



Dashwood Banbury Academy

an Aspirations Academy

Growing together; succeeding together

Friday 12th February 2021

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

The Year of 'The Curriculum'

A note from the Principal

As we are now at the end of a challenging but productive term, it has given me the opportunity to reflect on everything we have all achieved. The provision provided to pupils both at home and in school has ensured that no parts of the curriculum have been missed and learning has progressed. Offering a mixture of worksheets, online recorded lessons, activities, tips, paper copies, letters, devices and phone calls home has ensured we have also kept in touch with you all at home and we hope you have found these supportive and helpful. We have given out over 30 donated bags of toys and food to families that have been donated by the local Mosque and have also lent out over 25 devices to families who need them. Pupils have had their work celebrated on Seesaw/Tapestry as well as in assemblies and in newsletters. Everyone has worked so hard to make the most of this difficult situation and I am so proud of everything that has been achieved.

I would love to be able to say that I know exactly what next term holds for us but I cannot. I can however say that we will continue to provide the very best education and support to you all regardless of what is thrown at us all and truly hope that very soon I get to greet you all everyday on the gate and see the pupils return to school. Have a wonderful half term with an extremely well deserved break from home schooling and learning in school – you have done an amazing job this term!

Mrs Amy Rogers



Working differently

We continue to be so impressed with the creativity and hard work going on whilst learning at home or in school. This term, the pupils have had access to all elements of the curriculum including art and PSHE and we have loved seeing them achieve so much. We have been particularly impressed seeing pupils in Years 1-6 achieve certificates in Lexia and move up levels – some spending over 100 minutes a week on this amazing online personal tuition programme. For Early Years pupils, we have loved seeing their phonics develop and have been amazed with the outdoor activities taken place. Mrs Rogers has been working through each classes online accounts and praising pupils alongside the praise from the class teachers too. We are all so proud of the work taking place.



Well done to all the home teachers (parents!), staff but particularly to the pupils – you are all super stars!

Communication

A reminder to 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 – it is our form of live teaching and vital to help pupils feel connected with their teachers. 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 lockdown rules**.

Cases in the local area have dropped considerably over the last few weeks and this is down to everyone's hard work. Please keep this up and remember to ensure you only mix with those in your household/support bubble.

- We have no new information about when pupils will **return** yet but we have been assured we will get at least 2 weeks' notice. As soon as we hear anything, we will be in contact with you. We do know that a return to school will not happen until at least 8th March. We are hoping it does happen on the 8th!
- 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/>
- 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.
- If your child has been in school this week and **develops symptoms over the weekend**, please email Mrs Rogers to inform her as the office email will not be checked. You can email her on principal@dashwood-aspirations.org

Childline: Get help and advice about a wide range of issues or need to talk?
<https://www.childline.org.uk/>

YoungMinds: Your one-stop shop for mental health, wellbeing and resilience.
<https://youngminds.org.uk/>

Place 2Be: Improving children's mental health. <https://www.place2be.org.uk/>

Parent Zone: Fortnite – everything you need to know about the online game
<https://parentzone.org.uk/article/fortnite-everything-you-need-know-about-online-game>

WELLBEING AND SUPPORT FOR YOU AND YOUR CHILD

Supporting young children during the pandemic

Letter from Place2Be with lots of websites and advice

Health and Safeguarding

- **Online:** we are becoming increasingly concerned for pupil's safety online with new apps and games popping up regularly which are not appropriate for Primary aged pupils. We are working with Thames Valley Police to help support pupils and also provide messages to parents which guide you. Things change so rapidly so the most important things you can do is: check what your child is doing regularly, never leave them unsupervised online, only use games which are age appropriate, do not let them chat online to anyone they do not know if real life and remind them that they should talk to an adult if they see anything worrying.
- Things are so stressful for many people at the moment but you do need to take some **time to look after yourself**. If you are calm, you will be able to manage anything that is thrown your way calmly too.
- There are **some great tips and helpful links** (including how to contact food banks, the school health nurse and others) on the **Oxfordshire's Health newsletter**. This can be found on our website at: <https://dashwood.academies.aspirationsacademies.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/8/2021/02/Primary-School-Parent-Newsletter-Term-3.1.pdf>
- The **Mental Health Support Team** have also produced a brilliant newsletter which is also on our website at: <https://dashwood.academies.aspirationsacademies.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/8/2021/02/MHST-Newsletter-Feb-2021.pdf>
- You will find lots of other helpful letters such as **cooking tips and courses** you can take for free during the lockdown on our website at: <https://www.dashwood-aspirations.org/news/letters-to-parents/whole-school-letters/>

STAYING SAFE

KidSMART: Learning about eSafety <http://www.kidsmart.org.uk>

SCASKids: South Central Ambulance Service website offering advice and information for children, parents and teachers to help them stay safe and healthy in a number of situations. <http://scaskids.co.uk/>

Thinkuknow: Advice for students, parents and carers and teachers. The latest information on the sites you like to visit, mobiles and new technology. <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>

CEOP: Are you worried about online sexual abuse or the way someone has been communicating with you online? Make a report to one of CEOP's Child Protection Advisors <https://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/>

Oral Health Top Tips: Community Dental Services

Whilst home schooling your children

- Maintain your child's brushing routine: brush 2 x per day, last thing at night and one other time during the day, for two minutes.
- Use a toothpaste with 1350ppm of fluoride, use a smear of toothpaste until the child is able to spit out, then a pea sized amount. Spit out the excess toothpaste, do not rinse!
- Try to keep sugary and acidic foods as an infrequent treat with a meal
- Keep in contact with your dentist, they may still be able to offer you routine appointments. They will also advise if you have any pain or concerns.
- Link Oral Health to your home learning through health, food, science and fun! Visit our website for lots of fun ideas: <https://communitydentalservices.co.uk/oral-health/family-fun-information/>

Strategies for How to Make Brushing Teeth Fun!

- Make Brushing Teeth a Family Affair...
- Create a Two-minute "Contest"
- Find a favourite song to brush along to
- Get Your Child a Special Toothbrush.
- Reward Consistent Tooth Brushing.
- Make Going to the Dentist a Special Occasion.
- Recruit the Tooth Fairy!

50% <https://www.nhs.uk/change-life/food-facts/healthier-snacks-for-kids>

The Mental Health Support Team

Monthly Newsletter
February 2021

Welcome to our monthly newsletter! Here we will share with you resources for students, parents and carers to support wellbeing during these uncertain times!

We are still open for referrals for 1:1 support via phone/video call. Please make a referral via our website. Referrals can come from teachers, other professionals, parents/carers or young people themselves.
<https://secureforms.oxfordhealth.nhs.uk/mhst/>



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
- **12th February:** We break up for the term. Class newsletters are available on our website at: <https://www.dashwood-aspirations.org/news/letters-to-parents/whole-school-letters/> then select your child's year group. Remember you can always find out what your child will be learning this term and future terms on the classes tab on our website.
- **22nd February:** Term 4 begins

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** – 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.