



# Dashwood Banbury Academy

an Aspirations Academy

Growing together; succeeding together

Amy Rogers – Principal

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Dear Parents/Carers,

We are so pleased to announce that the school will be fully open from 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021 and we cannot wait! Staff have worked tirelessly to support learning in school, at home and to make school a safe and fun place for pupils to learn when they all return on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March. Despite the difficulties we have all faced, I continue to be so proud of all our staff and you at home helping to support your child(ren) and the nation for following the lockdown guidelines and reducing the spread - **thank you** for this on behalf of everyone at Dashwood! The local infection rate has dropped significantly over the last 8 weeks and is now very low which is amazing. This letter lays out our plans which are similar to how school looked before the Christmas holidays but also include what we are doing from this week to prepare your child(ren) for a return to school.

In preparing and planning for opening to all year groups again, we continue to develop and update our procedures, risk assessments and policies in order to help protect staff and pupils and so we want to reassure you that we are planning to do everything we can to make school a fun and safe place for all.

We have been through the government guidelines in detail and will be following all control measures set out which include:

1. Minimise **contact** with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those who have coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend school. The **same rules** apply as before, **please do not come on site if anyone in your household is displaying symptoms**. You must book a test for them to take.
2. Ensuring **face coverings** are used in recommended circumstances. We are continuing to ask **you as parents/carers to wear face coverings** when on site (unless you are exempt) and all **staff** will wear them when they are at the classroom doors but also they may wear them in the classrooms where they are unable to social distance from other adults in particular. **Pupils in primary settings do not and should not wear face coverings** at school as there is a greater risk to them as they are not able to wear them appropriately.
3. **Cleaning hands** thoroughly and more often than usual. We will continue to ask pupils to wash their hands (or sanitise where this isn't possible) when they enter the school, before and after all breaks and lunchtime and at the end of the day.
4. Ensuring good respiratory hygiene by promoting the '**catch it, bin it, kill it**' approach. Tissues are available in every room and we have bins with lids where they are disposed of.
5. Continuing with **enhanced cleaning**, including cleaning frequently touched surfaces often. We complete a minimum of three cleaning sessions per day in highly used areas and all resources are regularly cleaned.
6. **Minimising contact** between individuals and maintain social distancing wherever possible. We will continue to keep pupils in their class **bubbles** whilst inside and they will only mix in their year groups outside. Whilst it is not possible to social distance in the classrooms, pupils desks will continue to face forwards as per the guidelines set out for primary settings. Their **timetables** will remain as they were before the Christmas break to ensure bubbles do not mix and **staggered start and end times** to the day as well as our **one way system** around the school remain in place for all. (Please note, your staggered start/end times remain the same as they were previously.) *Please see appendix 1 to remind you of the map of our one way system.*
7. Keeping occupied spaces well **ventilated**. Windows are open in classrooms so pupils may need to wear an extra layer e.g. a school jumper and a shirt.



As we have a week and a half to prepare for the opening, we have been working on a number of things which we hope you will find useful to support you and your child(ren) in their return. Here is the information you need to know along with an appendices of the one way system and our updated home school agreement.

### **Before we return**

- **Assemblies** – Mrs Rogers will be holding an assembly on **Friday 26<sup>th</sup> February** at **9am** to go through our opening plans. We hope both **you and your child** can attend. You can access the assembly on: <https://zoom.us/j/95397329848?pwd=U0YzNjNyQ1FwYXEzVTA3eU84WVh6Zz09> Our usual **Monday** assembly (1<sup>st</sup> March) at **9am** will be based on behaviour, resilience and relationships in preparation to returning to school. Again, we hope you and your child can attend. You can access this assembly on: <https://zoom.us/j/94714011174?pwd=SVMzQjNseWd5QzFCZEJGeHJ4cG9ydz09>
- **Routines** – it is vital that we help prepare your child(ren) to return to normal life by getting them into a school routine next week. This means going to **bed** at a reasonable time (7-8pm) and getting a good night's sleep, **waking up** at the normal school time and getting **dressed**.
- All next week, starting **Monday 1<sup>st</sup> March**, we are asking those children in Reception to Year 6 to **log onto Tapestry/Seesaw** at their normal staggered time slots (between **8.30am-9am**) to complete a short and fun **registration** activity to let us know they are ready for the day. If you do not have access to Tapestry/Seesaw, please call the school or email to say they are ready for the day. If we haven't heard from you when **registration closes at 9am**, staff will contact you in order to ensure we are giving the children the full support they need. (Please note, whilst it is great if they can get started on any home learning then, we do not mind if they need to complete their learning later in the day as the idea with this is to get them into a morning routine.)
- We will be aiming to produce some activities which are based more on **building resilience, relationships, confidence** and have less screen time over the next weeks' worth of home learning.
- **Talk to your child** about how they **feel** about returning to school and that it is ok to feel worried or anxious. Let them know that we will be planning fun learning opportunities for them when they return and it will be a great opportunity for them to see their friends and socialise in a safe environment.
- Please ensure you have signed up for your child's **school dinners** on **ParentPay** by **Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March**.
- Get their **uniform** ready – pupils should wear full uniform as before (we are flexible for this term if there are some items they have grown out of and you cannot replace due to the lockdown but please do your best to ensure they are wearing school shoes, blazers and ties etc.) They should bring their PE kits into school and leave them here for the term.



