

PREP BULLETIN

News from Nursery to Year 6

September 10th, 2021



■ Our new Year 3 children were all smiles as they returned to school yesterday.

IT'S GREAT TO BE BACK!

What a fantastic start of term we have had here in the Prep School; everyone arrived yesterday (Thursday) with excitement, enthusiasm and, best of all, huge smiles on their faces.

There is a real sense of hope as we begin the new academic year. Our doors are well and truly open and we are pleased to welcome everyone, new and old, into school.

Although this is the start of my second year here, it is the first time I think I

By **MR HENRY MATTHEWS**
Head of Prep School

have seen Queen's at full force and I really can't wait to get started with the many activities, clubs and challenges ahead.

At Prep School assembly yesterday, we welcomed our new members including the superstars that are our new Reception Class.

I know they will achieve great things as they progress through the School and

should be commended for the way they have settled in so quickly.

We were also very pleased to welcome our new Head of College, Mr Julian Noad, who spoke about the themes of hard work and enjoyment – something I know we have in abundance in the Prep School.

For me though, the highlight was the first communal singing in over 18 months. It was fantastic to hear the

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Birchall Hall filled with voices and I apologise to the staff and children who were standing close to me!

Our main office has now moved back to Cotlake House and can be accessed via the main front door.

Debs Cossey and the Maintenance and Grounds Team have worked tirelessly to not only create new office spaces, but also reconfigure and update the

boarding house with new social spaces and relaxing areas. If you have a chance to pop in and see us, please do!

It has been a very exciting and busy return to school. I have to say that after a year of restrictions, the school feels like a completely different place with a real buzz of excitement and optimism.

Our children have thrown themselves into their lessons already and I know that Year 6 and Year 3 pupils have loved their new outdoor education lessons

with Mr Neenan and the team.

This is an exciting addition to our curriculum and one which I know will greatly benefit our children, providing skills they will apply in later life.

After a short but busy and fun-packed week, all that is left to do is to wish you all a relaxing weekend and I hope you enjoy reading of the achievements and activities in the Prep School on the following pages.



Welcome back!



HOUSE BIATHLON

You will see from the School Calendar (*below*) that we have our first House event next Friday. It is an optional event with the children competing in a swim and run.

Staff will be given further

information early next week. Swimming and PE kit will be needed, and we are pleased to be able to welcome you on site to watch.

Non competing children will be able to support their Houses.



SCHOOL CALENDAR

September 11th to 18th

	Monday, September 13th	16:30	Curriculum Meetings (Years 5 & 6)
All Day	Nursery Creative Dance lessons start		
13:30–14:30	Year 1 Speech lessons start		
15:30	Co-Curricular Clubs begin	08:00	Thursday, September 16th
16:30	Curriculum Meetings (Years R, 1 & 2)	09:00–11:30	Individual Pupil Photos
			Forest School Reception and Year 1
	Tuesday, September 14th		
08:30–09:30	Reception Parents' Coffee Morning	13:30–14:30	Friday, September 17th
16:30	Curriculum Meetings (Years 3 & 4)	14:40	Year 2 Speech lessons begin
			House Biathlon (Years 3 to 6)
	Wednesday, September 15th		
13:30–14:15	Reception Swimming starts	09:30–11:00	Saturday, September 18th
13:30–14:30	Year 2 Recorder lessons start	10:00	Hockey Girls U11 Training
14:30–15:30	Year 1 Swimming starts	10:00–11:30	Rugby Boys U11 @ West Buckland Festival
			Hockey Girls U10 Training

Awards made to Eco Team at Prep School assembly

The Years 5 and 6 Eco Team worked hard to help the environment right up to the last moment of the Summer Term.

During the past week, they applied for their Climate Heroes Green Blue Peter Badge to round off all their efforts during the year.

We are delighted that Mr Noad and Mr Matthews were able to congratulate the whole team when they were presented with their special certificates and badges in our first Prep School assembly.

Oliver, who is not pictured, has



moved to Year 7 and will be awarded his badge in Senior School.

We are very proud of all of the

team's achievements and excited to tackle new challenges to help our environment this year.

It all adds up to a great first day back!



Our new Year 2 faced the camera on their first morning back which included a fun holiday maths activity.



PRE-PREP MEETINGS

We are really looking forward to welcoming Pre-Prep parents into our classrooms on Monday.

The meetings will have quite a lot of information to absorb about how we teach your child and how you may support them at home.

Your children are, of course, very welcome to join us but we will be addressing parents rather than the children. With this in mind, your children might prefer to stay on the playground while these short meetings take place.

READY TO 'DAZZLE'!

