



# Dashwood Banbury Academy

an Aspirations Academy

Growing together; succeeding together

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2020

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## **The Year of The Curriculum – our final week!**

### **A note from the Principal**

The end of the year is here and it feels so strange to be finishing with only half the children in school. Despite the challenges we have all faced, we have made it through the year having provided hundreds of lessons electronically and face to face for almost 180 pupils. Everyone both in school and at home has worked tirelessly to ensure the pupils get the best possible education and support that we can all physically offer right now. I would like to say a huge thank you to the parents, the pupils, the staff and our wider community (including the Governors and the PTFA) for your support and dedication.

Although our year was disrupted, we have still built on our curriculum to provide greater opportunities for developing wellbeing and being creative in learning. Our motto this year was: 'Nothing is impossible, in fact the word itself says I'm Possible!' and we have definitely had to live by this over the last few months. I would like to remind you all that you are capable of anything you put your mind to and would love you to share our school song with your family as you really do have the power in you!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rT2cB7w2aLY>

A letter will come out to you later this week with our proposed plans for September but we are planning on seeing every pupil back in school daily with slight teaks including staggered start/end, breaks, lunches and sticking with larger 'bubbles'. I hope that you all have a very well deserved break over the holidays and I am really looking forward to September when we start our new year and see a return of all our wonderful pupils.

*Mrs Amy Rogers*

### **End of Year transitions and celebrations**

We have been so pleased to see so many pupils return to school for their transition sessions; they have enjoyed running around the field on the animal hunt and enjoyed an ice pop chatting to their friends. It has been a lovely opportunity for them to spend a little time with their new teachers and then leave for the summer



holidays feeling confident about returning to school in September. We were delighted with how well the sessions went. Thank you so much to everyone for ensuring we could run these in a fun and safe way by coming in your correct time slots! Britt in Year 1 said "I was very excited to see my new teachers Mrs Santon and Mr Bennet – they were really kind" and Xavier said "I loved running to try to find the animals on the field."



We are really looking forward to our Reception and Year 6 graduations that are running this week. In typical Dashwood style, as we are unable to run these sessions in our usual format, we will not be defeated and are running these special events virtually so we can celebrate Reception's transition to Key Stage 1 and Years 6's transition to secondary school.

It has been great that so many of our year 6 pupils have been in school this term and that we have been able to support them with their transition to secondary school with virtual 'meet the school' sessions organised; we are very proud of them all and going to miss them all very much. We wish them all the very best of luck in their new exciting adventures and we look forward to



hearing how you are all getting on. Remember year 6: *you can do anything you set your minds to; apply yourselves and always try your best and you will go far!*

We are also sad to say goodbye to three members of the Dashwood staff team. Mr Neal, Dr Aston and Miss Smith are all leaving us to start some exciting new adventures in other schools both near and far – we know the children in their classes will be very lucky to have them as their teachers and we thank them for all of their hard work and dedication. Best wishes and best of luck to you all!

### **Plans for re-opening in September**

We are delighted that we are planning to welcome **all** pupils back to school in September to a full and exciting curriculum. The pupils will need to return to school in their **full school uniform** with **P.E kits** in a small bag. We are planning to offer school dinners as normal and we are hoping to be able to offer breakfast club and our ACER after school club at some point during term 1 but this will be decided in September once we return. A re-opening letter will be sent this week containing more detailed plans about staggered start times, attendance, school lunches and wrap around care.

### **'What's new and different meetings'**

To help you get to know what is expected in your child's new class, please ensure you watch the **'What's new and different' meeting** which will include information about national assessments, the curriculum and expectations for the year and trips pupils will go on. These will not be able to run in the hall as normal, however we will be running these virtually so a link will be sent to you in the new term.

### **Summer Learning**

On Friday, homework projects for the summer holidays and a class newsletter will be posted online and a text link will be sent to you. We look forward to seeing pupils amazing projects which are due into school by **Friday 18th September**. We have added some extra ideas to these this year as we wanted to ensure you had additional activities to complete as the summer if you wished to however the summer is a time to rest and relax too. Please do not feel pressured to complete all of these project activities but we do expect all children to bring something in to celebrate on the 18<sup>th</sup> September as usual.

