



Dashwood Banbury Academy

an Aspirations Academy

Growing together; succeeding together

Thursday 17th December 2020

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The Year of The Curriculum

A note from the Principal

Well it has been quite a term but I would like to thank you all for your continued support. In what has continued to be a hard and ever changing term, I have once again been able to stand back and feel so proud of everything we have been able to achieve. Despite constant change in guidance and advice, we have stood strong and been able to keep the school open for all those who have not been isolating. Thank you seems an inadequate term to describe how grateful I am to all the staff, pupils and parents/carers for their support. From the bottom of my heart, I appreciate you all.

Dashwood is a special community and we have pulled together to provide the best possible opportunities for all the pupils. The run up to Christmas has been different but still extremely enjoyable and I hope you all have a very well deserved break over the holidays. Please stay safe and have a wonderful festive break.

Mrs Amy Rogers

Birthdays and Christmas celebrations

Christmas was definitely not cancelled at Dashwood! The pupils in Year 1 have performed an amazing version of The Gruffalo which was uploaded to Tapestry for parents to see. The pupils in Plum class sang their hearts out last week to Christmas tunes which were also uploaded to Tapestry and today; Reception pupils were amazing in their singing performance too. We were so proud of them all for showing our conditions for learning of confidence to take action and a great spirit of adventure.



Over this last week, pupils have enjoyed decorating classrooms, the Christmas lunch, an online assembly as well as a virtual service led by Reverend Sue Burchill and taking part in our



Christmas door competition. Well done to everyone but especially to Plum class, Hazel Class, the small group working in Laurel and Year 4 for their winning doors! They received a special treat to celebrate.

Today, for the final day of the term, classes have celebrated their end of term topics, Christmas and also anyone who had a birthday this term or will have in the holidays. What a fun afternoon they have all had!



Dashwood's Day of Kindness

We had such a wonderful day on Friday 11th December for Dashwood's first celebration of kindness. We kicked off the day with an assembly where we learnt about the science behind how kindness helps your own wellbeing (you can watch a short video on this at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=O9UBLyOiBM>)



Then each class competed activities linked to kindness including setting themselves a yearly calendar to complete random acts of kindness and telling someone in their class something nice. The school felt so positive, relaxed and happy. Well done everyone – let's keep the kindness going! (Our day made it in the local papers! Read the article at: <https://www.banburyguardian.co.uk/education/banbury-primary-school-pupils-take-part-special-day-kindness-3070475?fbclid=IwAR2D3imtICFbs6YBM6cB81em5L3BHyZ6RcZQOo0IvetHdbD-lxdv3oxEjQ8>)



Covid-19 and Lockdown Updates

- The latest guidance for parents/carers with children at school can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak> This includes the 10 day new isolation period and an update on the end of key stage assessments (Year 2's are cancelled as tests and the spelling and grammar ones in Year 6 are also cancelled).
- If your child **develops symptoms** up until and including **Saturday 19th December 2020**, you must **email** either Mrs Rogers or Mrs Gordon-Weeks on: principal@dashwood-aspirations.org or sgordon-weeks@dashwood-aspirations.org This is so we can be on standby should we need to contact anyone for track and trace. (Please do not email the office address as this will not be checked everyday.) If they develop symptoms after the 19th or if it is someone else in the household who develops symptoms during that time, you will not need to email us as it will not affect anyone at school in terms of potential isolating. Thank you for supporting us with this.
- 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. This rule has been in place since March 2020 and has not changed. Thank you.
- Those who are eligible for **Free School Meals** (different to Universal Free School meals) have been given a link to a Winter Grant food scheme to provide lunches for your child over the holidays.

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

- Please ensure that you stay safe over the holidays and stick to all rules and regulations around mixing. If people mix lots in the holidays we are likely to see a further rise in cases of Covid in January. We know that this is tricky when we would all love to get together over Christmas but please help us to keep everyone safe.
- **Online activities:** remember to monitor all websites and games your child uses. We have heard of incidents recently where pupils are using social media such as SnapChat, TikTok or WhatsApp and these are things that children of this age should not be using including games like Fortnite. You can find out more information and how to protect your child at: <https://parentinfo.org/article/under-13s-and-social-media#:~:text=The%20UK%20has%20adopted%20the,quite%20ready%20for%20social%20media.>
- In January, we will be taking part in the **NSPCC** campaign **Speak Out, Stay Safe**. This is around supporting children to talk to someone when they are worried and/or about their emotions which supports the wellbeing work we already complete on a weekly if not daily basis. You can watch a short video on this at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cEJKL_3T29c



Applying for a place in Reception for September 2021

Reminder: 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/>

Important Dates and reminders

- **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)
- School photos: Due to the Covid situation, these were cancelled from this term but we are hoping to complete them in May 2021. We will confirm a new date once it is in the diary.
- 17th December: We break up for the term at normal times due to the INSET day being moved from February to the 18th December. 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 **CANCELLED** – all pupils now in school as this day has been moved to the 18th December due to the Government's Covid related announcement.

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.