busy. Unless children have written consent to walk home alone, staff have been asked to ensure they release children one at a time and only when they are sure they have seen the adult who picks them up.

Once children have been released to their adult on the playground, it is the adults' responsibility to keep children safe and monitor their behaviour. A member of the Senior Leadership Team is on the gate at the end of each day but they are there to say goodbye and as a point of contact and cannot monitor who children are leaving site with. Teaching staff have the lists of who children are permitted to go home with, including changes to the norm such as play dates or childcare. Thank you for helping us keep our children safe.

## **Uniform Policy**

At Queen's Park, we believe that our simple uniform helps to create a sense of belonging and promotes a sense of community.

Children will be reminded in assemblies and in class about the requirements regarding dress.

## **Uniform Expectations**

- Navy blue sweatshirt, cardigan or jumper with or without school logo
- Plain black trousers, shorts or skirt (no denim)
- Plain white polo shirt
- Navy blue and white checked summer dress
- Black shoes or trainers (a small logo is acceptable e.g. a Nike tick). These must be sensible and suitable for school – no backless shoes, crocks, flip-flops, etc. Please ensure they are suitable for running on the playground surface.

In the summer, children may wish to wear sandals and that is fine. However, they must have a back strap and buckles to ensure they are stable and stay on their feet.

Children should change for PE. As a national curriculum subject, children will go outside in less favorable weather so it is important that they have a separate PE kit so that they can change back into their dry and warm uniform.

## **Jewellery and Accessories Expectations**

Children may wear 1 small stud in one or both ears.

A simple headband may be worn to keep your child's hair off their face. Headbands with ears or any other additional feature will need to be removed before coming into school.

Hair longer than shoulder length must be tied up.

Children can wear a digital or analogue watch to tell the time.

For safeguarding purposes, please do not send your child in with a smart watch. These are not permitted in school.

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# School Announcements



***Competition  
time***



# ***Hot Chocolaters!***

We are looking for new, vibrant and enthusiastic designs to be featured on our Hot Chocolaters certificates. To celebrate our Hot Chocolaters, we would like everyone involved in creating something special - so the more designs, the merrier!

Multiple designs can win, so group designs are also welcomed.

Please submit your ideas and designs to the school office by the end of the day, on Thursday 14th September 2023.

Queen Park wishes you good luck!

# Dates for your Diary



## PE DAYS

On their PE days, children in Reception – Year 1,2,3 and 4 must bring their PE kit into school and change for PE before their lesson. Years 5 and 6 may wear their PE kits to school on their PE days. PE days will be communicated to parents at the start of each half-term:

- Plain white t-shirt
- Black jogging bottoms or shorts
- Trainers or plimsolls

Mondays:

Dragonflies, Glow Worms, Caterpillars, Spiders, Scorpions

Tuesdays:

Hornets, Crickets, Praying Mantis, Scorpions are swimming

Wednesdays:

Beetles, Bumblebees, Ladybirds, Glow Worms, Grasshoppers, Praying Mantis, Fireflies, Praying Mantis

Thursdays:

Butterflies, Caterpillars, Bumblebees, Dragonflies

Fridays:

Crickets, Spiders, Beetles, Grasshoppers, Hornets, Fireflies

## Queen's Park Christmas Performances

### KEY STAGE ONE:

11TH DECEMBER 9.30AM - 10.30AM

12TH DECEMBER 2PM - 3PM

### KEY STAGE TWO:

13TH DECEMBER 4PM - 5PM

14TH DECEMBER 4PM - 5PM



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# Communications



## Communications Protocol

To ensure swift responses, equitable access and careful tracking of communication, we have asked the administration team to adhere to the following communication protocol. All communication will be directed to the correct stage. An initial response will be provided **within 48 hours** unless there is a safeguarding concern where it will be actioned immediately.

Stage 1  
admin

- If the communication is about your child's learning/wellbeing at school, please contact the class teacher via [admin@queenspark.brighton-hove.sch.uk](mailto:admin@queenspark.brighton-hove.sch.uk) or by making an appointment at the reception desk. The class teacher will redirect your concern, compliment or complaint where necessary.
- If the communication is to do with general school information e.g. events or communications, please contact the admin Teacher/ team via [admin@queenspark.brighton-hove.sch.uk](mailto:admin@queenspark.brighton-hove.sch.uk).

Stage 2  
Senior Leader  
team via [admin@queenspark.brighton-hove.sch.uk](mailto:admin@queenspark.brighton-hove.sch.uk)

- If you would like to escalate your compliment, complaint or concern, please alert a member of the senior leadership team via [admin@queenspark.brighton-hove.sch.uk](mailto:admin@queenspark.brighton-hove.sch.uk).

Stage 3  
Headteacher

- If a member of the Senior Leadership Team was unable to resolve your compliment, concern or complaint, Mrs. Gale will make contact with you.

Stage 4  
Complaints  
Policy

- If you would like to escalate your communication further, please refer to our complaints policy which can be downloaded from the school website and submit a formal complaint.

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# We are improving!



