

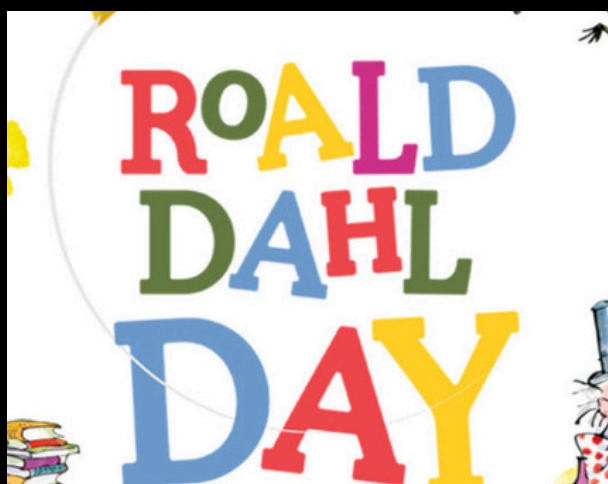
Thursday 19th September 2024



## E-BULLETIN

From Junior Section to Sixth Form, keeping you up to date with everything at QEGS

### Inside this issue...



Road Dahl Day 2024!



An update from Head of House!



QEGS gets creative!



Cricket Tour to Malta!

# Welcome from the Head

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Dear Parents,

On Monday this week I was delighted to be able to present ties to celebrate the boys' achievements. 17 boys now in Year 12 were awarded Savile Scholarships to recognise their tremendous achievement of 8 or more Grade 8s or better at GCSE, and another 17 boys were presented with Academic Awards for having achieved at least one Grade 9 in any of their GCSEs.



I awarded the 'Tie for Excellence in co-curricular activities' to Henry Hunter for representing British Taekwondo nationally and internationally and to Jamie Redgwick for co-leading a group of pupils who completed the Total Warrior race and raised £5,700 for the Oddballs and Coppafeel charities. And I awarded Xander Leighton with his shoulder and cap badges to mark his being awarded a prestigious Army Officer Scholarship which gives him a pathway to Sandhurst and, we hope, a career in the Army - only 100 such scholarships are awarded nationally each year.

It is always a pleasure to celebrate awards like these, as they reflect the boys' pursuits in line with all three of the School's values - Care, Contribute, Aspire. In my start of term assembly with the boys, I shared with them our "School Values: What they mean for us all". This 'behaviour policy on a page' aims to set out the behaviours we expect of the boys, and serve as an aide memoire when standards fall short of expectations. I hope these expectations resonate with the kinds of conversations you have at home, and perhaps this shared language might be helpful for parents too.

Since I wrote to you at the start of term, we have of course shared the news with you that we will be merging with WGHS and WGPPS to form a single 3-18 Co-Educational Diamond model school from September 2026. Whilst there is much detail still to be pinned down, and there will be opportunities for staff, pupils and parents to contribute to the development of the single school, I am excited about the future. I look forward to sharing our emerging thinking with you over the next two years; in the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or suggestions.

Some changes are big. Some changes are small(er), but no less important. Three years ago, when I arrived as Head, I asked the boys what they wanted to change. 'Food' was the first answer, and our catering provision has been transformed since. For older boys, 'the Sixth Form Centre' was the second answer; I was delighted to be able to upgrade that last summer, and the change in the atmosphere it enabled has been welcomed by all. And the other common answer was 'Football'.

If you read the 'History of the Free Grammar School of Queen Elizabeth at Wakefield', written by Matthew Peacock (QEGS' 21st Headmaster) to mark the school's 300th anniversary in 1891, there is reference to the games played at the school, including cockfighting (which ignominiously supplemented the organising teachers' wages) and 'hand football' (not yet commonly referred to as Rugby). He goes on to say that football itself was "once played but had fallen into disrepute". That aside, it is now popularly accepted that our 1st XI's match last week - a barnstorming 4-3 win in the cup against Bootham - was our first competitive football fixture in the Senior School. One parent informed me her son had spoken about nothing else since the start of term. A small change, then, but a big one for those boys. And a great win - let's hope the school's 100% record lasts a little while longer! When the next history of the school is written, the 31st Headmaster will be commenting more favourably about the round-ball-game.

