

Friday 1st
May 2026

Queen Victoria Primary School Newsletter



Key Dates

4th May–Bank Holiday–School closed

11th May–Year 6 SATs week

17th June–Class Photographs/
Individuals catch ups

6th July–Y3 Art Exhibition

14th July–Y6 Leavers' Party

15th July–Year 6 Leavers Trip

17th July – Y6 Graduation

20th July–INSET Day

Term Dates

22nd May–End of Summer Term 1

1st June–Children return to school.

17th July– End of Summer Term 2

Class Assemblies

4P–8th May

All assemblies start at 9.15am

This week's News

It has been another busy and positive week in school.

There has been a real focus on mathematics across all year groups. I have had the privilege of visiting a number of lessons this week and have been really impressed by the children's engagement and resilience. From Year 1 exploring halves of amounts for the first time, to Year 3 confidently adding fractions, it has been fantastic to see children thinking deeply and tackling new challenges with enthusiasm. We have also continued to develop our mastery approach to maths, working closely with the National Centre for Excellence in the Teaching of Mathematics.

On Wednesday, a small group of Year 5 pupils proudly completed their teamwork project with a visit to Challenge Academy. They represented the school brilliantly, demonstrating excellent collaboration and problem-solving skills throughout.

On Thursday, we were treated to a wonderful class assembly from 4CB. The children spoke and performed with confidence, sharing their learning with pride. Thank you to all the families who were able to attend and support the children—it always makes these occasions even more special when we have such a fantastic turn out!

Today, we launched the Stour Vale Academy Trust Times Table Rock Stars competition. This is a fantastic opportunity for our Key Stage 2 children to develop their fluency and recall of times tables in a fun and engaging way. We would really encourage children to log on regularly at home and take part—every correct answer contributes to our overall score!

Also starting today is our Bank Holiday Bonanza attendance initiative. Every child who attends both Friday and Tuesday will be entered into a prize draw. We hope this provides an extra bit of motivation and excitement, while also reinforcing the importance of strong attendance.

As the weather begins to get warmer, please ensure your child comes to school prepared for the sunshine. We recommend that children bring a named water bottle each day, wear a hat or cap where possible, and have sun cream applied before school. If needed, children can bring a named bottle of sun cream to reapply during the day.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We hop you enjoy the Bank Holiday Weekend!



Queen Victoria Primary School Attendance



Every Day Counts – Let's Keep Attendance Strong

We are really proud of how many of our children are making a strong effort to be in school every day and have made a great start back after the Easter break.

Regular attendance helps children stay confident, keep up with their learning and enjoy being part of their class community.

At this time of year especially, attendance is very important. Many classes are in the middle of exciting science investigations, new writing units and key maths learning. For our Year 6 pupils preparing for SATs, being in school every day makes a real difference to confidence and readiness.

Children also miss out on valuable time with their friends when they are away from school, as well as special moments like our Friday Festival, which continues to be a lovely way to celebrate the end of the week together.

We understand how important family time is, but we kindly ask parents and carers to avoid taking holidays during term time wherever possible, as even a few days away can mean missing important learning that is difficult to catch up on.

A reminder that school gates open at 8:30am, and arriving on time helps children settle calmly and start the day ready to learn alongside their friends.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support in helping your child attend school every day and on time. Working together really does make a difference.

Class Attendance

	Attendance (%)
RD	97
RF	94.7
1S	94.6
1P	95
2J	85.2
2O	94.5
3B	97.5
3M	93.6
4CB	97
4P	99.3
5H	89.1
5S	92.9
5M	88.7
6C	92.8
6H	93.9

School Attendance this week: 93.04%



**BE HERE
BE READY
BE YOUR
BEST!**

BANK HOLIDAY BONANZA!

ATTEND TO WIN!

Come to school on **FRIDAY** and **TUESDAY**
...and you could **WIN** a prize!

FRIDAY

Be in school on
FRIDAY

+

TUESDAY

Be in school on
TUESDAY

=

GET ENTERED INTO OUR
BONANZA PRIZE DRAW!

PRIZES TO BE WON!

ATTENDANCE HERO

Extra rewards for classes with the best attendance

Help your class reach **96%+**

ATTENDANCE HERO STATUS!

MISS SCHOOL = MISS THE FUN!

Let's make this a **FANTASTIC FRIDAY** and a **FULL HOUSE TUESDAY!**

Be here. Be ready. Be an **ATTENDANCE HERO!**



Keep checking the attendance boards each week!



Queen Victoria Primary School

CARE
ACHIEVE
RESPECT
ENJOY

Queen Victoria Primary School



Let's Celebrate!

Children at the Heart. Aspiration. Responsible. Excellence



Positive Notes & Behaviour Recognition

We love letting our families know when their children have been caught doing something great in school! All staff give out **Positive Notes** regularly for children who are going out of their way in role modelling our school

CARE values. We also love recognising children who follow our school rules: Ready, Respectful & Safe, and conduct themselves well in school by adding them to class recognition boards. Children who demonstrate exemplary behaviour are awarded a **Behaviour Recognition Note** to bring home to let their grown-ups know they have been golden.

