

Dear Parents and Carers,

The new academic year has begun very well. The new children have settled well including the 9 children, all together in Green Class, and of course the others too.

I was so pleased to see so many of you at our recent Christmas Shows. We are proud to be able to share your children's creative and expressive abilities within our new Drama department, ably led by Elise Robinson, our new Drama teacher. Last term was also extremely eventful with two residential school journeys, the first to Margaret McMillan House in Wrotham, Kent and the second, a new destination which was Jamie's Farm, in Wiltshire. There are photos within this newsletter and there will be more on our website too. All students who travelled not only enjoyed themselves but displayed great maturity, independence and flexibility in adapting to their new surroundings. Well done!

I am pleased to inform you that we are significant step closer to the opening of our short-break respite facility, Q House. An Ofsted Inspector visited on Wednesday 10th January and was particularly impressed by our facilities and the thought and care invested in how we aim to deliver the service. As soon I have the official announcement (which will be soon!) I will share with you.

Finally, I am once again, immeasurably proud of each and every member of the Queensmill staff team for achieving such a glowing report from the recent National Autistic Society accreditation. The full report is available on our website. My thanks too, to you parents and carers, for your valued contributions, via questionnaires, to the review process.

Thanks

Freddie Adu



Term dates

- Half term: Monday 12th February- Friday 16th February
- Easter break: Friday 29th March- Friday 13th April



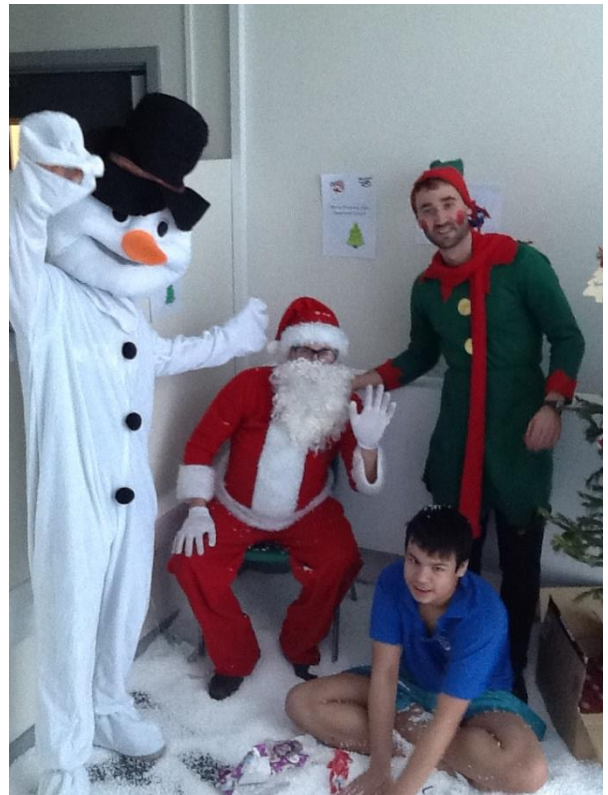
Christmas

Christmas was celebrated across all sites at Queensmill with students performing in Christmas shows, receiving presents from Father Christmas, posting their letters, having Christmas dinner or going on trips full of festive activities!