**Dr Richard Brookes - Headmaster**



Queen Elizabeth  
Grammar School

## OUR VALUES WHAT THEY MEAN FOR US ALL



### > CARE

We act with kindness and honesty  
- always

We celebrate and value the fact  
that we are all different.

We make everyone feel welcome,  
through both our actions and our  
words.

We encourage all of those around  
us to do all of the above.

By doing this, we give every  
member of this community,  
young and old, the very best  
chance of enjoying happiness  
and success.

### > CONTRIBUTE

We recognise that our own  
actions can make a difference to  
others, every day.

We understand that small,  
positive actions can have a large,  
cumulative effect.

We understand that any  
community is diverse, and that is  
what makes it strong.

We find ways to help others, both  
in our own community and the  
wider communities that we all  
belong to.

By doing this, we are able to  
have a positive impact on  
everybody around us, and in  
particular those who do not  
have the same opportunities  
as we do.

### > ASPIRE

We try to do our best at all times  
and help others to do the same.

We recognise our own potential  
and the potential of those around  
us.

We understand that genuine  
success is underpinned by  
consistent effort and hard work.

We thrive on challenges and do  
not use the fear of failure to avoid  
them.

By doing this, we give ourselves  
and everybody around us the  
very best chance of achieving  
our potential, gaining enjoyment  
through learning and living  
fulfilling lives.

# Junior Section News

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## Curriculum Evening

The Junior Section Curriculum Evening took place on Wednesday 11th September with a focus on the English, Maths and Sport curriculum. There were some very enjoyable quiz questions (examples below!) and it was helpful for us to receive feedback on the curriculum as well as the way we organise our curriculum resources on Firefly.

Slides from the evening can be found [here](#).

We also have curriculum newsletters for each term to give a snapshot of what is covered in each year group. These can be found [here](#). Parents, if you have any expertise or contacts that will enhance any of our topics, please do get in touch as we would love for you to come in and get involved.

How's your knowledge of figurative language and literary devices?

Question 1:

2. "The tropical storm slept for two days" is an example of what type of figurative language?

A. Metaphor

B. Personification

C. Simile

D. Hyperbole

How's your knowledge of figurative language and literary devices?

Question 2:

3. "I had so much homework. I needed a pickup truck to carry all my books home!" What type of figurative language is used here?

A. Hyperbole

B. Personification

C. Metaphor

D. Simile

## JS QEGS Extra

The extra curricular provision provides a wide range of activities for boys to get involved with on top of the normal timetables lessons. To view the range of extra curricular clubs on offer please look at the following firefly to get a full flavour of what's on offer in the JS and beyond <https://wgsf.fireflycloud.net/qegs-xtra>.

Outside the classroom

In addition to the clubs there have been many events/ activities held to broaden the range of opportunities on offer to boys in the JS. There are many co curricular opportunities which are on offer this term to broaden your child's experiences including;

Outdoor Education (Orienteering Y5/Y6) and Forest School (Y3/Y4)

