



# QUEEN ELIZABETH II JUBILEE SCHOOL

SPRING TERM NEWSLETTER - MARCH 2021



Welcome to our Spring Term newsletter which is coming out just after the 1st anniversary of a really remarkable, and challenging, year. While we rightly celebrate all that has been achieved we remember to all those who have been affected by COVID-19, in so many ways.

The strength of our community has supported us all in these times and we send our thanks, and admiration, to all our parents, carers and young people for your resilience.

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.

# Message from Jo Petch

As we come to the end of the Spring term, we have to acknowledge that it has been a most unusual start to my new role as the Federation's Executive Headteacher! It is incredible to think that we started January 2021 in the grip of another national lockdown. Happily, we are now feeling more hopeful as we begin to see the easing of Covid restrictions.

Despite the need for social distancing, and the fact that I have not been able to interact freely with staff and pupils whilst we have maintained our safety measures in the school, staff and pupils have been extremely warm and welcoming to me. The next step will be for me to get to know more of you all, and I hope to be able to do this as we go into the summer term.

Although this term has meant lots of pupils learning remotely (or even a blended offer of some face to face in school time, and some time at home) It has been fantastic to see that the focus on pupils achieving their best has continued. The strong partnerships between home and school are what has made this so successful, and are evidence of how integral those partnerships are to enable our pupils to flourish.

Finally, all this has only been possible as a result of the extremely dedicated staff team who have worked tirelessly, to ensure that our children and young people have not only been kept safe, but also encouraged and supported in their learning and well-being. I would also like to thank you for your continued support. I wish you all a safe and pleasant Easter break and I look forward to getting to know everyone more in the summer term.

Jo

Executive Headteacher



## SUMMER TERM 2021

STUDENTS RETURN ON  
MONDAY 19TH APRIL

**Bank Holiday**  
Monday 3rd May

**May half term**  
31st May - 4th June

**End of term**  
Friday 23rd July

Term dates for  
2021 -2022 are being  
sent home with this  
newsletter

# Message from Pamela

As the Spring term comes to an end it is great to look a back on all that has been achieved over a busy term. At home and in school - parents, carers, staff and our amazing young people have all embraced new ways of learning, new ways to help keep each other safe and new ways to keep in touch and keep our sense of community so strong.

I want to thank all our parents and carers for your support and concern for the well-being of everyone in school and your feedback and suggestions on how we can support you in these times and your appreciation for all the work that has gone on to keep everyone safe and learning.

I want to thank all the staff for their resilience and hard work to keep the school safe and to continually adapt and change the ways they work to support our young people and keep our community safe.

I am sure, like us, you are really proud of how amazing our children and young people have been throughout this time. Seeing their enjoyment in being back at school or in joining a lesson from home has shown again how much they can achieve.

Though we never would chose the circumstances, we've learnt so much about how to work together, home and school, lots of things we want to continue to build on in the coming term and years.

I hope that you all have a safe, relaxing - and sunny - Easter holiday!

Pamela

Headteacher



## FAMILIES FOLLOWING SHIELDING ADVICE

I want to particularly mention and express our admiration for those families who have children/young people who have been advised to follow the clinical advice to 'shield' and have had to stay at home. We have loved working with you and supporting you every way we can - but we know how hard it has been, especially as schools have opened more widely. You have our deepest admiration.



# Blended Learning

There have been lots of new words, like blended learning, for us to get used to. Sometimes, a picture paints a thousand words. Here are some pictures that show what we think this means.

Joining in a music session from home with friends at school - or anywhere in the world, now we have the skills and confidence.

Following a schedule to cook a meal with, and for, the family.

Looking at the new fish so we can talk with our families about something exciting and interesting in our day.



**New resources continue to be added to the home learning area of the website.**





## Mother's Day

Thank you to all the Mum's, Auntie's and Grandma's that joined us to for a Special Mother's Day assembly. In school we made flowers, cards and video messages to let you know how much we love you.

Thank you for sharing your photos with us!



## Valentine's Disco

For Valentine's Day we made cards for our friends and had a great Valentine's Disco. We started our virtual dance all together with one of our favourite songs and then Clusters A, B and C had their own play lists ready. We loved dancing with our friends in school and at home!



