



Dashwood Banbury Academy

an Aspirations Academy

Growing together; succeeding together

Friday 1st May 2020

Telephone: 01295 263240 Email: office@dashwood-aspirations.org Website: www.dashwood-aspirations.org

A note from the Principal

Another month has ticked by and we are all starting to get a little more used to this new way of working as hard as it is. The staff are working tirelessly to ensure that you have a variety of work and fun activities you can access at home to keep your child(ren) occupied and hopefully ensure that they continue some learning. For us as a school, the most important thing is that we know that you are all safe and well. With this in mind, I have asked teachers to ensure that they hear from every family at least once a week. Ideally this is through Tapestry/Seesaw, but you could email your key stage leader, the office or even leave a voicemail on the school phone by pressing option number 2. It would be nice to see what your child has been doing whilst off school however we are requesting that at a minimum you log on or contact us once a week just to say you are ok. Please know that there is no pressure from us as a school to see lots of learning, we are mostly focused on wellbeing. We appreciate your support with this matter.

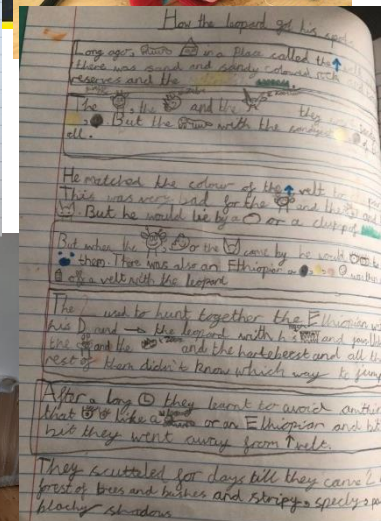
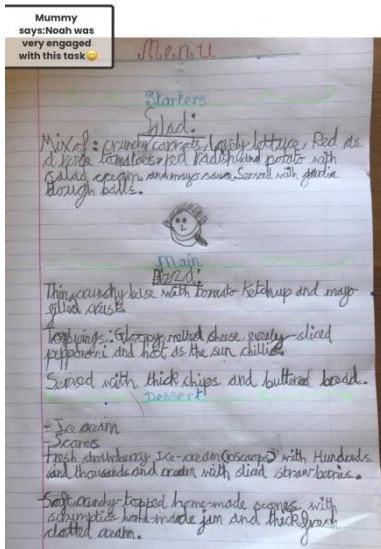
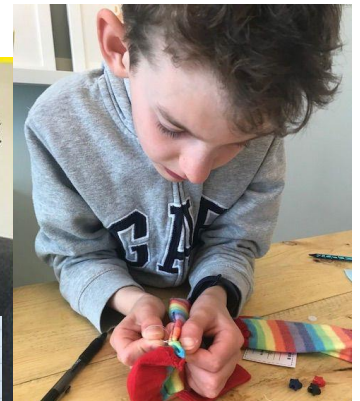
We would love to be able to give you an opening date but as of yet we do not know when this will be. Please feel rest assured that we are working behind the scenes to plan for all eventualities and will keep you posted with details when we hear about them. There is a letter on our website from the head of our Academy to clarify this. This can be found at: [http://www.dashwood-aspirations.org/uploads/asset_file/Letter_to_parents_29_April_2020_\(1\).pdf](http://www.dashwood-aspirations.org/uploads/asset_file/Letter_to_parents_29_April_2020_(1).pdf)

I do hope you are all safe and well and are managing ok. Please remember that school is open 1.30-2pm daily should you need to collect any paper copies of plans or pick up anything else. Thank you to all the key worker parents we have and the staff for doing their bit to keep the country going and to everyone else for staying inside to help reduce the spread of this virus. We are Dashwood and we are 'Gorwing together; succeeding together!'

Mrs Amy Rogers

Working at home

We have once again been so impressed with the creativity you are all showing whilst the school is closed! Many of you have been completing the work we set which is amazing but the most important thing we ask is that you keep yourself and your child(ren) safe and well! Here are a few pictures we wanted to share with you of pupils doing amazing things at home!



The latest plans for your child's year group are online from today and can be found at: <http://www.dashwood-aspirations.org/1159/whole-school-letters> If you do not have internet access, please remember you can collect planning from the school office between 1.30 and 2pm. The next two weekly plans will be ready for Monday 18th May 2020.