Inter House General Knowledge

Rugby, Swimming and Chess Fixtures

Volunteering at Yorkshire Children's Charity: Ladies Lunch

Y5 Residential to Play Brenin

Fundraising at Charity Day

Y3 Visit to the Hepwith

Y6 Visit to the Yorkshire Air Museum

Founders Day

Odd Socks day

Y3/Y4 Nativity Performance

Carol Service

Inter House Rugby

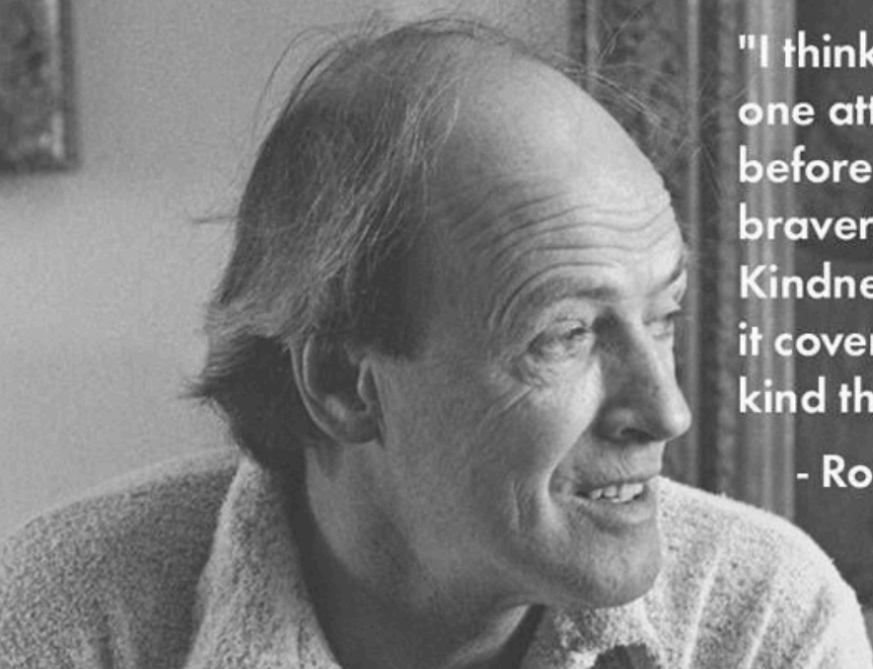
Pantomime visit



Looking at this list it is sometimes a wonder how we fit in any of the lessons!! More information will be provided through letters and dates via the Weekly Update on Thursdays. Please also see SOCS for full details about sports fixtures.

QEGS Xtra 'Give It A Go' starts on 16th September for two weeks giving QEGS boys a chance to try a number of different activities and maybe step out of their comfort zones. As a bonus, for every activity they attend, the boys will receive a House Point. With over 100 clubs to try, there is something for everyone.

[QEGS Xtra page and timetables](#)



"I think probably kindness is my number one attribute in a human being. I'll put it before any of the things like courage or bravery or generosity or anything else... Kindness - that simple word. To be kind - it covers everything, to my mind. If you're kind that's it."

- Roald Dahl

## Roald Dahl Day

It was Roald Dahl day on Friday 13th September and the boys demonstrated their knowledge of this amazing author with a quiz in the QJ Celebration Assembly. Mr Thompson also donned his favourite socks for the day.

We also talked about the thing that is most important to Mr Dahl... kindness... and this quote has featured on the QEGS JS TV screen all this week.



## Miss Hudson's Travels

On Tuesday 17th September, Miss Hudson (who was a Teaching Assistant with us last year) came back to tell us all about her travels to Thailand, Indonesia and Australia. The boys learned a huge amount to feed into their upcoming topics. Thank you Miss Hudson!



## Upcoming Events...

**QJ PTA Macmillan Coffee Afternoon, Tuesday, 24 September, 3:00 – 4:30pm**  
*Please come along to support this very worthy cause. Donations of cakes are need for the day and, wether-permitting, we will be able to enjoy a cuppa in the reading garden (see recent letter in SchoolPost)*

**QJ Year 4 Rugby Whole Year group @ QEGS vs Woodhouse Grove, GSAL and St Peter's, Tuesday, 24 September, 2:00 – 4:00pm**  
*Please come along and support your sons at our first Junior fixture of the year!*

**QJ Year 5 and Year 6 AB Rugby @ Woodhouse Grove vs Woodhouse Grove, GSAL and St Peter's), Friday, 27 September, 2:00 – 4:00pm**  
*Please come along and support your sons in their first fixture of the year!*

**QJ Year 3 to Year 6 Class and Individual Photos (Tempest), Junior Hall, Monday, 23 September · 8:45am – 1:00pm**  
*Please send your son into school looking his best for his class and individual photo.*



# BAG 2 SCHOOL

*QJ Bags2School...remember to have a sort out ahead of our Bags2School collection on 6th and 7th November.*

## QEGS JS Merits - 13.09.2024

Overall merits for the week in Junior Section:

1st	<b>Freeston - 153</b>
2nd	<b>Savile - 150</b>
3rd	<b>Cave - 145</b>
4th	<b>Bentley - 140</b>

Most merit winners for their year group last week:

Year 3	<b>Jude R</b>
Year 4	<b>Joe G</b>
Year 5	<b>Will D</b>
Year 6	<b>Samir N</b>

They have been invited for a hot chocolate with Mr Thompson.