## World Book Day

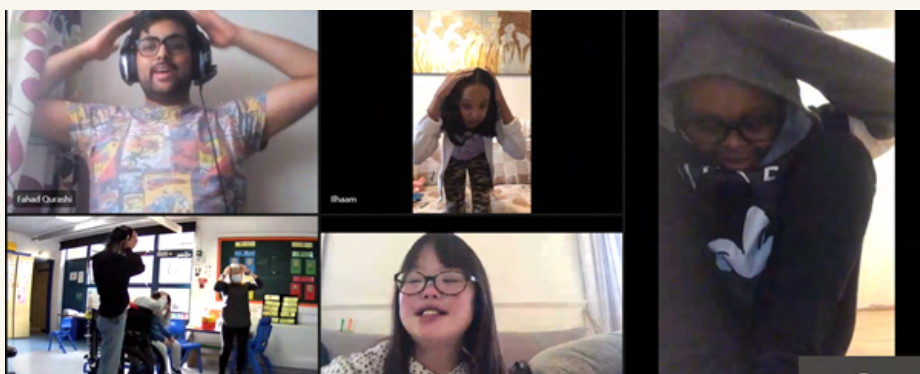
We celebrated World Book Day in March by sharing our favourite stories. We love rhymes, sensory stories, reading books, telling stories and dressing up as our favourite story characters. It is great to tell stories about things that happen to us, read and listen to books and stories about new things and read the signs and symbols we see around us in school and the community.



## Cluster A

Cluster A have been learning the names of the parts of the body and improving our dressing and undressing skills. Over Teams we have been playing dressing up games that involve directing our friends and teachers to put on different items of clothing. Students and parents have also enjoyed our PE and Yoga sessions, keeping us active at home and in school.

Cluster A have journeyed through the story of One Duck Down in our Sensory Story. We have followed Billy on his journey to search for ducks; meeting whales, polar bears and pirates on our quest.



## Cluster C

Cluster C have been continuing some great work with our One Duck Down Sensory Story this term. We've rowed our boats on the ocean with Billy, heard the waves crashing smelled seaweed, and been sprayed with water by a big whale with a duck in its tummy! We've all shared the story whether at home or at school, and are now looking forward to what the summer term brings!



## Cluster B

Cluster B students have done fantastic learning both at home and at school this term.

Students (and families!) showed their resilience by adapting to online learning: we had a lot of fun! Back at school, students have amazed us with how quickly they got back into their routines, doing daily yoga to support their emotional and physical wellbeing, working on daily living skills such as making delicious bagels, developing their communication and interaction skills in fun games, and as ever lots and lots of dancing, music and art.







## Creative Careers Week

This term pupils, at home and at school, took part in Creative Careers Week. Our students participated in virtual interactive workshops with PiP, Graeae Theatre and Background Bob in mark-making, music, singing and drama.

National Careers Week 2021 focused on the Creative Arts (music, art, dance and drama) all of which are really engaging for our learners. We held a series of work shops to link the students' own arts interests and to highlight opportunities for working, leisure and learning in the arts after school.

Previous students from QEII who now attend PiP, a local independent training provided lead several sessions for current learners in music.

Graeae Theatre is a disabled led arts organisation challenging preconceptions and bringing down barriers. Our students met and participated in workshops alongside practicing artists who have disabilities and to learn about their work within the theatre industry.

### BACKGROUND BOB

NOAH JONES

Background Bob: Noah, also known as Background Bob, is a 12-year old who has cerebral palsy, epilepsy and hydrocephalus. He started painting colourful backgrounds in April 2020 with his father, Nathan Jones, to help keep him busy during the first national lockdown. His paintings and mark-making soon became a global phenomenon by enlisting artists and celebrities worldwide to join his lockdown project and auctioning off the stunning creations to raise money for his local hospital.

