



Dashwood Banbury Academy

an Aspirations Academy

Growing together; succeeding together

Tuesday 4th May 2021

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The Year of 'The Curriculum'

A note from the Principal

We have had a wonderful start to the term and it has been amazing to feel like we are starting to return to some form of normality in life. Whilst all our restrictions are currently in place, it has been the first time in a long time that we have not had to adapt or change our risk assessments. This has helped the pupils (and the rest of our community) feel settled quicker and enabled us to really focus on enjoying learning. This term, our **Condition for Learning is Spirit of Adventure!** This is linked to our value of bravery. In assemblies and lessons, we are reminding the pupils how they can be brave to try new things and stand up for their rights and beliefs.

I would like to thank you as parents/carers for supporting the pupils to come back wearing their full uniforms (remember only the blazers have to have our logo on) and helping them with their weekly homework. We are really grateful for your ongoing support.

On a final note, for those of you who are Star Wars fans: May the Fourth be with you!

Mrs Amy Rogers



Driving questions

As you know, every unit of learning the pupils cover is led by a driving question. The pupils have been introduced to their units and will work towards answering this big question by the end of the term. The driving questions and learning involved with these can be found on your child's year group newsletter for the term but they range from:

Cherry Nursery: What might you find in your garden? Year 1: How as scientists, could we preserve the local environment? Year 5: What was Banbury's involvement in WWI and what impact did the war have on Britain? We cannot wait to find out the answers!

Covid-19 and Lockdown Updates

- Please remember to continue to follow all the government **guidelines** which includes not mixing with other households inside right now. You can find out exactly what is allowed at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/step-2-covid-19-restrictions-posters-12-april-2021>
- The latest **guidance** for parents/carers 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>

We will be **continuing** with all our usual safety measures for pupils and staff in school and hope to start lifting some restrictions soon (e.g. introducing some clubs, swimming and day trips). After school club must continue under the guidelines of 15 pupils only at this stage but we are monitoring this carefully and will let you know if we hear we can increase the numbers.



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OUR VISION

- Inspire, motivate and encourage everyone to dream big, be creative and become lifelong learners
- Create a safe place where people take risks, make the right choices and challenge themselves to improve
- Ensure we have high expectations and aspirations for all
- Offer opportunities to experience the world, communicate, build friendships and create a brighter future
- Develop a culture of respect, integrity and compassion
- Equip pupils to be resilient, confident, self-assured young people who are ready for what their future holds in an ever-evolving world
- Believe in inclusion ensuring the community works together in unity

OUR VALUES

Belonging / consideration	Heroes / respect	Sense of Accomplishment / pride
Fun and Excitement / motivation	Curiosity and Creativity / imagination	Spirit of Adventure / bravery
Leadership and Responsibility / trust	Confidence to Take Action / resilience	

OUR MISSION

GROWING TOGETHER; SUCCEEDING TOGETHER

STEP 2

At least five weeks after Step 1, no earlier than 12 April.

 Indoor leisure inc. gyms (individual or household use only).	 Rule of 6 or two households outdoors. No household mixing indoors.	 Outdoor attractions, such as zoos, theme parks and drive-in cinemas.
 Libraries and community centres.	 Personal care premises.	 All retail.
 Indoor parent and child groups (up to 15 people, excluding under 5s).	 Domestic overnight stays (household only).	 Self-contained accommodation (household only).
 Funerals (30 people), Weddings, wakes, receptions (15 people).	 Minimise travel. No international holidays.	 Event pilots.

Clubs

So, with all the restrictions in place, delivering any after school clubs other than wrap around care has been impossible. Whilst we still have many restrictions in place (including sticking to bubbles and groups no bigger than 15 after school) we have been working really hard to try and find a way around these as we feel it is vital for pupils to access extra curricular activities. Starting next week, we are so pleased to say we are going to **offer every child from Years 1-6 a chance to attend a club for four weeks!** The safe way we have managed to run these are:

- A class will be given a **four week slot** to attend a club each week (either three weeks this term with 1 week term 6 or 4 weeks in term 6).
- Clubs will be run as a **class/year group** and in groups of no more than **15**.
- Clubs will be either **creative, active or linked to outdoor learning** (no academic clubs will run yet as we are prioritising pupils wellbeing, mental and physical health first)
- All clubs will run **3-3.30pm** on your **given day** and pupils should be **collected** from their **classroom** as usual on those days.
- Unfortunately, we are **not able to change** the club offered to you for now as we cannot mix bubbles.
- Pupils **do not have to attend** the club. If they are not going to attend, please let their class teacher know.
- You will find out at the **end of the week** what day, dates and club your child has been offered through a **slip**.

