



Dashwood Banbury Academy

an Aspirations Academy

Growing together; succeeding together

Friday 15th January 2021

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

The Year of The Curriculum

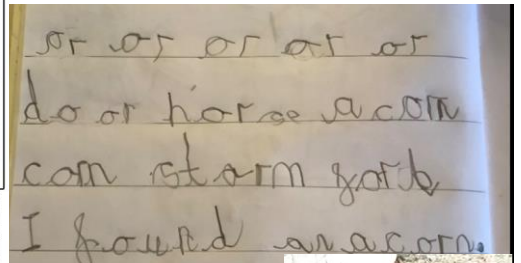
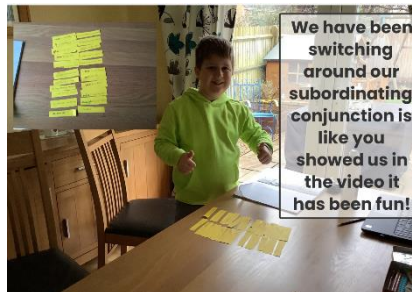
A note from the Principal

This term has certainly not gone as we thought it would so far! We have all had to change our original plans to meet the needs of all and help each other to bring this virus under control. I am so grateful to you all for your understanding and support with the fact that things are changing rapidly and often last minute. We are doing our very best to keep you all informed every step of the way and provide the best possible learning for all. This lockdown is different to the first one, we are more prepared and are aiming to continue learning as the pupils would have been doing if they were at school like normal. I have been so impressed with the engagement in online learning and how hard everyone is working. Thank you to the staff, the pupils and to you at home – you make Dashwood the great place it is.

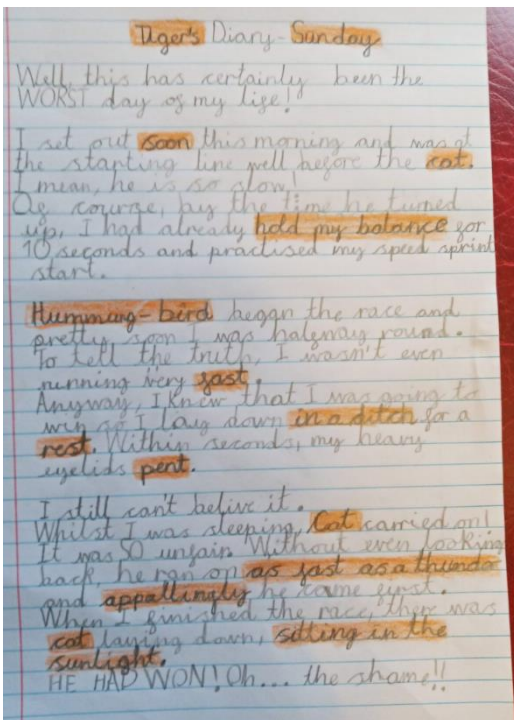
Mrs Amy Rogers

Working differently

We would like to say a huge well done to you all for the hard work you are doing working online, with paper copies collected from school or if your child is attending school. We have been mightily impressed with the work that is being produced and feel confident that the pupils are not falling behind in their learning unlike the first lockdown. We



have enjoyed celebrating successes through naming pupils in the weekly whole school assembly but would also like to share with you some great work here.



Reception pupils are continuing to learn phonics and practising their handwriting. In Year 3 pupils have made their own Stone Age tools, actively learnt about subordinate clauses and innovated the class text. In Year 6, pupils have been learning about music during WWII and have been inspired by Vera Lynn to create their own vinyl record cover using computer software! Well done everyone.



Communication

As most children are learning from home, please use Tapestry/Seesaw as your first point to communicate with staff. These are monitored throughout every work day and staff are busy replying and supporting learning on there. If you cannot access those platforms or need anything else specific, please remember our office is open 8.30-3.30 to receive calls and emails. Paper copies of work can be collected/handed in on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 11am and 1pm.

Covid-19 and Lockdown Updates

- We know that times are really hard right now and trying to juggle everything, including online learning, is really hard. It is vital that we all play our part though and **stick to the new lockdown rules**. Unfortunately, our area has one of the highest Covid rates in the country this week and so we are asking that you all stay home and do not mix with others. The government message right now is to act like you have the virus. If you act like this, you will help to reduce the transmission and bring numbers down.
- If your child is attending school as a **key worker family**, it is important they **only come in on days where there is no one at home** to look after them. School places should be used as a **last resort** and we have very high numbers attending this time so we are asking that all key families follow these guidelines everyday please. As we have so many children now attending school, our places for key worker families are extremely full so we do have a severe lack of availability in order to ensure everyone who is in school is as safe as possible. We thank you all in advance for trying to keep your child at home as much as possible.
- **Free school meals** – if your child is eligible for free school meals (not to be confused with universal free school meals for younger pupils) then we are continuing to offer a **hamper** which can be collected every Tuesday between 11am and 1pm. The government scheme for **vouchers** will be up and running again soon and so we will be contacting parents **next week** once we know what



information is needed to set these up.

