



# Dashwood Banbury Academy

an Aspirations Academy

Growing together; succeeding together

Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2020

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## The Year of The Curriculum

### A note from the Principal

I hope you have all had an amazing holiday and are staying safe and well. It has been so lovely to see everyone back for the new year and welcome some new people to our Dashwood family! Our focus for the year is to continue to develop our curriculum to match the needs of 21<sup>st</sup> century life and catch up on the time lost due to lockdown. Every year group has a 'No Limits' curriculum which builds independence skills alongside the knowledge needed and focuses on using driving questions to steer learning and projects with clear outcomes to show what they have learned.

Dashwood is a special place to work as the pupils, staff and parents/carers work so hard to ensure that everything is the best it could possibly be. Communication is a vital way to ensure this stays in place so please make sure you read through your parent handbook in detail (found at: <https://dashwood.academies.aspirationsacademies.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/8/2020/09/Parents-Handbook-online-copy.pdf>) and also read all class and whole school newsletters so you are aware of what your child is being taught and the events that are taking place. Facebook and Twitter will continue to be a platform for celebration and news. If you have any questions/queries/concerns or even celebrations you would like to share with us at school, please know that my door is always open. I am excited to see what new adventures this year holds and look forward to working with you, the staff and every pupil in the school (hopefully without the disruption we had like last year!)

*Mrs Amy Rogers*

### A Great Start!

We have been so impressed with the way the pupils in Years 1-6 and some from Cherry and Plum class Nursery, have returned to school with confidence and excitement. During lesson times, we have already seen excellent, challenging maths work, building friendships and relationships and also some wonderful reading and writing opportunities. This is beginning to feel a lot more like normal school life (with a few adaptations of course!)



It was brilliant to see so many pupils come into school wearing their full uniform including school shoes, blazers and ties! This really helps support their sense of belonging and teaches them about responsibilities. Well done everyone for starting the year in a positive, calm and smart way! We are looking forward to welcoming the rest of the EYFS pupils from today.

### ParentPay

ParentPay is used to pay for after school club, breakfast club and all trips as well as school dinners. After school club and breakfast club must be booked in advance but payment will be taken later. Schools dinners must be paid for in advance if you pay for them. Remember, even if your child has free school dinners, you still need to choose their options in advance. We highly recommend you sign up for a term at a time so you do not forget.



### Health and Safeguarding

With the new year well under way now we would like to remind you that we will use this section in our regular newsletters to keep you up to date. Additional information will be given out relating to the Covid-19 pandemic via text. It is vital that all parents/carers support us by keeping their children at home if they or

anyone in the family has ANY symptoms of Covid-19 (no matter how minor they seem or if you think they may have a cold). You can find our recent guidance and letters at the following links:

- <https://dashwood.academies.aspirationsacademies.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/8/2020/08/August-Letter-to-parents.pdf>
- <https://dashwood.academies.aspirationsacademies.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/8/2020/09/letter-to-parents-about-symptoms-and-what-to-do.pdf>

We know there has been so many changes recently and there is lots to remember so here is a synopsis of the main things so far!

- All **holidays** should be taken out of school time. This letter explains that if a holiday is taken, you may be eligible for a fine: <https://dashwood.academies.aspirationsacademies.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/8/2020/09/DBA-Holiday-warning-letter.pdf> Please be mindful of the term dates before booking anytime away.
- Please do not park on double yellow lines, the pavement or in residential private parking areas when dropping off/collecting children. This will help to keep us all safe.
- No **pets** are allowed on site.
- We are a **nut free** site.
- We strongly encourage you to **walk, scooter or cycle** to school but kindly ask that you and your child(ren) **dismount** from bikes or scooters as soon as they **enter the site** and wait till they leave to start again. This includes the paths on the school site as it will stop anyone from being injured.
- As your child gets older, they will no doubt start to have their own personal **devices** including phones, tablets and consoles. As parents/carers, it is your responsibility to ensure that you have all **parental controls** set up and you are aware what your child is doing on the devices. Remember, no primary aged child should have any social media accounts including Tik Tok, Facebook, Snapchat, Instagram and Twitter.
- Please stick to your **time slots** for drop off and collection and only bring **one adult** per family.
- Please **do not hang around** the school site or near the school to chat to others as we need to keep the school moving and that you are **socially distancing** from those not in your household – this means you do not walk into or around school with other parents please.
- Please ensure that you keep up with the **latest guidelines** which include the new initiative of **'Hands, Face, Space'** and **not meeting more than 6 people**. We work so hard in school to ensure pupils and staff do not mix and that they have excellent hygiene and it is vital that you stick to these at home too. This includes using the **park** after school (children should not mix their bubbles please). Find out more at: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/social-distancing/what-you-need-to-do/>



