



QUEEN ELIZABETH II JUBILEE SCHOOL

SUMMER TERM NEWSLETTER - JULY 2021



Welcome to our Summer Term newsletter - the end of a remarkable school year and the second one dominated by the affects of COVID-19 on all our lives. While we celebrate all that has been achieved we remember all those who have, and continue to be, effected by COVID-19. Especially those separated from family and loved one for so long.

The strength of our school community has supported us all in these times. We send our thanks, and admiration, to all our parents, carers and young people for your resilience, we hope everyone has a safe and restful summer and we look forward - optimistically - to a calmer year next year.....

This newsletter highlights the many ways our community comes to together across the school - whatever the challenges - to learn, celebrate and live life to the fullest.

School returns for pupils on **Monday 6th September 2021**

Message from Jo Petch

Executive Headteacher

As we come to the end of another surprising and eventful year, I hope this newsletter letter finds you and your loved ones safe and well. I would like to begin by thanking our amazing staff teams for their continued dedication and commitment to prioritising the pupils learning and wellbeing throughout this year.

I also want to acknowledge our pupils for their resilience during what has been another very unpredictable year in their educational journey. Despite interruptions to routines, our fantastic pupils have engaged well with their learning both at home and in school. Despite the impact of the pandemic locally, attendance has remained high and engagement with personalised learning has continued. For this, I must thank our parents and carers for a shared commitment to supporting the children to engage with learning whether remotely or in school. This has ensured our pupils have been well supported to reach their full potential in learning activities as well as in regulating and developing their resilience, and we recognise that this is down to our excellent home school relationships and partnerships.

A particular highlight this term has been seeing the pupils learning through the amazing sensory stories and installations. The pupils' enjoyment and awe and wonder was clear to see, and the opportunities for communication that such creative environments offer was truly remarkable.

I hope that everyone is able to have a well-deserved break over the summer, and we will be looking forward to returning in the autumn term.

Jo
Executive Headteacher
Federation of Westminster Special Schools
& BI-Borough Inclusion Service



AUTUMN TERM 2021

**STUDENTS RETURN
ON MONDAY
6TH SEPTEMBER**

October half term
25th - 29th October

End of term:
Friday 20th
December, students
return on Tuesday
4th January 2022.

Full set of term dates
for 2021-2022 are at
the end of this
newsletter.

Message from Pamela

I find it useful, and surprising, to look back over this school year. Our nervousness at return of most learners to be fully on site in September - would we be able to keep everyone safe? Were we keeping up with all the guidance and latest advice? Our delight when we got to Christmas with only one small bubble closure and able to have our wonderful (and safe) Christmas sensory adventure. Then the shocking changes that came about over the Christmas holidays and a January return which saw us adjusting to another new way of working and blended or remote learning back for many learners.

The much publicised 'full return to school' on the 8th of March often failed to mention those - many of you - who were still under advice to continue to 'shield' in order to be safe.

However with staff, parents and some pupils starting to get access to vaccines and testing we were excited to be moving to a summer term with more learners on site and the promise of better weather to support our measures to stay safe.

I want to thank all the staff who have adapted, again and again, to new advice on how to stay safe and found new ways to help your children and young people adapt to all these changes and challenges and continue to get the most possible from the education and care that we can offer at school.

I really hope everyone gets a chance to relax and refresh over the holidays, I hope at least some of you will have the chance to visit loved ones and I hope the weather is kind of all of us, wherever we are.

It will be a busy summer at school with some major refurbishment works taking place at the main reception - we'll send photos as the work progresses.

Pamela



RECEPTION WORKS AT QEII

While we have really missed having you visit us in school we have been aware for sometime that our main school reception presents some challenges for safety and security. We are very grateful to the local authority for supporting a refurbishment project that will address many of these issues.

These works are likely to mean changes to how we arrive at school in September and we will send more details before the return of pupils on the 6th September.