### **Once we are back**

#### **What is the same?**

- **School life** will be very **similar** for pupils as it was before the Christmas holidays due to the excellent procedures we already had in place.
- The **timetables**, times of the day and rules around staying in their bubbles, sitting facing the front when working at tables etc. are all the same.
- The pupils will be in their normal **classes** with their usual **staff** and friends and are continuing to have their **own equipment** at their desks.
- **Snacks and drinks** – you should continue to provide your child with a healthy snack and a water bottle daily.
- **Assemblies** will continue to run virtually.
- **Attendance** will be **compulsory** and so please ensure you prepare your child to be in school as they would have been before lockdown. Only those who have specific guidance from health professionals (such as if they are told to self-isolate due to having symptoms) will be authorised for absence. (Please note, pupils who are clinically extremely vulnerable and have been told to shield cannot attend school at the moment. We believe that they may be removed from the shielding list soon so we advise you to contact your clinicians for further advice. Home learning will be provided for those who cannot attend for this reason).
- Unfortunately, we cannot run any educational **trips** yet but we hope this will change by 21<sup>st</sup> June 2021.

- **After School Club and Breakfast Club** – these clubs will run as they previously did. Breakfast club can be signed up for the day before and places are plentiful as pupils sit on tables in their year group bubbles. After school club has to remain limited at 15 pupils and for the same 15 children each day for the term so if you are signed up for a day, you must attend and/or pay for the day for the whole term. Unfortunately we cannot accept random one off bookings into after school club due to the number of pupils mixing.

### What will be different?

- We are adapting our **curriculum** to include more friendship, self-regulation, wellbeing, resilience building, social and active sessions. We will also have a greater emphasis on reading, vocabulary, phonics and arithmetic.
- Our timetables will include shorter **sessions** which engage the pupils and help them to concentrate better.
- For the rest of this term, we will **not** be setting **homework** for pupils **other** than sending home **reading** books. This is because we are very aware of how exhausted the children will be having to concentrate all day on learning but also we want to give you as parents/carers a break from the wonderful job you've been doing as teachers at home! When pupils are at home with you, we would love you to focus on going for walks, talking about their day, playing games etc. as fun home activities instead. We will set our Easter project based homework as usual and plan to return to the usual homework from Term 5.

| Which zone are you in? |                |              |                 |
|------------------------|----------------|--------------|-----------------|
| Blue                   | Green          | Yellow       | Red             |
|                        |                |              |                 |
| sad                    | calm           | silly/wiggly | mad             |
| tired                  | ready to learn | frustrated   | out of control  |
| sick                   | happy          | hyper        | angry           |
| bored                  | okay           | worried      | yelling/hitting |

### Additional information you need to know

- Aim to **walk or scoot/cycle** to school every day. If you have to travel via **public transport**, ensure you read the government's advice to stay safe: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-safer-travel-guidance-for-passengers>
- Ensure you **follow the latest guidelines** in keeping everyone safe (this includes **social distancing outside of school** and currently **not mixing** with anyone outside of your household/bubble as we continue to remain in a National Lockdown). It is **vital** that as the school is open and therefore many more pupils are mixing, we keep everything outside of school as safe as possible to ensure the infection rate continues to remain low.
- You can read the parental **guidance** around schools opening 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-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-covid-19>

We have worked really hard at mitigating risks and ensuring that our plans meet not only the guidelines set out by the Government, but the needs of all our pupils, staff and the community and cannot wait to see you all on the 8<sup>th</sup> March.

Thank you for your continued support and patience with all the changes we have had to put in place. Please do not hesitate to message on Seesaw/Tapestry, email or call if you would like to talk to a member of staff before we return.

Yours sincerely,

*A.E. Rogers*

Mrs Amy Rogers

Principal

## Appendix 1

### Map of the one way system