CARE Awards

Each week, teachers award one child in their class who has had a remarkable week in demonstrating our school values or going above and beyond to follow our school Golden Rules: Ready, Respectful and Safe.

Children are awarded these certificates during our Friday Celebration Assemblies and are invited to have squash and biscuits with a senior leader as a special treat.

A huge well done to this week's super stars!

CARE Award Winners

Nursery:

Nancy

Reception:

Frankie and Brody

Year One:

Jaycee and Darcy

Year Two:

Logan and Esmae

Year Three:

Jacob and Keaton

Year Four:

Maisie and Lewis

Year Five:

Rayyanne, Jack and Shayleigha

Year Six:

Vivien and Poppy



Notices



PARENTS & CARERS — ACTION NEEDED!

Have you logged into the Arbor Parent App yet?

This is how we share ALL essential school information:

- ✓ Daily messages
- ✓ Attendance updates
- ✓ Letters & documents
- ✓ Key reminders and alerts

Don't miss out!

- Download the Arbor Parent App
- Log in with your registered email
- Turn on notifications

Need help? The school office is happy to assist.



As part of our commitment to our CARE value of Aspiration, we are beginning to plan a whole-school Careers Day in June.

We would love to invite visitors into school to talk to the children about their jobs and career journeys.

Hearing first-hand from people in a range of professions is a fantastic way to inspire our pupils, broaden their horizons and help them start thinking about what they might like to do in the future.

If you are a parent, family member or know someone with an interesting career who would be willing to spend some time in school speaking to a class or year group, we would be delighted to hear from you.

Please contact the school office to express your interest and share a little information about your role.

Thank you in advance for your support in helping us raise aspirations and inspire our children.





Uniform

Uniform is an important part of our school's identity and we want all of our children to feel proud to be a part of the Queen Victoria community. All children are expected to wear the correct uniform every day.



PE Kit

The PE kit is the expected uniform to be worn for PE lessons and must only be worn on PE days.

- Plain white t-shirt
- Plain black shorts or black tracksuit bottoms
- Plain black hoodie (with or without school logo)
- Plain trainers

No logos on schoolwear are permitted apart from the Queen Victoria Primary School logo.

Hair accessories, such as small bows or hairclips may be worn in the school colours.

Winter Wear:

- School yellow polo shirt (with or without school logo) or a plain white shirt or blouse
- Grey trousers, grey skirt, or grey pinafore dress
- Green school cardigan, jumper or sweatshirt (with or without school logo)
- White/grey socks
- Sensible, flat-heeled, plain black shoes

Summer Wear:

- School yellow polo shirt (with or without school logo)
- Grey trousers shorts or skirt
- Green/white checked gingham dress
- Green school cardigan, jumper or sweatshirts may be worn (with or without school logo)
- White/grey socks
- Sensible, flat-heeled, plain black shoes

Jewellery

- One pair of stud earrings may be worn – no dangling or hoop earrings
- A wristwatch may be worn
- No jewellery can be worn for P.E. lessons



Make-Up

- Make-up is not permitted
- Nail varnish is not permitted, including false or acrylic nails

Pre-loved uniform is available at school. Please contact Mrs. Farmer for further information.

Please ensure all uniform, clothing and equipment are labelled clearly with your child's name. Reuniting lost items with their owner is much easier if they are labelled.



Queen Victoria Primary School

Reading at the Heart



Change your story

Reading is not just a good way to fill the time. It has important and far-reaching benefits which go beyond a love of a good book. When children and young people enjoy reading, they are more likely to create a habit and read more often which in turn will help to build vital reading skills and bring with it a wider range of benefits...

Reading for pleasure can help grow empathy

Enjoying books and discovering new perspectives within the pages of a story can be a great way to introduce children to a range of experiences and viewpoints. The more a child reads, the more likely they are to be exposed to new narratives which can help them develop empathy.

A love of reading can build a child's confidence

In fact, National Literacy Trust's research showed that 26.0% of children and young people who read in their free time at least once a month said it helps them to be confident.

Reading for enjoyment can spark imagination...

...and provide escape as well as inspire creativity. Even fantasy can still speak truth to a child about their place in this world.

Reading can expand horizons

A book can provide children with a way to discover new worlds, meet new people and learn about the past. Whether that's through non-fiction books and autobiographies, or books and magazines exploring historical events or figures.



Reading for pleasure can support your child's learning

Recent National Literacy Trust research also revealed that twice as many children and young people who enjoy reading in their free time have above average reading skills than children who don't enjoy it (34.2% vs 15.7%) - reading skills which will support them in their school journeys and beyond.

How much should my child read a day?