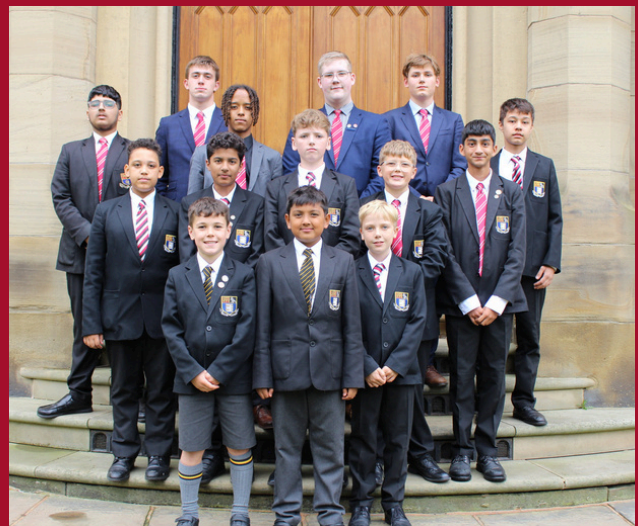
# House Matters



Congratulations to our newly appointed house captains! Your leadership, dedication, and positive attitude have set a great example for your peers, and this achievement is a testament to your hard work and commitment. The captains will have the opportunity to inspire others, lead their houses to success and showcase their leadership skills. Particular congratulations must go to our new Y12 overall house captains. Their years of dedication to their respective houses have certainly made them worthy appointments. Their first roles as house captains was to select and organise their house football teams for the first major event of the year.

QEGS is gearing up for its exciting annual house football tournament, where the four houses; Cave, Bentley, Freeston, and Savile, will battle it out on the pitch for glory. The tournament promises to be a thrilling display of skill, teamwork, and house spirit, as each team competes to win. With pride and bragging rights on the line, students are eagerly preparing to give their all and showcase their football talents. Let the best house win!

***Mr Masterson - Head of House***







# DEPARTMENTAL SPOTLIGHT

## *English*

Pupils in the Junior Section have approached English lessons with real enthusiasm and interest at the start of the Autumn Term. All classes have been practising and consolidating key grammar and punctuation skills; this has helped them to build a strong foundation of knowledge and understanding which they can apply within their written work. Pupils will learn how to use a range of different sentence types, clause structures and figurative language techniques within their work. This will help them to expand their ideas and to produce some really imaginative character and setting descriptions.

Another area of focus has been the development of pupils' reading comprehension skills. Pupils have learnt how to extract information from a piece of text and to construct detailed written answers. We would like all pupils in the Junior Section to read as much as possible - both within school and at home. We have encouraged pupils to engage in discussions about what they have read and to ask questions. Pupils have enjoyed listening to stories, selecting books from the library and sharing their own thoughts and opinions about the books that they have read.

We are really looking forward to reading and celebrating the fantastic work that Junior Section pupils will produce within their English lessons this year!



# DEPARTMENTAL SPOTLIGHT

## *Art*

Art lessons so far this term have produced some impressive work. The Year 3s have produced three increasingly thoughtful patterns using symmetrical printing and rotational collage work. They will soon be moving to studying tartan patterns and the work of Mondrian. The Year 4s have enjoyed accurately drawing cubes and increasingly interesting cuboids with subtle shading for 3D effect. They will soon be moving onto charcoal shading, drawing futuristic buildings and cityscapes and using paper straws and tissue paper to make various 3D shapes before combining them into abstract sculptures. Year 5 have been working on shading skills which they will then develop into still life studies and looking at the work of Arcimboldo. The Year 6s have been drawing detailed, overly muscular human forms which will develop into superhero studies and graphic art. The two art clubs have been working on dynamic figure modelling. Year 7, 8 and 9 students have spent the first few lessons developing their observational drawing and shading skills, in preparation for their first projects of the new academic year. Year 7 will be exploring mark-making and studying how artists like Rembrandt and van Gogh used mark-making in their drawings and paintings. Year 8 will be studying texture and form, and will be creating ceramic tiles on the theme of sea life. Year 9 are developing their repertoire of materials, techniques and processes with a project about birds.

We are currently preparing for the Art and Design and Design and Technology Exhibition. The exhibition is an annual showcase of the work of our Year 11 and Year 13 leavers, and is always a breathtaking event! We are incredibly proud of the fantastic work our students have produced, and hope you will be able to attend our Special Preview Event in the **Elizabeth Theatre on Thursday 10th October, 4:30-6pm**. Everyone is welcome. If you can't make it to the preview, there will also be an opportunity to see the work during Open Morning, on Saturday 12th October.