Sensory Story - 1950's Coronation Inspired story telling

With last year's West London Inclusive Art's Festival having to go virtual (One Duck Down) we were delighted to be able to build a full sensory experience for all learners this year.

Working with our partner schools and cultural organisations, and generously supported by John Lyon's Charity, QEII selected the 1950s as our decade to explore through music, art, drama and major cultural events.

As the decade of Queen Elizabeth's coronation we made that a major theme - ready to celebrate her platinum jubilee in 2022. Jackson Pollock inspired artwork, regal portraits, music from the 1950s and the coronation call lit up the hall and the corridors. And lit up our faces with fun and excitement.

Exploring sites, sounds and stories inspired by the 1950s and the Queen Elizabeth II's coronation ceremony and street parties.



Sensory Installation

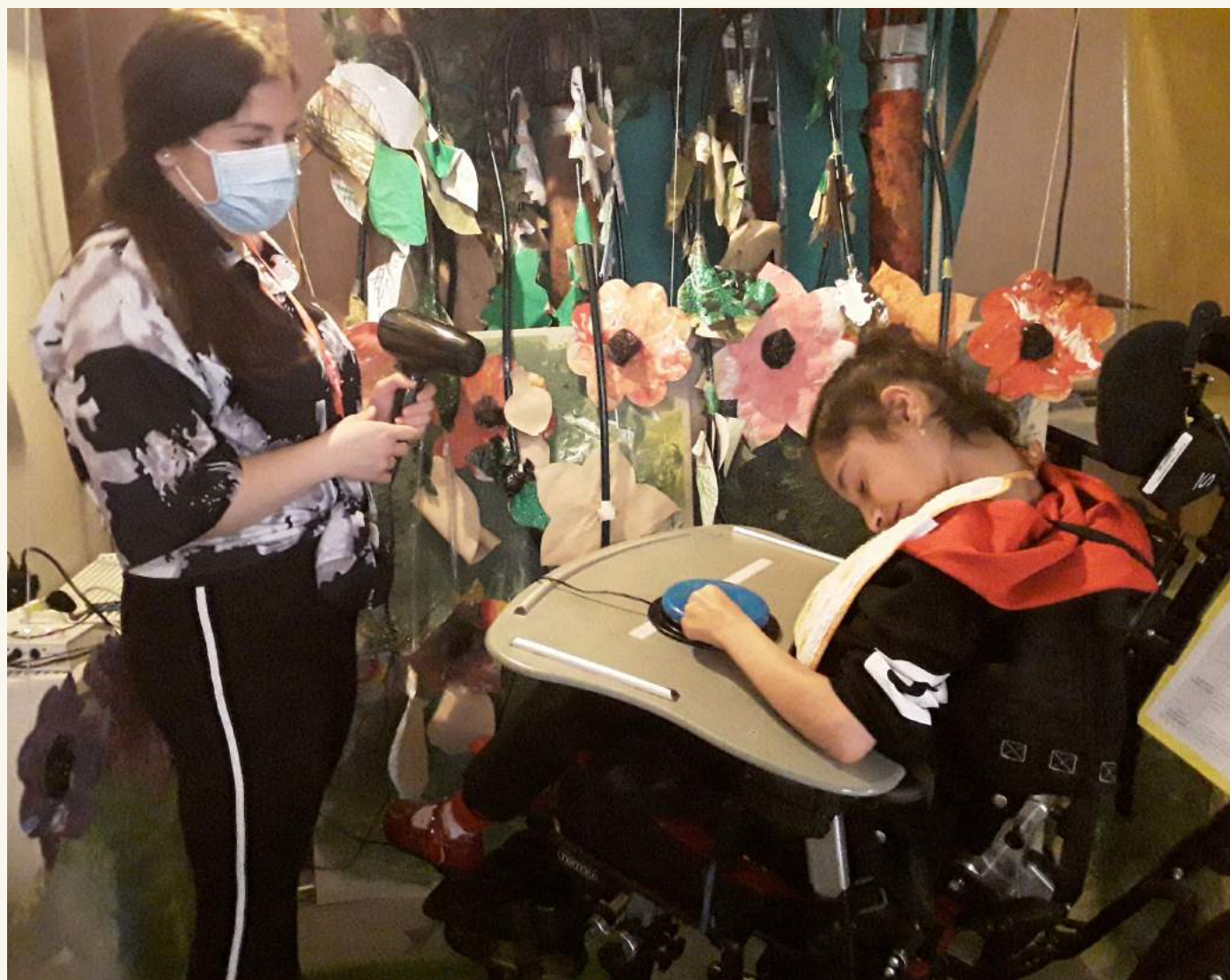
Running alongside the sensory story in the hall, we had a installation in the training room that enabled students to see their own art work used in an installation that moved through a day; from the dim, cool light of dawn, to the heat and brightness of midday to the dark and restful night. Full of atmosphere to engage all the senses.

