



QEII Newsletter

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A Message from Helen

Welcome Back: Staff had a busy and productive start to the term, completing statutory training and preparing classrooms and learning environments for the year ahead. It was wonderful to welcome our pupils back today and hear all about their summer adventures. Thank you, too, for the fantastic photographs that you sent in for assembly.

New Staff: We are delighted to welcome several new members of staff to QEII. Steve joins the Navigators team, Poppy joins Pathfinders, and Jo joins us as our drama teacher. Megan has taken on a new role this year as an apprentice teacher in Sailors class, working alongside Becca. Holly will be supporting Shelley and our mainstream colleagues through the Special School Outreach Project, while continuing in her role as Family Liaison Officer. We are also pleased that Sarah Cannons has taken up the permanent position of Forest School Lead.

We have welcomed a number of new Special Support Assistants to the team: Astrid M, Astrid R, Jodie and Joanne. Kerry has also joined us as a Pupil Support Assistant.

I am confident that our school community will extend a warm welcome to all our new colleagues and help them quickly feel at home as valued members of the QEII family.

Arrival and Collection

School Site: May I also take this opportunity to remind everyone about our arrival and collection arrangements. Parents and carers should arrive at the top of the road at **9.00** in the morning and **3.00** in the afternoon. If you arrive early, you will be asked to drive around and back so that we do not block the road. Please approach the school from the roundabout end of the road. If possible, we would encourage you to park further away from the school and walk in. Pupils who have walked to school ALL need to wait at the top of the road until directed by a member of staff to proceed down to the school site.

College Site: Please drop off at **8.50** by going through the second gate and turning around at the end before parking up. If the car park is full you will be directed to wait in the staff car park. Collection is at **3.00**.

When in the car parks please turn your engines off and follow the directions of the staff wearing hi-viz jackets.

Thank you for your continued patience, support and cooperation. These arrangements play an important role in ensuring that the start and end of each school day are safe, calm and positive for all our pupils and families.

Attendance - Appointments: We are sure many of you will have seen recent news reports highlighting the importance of regular school attendance. Every day in school matters and being present helps children make the most of their learning, build friendships, and take part in the many opportunities school has to offer.

If your child is finding it difficult to attend school for any reason, please contact the school office. Our pastoral team is always available to offer support and work with families to help overcome any barriers to attendance.

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Wherever possible, medical and other appointments should be arranged outside of school hours or during school holidays. When appointments must take place during the school day, please inform the school office at least two weeks in advance and provide supporting evidence where possible. This helps us to plan staffing effectively and ensure the best support for all pupils.

If your child is unwell and unable to attend school, please notify the school office before **9.15am** on the day of their absence.

Attendance - Holidays: Family holidays should be taken during school holiday periods and not during term time. If there are exceptional circumstances and you wish to request leave during term time, please complete the appropriate form and your request will be duly considered. To support your understanding a 10% attendance reduction equates to a full 19 days missed from a 190 day academic year. We do not want any child to miss out on the exciting learning, experiences, and opportunities that make school such a special place to be.

Food Allergies (Nut, Kiwi & Pineapple): May I also take this opportunity to remind everyone that we have students in school with severe food allergies. To help protect them, please do not send any items containing **nuts, kiwi or pineapple** to school, including cakes, biscuits and sweets as part of snacks or packed lunches.

MCAS: We are excited to be launching our new website by the end of this term. In the meantime, please remember that we have now moved to MCAS as our primary communication platform. If you have any questions or need any assistance accessing it, please contact the school office, where a member of the team will be happy to help.

Earwig: We will continue to share learning through Earwig and always enjoy seeing what our pupils have been doing outside of school, so please do continue to share your updates with us.

Looking Forward: The autumn term is always a busy and exciting time as everyone settles into a new school year. Details of all upcoming events can be found in our school calendar, and we look forward to welcoming you to as many of them as possible. Our first QEII Connections event takes place on **Thursday 17th September**, and we would be delighted to see you there. Please also see the attached poster for October's Connections event.

When home and school work together, our pupils gain the greatest benefit. Their enthusiasm, achievements and growth bring us immense pride and joy, and we look forward to another successful year working in partnership with you.

Helen

West Sussex Mind: Please see the attached posters from West Sussex Mind about their upcoming events.

Students Artwork on Television!: We were delighted to see our students artwork, which is on display at Maltman Cosham vet's in Slinfold, appear in the background of the new ITV programme "The Joy of Pets" which was broadcast on Sunday 23rd August. The show can be seen online via the ITV website.