For each class, we will attached some **core objectives** that we would like you to look at with your child over the summer for the year group they are moving into in September. We want pupils to return to school with confidence in some core skills and there will be some web links, games and activities for them to have a go at. If you do want to complete extra activities in the summer to keep your timetable going, you could also look at: <https://whiterosemaths.com/resources/primary-resources/parent-workbooks/> or <https://www.talk4writing.com/home-school-units/> As it is the summer holidays, work does not need to be posted on Seesaw or Tapestry (staff will not be checking these until September when we hope to use them more for weekly homework).



*(For those of you attending transition events or in school, pupils may also bring home an Inspire Maths workbook which we used to use sometimes in school. As we have moved to using WhiteRose Hub, these books are there for you to use as practice books if you would like to but there is no expectation for you to complete them or send them back.)*

### **Summer Safety**

With the summer holidays fast approaching, we would like to remind everyone to keep a close eye on their children in order to keep them safe and away from harmful situations, including following current Covid19 guidelines. The weather has been a little overcast recently but we hope the weather will be warm and sunny over the holidays so it is important to ensure children are well hydrated and always wearing sun cream. We would also like to remind you about ensuring that your child/ren are using their devices safely and playing on age appropriate games.

Unfortunately there has been an increased number of incidents on the railway lines in our area and it would be really useful to share this video with your child about rail safety:

<https://communityrail.org.uk/new-film-launched-to-help-children-stay-safe-on-the-railways/>



If you are planning on sending your child to a childcare provision over the summer holidays, please see the latest guidelines for parents/carers on how these are able to run:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-parents-and-carers-of-children-attending-out-of-school-settings-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/guidance-for-parents-and-carers-of-children-attending-out-of-school-settings-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>

### Getting ready for September

We all appreciate that the recent disruption to school life has been really difficult and there will be a mixture of excitement and worries about returning in September. We are planning to support the children with their mental wellbeing, as we always do in school, but there are a number of things you can do over the summer to help prepare your child for their return to school:

- Talk to them about what they are looking forward to and any worries they have- this link provides a nice story to help your child talk about their worries  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8QwEOSBjOt8>
- Talk to them about the topics they will be doing in term 1, using the activities from the homework projects so they are excited about what they will be learning about.
- Make sure they are taking part in some **physical activity** everyday e.g. playing in the park; going for a bike ride or going for a jog.
- Continue with or start a calm **bedtime routine** so the children get enough sleep and are ready to get up at the right time in the morning to get ready for school e.g. have a relaxing bath/shower, cleaning teeth, share a story/sing some songs and then sleep time with no devices on the bedroom.
- As the summer comes to an end, start to talk about going back to school and what the **morning routine** will look like. Involve the children in preparing for their school day e.g. getting clothes out ready the night before- you could even write a little list to help you, and them, be prepared to limit stressful mornings.

### Finalising the year – The Year of the Curriculum!

We are really proud of everything we have achieved this year. Here are just a few reasons why:



## **Important Dates and reminders**

**Uniform:** Please ensure that your child/ren return to school in full school uniform including P.E kit

**Term ends on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July at 1.45pm** – As we have done this term, we will be staggering the collecting times to ensure we do not have too many people on site at once. If you normally collect your child(ren) at 2.15-2.30, you should come between 1.15 and 1.30pm. If you normally collect at 2.45-3 or 3.15-3.30pm then please come between 1.30-1.45pm. Thank you

**Dates for 2020/2021** (please note a change in INSET days for now to allow for potential reopening of the school fully in September)

### **Term 1**

Wednesday 2 September – Friday 23 October 2020

**INSET DAY: Tuesday 1 September**

**INSET DAY: Wednesday 2 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 18<sup>th</sup> 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)

**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.*