Inspired by artists including Antoni Tapes, Prosper Piere Louis, Georgia O'Keeffe and William Blake there was time to be immersed in each part of the day and experience each sensation.

We really hope that next year you will be able to join us for the Art's Festival experiences.

Make sure you watch the videos on the home learning area of the website to see how much fun was had by all!

With special thanks to our new friends at The Jubilee String Quartet who joined us for two days.



Aurora Orchestra

We were delighted to welcome back our friends at the Aurora Orchestra for wonderful day of listening to and making music. With some amazing instruments they kept us engaged and motivated throughout the workshops. Thank you to everyone at Aurora (www.auroraorchestra.com)



The Jubilee String Quartet

And some new friends, The Jubilee String Quartet, added a very regal and inspiring element to two days of the sensory story. Playing to and with students exploring the transformed hall space. You can see and hear how much fun this was on the video from the festival on the home learning website (and check out the quartet: www.jubileequartet.co.uk/)



Thank you to all our partner organisations for working with us in these challenging times.



QEII Transition Event

This term's event focused on what transitions and transition planning can look like from an education and from a social care point of view.

Many families from year 9+ and from different boroughs attended this virtual event and found it really helpful and informative.

There will be an annual event of this nature, hopefully in person next year. The follow-up event in the autumn term will be more of a 'fayre' format with colleges and other providers attending to explain their services and what is available for CYP for life after QEII.

Creative Careers

We had second round of careers events - still focused on careers and opportunities in the creative arts. A number of external organisations came to share their work past students of QEII talked about what they are doing now and how much they still enjoy taking part in art, dance, music, drama.

You can see one budding actor (or is it model?) and photographer below.



QEII Parent Support Group

The parent support group has been running at QEII in real life and virtually for many years now. If you haven't ever joined us then can I suggest you try to come to the next one which will be on the **14th September 2021 at 10am**. We meet (hopefully in person) for an hour to share stories, ideas and challenges and to give everyone a chance to be heard. We share experiences of managing and coping with a child who has additional needs in different situations from being on an aeroplane, to going to the dentist or hairdressers and how their needs affect siblings and many other topics of interest. Everyone has something to offer, **you are the experts**. I guarantee you will feel welcomed and supported if you come to have a coffee/tea and a chat with the parent support group. Hope to see you there in September.

Cate Summers



Easter Bonnet Parade

Not finished in time for the spring newsletter we started the Easter holidays with a wonderful Easter Bonnet Parade.

Thanks to everyone who joined us from home as we paraded around school in our creations!



Father's Day

We very much hope to be able to have these events in school next year, but, for the second year, our thanks go to those who joined us virtually for a Father's Day Assembly.

Cards and gifts were made and sent home and we talked in assembly about all the ways in which our Dad's (and brothers, uncles and granddad's) help us.