Although the Art Department is organising our entry to the prestigious national Articulation Prize, we open the invitation for entries to all students in the sixth form. Previous regional and national finalists have secured places at the University of Oxford, The University of Cambridge and Falmouth University (the UK Number 1 course for game Design, according to Princeton review 2023). It's an excellent opportunity to develop research skills and public speaking skills, and looks great on your CV. Look out for the Articulation launch coming later this term.



**ANNUAL ART & DT**  
DISCOVER ART AND DESIGN @ QEGS

EXHIBITION

PREVIEW EVENT  
OCTOBER 2024  
**10**  
16:30-18:00

QEGS ELIZABETH THEATRE  
**FREE ENTRY**  
OPEN MORNING - OCTOBER 12TH

## Art and D&T Exhibition

This year has been incredible for Design & Technology and Art & Design at QEGS, with our talented pupils creating stunning product designs, engineering projects, artwork, and photography.

We're thrilled to invite you to our Design & Technology, Art, and Photography Exhibition 2024!

**Preview Event: Thursday, October 10th, 4:30-6pm, Elizabeth Theatre**

**Open Morning: Saturday, October 12th, from 9am**

Come meet our amazing staff and see the incredible work produced by our Y11 and Y13 students! We can't wait to share their creativity with you. See you there!

## Cricket Tour to Malta



The end of the academic year marked the beginning of our highly anticipated Senior Cricket Tour to Malta 2024. On a sunny Friday afternoon, 21 boys and three staff members gathered at the Senior Gamesfield, all brimming with excitement for the journey ahead. The tour did start with a bit of early drama, though, as one pupil (who shall remain nameless) had to rush home to change after being the only one not to arrive in the pre-agreed tour attire. Thankfully, it was smooth sailing from there, and we arrived at our hotel in Malta later that evening, right on schedule.

The first morning began with a visit to Splash and Fun Waterpark, where the boys enjoyed pools, slides, and the lazy river, even managing to convince Mr. Lawson to brave the daunting Sidewinder. The main event of the day, however, was in the evening, with England playing Switzerland in the Euro Quarter-Final. Sitting through penalties with 21 boys did nothing for my stress levels!

Day two brought our first set of fixtures, with both of our teams facing local select XI's at the stunning Marsa Sports Club. Our 1st XI secured an impressive victory, while our 2nd XI put up a strong fight but narrowly missed out on a win. Both teams delivered solid performances despite the tough, warm conditions. In the evening, the boys enjoyed some free time and sampled local cuisine—or so we thought until we found out half of them opted for McDonald's instead!

The following day included a trip to Valletta, where the boys learned about Malta's rich history. They explored the beautiful city, enjoyed splendid waterfront views, and witnessed the Saluting Battery Ceremony. The afternoon saw us return to Marsa Sports Club for the 2nd XI's second fixture.

Despite another strong performance, they couldn't quite clinch the victory, but the team showed plenty of promise, especially given the limited cricket experience this season due to GCSE exams.

Our final day began with a visit to Comino Blue Lagoon. After a short boat trip, we were surrounded by the lagoon's stunning scenery, where the boys enjoyed the crystal-clear waters. Unfortunately for Mr. Anderson, he had a less pleasant experience after being stung by a jellyfish. The day concluded with the tour's final match—a thrilling game where our 1st XI claimed another victory in a nail-biting finish against a team that included players from the U19 Bangladesh Squad! It was a fantastic way to cap off the tour, and our young side will surely carry this momentum into next season.

The final evening featured the presentation of tour awards and a closing speech from our tour captain, Josh Wood. With a 3 a.m. departure the next morning, the boys faced a tough choice: sleep or stay awake? Some opted for sleep but needed to be woken up as the coach arrived outside the hotel!

We soon returned to Wakefield, bringing home plenty of great memories. We would like to commend the boys on their exemplary behaviour, which made the tour such a success. Despite coming from three different year groups, you all integrated brilliantly, and your conduct throughout the trip was commendable (though there's still room for improvement in timekeeping). We hope you enjoyed your time away and that this experience will benefit you in future cricket seasons.

A big thank you goes to the parents and families for your support, with a special mention to Mr. Gillespie, who selflessly volunteered his time to umpire some of our matches in Malta—your help was greatly appreciated.

Finally, a heartfelt thank you to Mr. Lawson and Mr. Anderson for your hard work both before and during the tour. It was a fantastic trip enjoyed by all.



