



Dashwood Banbury Academy

an Aspirations Academy

Growing together; succeeding together

Friday 26th June 2020

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A note from the Principal

Well I cannot believe that this year is almost complete. What a year it has been! It has been challenging for everyone involved but we have all shown resilience, positivity and resolve. As a school, I continue to be so proud of all the staff for their excellent level of communication and learning they have been trying to provide; of the parents/carers for your supportive attitude and ability to adapt to becoming teachers and of the pupils especially for their hard work in difficult circumstances.

I will be writing a final newsletter of the year in the last week of term but before then you will receive a letter about transition events, a letter to state which class your child is moving into, a school report in a new format and letters linked to the new Government guidelines as they are released. In the meantime, the Government announced this week that they are hoping to bring all pupils back to school in September and are planning to release guidance in the next few weeks. As soon as the guidance comes out, my senior leaders and I will work hard at getting information out to you as soon as possible. I'd like to reiterate my thanks to you all for your patience and support.

We Are Dashwood and we have been 'Growing Together; Succeeding Together!'

Mrs Amy Rogers

Year groups that can attend school

It has been lovely to see even more faces of those pupils who are able to attend school over the last few weeks. We now have over 160 pupils in everyday and the school is feeling more like it's usual self (with the new norms of cleaning, 'bubbles' etc. of course! 😊) If your child is in Plum class

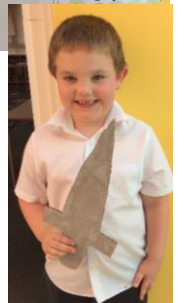


Nursery, Reception, Year 1 or Year 6 and they are **not**

attending school but are able to, we are **highly recommending** that you consider **sending them in now** for the last few weeks. The Prime Minister announced this week that *"those children who can already go to school, should do so because it's safe."* Attending school will help them to socialise, begin to catch up on vital learning lost but more importantly, give them an opportunity to support their mental wellbeing and help them to feel positive and more prepared for September. The children in school already are really enjoying themselves. They have a new love for learning and social interaction and the nerves and worries



of going back calm over their first few days and decrease quickly. The pupils have got into a new routine which supports their physical and mental health. For the pupils in these year groups that are not attending, we will continue to call you weekly to see if there is anything else we can do to support their return or just to check you are ok unless we have heard from you on Tapestry/Seesaw or by phone.



Attendance for those due in school

If your child is attending school now but is off for a day or so, please ensure you **contact the school** office as we used to do to let us know by 8.30am. This is vital for safeguarding reasons. Thank you for supporting us with this.

Year groups that cannot attend school

For those in Cherry class and Years 2-5 we are so sorry that they are still not able to attend as we are using all available space in the school but we are really hopeful for a September start. In the meantime, we are continuing to provide home learning and we ask that you **contact us at least once a week** via Seesaw/Tapestry or emailing/calling the office. This again is vital for safeguarding reasons. If we do not hear from you we will try and call but this could mean spending two days calling parents so please ensure you do contact us to let us know you are safe. Thank you for supporting this. We are still really enjoying seeing all



the wonderful things you are doing at home so keep this up!

Below are details around **transition events** in school we are offering these children as we miss their faces too much!

(Please note that as per our text sent out on Friday, our **Key Worker/Vulnerable classes** for year groups outside of those which can attend school are now **full**. Unlike other schools in the area, we have been able to continue to offer parents the choices they need for these groups but we have a limited capacity of two rooms and cannot go over 15 in each bubble so regrettably this has led to these classes now reaching capacity. Thank you for your support as always.)



Transition details

Ok so we have been working flat out over the last three weeks and checking all guidelines and policies to be able to offer a transition event and I am very pleased to say that we have been able to put something together! You will soon receive a letter detailing an event which will take place on our field and playground allowing pupils in all year groups to say goodbye to their current teachers and meet their new teachers! This can be managed in 'bubbles' of 15 still with social distancing in place. For those year groups already in school, this will take place on a day which they are already in school (again we highly recommend those not in school attend and for them their events will take place over the week beginning the 6th July). For those in Years 2-5, you will have a specific day which they can come in. The letter will ask you to complete a survey to tell us your child is attending so we can arrange access details directly with you. For those who are living with someone who is shielding, we will be able to guarantee social distancing at this events so they are welcome to join us. For pupils in Year 6, we have put together a specific end of Dashwood experience which includes a virtual graduation assembly which parents can join and we are also going to offer this to Reception pupils/parents too! Look out for these exciting opportunities in more letters soon!