New Scooters for QEII

Thanks to a generous donation from Tesco's Bags of Help Fund and the Federation of Westminster Special Schools Charity Fund we have been able to buy new scooters for use across the school! Thank you Tesco's!

Dance Westminster Competition 2021

After our success in the first Dance Westminster Competition in 2019, when Miki got to the dance-off finals, we were delighted that this event came back in 2021. With a mix of virtual and in person dance events lots of our learners entered audition videos for the competition - following dance lessons via zoom or performing their own dances to a favourite piece of music.

Kawsar, Farjana and Zizi are all showing us their moves and grooves in their audition videos.

The Auditions...

Thanks to our friends at **Active Westminster** and **Step Change Studios** for putting on this event and for enabling our participation throughout the competition!

www.active.westminster.gov.uk/

www.stepchangestudios.com/

Congratulations to all who auditioned!



Dance Westminster Competition 2021

**** Finalists ****



This year we had **3** dancers make it to the finals! Well done to Victoria, Tasnim and Sahur who all learnt a new dance routine with a professional dance partner. This was performed and filmed for the final judging at Porchester Halls and they were all amazing!!!

Premiere at the Odeon Leicester Square

The film of all the finalists was premiered at the Odeon Leicester Square and all finalists presented with medals and trophies. We were delighted to go along and cheer on our friends.





Dance Westminster 2021 People's Choice Award **WINNER**

In the afternoon following the premiere in Leicester Square the film was broadcast on You Tube and everyone had the chance to vote for a 'People's Choice Champion'. With all the QEII dancers spending time in the top 3 places, and all finishing in the top 5, Sahur won the overall vote to become the 2021 People's Choice Winner.

You can still see all the finalists on You Tube at:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y5Un86oyEko>

Thank you to everyone who voted for all our amazing dancers and to everyone who supported our participation - especially their professional dance partners.

WEEKLY WESTMINSTER DANCE CLASSES WITH STEP CHANGE STUDIOS

Step Change Studios are running regular classes every Sunday at 11am, for 1 hour, at Bridgefield House, next to Porchester Centre, for those aged 11+.

Each class is just £3 and parents/carers are welcome.

You can sign up here:
<https://forms.gle/SfT62CN99o8A9pSX6>
 or turn up one Sunday and complete a registration on the door.

More details on their website:

<https://www.stepchangestudios.com/take-part>

The classes are being led by a professional dancer and teaching assistant from QEII so you will be sure of a warm welcome from Callum!

Abundance Arts

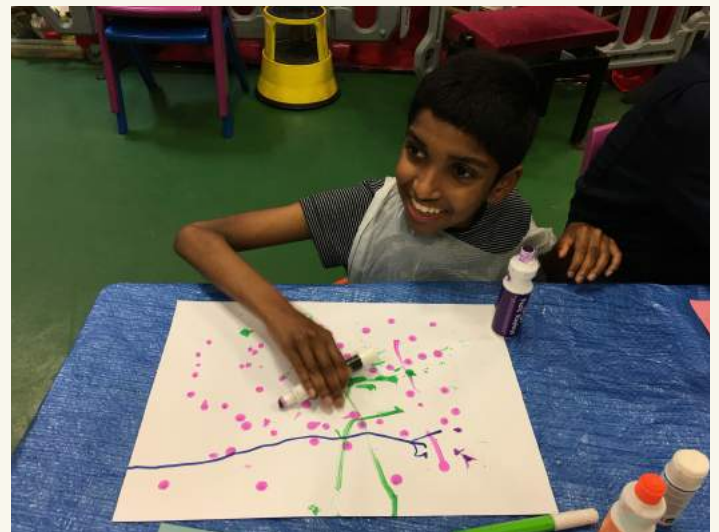
As part of a big project to rejuvenate parts of the Harrow Road and the Maida Hill area outside school we worked with our friends at Abundance Arts to create artwork for a design competition. The winning designs, inspired by the sounds and sounds of our local area, will be turned into lamppost banners for the Harrow Road.