## Buddy Breakfast

At QEGS, we believe that education goes far beyond academic lessons. We place great value on the relationships built throughout the school, particularly through the mentoring and support that older pupils offer to younger ones. A wonderful example of this is our "Buddy Breakfast," where Year 7 and Year 8 students come together to strengthen these important connections.



This week, Year 7s and 8s participated in our much-loved Buddy Breakfast. It provided a great opportunity for Year 8 students to share advice, offer support, and guide the new Year 7s as they settle into school life. The informal breakfast setting, complete with delicious breakfast sandwiches, made it an enjoyable experience for all involved. To celebrate their leadership and mentoring role, our Year 8s were later treated to their annual visit to Capri Restaurant. Indulging in fine Italian cuisine, the students enjoyed a well-deserved meal, marking the end of a week of peer support and team-building. These moments of mentorship and connection play a key role in the development of our students, helping them grow not just academically but personally.

At QEGS, we're proud of the strong bonds that form across year groups, and events like the Buddy Breakfast and Capri meal are perfect examples of how we nurture these relationships. By encouraging older students to mentor their younger peers, we help create a supportive school community that fosters our values; care. contribute and aspire.





## Year 8 @ Capri

On the 12th September, the whole of Year 8 descended upon Capri @The Vine for their induction lunch. Hopefully the sight of 81 boys didn't ruin any other customers' Thursday lunch date but, as is to be expected, the boys did themselves proud. An array of pasta dishes were served with impressive speed by the Capri staff and good fun was clearly had by all. New friendships were forged, stories were shared and quality food was eaten - relationships cemented in soft drinks and garlic bread are often the hardest to break!



### Mr Archer - Head of Year 8



## Spotlight on Old Savlian



It was wonderful to welcome Christopher Cutt (OS 1991) back to QEGS on Friday 13 September as the Guest Speaker at our annual Prize Giving Ceremony.

Chris left QEGS in 1992 after completing A-levels in Maths, Physics and Chemistry, going on to read Natural Sciences at St Catharine's College, Cambridge, graduating with a MA in Chemistry.

His 25-year career in Global Markets trading took him from London to Hong Kong with firms such as Mizuho, RBS, and Nomura.

Recently, he transitioned into the fine wine industry and now supports startups in securing funding.



Chris gave an inspiring speech, talking about his time at QEGS and how the values and lessons he learned during his time here continue to inspire him to this day. He left the boys with a number of important lessons to carry them forward as they leave QEGS and start their next chapter. It is so valuable when Old Savs like Chris return to school to speak to current students about their experiences after they leave QEGS - thank you Chris!

## QEGS PTA

### *Junior*

#### **SumUp Store - Pre-loved Uniform, Merchandise and Event Tickets**

The QEGS Junior store is for purchases of: pre-loved uniform, merchandise and event tickets, etc. For pre-loved uniform, this will allow you to search stock and purchase at your convenience rather than waiting for an event sale.

Do you have any new-style uniform that your son has out-grown that you could donate to the PTA? We would love to receive donations, particularly games and PE items. Please launder, pack and bring to the School Office. Please can you ensure that all buttons, zips and fasteners are present and working before donating. You can do this at any time, now or in the future as and when your son out-grows uniform, PE kit and luggage. The senior section also has a uniform shop you can visit.

If stock is showing as zero, we really need items donating to be able to provide this to other parents. Stock will be updated frequently as donations come in and the site it updated.

Happy shopping!

**<https://qegs-junior-pta.sumupstore.com/>**

Please also find the PTA email address which can be used to ask questions directly to a PTA member, put forward fund raising ideas or volunteer for an event we are running. We are always happy to hear ideas and to welcome new members.

**ptaqegsjunior@gmail.com**

### *Senior*

The uniform shop run by QEGS Senior School PTA is now up and running and open for business.

The link to this is below

**<https://pta-qegs-senior-school.sumupstore.com/>**

If you order something from this store, the item will be with the school office for your child to collect by the end of that week (excluding school holidays).

PLEASE ALSO BEAR US IN MIND IF YOUR CHILD HAS OUTGROWN UNIFORM OR SPORTS WEAR. Any donated items can be dropped by your child at the School Office. We would ask that you launder these and remove any identifying labels if possible before donation.

## Key Dates

Key dates will be shared every week on a Thursday in School post. They can also be found in the [Foundation Calendar](#).