Thank you in advance for helping us all to stay safe and supporting us as a school.

### Catching up and not missing out

If your child is at home due to self-isolating, we will send you a link to the **National Oak Academy** so they can still complete work if they are well enough. Your child can then complete the lessons scheduled for that day and the staff at school will know what they have been learning. Here is the link to the website should you need it: <https://classroom.thenational.academy/schedule-by-year> When they return to school, staff will work with them as best they can to help them catch up from any learning missed.



Whilst we cannot run clubs right now due to mixing of bubbles, we are working hard to start to develop interventions which will help the pupils to catch up and we have adapted what we are teaching now to focus on key skills and knowledge needed.

We are working really hard on developing robust plans should any local lockdown take place so we will be ready for anything that is thrown at us!

## Leaders and communication

Communication is a vital part of ensuring that we all work together to support the pupils. If you are worried about your child or would like to inform us of any changes/events that may affect your child, please speak to their class teacher or support assistant in the first instance. You can catch them at the start or end of a day or please speak to them to book a longer appointment if needed as they can only chat for a few seconds in the current situation. As well as class teachers, we have an excellent team of leaders who you may want to talk to. The details of these staff members are as follows:

Mrs Sarah Gordon-Weeks	Vice Principal with a EYFS/KS1 focus	Miss Annelise Gooch	Assistant Principal with a KS2 focus (temporary Year 5/6 lead)
Mrs Carly Bunn (currently on maternity leave)	Year 5/6 Coordinator	Miss Alice Rocher	Year 3/4 Coordinator
Mrs Emily Houlihan	Year 1/2 Coordinator	Mrs Katy Nesbitt	Inclusion and Welfare Manager
Mrs Stephanie Kane	EYFS Coordinator	Mrs Emma Chew	Special Needs Coordinator
Mrs Ruth Jakeman	Business Manager	<i>NB: All requests to speak to a member of staff will be followed up within 24 hours</i>	

As you know, we usually hold **What's New and Different meetings** for you to find out the information you need for your child's year group. Due to the current restrictions in place linked to Covid-19, we are unable to hold these in the hall. We are working on a way to produce these on the website as video links which you can watch in your own time. We will send you a link when they are ready! Documents linked to this will also be available on your child's class pages on our website soon.

**Parents evenings** will be via the phone this year! You will soon receive a link to sign up for a phone call slot which will be held in a few weeks. Please note, the number may come up as No caller ID so please answer if it is around your time slot for the phone call appointment.

As you know, we are no longer sending paper copies of letters home in our mission to use less paper (unless you have requested a paper copy). Please use the '**Letters to Parents**' tab under 'News' on our school website which will list all whole school and individual class letters. To ensure that letters are not missed, a link will be sent out via a text message. However, we do advise that you check the website regularly to ensure you are up to date with all events that are taking place in school.

## Important Dates and reminders

23<sup>rd</sup> October: Break up for the term

2<sup>nd</sup> November: ALL year group's return to school for term 2.

Uniform: Please ensure that your child has their tie and blazer on daily. Green and white dresses can be worn for this term only and so cannot be worn from November to April.

## Dates for 2020/2021

### **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: 20<sup>th</sup> November**- (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.*