



Dashwood Banbury Academy

an Aspirations Academy

Growing together; succeeding together

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Dear parents/carers,

I hope you had a lovely Christmas/holiday and I'd like to wish you and your families a happy and healthy new year.

No doubt you have heard the news in the last day or two that most primary schools in England will be opening as planned on Monday 4th January 2021. This includes Dashwood, as Banbury does not currently fall within one of the government's contingency areas.

The school will operate under the same COVID-19 plans as we have done since September; with staggered start times, year group bubbles, no mixing between bubbles or sharing personal equipment, increased hand washing and cleaning etc. We continue to evaluate our risk assessment to ensure it is fit for purpose and as part of this we have told staff they may wear masks in the classroom if they wish to do so. Staff will continue to wear masks during drop off/pick up times and have also been asked to wear masks in all communal areas and corridors. We kindly ask that you continue to wear a mask when onsite at all times too and that you social distance from others. The guidance for children of Primary school age remains the same in that it is not recommended that they wear masks in school (this is due to a high risk of them touching the masks regularly with unclean hands).

Whilst we are open, we need to remember that as a community we are now in Tier 4, the local COVID-19 rate around the school is currently very high. You can find out more about what being in a Tier 4 area means at: <https://www.oxfordhealth.nhs.uk/news/oxfordshire-joins-neighbours-in-tier-4/> and you can read the latest guidelines written for parents/carers by the Department for Education on Covid 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/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-in-the-autumn-term> and for the out of school settings guidance at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-parents-and-carers-of-children-attending-out-of-school-settings-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/guidance-for-parents-and-carers-of-children-attending-out-of-school-settings-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>. It is more important now than ever that we all do the following:

- Adhere to **Government Tier 4 restrictions**. Especially no mixing of households indoors or outdoors.
- **Hands, Face, Space** – maintain social distancing on and off site, do not arrive too early and leave the site immediately. Please remember to wear a face covering whenever you are onsite.
- Do not send your child into school if they or any of the household have **COVID-19 symptoms**, and get them tested. Please also remember that if someone is having a **test** in your household, your child must **not attend school** until they have their results.
- Be cautious if your child or anyone in the **household** is **unwell**; several positive cases in local schools have not had the main symptoms. If unsure, please keep your child off school and get a test if necessary.
- Isolate if instructed to do so.
- As we are in Tier 4, wraparound clubs (breakfast and after school club) are allowed to run but no other clubs can so we will be contacting **Hot Shots Basketball** to tell them the club will need to be on hold again.



- As per the guidelines, if your child or any staff members are classed as **clinically extremely vulnerable**, they **cannot attend** school whilst we are in Tier 4. Please ensure we know about this if we do not already and online learning will be provided for your child. (If we drop to tier 3, they will be able to attend again as it stands.)

We know that your child's education is vitally important and we are 100% committed to providing the best education we can for all our pupils. In order to do this, we need to ensure all guidance is strictly followed so all pupils and staff remain safe, healthy and able to attend school. We will be keeping an eye on the ever changing situation and keep you informed as soon as we know anything different/ have any further updates.

Please contact principal@dashwood-aspirations.org if you have any specific questions but I look forward to seeing you tomorrow for the start of a new term and what I hope to be a better year overall.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "AERogers". The letters are cursive and fluid, with the first name "Amy" and the last name "Rogers" clearly distinguishable.

Mrs Amy Rogers

Principal