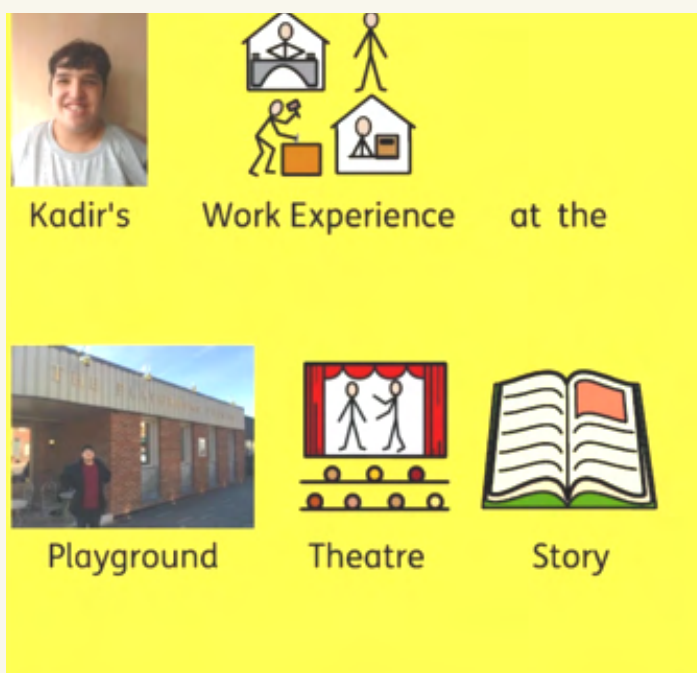
# Creative Careers week

Students in the secondary department had the opportunity to learn about a previous QEII leaver who had did his work experience at the Playground Theatre. Student's learnt about the social story and that helped him to complete his placement and watched a video showing him on his placement. This gave them an idea of the different jobs he did on placement.

The presentation was followed by students exploring the different job roles of staff within the school by choosing the correct job role from 2 symbols presented to them. At the end of the session they explored what work they wanted to do when they finish QEII school. One student said they wanted to become a writer, one said a pianist and one said he likes phones and driving buses. We will plan more opportunities to build on students interests.

Other students in school watched a video recording of our art teacher, Nile, who talked about his role at the school through a short story on why he chose his profession.

Creative Careers Week was celebrated in the Friday Assembly. We showcased students' artwork made during the workshops and had various staff members from around the school appear on screen to talk about their job role; this included introducing the concept of getting paid for the jobs we do.





## Two Community Events from the Autumn Term

It was wonderful in the autumn term to have our first virtual Harvest Festival with our friends from Emmanuel Church and the wider community. Thank you to everyone who joined us virtually and to Revd Jackie for leading our celebration and coordinating donations to the local food bank.

Thank you to staff and families for your generosity to those in need.