- If you would like **advice** on wellbeing, extra work or ideas to keep your child busy during this period of time, we are regularly updating the useful links page for parents on our website under the parent information tab: <https://www.dashwood-aspirations.org/parent-information/useful-links/>

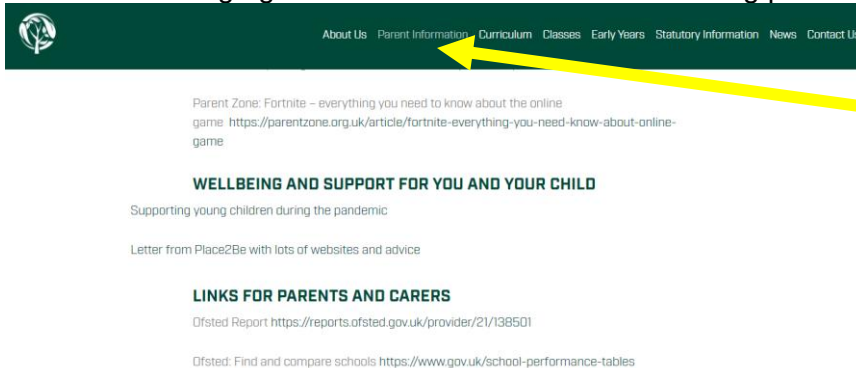
- Live learning: you will have

noticed that we are not producing live lessons as part of our provision and ask yourself why. There are two main reasons for this, one is that there can be huge safeguarding implications for live lessons but also we are aware that many of you have limited devices, multiple children and also may be working from home too. Instead, we are providing a minimum of 1 pre-recorded 'live' lesson which you can access through Tapestry/Seesaw every day. This allows the children to hear their teacher and watch the lesson at any time in the day meaning juggling timetables is much easier for parents. Pupils can comment on Tapestry/Seesaw if they have questions/queries or need help and the staff will use these platforms to respond with the help needed. This is a safer way to provide the same outcome.

- If **you or anyone in your family is having to isolate or have a test** as you have developed Covid symptoms, even if you are not in school, please **let us know**. This helps us to know how much support you might need with home learning (we will of course not be expecting home learning if pupils are sick and we do not want to add more stress for you). We hope that this does not happen and you are all well though.

Street Tag

When you go out for your daily exercise, remember to activate the Street Tag app. Don't forget to set your daily 'Power Hour' to earn triple points! You can download the app for free and scan this QR code if you haven't already got it set up.





Health and Safeguarding

• Change 4 life has some excellent resources available for all year groups to help kick start a healthy year! Despite the need to stay inside and not go out as much as normal, it is essential that you and your family eat well and get sufficient exercise. Jo Wicks is providing his daily sessions again and you can also find some other great sessions on Go Noodle (we use this at home). You can find the Change 4 Life resources at: <https://campaignresources.phe.gov.uk/schools/topics/our-healthy->

[year/resources?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=jan21_c4l_edcoms_s_subscriber&utm_content=download](https://campaignresources.phe.gov.uk/schools/topics/our-healthy-year/resources?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=jan21_c4l_edcoms_s_subscriber&utm_content=download)

- There are some great tips to help you parent your child throughout this crisis and support yours and their **wellbeing** at: <https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/coronavirus/parenting-during-coronavirus-outbreak>
- **Online:** as pupils are using their screens so much more to complete online learning, try to have a cut off time for all devices (including games) in the evening. Down time activities like taking a bath or reading a book are perfect to help switch off. Remember to ensure that you always check which **sites** they are using and that they **never communicate** with anyone they do not know in real life.
- Every Friday we will be texting out a tip to support you as parents and your wellbeing. This weeks' tip was to: **Stay in the 'here and now'** - Try to focus on just the day ahead of you rather than fixating on longer-term plans. Put down your phone and relax for a moment. Just take one day at a time, and if you feel your mind drifting bring it back to focus on doing something mindful or creative, like making a creative scrapbook.

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 **today**. 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

- 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) if they are in school
- 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.
- 12th February: We break up for the term. Class newsletters will be out this day for Term 4. Remember you can always find out what your child will be learning this term and future terms on the classes tab on our website.

Dates for 2020/2021

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

Monday 22 February – Thursday 1 April 2021

INSET DAY: Monday 22 February **CANCELLED** – all pupils now in school as this day was 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.