We have worked really hard to put at least one option out there for pupils and hope that in the new year, restrictions are different so we can offer more variety in the future. In the meantime, we are so excited that we are able to offer something this year.

The Big Ask

Next week, pupils from Reception up will be sharing their views in The Big Ask! This is a short, simple survey which anonymously gives their views on education and is part of a nationwide drive led by the Children's Commissioner. You can find out more at: <https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigask/> This survey links nicely with our British values including democracy and individual liberty.

The Big Ask: Parent Information Sheet

All of your child's answers will be confidential, and they don't have to answer any question if they do not want to. They will be used to inform the Government of the changes that children would like to see.

This week your children will be given the opportunity to complete The Big Ask questionnaire. This is a national survey for young people that has been created by The Children's Commissioner for England, Dame Rachel de Souza.

She's keen to hear from young people about the things that make them happy, that worry them and that they would like to see in the future.

Your child will be asked to complete the questionnaire at school this week.

Find out more information

VOTESFORSCHOOLS

Children's COMMISSIONER

Health and Safeguarding

- Please remember to follow the latest **government guidelines** for Covid safety. Children should not be going to each other's houses to play yet. They can however meet outside with adults in groups of up to 6 (or two households) which is brilliant news.
- **Online safety** – help protect your child by knowing the details of games they play. Updated information on Fortnite (which is a game for pupils over the age of 14) can be found at: <https://www.net-aware.org.uk/networks/fortnite-battle-royale/>
- Please ensure you are always **monitoring** what your child is doing online. If they are making negative comments or hurtful remarks online, this is the same as if they were in person. It is vital that all children are monitored when using any online resources/apps/games.
- Please ensure you are careful where you **park** and how you **drive** near school. Our local PCSO has agreed to come and monitor the situation so we hope that she arrives and sees everyone respectfully following the letter of the law. We are so proud to say our bike/scooter rack is full up daily which means so many of you are cycling/scooting or even walking to school. This is amazing!

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
- Uniform: Please make sure your child is wearing **full uniform** now and have a black and white PE kit in school daily (football kits are not part of the school uniform policy). You can find out our full policy at: <https://www.dashwood-aspirations.org/parent-information/uniform/>

- **Homework:** Will return as normal after the holidays. Homework projects will be sent out over the holidays.
- **School photos** will hopefully take place on 25th May.
- We have sent out the following letter recently to remind you that all parents/carers can now take **lateral flow tests** twice a week: <https://dashwood.academies.aspirationsacademies.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/8/2021/04/LFD-letter-to-parents-and-carers.pdf> Lateral flow tests help protect everyone around you as they help prevent the spread of Covid. **Please remember these should never be given to primary pupils. If your child or anyone in the household develops potential symptoms, your whole household must isolate and a PCR test should be booked at a test centre** (a lateral flow test is only used when someone has no symptoms.)
- If you are from the **EU**, please ensure you have read the details around the settlement scheme you must sign up for as soon as possible: <https://dashwood.academies.aspirationsacademies.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/8/2021/04/EU-Settle-Scheme.pdf>
- We are promoting **swimming** as it is vital skill all children should have. As pools are now open, we highly recommend you take your child swimming weekly from the age of 3 if not younger. Please read our letter around this at: <https://dashwood.academies.aspirationsacademies.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/8/2021/04/Whole-School-swimming-letter-to-parents-April-2021-Post-lockdown.pdf> We would also love to hear how much swimming your child does by completing this short survey: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeC74yoJZbhoK_dHkbolAejK-1PMYwzBWwh6N2lgYdy4Ztr3JQ/viewform

Dates for 2020/2021

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 hopefully 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: Friday 26th November - (no children in school)

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: Friday 24th June (no children in school)

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.