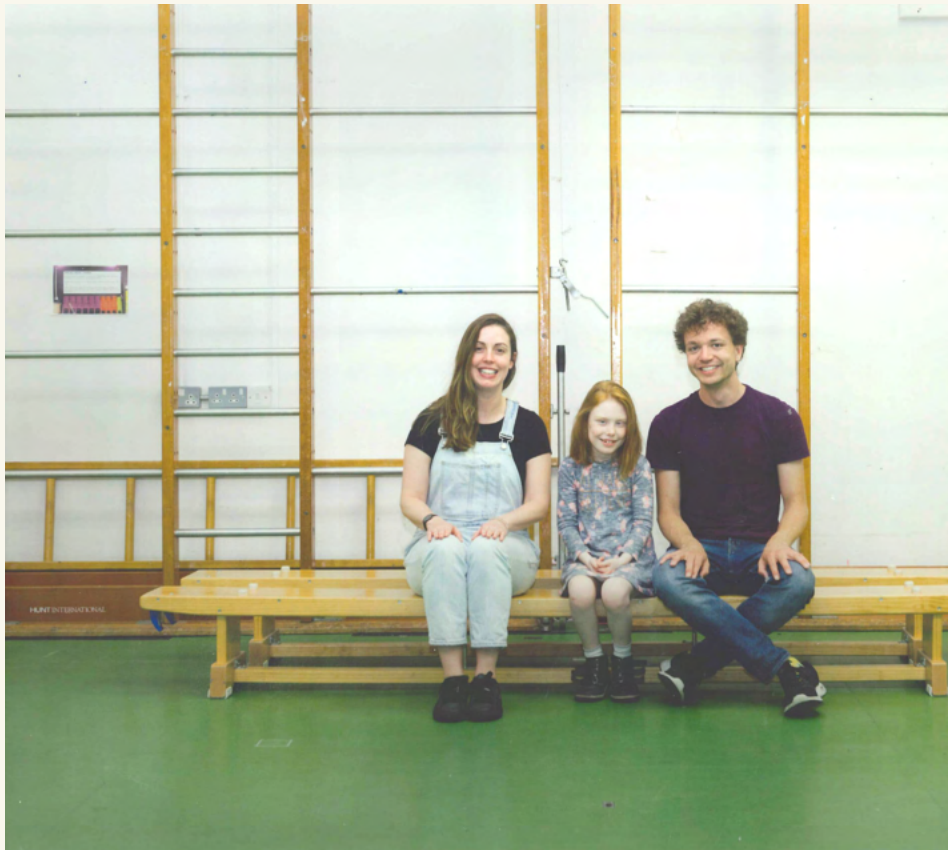
## Christmas 2020 at QEII

We worked really hard to make sure that we could keep all the best of our Christmas celebrations and stay safe. So we were delighted with all the sensory experiences in our giant Santa's Grotto that took over the whole hall. Santa knew how to stay safe too!

Jackie joined us again for our Nativity service. Everyone had a series of sensory experiences with things to touch, smell and look at that helped us to recall the first Christmas.



## Tate Britian- Year 3



We have been sent the photograph that was part of Steve McQueen's Year 3 exhibition at Tate Britain. It was part of 3,128 photographs on display at Tate Britain between November 2019 -January 2020. Well done to all who found it when they went to visit. We will be very proud to have it on permanent display at school!

## Parent Support Group

Led by Cate Summers, our Educational Psychologist, the support group meets once a month at QEII (in COVID times via Teams) for an hour, usually on a Tuesday. It is an opportunity for parents and carers to meet each other and to offer support, ideas, share their experiences and encouragement to other parents. As parents and carers know first-hand how challenging, amazing, exciting and exhausting it is having children with additional needs. You might not think you have anything to offer but you would be surprised how uplifting and energising the group could be for you. It's a little bit of time just for you to think about yourself and what you need; what you might try; how you are really feeling and recognise that we can support others by sharing and talking together. Come along and try it- there's always a warm welcome and you might make some friends for life!



### SUMMER TERM'S SUPPORT GROUP

#### DATES:

**4th May, 8th June,  
6th July**



# London Funders

QEII was very grateful to receive a grant of over £25,000 to support our young people and their families during this very difficult time. The two local funders that generously gave were The Westminster Foundation and St Giles-in-the-Fields the William Shelton Education Charity. We used this money to ensure that all young people could have access to a tablet and the internet. The money has enabled us to provide resources in to the home to support remote learning such as sensory bags, toys and trampolines. It helped us to develop materials to support home learning and supply resources directly to you at home to make this learning real, fun and active. We are lucky to have such generous funders in Westminster and we are looking forward to when we can invite them to meet the school community so that we can thank them for their generosity.

Of course, none of this will be possible without your support when pupils have been learning from home. Thank you!

**Here are some photos of the great resources we have been able to provide.**



## Music and Drama

During this half term, Drama and Music departments have found a new and innovative way to deliver combined sessions to the school community on site and at home. Building on the great work created in the One Duck Down films, we now provide lessons that support the learning of students across the school. Friday mornings are dedicated to interactive, fast paced sessions following Billy's adventures around the school. We meet whales, crabs, polar bears and more. Gabriel and James work with students who now help lead the lessons for their friends.

In the afternoon there is a sensory, session attend by learners in school and at home. Gabriel and James wish to convey their thanks to all those who have helped make these sessions stimulating and accessible; in classrooms around school and at home.

It is truly delightful to see students at home and on site, engaged, active, stimulated and learning in these new ways. We look forward to continuing to develop this new way of working and continuing to build our skills in the creative arts.



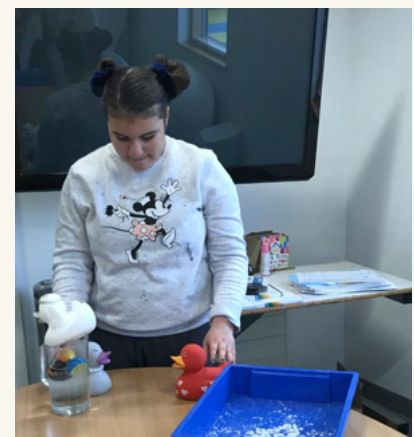
## West London Inclusive Arts Festival

During this term we have been putting our plans in place to develop the hugely successful festival, that QEII is an integral part of each summer.