You can see below how the colours and vibrancy of our local area influences the art work entered by QEII artists.

We will let you know if any of our art work is selected for the project.



More details of this project can be found at <https://harrowroad.org/>



Interested in being a Parent Governor?

We currently have a vacancy for a **Parent Governor** on the Federation Governing Board and we would like to recruit from the parents of children at QEII School.

If you might be interested, please read on -

A **Parent Governor** brings a parent perspective to committees and the Governing Board in terms of their contribution at meetings and their experience of having a child who attends one of the Federation Schools. They do not “represent parents” as such.

A new **Parent Governor** would be fully supported by a “mentor” who will be an experienced Governor who will help them to become familiar with how things work and to help them get to know the other governors - as they say in adverts “full training will be provided”!

The role of the governing board is strategic they do not manage the Federation schools on a day to day basis – this is the role of the Executive Headteacher and the school Headteachers. **Parent governors** have the same responsibilities as other governors.

- The Governing Board is responsible for:
 - How well the schools and services are managed
 - The quality of teaching and learning
 - Progress and outcomes for pupils.
 - The quality of provision and school improvement.
 - The engagement of pupils and parents
 - The wellbeing of pupils and staff
- Ensuring that the budget and other resources are well managed and provide value for money. This includes the deployment of staff

If you would like to know more or have an informal “no obligation” chat please contact

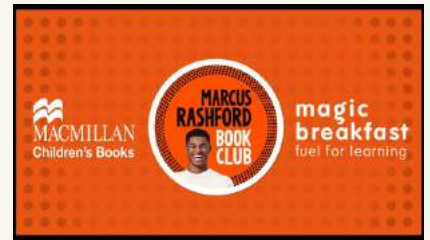
June Simson – Co-chair of Governors - j.simson@qe2cp.westminster.sch.uk

Magic Breakfast

QEII is proud to announce our continued partnership with Magic Breakfast for the academic year 2021/2022. Magic Breakfast supports 8 schools within Westminster Local Authority, providing healthy nutritious breakfast food to ensure students start their school day in the best possible way. Breakfast gives students the energy needed to start their school day feeling settled and regulated.

We have continued to send take-home breakfast food packs to those are entitled to free school meals. We have spoken to most eligible families and have received encouraging feedback about this provision and heard your preference for specific cereals/bagels from the Magic Breakfast offer.

We are hoping to restarting onsite Magic Breakfast provision in school (as we did before Covid restrictions and depending on the current advice). But nutritional breakfast will be available thanks to this generous support.



Magic Breakfast's book offer:

The Marcus Rashford Book Club: 'A Dinosaur Ate My Sister' by Pooja Puri with Illustrations by Allen Fatimaharan

QEII are delighted to have been offered by Magic Breakfast the opportunity to receive 25 copies of 'A Dinosaur Ate My Sister' distributed to some QEII students. The book is a collaboration between Marcus Rashford and Macmillan Children's Books to promote a love for reading. Whilst we appreciate our students may not be able to read the story themselves, we hope it is enjoyed and shared with all the family. For more information, please follow on twitter:

@Magic_Breakfast

@MarcusRashford

Macmillan Children's Books:
@MacmillanKidsUK



We love books!

Kawsar is very proud to be the owner of **A Dinosaur Ate My Sister**. Kawsar often carries the book in his school bag and will take it out in class to look at the illustrations. Kawsar said "I like the colour green, and I don't like dinosaurs because they are scary."