Our Improvement Journey

This week, we have a spotlight on **ATTENDANCE**

## WHY DOES ATTENDANCE MATTER SO MUCH?

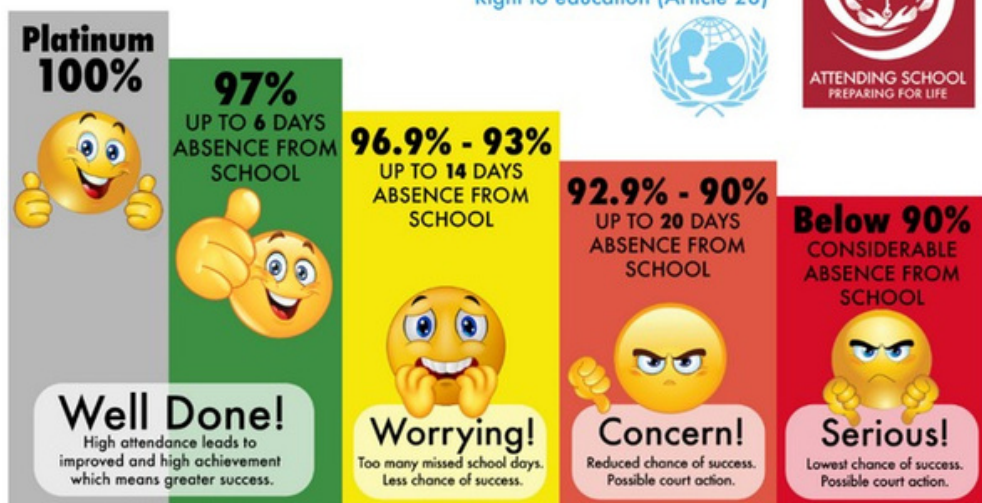
Research shows that pupils who achieved the expected standards both at the end of primary and secondary school missed fewer days than those who didn't perform as well.

Data from 2019 shows that 84% of Key Stage 2 pupils (end of secondary school) who had 100% attendance achieved the expected academic standard for their year group, compared to 40% of pupils who were persistently absent across the key stage.

If a child is classed as persistently absent they have an attendance figure of 90% or lower. This kind of attendance makes it hard for children to learn effectively as all absence affects children's learning. When they return from an absence they have to catch up the learning they have missed. This can be hard for children. They also miss out on their friendships and important school events.

## WHAT IS YOUR ATTENDANCE?

Right to education (Article 28)



There are 175 non school days a year.

That's plenty of time to go on visits, holidays, shopping and other appointments.

Remember if your child is absent from school we:

- May ask for medical evidence if your child is ill
- Ask for a screenshot/email/letter confirming your child's medical appointment if it is during school hours
- Will call any family who hasn't contacted us to tell us why their child is not in school
- Will contact you if your child does not return from school after a holiday on the first day of school

## A SPOTLIGHT ON ATTENDANCE Here at Queens Park we are aiming for 100% attendance!

This year we are going to be focusing on maintaining our attendance between 96-100% knowing that this gives our children the best possible chances to learn effectively over time.

We will be working hard with any families whose children are absent so much that their attendance drops below 90% (known as persistently absent)

### BEING LATE

Being late for school also impacts on children's learning. If a child is late they miss that important social time as they walk to school and into class with their friends. They are also at a disadvantage as they will have missed the important setting up of the day in their classroom and maybe even some of the teaching.

You can give your child the very best support by bringing them to school each and every day from day 1!

Come and speak to us if you need support or advice about ATTENDANCE



# Awards!



## Star of the Week

Reception -

Year 1 - Olive, Zion.

Year 2 - Nasir, Joshua.

Year 3 - Livi, Delight.

Year 4 - Chase.

Year 5 - Maria, Adhil, Selina.

Year 6 - Megan, Meta.

This is such a highlight to the week for me. I always ask the children to think about why they have been chosen and one of my favourite responses was, "...because I am always amazing!" Well that's worthy of hot chocolate in my book!

Well done Hot Chocolaters!

Gus, Barley, Shea, Izzy,  
Ronan, Ruby, Toby,  
Freddie, Megan and Layla.

## Hot Chocolate Friday



A kind and inclusive learning community for all!

# Online Safety



We are continuing to raise awareness of online safety.

Please remember that if you ever have a safeguarding concern regarding your child, or indeed another child, you can always speak to any member of staff or a member of our school's safeguarding team, details of which are available from the school office, posters around the school or via our school website.

## You Tube **YouTube and our children: a new kind of celebrity**



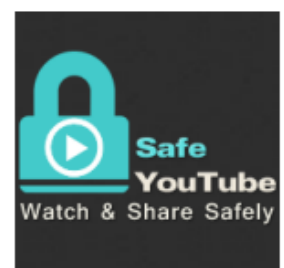
There's no doubt that YouTube provides an amazing opportunity for children to learn. How many times have we, as adults, found ourselves watching a tutorial on how to do something? It's an invaluable source which can play a huge role of the lives of our children, v

### **So, are YouTube channels a negative thing?**

This really depends on what they are watching. Yes, lots of inappropriate content can be found on YouTube and children can easily be drawn into content which is not age-appropriate; however, there are lots of positive YouTube channels that can help children to learn new skills, develop understanding and empathy and engage in world issues. Some of the celebrities emerging from vlogging channels are really positive role models, such as Nikki Lilly who won a Pride of Britain Award in 2017 and vlogs about a range of pre-teen interests as well as life with a facial malformation. It's worth being cautious of 'roasting', 'drill music' and 'prank' channels though and talking to your child about what they are watching and how it's impacting them.

As YouTube do say children should be 13 or over, if you do choose to allow your child to use it under your supervision, we advise following these steps:

- Turn on Restricted mode – this restricts availability of mature content
- Watch alongside from time to time to get a feel for the channels
- Ensure your child knows how to report content and understands that they can talk to you if they see anything upsetting online
- **YouTube Kids** is also available with the option to select the shows you prefer your child to watch, however inappropriate content has also been found on here too so please use caution. Services such as Netflix, Amazon Prime and BBC iPlayerKids are a great alternative containing lots of children's programmes.







# 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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