Health and Safeguarding

Please remember that looking after your physical and mental wellbeing is so important. Here are some up to date ideas you may find useful:

For your physical wellbeing:

- Remember to socially distance, stay indoors, avoid touching your face and always wash your hands regularly for at least 20 seconds.
- Try to exercise for at least 30 minutes a day either in your house or outside at a safe distance away from others. We love things like Joe Wickes in a morning or there are great ideas on this article by the BBC: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-51933762>
- You can keep up to date with the latest guidance on: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers> and <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

For your mental wellbeing:

- Remember that the more you are stressed, the harder you will find it to support your child. Life is hard for everyone at the moment so acknowledging this is the first step. Talk to your child about how they feel each day, tell them it is ok to feel worried/sad/afraid/bored! Discuss the things you can do day to day and plan some nice things like daily exercise, story time or watching your favourite films.
- You can find out ideas and tips on: <https://www.mind.org.uk/information-support/coronavirus/coronavirus-and-your-wellbeing/>
- If you are worried about your child's mental wellbeing, ideas/advice can be found at: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/childrens-mental-health/depression-anxiety-mental-health/>

Online safety:

- Please ensure that your child is staying safe online and only using appropriate sites for their age. With an increased amount of technology being used, try not to worry too much about screen time at the moment and focus on ensuring you are carefully monitoring what they are doing and saying.
- Ensure your child is not using any social media including TikTok, Facebook or Snapchat to keep them safe.
- Remember you can find out more information on: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-keeping-children-safe-online/coronavirus-covid-19-support-for-parents-and-carers-to-keep-children-safe-online>

Free School Meals

If you are set up to receive Free School Meals, the next voucher is due to come to you on or around Monday 11th May. This will be for a two week period. We are aware that the site is very slow but they are working on speeding this up. We have seen an increase in times to order the vouchers which is positive.

VE Day

On Friday 8th May it is officially meant to be a bank holiday for VE Day. Pupils who are attending our school will complete activities and it would be great to see what you are doing to celebrate this momentous occasion via your Tapestry/Seesaw accounts.

You can find some great ideas of activities to do with your children and help teach them about VE day on: <https://www.goodtoknow.co.uk/family/ve-day-celebrations-in-lockdown-540015>

Communication

Please remember that you can always get hold of someone at school by using the following methods:

- Email the office on office@dashwood-aspirations.org
- Call the school and leave a message on the answering machine by pressing option 2 – please note that this is only picked up once a day as the office is closed.

- The **preferred contact** method is via **Tapestry or Seesaw** or **emailing** your key stage leads directly on:

Nursery or Reception pupils	skane@dashwood-aspirations.org	Year 1 or 2 pupils	sgordon-weeks@dashwood-aspirations.org
Years 3 and 4	aroche@dashwood-aspirations.org	Years 5 and 6	cbunn@dashwood-aspirations.org until 18 th May then agooch@dashwood-aspirations.org
For welfare concerns or extra help you needed	knesbitt@dashwood-aspirations.org	Special Educational Needs	echew@dashwood-aspirations.org

Staffing news

We would like to say good luck and congratulations to Mrs Bunn who will be going on maternity leave from May 18th 2020. We looking forwarding to hearing about her new little baby when it is are born. Miss Smith was appointed before the lockdown took force to take over Mrs Bunn's class and has been in contact with Mrs Bunn for a handover already. Miss Smith will take over supporting Chestnut class pupils from this date via Seesaw or phone calls. Miss Gooch will be the Year 5 and 6 lead for the interim period.

Term Dates for 2020/2021 as they are meant to be!

Term 5

Monday 20 April – Friday 22 May 2020

NB Nursery pupils will start later and be given their dates directly

Friday 8 May 2020: May Day Bank Holiday (School closed)

Term 6

Monday 1 June – Friday 17 July 2020

INSET DAY: Friday 26 June (no children in school)

INSET DAY: Monday 20 July (no children in school)

NB: *there will be no After School Club on Friday 17th July and school will finish at 1.45pm this day.*

Dates for 2020/2021

Term 1

Wednesday 2 September – Friday 23 October 2020

INSET DAY: Tuesday 1 September (no children in school)

NB EYFS pupils will start later due to home visits - date to be confirmed

Term 2

Monday 2 November – Friday 18 December 2020

INSET DAY: November - Date to be confirmed (no children in school)

NB: *there will be no After School Club on Friday 18th December*

Term 3

Monday 4 January – Friday 12 February 2021

NB Nursery pupils will start later and be given their dates directly

Term 4

Tuesday 23 February – Thursday 1 April 2021

INSET DAY: Monday 22 February (no children in school)

NB: *there will be no After School Club on Thursday 1 April*

Term 5

Monday 19 April – Friday 28 May 2021

NB Nursery pupils will start later and be given their dates directly

Monday 3 May 2021: May Day Bank Holiday (School closed)

Term 6

Tuesday 8 June – Wednesday 21 July 2021

INSET DAY: Monday 7 June (no children in school)

INSET DAY: Late June – date to be confirmed (no children in school)

NB: there will be no After School Club on Wednesday 21 July and school will finish at 1.45pm this day.

Transition days will take place on Monday 19-Wednesday 21 July so please ensure your child attends school each day that week to help them settle into their new year groups.