



Dashwood Banbury Academy

an Aspirations Academy

Growing together; succeeding together

Friday 20th November 2020

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

The Year of The Curriculum

A note from the Principal

We are now half way through the term and despite so many challenges, I am so pleased to say that we are still standing strong and providing the excellent learning opportunities we always do - even though we have had to adapt some of them. I have been so impressed with the continued resilience shown by the staff and pupils and love reading out the star of the week achievements in my weekly virtual assembly to celebrate some of these. I would like to thank you all for your continued support but also the trust and confidence you have placed in us to know we are doing the right thing.

Term 2 is often one of my favourite terms due to all the wonderful celebrations that take place. Despite restrictions and lockdowns, I am happy to announce that Christmas and other celebrations are certainly not cancelled at Dashwood! Below I have included a section to go through some of the changes we are making to ensure that your child still has the best experience possible but in a safe way.

I see many of you daily at the gate which gives you the chance to ask any questions you may have but please know you can always call the office to arrange a personal call back from either myself or one of the leadership team if there is anything you would like support, help or to query. Stay safe everyone.

Mrs Amy Rogers

Birthdays and celebrations

Following an idea suggested by a parent, we have been discussing how we can support pupils to celebrate their birthdays as parties at home cannot happen right now. We are pleased to announce that the last day of every term will include a celebration for anyone who has had a **birthday** that term or holiday. The pupils will be given a special birthday sticker and a little treat and their classes will sing to them as well as joining in with celebrations such as party games or activities.

Christmas: we are planning on starting the Christmas cheer early by **decorating classrooms and trees** to get the school into the positive mind-set that this time of the year brings. We are also planning to **perform** the EYFS/Year 1 plays but have worked with those teams to do this safely and produce mini videos to share with parents (letters will be sent out to those in these year groups with more details). Last year we started a new tradition where classes decorated their **classroom doors** to compete to win a reward. We will be doing this again this year – Mrs Rogers can't wait to see what they come up with! You may have seen posters around the school as our amazing **PTFA** are running a **Christmas box** event where you sign up and pay for it via dropping an envelope with money into the office (£2.50 per box) and it will be delivered to pupils later in the term. We are asking **Reverend Sue Burchill** to run a virtual service for us too which is lovely. Finally, the Christmas school **lunch** will take place on the last Wednesday of the term which you can sign up for via ParentPay. Exciting times are definitely ahead.



Applying for a place in Reception for September 2021

If your child is in Plum class or you know of anyone who turns 4 before 1st September 2021, they must apply for a place in our Reception by 15th January. You can apply online at:

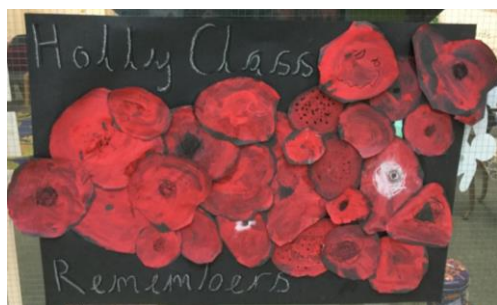
<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/schools/apply-school-place/admission-infant-and-primary-school/make-application>

To apply for a Nursery place for next year, please speak to the office and ask for an application pack. As we cannot offer open evenings as usual, we have created an online version and are offering 1-1 phone appointments/virtual meetings so please contact the office if you would like to know more. Take a virtual tour of the school at: <https://www.dashwood-aspirations.org/early-years/virtual-visit/>

RHE policy

As you know, we are currently consulting on our new Relationships and Health Education Policy. We have already met with the local mosque and spoken to other local schools and some of the parents to gain feedback which is great. To help with the process, please do call the office to book an online meeting or phone call if you would like to give your feedback or ask any questions. Please do this by the beginning of December as we will be finalising the policy then. We thought it would be useful to give you an overview of what the policy changes/similarities from previous years are:

- The policy is centered around developing healthy relationships with family and friends and not encouraging romantic relationships – this is no different to our usual curriculum.
- Our whole ethos and focus is developing respect and tolerance. Religious views and beliefs are treated sensitively and respectfully.
- The curriculum provided is something we have always taught, we have just had to produce the policy as it is now compulsory to teach this – we were always ahead of the game!
- Most lessons are taught by the staff in school and where outside agencies are used (a few times in the pupils school life) we will always inform parents first.
- We use discussion as the main way of delivering lessons but where specific resources are used, these will mainly be in diagram form and will be available to parents if requested.
- All our lessons are based on the statutory elements of this curriculum area and we will not be teaching the non-statutory parts linked to sex education.



Learning over the last few weeks

On top of our normal topics this term, the children completed events for Remembrance Day including making poppies and completing a minutes silence. This week has been anti-bullying week. We have spoken about how bullying means hurting someone deliberately and repeatedly. Our assembly and activities in the wellbeing books have allowed the children



the chance to reflect on how their actions affect others and how we can work as a team to help support each other rather than treat each other with disrespect. As you know, our behaviour policy is centred on regulating behaviour and how to communicate effectively so this has really supported our work this week. You can find out more and support your child further at: <https://www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/anti-bullying-week/parents-and-carers>

Children in Need

Thank you to everyone for supporting us to raise over £480 for Children in Need – we are so proud to be able to support this wonderful charity. Our event made it in the local papers! You can read the article at:

https://www.banburyguardian.co.uk/news/people/how-two-banbury-schools-marked-children-need-day-3036221?fbclid=IwAR28SqBmd_LG0Q3agDjX0RU3cqt7pJ96bWbHqXoTWTxyazjxkemfdomvP4



