



Dashwood Banbury Academy

an Aspirations Academy

Growing together; succeeding together

Amy Rogers – Principal

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Dear Parents and Carers,

As you will no doubt have heard, the government are going ahead with their plans for **Step 4 in the roadmap**. I am sure many of you have questions about what this means for your child(ren) and you at Dashwood and so I hope this letter helps to answer some of them.

Firstly, I would like to ask for your **continued support for the final few days** of this academic year. Whilst things are opening up more from Monday 19th July, cases are rising sharply in the local area and so to protect all staff and pupils before the summer break, we are making the decision **not to change any of our procedures for the last three days**. The pupils understand the rules we have in place and we do not want to unsettle them by changing timetables and rules. So, this means we are **asking you to keep wearing masks** when onsite, staff will continue to wear them and we will **keep all our time slots and one way systems** the same to provide continuity, consistency and safety. We have made it this far and would love to try and keep all bubbles intact going into the holidays if we can. *(Please remember, the final end times on Wednesday 21st July are slightly different as we finish early. A reminder of these can be found further down this letter.)*

This pandemic is moving quickly and therefore things may change before September so we will write to confirm the exact guidance before the pupils return however, the main **changes** that we are looking to make **from 6th September** include:

- Wearing **masks** onsite will be **recommended** but not required for adults.
- The **one way system** will stay initially to keep everyone moving as this has been successful however, if your child has brought a bike/scooter, they are able to go back for it rather than walking off site.
- The **new start and finish times** will be in place rather than a family staggered start/end time (these can be found on our transition letter at: <https://dashwood.academies.aspirationsacademies.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/8/2021/07/Transition-letter-to-parents-2021.pdf>)
- Year group **bubbles** will **no longer be required** so lunchtimes and break times will allow pupils to mix with others in their Key Stages as they used to do.
- We believe that if someone has a positive case of Covid, pupils **will not need to isolate**. (This may be adapted, alongside reintroducing bubbles, if there are a number of cases in the school in a short period of time however).
- **After school club** can be used on adhoc basis if we have spaces available and **clubs** after school will be offered widely to provide more experiences for the pupils.
- After school **events** and **PTFA** events will be able to resume.
- **Educational day trips and residential** will be planned in over the year.
- **Peer leadership** and **mentoring** will resume.
- **Assemblies** can take place including singing assembly and **performances** should be able to have an **audience**.
- **Attendance rewards** will be back up and running and pupils who attend everyday each term will receive a certificate and reward.
- Classes will have PE **slots** in the hall, a **library bus** slot and a slot weekly in our new **creator space** area.
- Parents/carers may choose to bring **more than one adult** onsite.
- Pupils can share **resources**, use the climbing frames and sit in groups rather than on **tables** facing forwards to support collaboration and discussions.

This list is not exhaustive but gives you the main points going forward.

The overall aim is to return to a new normal. As part of this however, a few things **will not change**. These include:

- Year group **toilets** in place.
- Extra **handwashing** and sanitising.



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- Additional **cleaning** of resources and the classrooms.
- Rooms will be well **ventilated**.
- Following all **guidelines** the government produce which includes having a clear, robust **plan** and **risk assessment** in place for any outbreaks that may occur.
- If your child or anyone in your house develops **Covid symptoms** they must get a **PCR test** (not a lateral flow test) and not attend school whilst they wait for the result.
- We will continue to ask **parents to wait outside** the school rather than coming in to help pupils settle into having more people around the site.

Moving forward for the **new academic year**, I would like to draw your attention to a great blog which summarises the main things which we currently know to be true for September:

<https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2021/07/06/parents-pupils-teachers-and-students-find-out-what-step-4-of-the-covid-roadmap-means-for-you/> You may also be interested in reading the full guidance as it stands 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/step-4-update-what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges>

We are very aware that for some of you and the children, there may be anxieties around things opening up. Please do talk to any of the staff if you have any worries or concerns and we will do everything we can to support you.

On a **final note**, please do not forget the key events that are taking place over our last 6 days of school:

- **Friday 16th July: last day in current classes.** Pupils will have class parties this day and receive their school end of year reports (these may be sent out earlier in the week if possible).
 - **Friday 16th July: Reception graduation** for parents/carers – see individual letters for details.
 - **Monday 19th-Wednesday 21st July:** all pupils will move to their **new classes**. They will be dropped off **in their new classes and picked up from there too**. You will keep the **same drop off and pick up times** as you do now. **Current Chestnut** pupils will be dropped off and collected from the **hall** and **current Oak** class from **Pear** class in the Reception class. If you are unsure where this is, please ask a member of staff or your child. Year 6 pupils have a special timetable of amazing experiences to end their final few days at Dashwood based on their requests which can be read at: <https://dashwood.academies.aspirationsacademies.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/8/2021/07/Year-6-End-of-Year-Celebrations-and-Activities.pdf>
 - **Eid:** we are aware that **Eid al-Adha** will begin around the 20th or 21st. As always, **one day will be authorised** as an absence for religious festivals however, please note that we are unable to move any of the events we have already put in place. Pupils are welcome to attend their events if necessary and then have the rest of the day off to celebrate Eid if you feel this is appropriate (this may be most applicable for the Year 6 pupils who finish with us on Wednesday 21st and have their graduation events that day). **If your child is going to be off for Eid, please ensure you have told the office beforehand.**
 - **Tuesday 20th July:** Last school day for **nursery pupils moving up to Reception** next year.
 - **Wednesday 21st July: Year 6 graduation** to parents/carers – see individual letters for details.
 - **Wednesday 21st July** will be the last day of the year and **school finishes at early for all pupils and after school club is closed**. Class newsletters and homework projects will go home that day.
- Staggered time slots are as follows:
- If your normal slot is 2.30/2.35 please come at 1.30pm.
 - If your normal slot is 2.40/2.45 please come at 1.35pm.
 - If your normal slot is 2.50/2.55, please come at 1.40pm.
 - If your normal slot is 2.58/3pm please come at 1.45pm.

Pupils in Years 1-6 will return to school on **Monday 6th September 2021** for the start of the new academic year. Pupils in Early Years will be given their start date separately.

There will be a final newsletter coming out this week to celebrate everything we have achieved this year but I would just like to say a HUGE well done to you and your children for surviving the year and working so hard. It has been a pleasure working with you all.

Kind regards,

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Mrs Amy Rogers