Secondary

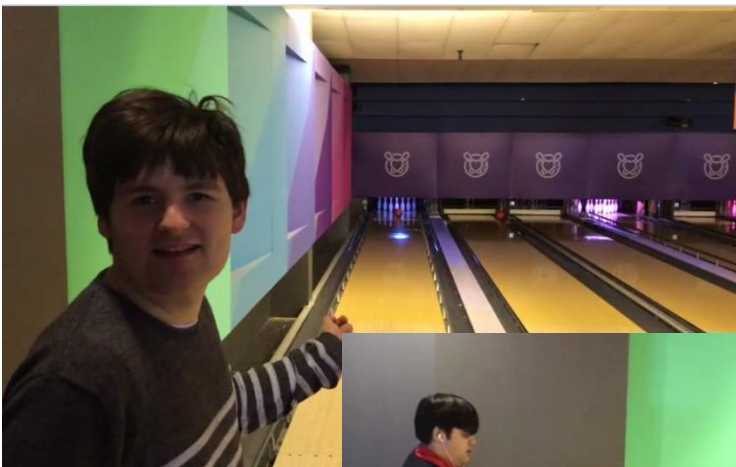




Q4 and Q5

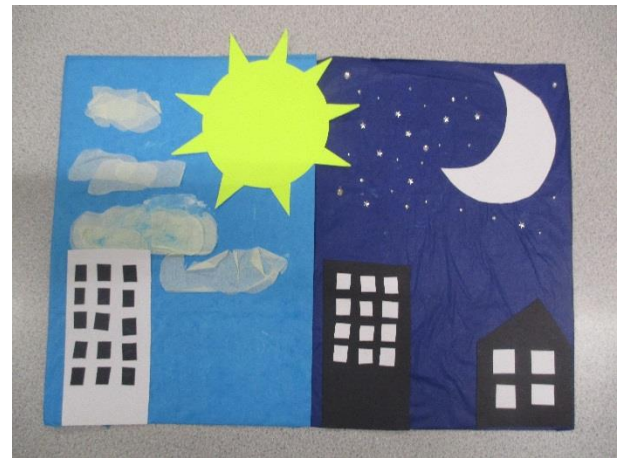


Q6

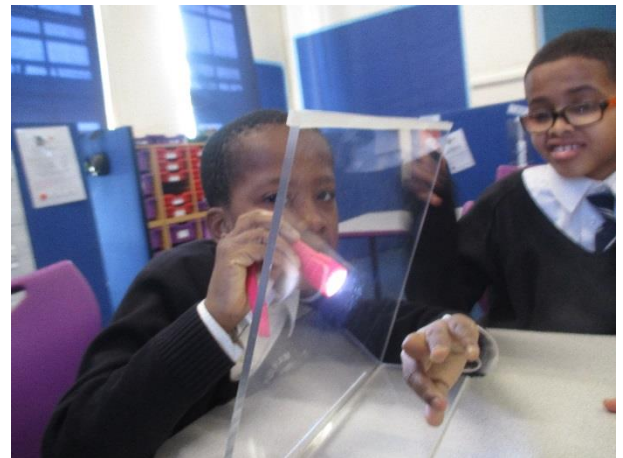




Fulham Primary



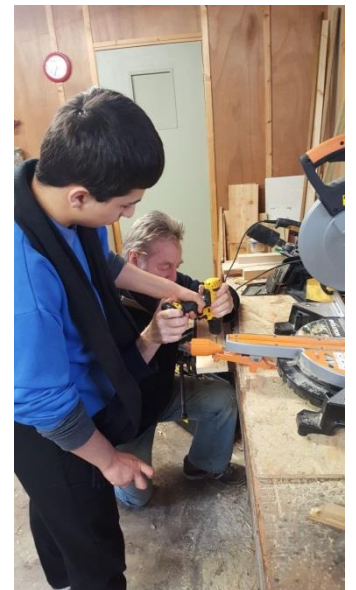
Tigers class have had a wonderful time investigating light and shadows for their Autumn 2 topic. The children began by learning about what light is and they enjoyed exploring the light spectrum through colour. The children then learned about day and night and the importance of artificial light sources for giving people light when the sun has set. Later we learned about how light travels through objects by shining a torch on opaque, transparent and translucent materials and observing what happens. We enjoyed some lovely creative projects along the way and the children were thrilled to make shadows with their new shadow monsters. Home learning included making a craft on the theme of lights and shadows and then sharing these in class.





Jamie's Farm

This past December, seven secondary students attended a week long residential trip to Jamie's farm in Wiltshire. Highlights from the trip included feeding the animals, carpentry workshops, horse whispering, night walks, bonfires, and cooking. Students received positive feedback from Jamie's Farm staff and Queensmill is looking forward to returning next year!



Margaret MacMillan House

In December, a second group of students and staff also went on an overnight residential to Kent. With Queensmill having stayed at Margaret MacMillan House several times in previous years, it was an exciting adventure to take a new group of students, for many of whom it was their first night away from home. The students coped fantastically and enjoyed many activities from rope walking to toasting marshmallows. We were so pleased that everyone joined the evening bonfire in the dark! The outdoor activities encouraged independence and great levels of trust were held between all students and staff for us all to thoroughly enjoy exploring the scenery.





Young Chef Competition



A big thank you to everyone that participated in the Queensmill Young Chef Competition which was held just before Christmas.

The standard of the dishes and presentation was very high and well done to the students that took part.

Our young chefs were: Nasser and Richard from Queensmill School, Lola from Fulham Girls, and Alex from Fulham Boys.

Thank you to the judges - Freddie, Lucio and Joanna for giving their feedback on the dishes. I'm sure Lucio will already be planning how these students can make their dishes look and taste even more delicious for the Borough Young Chef Competition in February.





Panathlon

Queensmill have taken part in both Swim Panathlon and mixed sport Panathlon so far this academic year. All students participated brilliantly with the swim team coming 4th overall in Waltham Feel Good Centre. Students raced, worked as a team and came 1st in the relay!

The most recent Panathlon was held at Swiss Cottage and included sports such as table-top cricket, pollyball and javelin. Everyone came away with lots of medals, a trophy for coming in 2nd place and the team progressed to the championship! A huge well done to all!



Introducing...

Elise Robinson- Queensmill Drama Teacher

As a part of our new creative arts department, Queensmill have been participating in weekly drama sessions led by theatre practitioner Elise Robinson. Her sessions consist of games, songs and sensory worlds inspired by a theatrical text. They aim to encourage creative initiations from the students which are then transformed into a personalised structured performance for each class. These performances combine drama, music and movement into a flexible framework which continually responds to the student's contributions. The sessions are a place for our students to have fun and be playful while developing confidence and pride in what they have created.





Q Therapies

Starting this term, a small group of early years students from Miles Coverdale, a local mainstream Primary School with a resource base for students with speech and language impairment, are joining a group of Queensmill students from the early years department once per week in our school playground to access sessions focused on developing play and social skills. These sessions will be led by Amy-Rose, Speech and Language Therapist and Aymeline Bel, Manager of Early Years.



Louisa, one of our Occupational Therapists has now gone on maternity leave. We wish her all the best for her new arrival and look forward to seeing her back at school next year!



Hi, my name is Amy-Rose McClean! I am the first Speech and Language Therapist to be directly employed through Queensmill School! I am the lead speech and language therapist supporting children and young adults in the Early Years and Key Stage 1 classes (Green, Gold, Yellow, Turquoise and Blue) and at our Post-19 Q6 College provision.

Before my position at Queensmill, I worked in Hackney supporting both children and young people with ASD in mainstream schools. For years I have supported children and young people with ASD, and their families and have experienced, first hand, the difference speech and language therapy makes to people's lives.