Covid-19 and Lockdown Updates

We know that there is so much information out there which can be confusing so here is a good website which can help answer questions you may have: <https://www.rcpch.ac.uk/resources/covid-19-resources-parents-carers> Here are the latest reminders you need to know:

- We are still in a **national lockdown** for the next 2 weeks. This means that you and your child **cannot mix** with anyone out of your household (or support bubble if you are a single parent).
- Children **cannot mix** on the way to/from school or in the park. Parents of those in Year 6, please ensure your child is able to do this if they come/go home on their own.
- Please continue to keep your child off school if they show **symptoms**, are ill or if they live with someone who is showing symptoms and waiting on a test/result. This means they **should not attend school until a result** has come through which is either negative, or they have completed the appropriate isolation period if it is positive. No one should be in school if someone in the house has had a test until you know the result.

Street Tag

We need your help to rise to the top of the Street Tag leader board – if you haven't already done so, please download the **free** app, scan this QR code and get walking around the area. Don't forget to set your daily 'Power Hour' to earn triple points!



Health and Safeguarding

- We are continuing to ensure that pupils **wash their hands** at least 6 times a day and that we have a strong **cleaning** regime for all our resources to help keep your child safe in school.
- Pupils still only **mix** in bubbles which helps stop the spread of infections.
- Thank you for wearing **face masks** whilst onsite which cover your **mouth and nose**. Please remember that a mask with 3 layers is better than clothing items. Please also continue to **socially distance** from others at all times and only bring **one adult** (someone over the age of 18) per family on site. Older siblings should not come on site if they are over 18 if a parent is also attending.
- **At home**, please help your child to **self-regulate** their emotions using our zones of regulation terminology. Children pick up on stresses and words you use as we all know and with the current stresses around Covid, you may want to consider have a thinking zone in your house for you all to use! We love using glitter jars, stress balls and mindful colouring in ours.
- **Online activities**: remember to monitor all websites and games your child uses. Children at primary age should not be using social media or have access to games like Fortnite or other games aimed at children of an older age. Remember to also switch all devices off at least an hour before bedtime and create a good routine like bath time then quiet reading.
- **Reading**: do you read to your child for at least 15 minutes a day? Doing this helps improve language, brain function but also will help them sleep better if done just before bedtime.
- **Flu vaccinations**: Please ensure you sign your child up to receive this vital vaccine to protect them by 24th November at: <https://dashwood.academies.aspirationsacademies.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/8/2020/11/Flu-Vaccination-Reminder-Dashwood.pdf>

Important Dates and reminders

- **Learning from home**: If your child can't attend school due to Covid (e.g. awaiting a result or isolating) but is well, we will set work on Seesaw or Tapestry to those who have access online and deliver paper copies to others. It is expected that the children do **complete their work each day** and either upload it to the online platform daily or bring their paper copies back for staff to see. This stops them from falling further behind.
- **Free school meals**: If your child is entitled to free school meals (not universal free school meals) and cannot attend due to Covid related reasons (as above) then please **call the school** to request a school meal to either be collected or delivered if necessary. We do not want to waste food if you do not need one so please just let us know.
- **Uniform**: Please ensure that your child has their **tie and blazer** on daily and that they wear black school shoes too.
- **Hair**: please make sure long hair is **tied back** every day to help prevent the spread of head lice. Hair ties should be **discrete** and in either school or natural hair colours.
- **Snacks and water bottles**: don't forget to provide your child with a healthy **snack** (not crisps or chocolate biscuits) and **water** in a bottle daily (not juice please)
- **24th November**: make sure you have signed your child up for their **flu vaccination** at: <https://dashwood.academies.aspirationsacademies.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/8/2020/11/Flu-Vaccination-Reminder-Dashwood.pdf>
- **30th November**: **Flu vaccinations** for those who have signed up
- **2nd December**: PTFA last date to **sign up** for the Christmas holiday bags
- **16th December**: Christmas lunch day – please **sign up** on ParentPay to book this lunch for your child(ren) the week before.
- **18th December**: We break up for the term at normal times. Class newsletters will be out this day along with a holiday project ready for the start of Term 3.



Dates for 2020/2021

Term 2

Monday 2 November – Friday 18 December 2020

INSET DAY: 20th November- (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 (please see texts and newsletters for your classes 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.

Dates for 2021/2022

Term 1

Monday 6 September – Friday 22 October 2021

INSET DAY: Thursday 2 September

INSET DAY: Friday 3 September (no children in school)

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

Term 2

Monday 1 November – Friday 17 December 2021

INSET DAY: A day in November- (no children in school) **To be confirmed**

NB: there will be no After School Club on Friday 17th December

Term 3

Tuesday 4 January – Friday 18 February 2022

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

Term 4

Tuesday 1 March – Friday 8 April 2022

INSET DAY: Monday 28 February (no children in school)

NB: there will be no After School Club on Friday 8 April

Term 5

Monday 25 April – Friday 27 May 2022

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

Monday 2 May 2022: May Day Bank Holiday (School closed)

Term 6

Monday 6 June – Friday 22 July 2022

INSET DAY: A day in June (no children in school) **To be confirmed**

NB: *there will be no After School Club on Friday 22 July and school will finish at 1.45pm this day.*

Transition days will take place on Wednesday 20- Friday 22 July so please ensure your child attends school each day that week to help them settle into their new year groups.