The benefits of us being able to offer Magic Breakfast Club:

- All students will gain access to a healthy breakfast after often very long journeys to school, and enjoy the experience with their peers in a welcoming breakfast setting.
- Many of our students find it hard to let us know if they are hungry. Magic Breakfast Club at the start of each morning ensures any hunger needs have been met, enabling us to focus on the other needs our students may have throughout the morning.
- Early breakfast helps students settle and eases them into their morning routines, helping the student's attainment and engagement in the first hour of learning/completing routines.
- Some students find their journeys to school quite long. Breakfast on arrival gives them the space and time to unwind and get ready for the day.
- The Magic Breakfast Club is invaluable in teaching independence and life skills.
- Greater socialising; students mixing with other students and teachers.
- A social breakfast can expand social skills and expand choice-making for students.
- Magic Breakfast Club provides onsite work experience where students are encouraged to take-on food preparation and serving roles in preparation of adulthood and work experience in the wider community.
- Onsite Magic Breakfast Club is free of charge to all QEII students

For more information on the Magic Breakfast provision or to discuss the criteria for free school meals application process please contact the school office.

To learn more about Magic Breakfast, please visit the following sites:

Website: www.magicbreakfast.com

Twitter: @magic_breakfast

Facebook: @magicbreakfastuk

Instagram: @magicbreky #FuelForLearning

Policy Campaign: #NoChildTooHungryToLearn

Goodbyes from QEII

Angelo - off to college

After 16 years as a student at QEII Angelo is off to College in September. We will miss his infectious smile, sense of humor and determination. All of which we know he will take with him to college and beyond. We are sure Angelo, and his family, will keep in touch and come back and tell us all about college. Good luck in your next adventures Angelo!



We are sorry to be saying goodbye to Karam and his family, as they move back to Egypt. It has been wonderful having Karam, and all his family, in our community for the last 3 years and we wish them all the very best of luck.



Staff farewells: It is that time of year when we say goodbye and thank you to staff who are moving on to new opportunities.

After an amazing 27 years of service we wish Judy a long and happy retirement and know she will keep in touch!

Jude is moving on to an Assistant Head teacher role at Phoenix school and Lucy is moving back home to Spain.

We thank them both for all their hard work and wish them the very best in their next adventures.

Dernel is moving to a new role working with adults with disabilities and will come back and share those experiences with us. Maria and Antonio are taking up their first teaching roles.

Thank you, good luck and keep in touch!

Changes to holiday dates

We hope the noisiest and most disruptive work on the new reception area will be completed over the summer holidays, but we know there will be work on going well into the autumn term. We are planning to have a temporary entrance on Kennet Road and will need to make some changes around school that enable to work to continue safely once we are all back.

To ensure we do all this safely and that school is ready to welcome everyone back we have moved one of the planned INSET (staff training days) for next year.

QEII pupils will return to school on **Monday 6th September** and the planned INSET day on 1st November will now be a regular school day.

Extra Bank Holiday for the Queen's Jubilee in 2022:

As this falls in the May half term school will be closed on Monday 6th June 2022 there will be a staff training day on Tuesday 7th June and students return from the May half term on Wednesday 8th June 2022.

Home Learning

There are lots of activities to enjoy together or for your child/young person to watch or listen to on the home learning area of the website, which is now easier to access and move around.

Use this link: <https://qe2cpwestminsterschuk.sharepoint.com/sites/blendedlearning>

Login using your student's Microsoft Account details (the details you use to access Teams)

E.g. Username: name@qe2cp.westminster.sch.uk

Term dates 2021 - 2022

Autumn:

Pupils return on Monday 6th September 2021

- October half term: 25th - 29th October 2021

End of term: Friday 17th December 2021

Spring:

Pupils return on Tuesday 4th January 2022

- February half term: 14th - 18th February 2022
- Monday 21st March 2022: staff training day, school closed for students

End of term: Friday 1st April 2022

Summer:

Pupils return on Tuesday 19th April 2022

Monday 2nd May 202: Bank holiday, school closed

- May half term: 30th May - 8th June 2022
 - Monday 6th May Bank holiday, Tuesday 7th May staff training day - school closed for students
 - Students return to school on Wednesday 8th June 2022

End of term: Friday 22nd July 2022

**We hope you have a lovely
Summer Holiday**