This year's Prep School show is 'Dazzle', a fun-packed magical musical about saving the greatest funfair in the world, Dazzle Bay Fun Palace. With ghost trains, ferris wheels and plenty of candy floss it's sure to be an exciting ride!

Open to Years 4 to 6 during co-curricular. Keep an eye on the Drama noticeboard for more details.

Busy start to life in Prep School for Year 3 children

Year 3 had an amazing first Outdoor Education lesson which focused on team building and listening skills.

Being able to work together in the fresh air on Hutton lawn was fantastic. These lessons are definitely going to be something to look forward to each week for the children (and staff!).



Year 3 had a tasty start to their Science topic on 'Teeth and Eating' today as our Catering team kindly made taster pots of this term's menu for them to try.

The children made the most of this delicious opportunity and would like to thank Holytoyd Howe for their support in helping them to have a positive experience and a balanced healthy diet!



POETRY COMPETITION DEADLINE

At the end of last term, Mr Mark Edwards, our Chair of Governors, announced an exciting poetry competition. We know that many of you have been inspired to write and there have already been some excellent entries which have made their way to the inbox. This is a reminder to children to

get writing and to send in their poems so they can be entered for judging.

The deadline for entries is 3.30pm on Friday, October 15th – they can be emailed to Mrs Cameron at jamc@queenscollege.org.uk or handed directly to the Prep Office team.

JOIN US FOR COFFEE NEXT FRIDAY

With restrictions easing and the School fully re-opening, we are keen for parents to come back in and see us.

We would like to invite you to stay for a cup of coffee or tea after drop-off next Friday, September 17th. This invitation is open to all parents and refreshments will be served in the Birchall Hall from 8.20 to 8.50am.

SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS DATE

Individual school photographs are taking place next Thursday, September 16th with family groups starting at 8am in the Birchall Hall. Please contact

the School Office on 01823 272990 or email Mrs Musgrave at scm@queenscollege.org.uk if you would like to arrange a sibling photo.

BRING IN A SNACK

Children in Years 3 to 6 are welcome to bring a healthy snack into school to eat at the end of the day. Please ensure snacks are nut free and healthy – no chocolate or crisps!



Putty in their hands

Year 3 had a great time on their first day making 'thinking putty'. They chose the fragrance and colour they would like and added glitter too ... great fun!

Best foot forward for charity ...

Well done to Mrs Helen Hitchin, Year 3 teacher, on completing a 26-mile trek across Dartmoor during the summer holiday in aid of Alzheimer's Society.

There was torrential rain at one point and her feet are recovering slowly but it's all been so worthwhile to raise a brilliant total of £1,061 so far! It's a charity very close to Mrs Hitchin's heart after losing her Dad to the disease five years ago and she'd like to thank everyone for their support.

You can still donate to this wonderful cause via her JustGiving page by [CLICKING HERE](#).



HOCKEY TRAINING

We will be running a hockey training session for girls in Years 5 and 6 on Saturday, September 18th (9.30 to 11.00am).

Children should meet at the Astro, with pick up from the Prep School.

All girls are welcome and we would love to see as many as possible.

Please bring a small, healthy snack and lots of water.

BUSY SUMMER FOR ROCCO

Rocco, who has moved up to Year 3, completed his blue belt grading in taekwon-do during the holiday.

He also took part in a week's tennis academy coaching at the Puente Romano Club in Marbella, Spain.



NURSERY NEWS



Puddleducks children have been investigating the sunflower seed heads, using tweezers to remove each seed!



DRAMA FESTIVAL

If your child is interested in participating in this year's Taunton Drama Festival and is not already taking Speech with Mr Kirby, please contact Miss Rosie for more details.

Email: pmr@queenscollege.org.uk

QUEEN'S COLLEGE ADVENTURES APPEAL

As part of our continued drive to broaden the opportunities available to our students giving them the chance to challenge themselves and help them embrace the great outdoors, we are launching a major fundraising campaign at Queen's.

The Adventures Appeal aims to enhance our outdoor pursuits' facilities and opportunities for children aged 4 in Reception to 18 in the Sixth Form.

An exciting programme of fundraising events is planned – more details to follow – and we are also looking for people to organise sponsored events and other activities to help us reach our goal.



3 AMAZING PROJECTS

These are three amazing projects being planned:

**A state-of-the-art Climbing Wall to be installed
in the Sports Hall for use by all students.**

**A new bespoke Adventure Play facility
for Prep School.**

**New Playground Equipment
for Reception and Years 1 and 2.**

TO DONATE

Go to our Queen's College Fundraising and Giving Page:
<https://www.giving.com/campaigns/queens-college>



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