Covid restrictions mean that we cannot gather at the Lyric Theatre, nor can we open the school doors in our customary fashion to all friends and family who would usually enjoy one of our epic sensory stories.

But building on all the things we have learnt in the last year we will be assured that the whole school will be working tirelessly after Easter to ensure we provide an online festival/ sensory experience that the school community can enjoy. Our plans are in motion and we feel confident and excited about what we can deliver.

Watch This Space.....





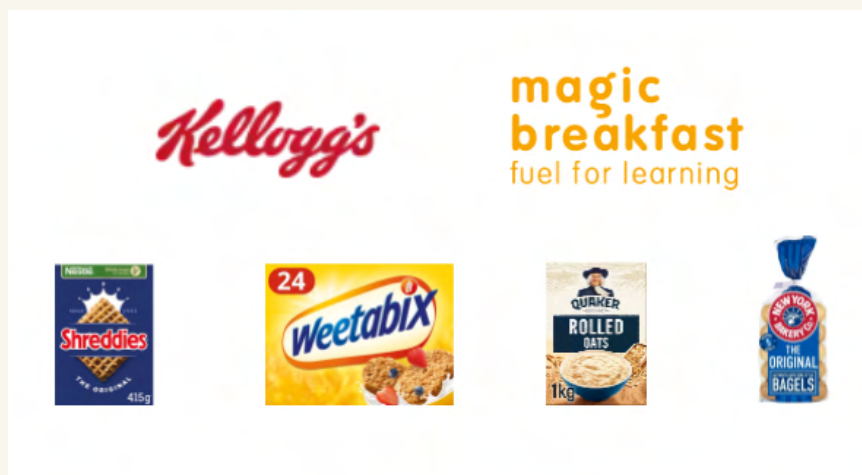
# Magic Breakfast

QEII has been providing free onsite breakfast provision since 2019 with the National School Breakfast Programme in partnership with Magic Breakfast and funded by the Department for Education, to improve access to healthy breakfasts for all students.

In 2020 we secured £1,000 funding from Kellogg's Grant for Schools, with an additional £500 from the National School Breakfast Programme and a subsidised offer for us to continue this provision once the funding from the Department of Education came to an end.

At the start of the Covid-19 pandemic, we moved to providing the students entitled to free school meals with healthy breakfast take-home packs of cereals and bagels twice a month. The school mobilised resources to home deliver breakfast packs to families during the lockdown periods.

The breakfast offer includes choices of Shreddies, Weetabix, Porridge and Bagel packs which comply with the government School Healthy Eating guidelines. The take-home packs have on occasion included Arla milk vouchers which have proven popular. Arla milk vouchers are provided through the fundraising of our Magic Breakfast school partners and are subject to availability.



# Free School Meals

We would like to thank all families who completed the online Magic Breakfast form with their positive feedback and breakfast cereal preferences.

Any family who may have had a change in circumstance and think they may now qualify for free school meals, and the Magic Breakfast provision, please contact the school and we can help you to confirm if you are eligible.

The application process is very easy and we can help you with this.

Westminster and Kensington and Chelsea Councils have again decided to use the Holiday Activities and Food Programme to provide Free School Meal vouchers over the Easter Holidays. These will arrive from school.

# Goodbye to Carmen

As the end of this term approaches, we will, sadly, be saying goodbye to Carmen - who has been a teaching assistant at QEII for over 15 years.

We are very happy for Carmen, who is moving to Cheltenham to live closer to her son and his family, but she will be very much missed by all of us at QEII.

Carmen has given many years of dedicated service to the school, supporting pupils, colleagues, and families. If your son/daughter has ever had Carmen as part of their class team then you will know how skilled, caring, and effective she is in supporting young people. Always wanting the best for them and looking out for the well-being of everyone in the school community.

Carmen has been a key member of the Makaton Choir, always supporting school trips, assemblies, special events and supporting families with translation skills. She always has an abundance of energy and a great sense of fun that we will really miss.

Most recently, Carmen has been working in Lunar Class/Cluster A and a key part of our home learning provision.

Carmen's mother - Isabella - passed away at the beginning of this year and so Carmen has made the decision to move closer to one of her son's and his family in Cheltenham and we wish her all the very best.

Thank you Carmen!







Some new fish  
added to the school  
tropical fish tank



Getting ready for our  
Easter bonnet  
parade





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