It can feel daunting to factor in more time for activities such as reading with your child each day or encourage your child to find time to read on their own in their free time. We know that life is busy for many reasons, with competing priorities on your time. As children get older, they are also more likely to have higher demands on their own time from homework and sports to other activities including simply spending time with friends. We want to encourage you that it is not about the specific length of time a child reads that is significant, although we love the idea of even finding time to take 10 minutes a day to read. Finding ways to make reading fun, fit it into your day-to-day routine and not becoming stressed or overly caught up with the length of time your child spends reading will help build a manageable habit and grow a love of reading, rather than it feeling like a chore.

Grow a love of reading

What you are doing as parents and carers at home has a significant impact on your child. Finding time to read with your children or encouraging your less-than-enthusiastic readers at home to pick up a book can feel like a challenge. However, there are lots of simple, everyday ways you can encourage your children to grow a love of reading.

[See the National Literacy Trust Website for more ideas!](#)

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators MANAGING EXAM STRESS

At some point in their education, most young people will encounter exam stress, which can affect their mental, emotional, and physical wellbeing. Mental health charity YoungMinds estimates that 87% of pupils experience exam-related stress. This highlights the importance of supporting young people to manage exam pressure effectively, maintain perspective, and protect their overall wellbeing during these periods.

1 PRACTISE WORKLOAD WISDOM



The build-up to exams can feel overwhelming, with competing demands on time and energy. Encourage young people to reflect on whether their workload is realistic and allows them time to rest and recharge. Support them in creating a manageable revision timetable that includes regular breaks and occasional days off. Remind them that plans can be adjusted if they feel overwhelmed, helping to reduce the pressure and prevent burnout.

2 CLEAR UP THE CLUTTER



A cluttered workspace can reduce focus and increase stress levels. Encourage young people to keep their study area tidy and organised, with clearly arranged notes and materials. A calm, dedicated space can support concentration and create a more relaxed mindset. Adding colour, mind maps, or creative elements can also make revision feel less daunting and more manageable.

3 MASTER THE MATERIALS



Revision can feel particularly stressful if young people are unsure where to begin. Help them confirm key study topics and materials, ensuring they're using accurate and relevant resources. Reducing uncertainty can help them feel more in control of their learning. Reassure them that they don't need to know everything perfectly, as building their understanding over time is what matters most.

4 GET CREATIVE WITH NOTES



Writing out detailed notes, rather than relying only on bullet points, can strengthen their understanding and retention. Encourage young people to turn these notes into flashcards for regular review and repetition. Feeling familiar with their material can boost their confidence and reduce anxiety during exams. This approach can help them feel more prepared and less likely to panic under pressure.

5 USE VISUAL MEMORY AIDS



Visual resources can make learning more effective and reduce their frustration when information feels difficult to grasp. Encourage the use of diagrams, videos, sticky notes, and colour coding to reinforce key ideas. Creating simple mnemonics can also make information easier to remember. Using a variety of methods can help prevent mental fatigue and keep revision feeling fresh and manageable.

6 BUILD A TECH TOOLKIT



Technology can be a valuable supporting tool during exam preparation when used in a balanced way. Educational websites, revision platforms, and subject-specific videos can help explain complicated topics clearly, reducing the risk of confusion or stress. Encourage young people to use these tools to support – rather than overwhelm – their learning, and to take regular breaks from their screens to protect their wellbeing.

7 KEEP REVISION ENJOYABLE



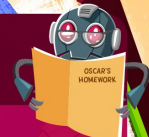
Revision is often more effective when it feels engaging and varied. Encourage young people to incorporate humour, real-life examples, or creative approaches into their learning. Mixing study methods, including light physical activity such as short walks, can also improve their mood and focus. Enjoyable revision experiences can help reduce stress and make the process feel more positive and sustainable.

8 USE ACTIVE STUDY METHODS



Active revision techniques can help young people feel more confident and in control of their learning. Strategies such as spaced repetition and active recall, including self-testing or explaining concepts aloud, can highlight both their strengths and areas for improvement. This clarity can reduce last-minute panic and support a calmer, more prepared approach to exams.

9 USE AI THOUGHTFULLY



All tools can support revision by making learning more personalised and manageable. Young people can use them to generate practice questions, summarise information, or break down topics into simpler steps. Used carefully, these tools can reduce overwhelm and save time. Remind young people to check AI information with trusted sources to ensure its accuracy and build confidence in their understanding.

10 PRACTISE WITH ONLINE TOOLS



Online revision platforms can help young people test their knowledge and track their progress. Many offer quizzes, flashcards, and practice papers aligned with exam boards. Encourage regular self-testing – including timed activities – to build up familiarity with exam conditions. Becoming more comfortable with the format of exams can reduce anxiety and help young people approach them with greater confidence.

Meet Our Expert

Minds Ahead design and deliver the UK's only specialist postgraduate mental health qualifications. Winner of Social Enterprise UK's 'One to Watch' award, the charity provides training and support to education organisations and local authorities. This guide has been written by Adam Gillett – a learning and development specialist who is also Associate Vice-Principal for Personal Development at a large secondary school.



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See full reference list on our website

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