Working at home - PiXL

For those of you still working hard at home schooling and also for those who are in school but wanting to complete additional learning, do not forget that those in Years 1-6, you all have login details for the **PiXL Apps** relating to vocabulary and times tables. We highly recommend trying to access these once a day and pupils practice the parts they know the least about. If all Year 4 and 5 pupils can come back to school knowing all their times tables, this will ensure they are fully ready to go in September so if nothing else, please ensure your child knows these and that they read daily. Thank you.



Free School Meals

We have started to receive further details on the Free School Meal vouchers available over the summer. We believe that those eligible will receive a one off voucher of £90 per child to help you feed them over the holidays. As more guidance is sent out, we will follow this and set them up before the end of the school term. Please note that this is different to Universal Free School meals so only those who are eligible. (Free School Meals are for Reception – Year 6 and those who meet the guidelines set out at: <https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>) If you think you are eligible and haven't been told, please email the office.

Health and Safeguarding

How are we keeping children safe in school? We are following all the government guidelines and sticking to 'bubbles,' cleaning more regularly, adapting timetables and resources and also ensuring everyone washes their hands regularly. For those who are considering sending children back to school if they are in the year groups that can, you may want to share this poster to help them prepare themselves. (Sited via <https://www.reachoutasc.com/>)

We are increasingly aware of children having more and more access to the internet unsupervised. Whilst we recognise that this is a difficult time for all (especially those whose children are not in school) it is really important that children are monitored on their use for games and sites, especially YouTube. Many younger pupils are seeing videos which are inappropriate and scary so please watch out for this. Help them by using YouTube Kids instead.

Our recent INSET day led to amazing ideas we are able to use to help support the pupils wellbeing and emotional regulation when they are in or return to school. Thank you for supporting us with this. Most of our training was around building relationships and understanding how tricky children can find dealing with trauma or huge changes in their lives from a school perspective. We also picked up something useful for you at home and suggest when things are tricky with your child's emotions and behaviour, using a model called PACE by Dan Hughes. This stands for:

Play	Using play as a way of interacting and providing a safe environment for them to be themselves.
Acceptance	Accepting and acknowledging the feelings of your child and ensuring that you are not going to blame them for these as it is ok to feel them (this links to our Zones of Regulation training and behaviour policy)
Curiosity	Actively show you are interested in your child and how they might be feeling. Using words like 'will you help me understand why...' as opposed to shouting or telling your child what they are feeling.
Empathy	Actively show your child you understand why they are feeling or behaviour how they are and communicating calmly.

Remember you could use our script from our behaviour policy to help manage conversations:

1. Ask: How are you feeling?
2. Acknowledge: I can see you are in the ... zone because you feel ...
3. Ask: What happened? or Why do you feel...?
4. Ask: How can you resolve this?

Remember to use the terminology related to our four Zones of Regulation

(<https://www.zonesofregulation.com/learn-more-about-the-zones.html>)



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

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.**

What is a School 'Bubble'?

Reachout AS

When we go back to school my teacher said I will be in a Bubble.



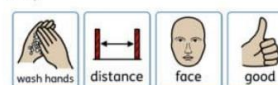
This is strange - but it doesn't mean a real bubble. At school we are going to stay in the same small group of people all through the school day.



We are going to stay together to work, play and eat our snacks and lunch. We will use the same toilets and sink as the people in our group.



They have called it a 'Bubble' because we are being protected by not doing things with other groups. (Like being inside a Bubble - even though we are not in a real bubble!)



It is good to remember that washing our hands, staying apart from other 'bubbles' of children and not touching our face are good ways to keep us all safe.

Well done me! I am brilliant.



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 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)

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.