



# Dashwood Banbury Academy

an Aspirations Academy

Growing together; succeeding together

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2022

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## **A note from the Acting Principal**

Welcome back to the start of an exciting new school year; it is great to see everyone back. I would like to especially welcome all of our new families that have joined the Dashwood community in our nurseries, reception classes and across the school. We are so pleased you have decided to start or continue your learning journey with us.

We have lots of exciting things planned this year, starting with a whole school cultural day later on this term; we want to get to know you and your heritage and celebrate our similarities and differences.

Our aim this year is to work hard and be the best you can be!

Mrs Gordon-Weeks

## **Condition for learning and core value**

This term we always focus on belonging which relates to our core value of being considerate to others. We also welcome new families to our school and it is important that we make people feel like they belong to the Dashwood community so they can flourish and have fun. This means we need to be considerate about people's feelings when people are going through changes in their lives. We need to be kind, caring and show empathy.

In this term we also move classes and have a new teacher; some classes are mixed so they have the chance to make new friends. Also these things can be nerve-wracking and it is important that we feel like we belong to our classes.

## **Paying our respects:**

Today the pupils have taken some time to reflect on our Queen who sadly died yesterday. They reflected on her life and the commitment she had to her country and countries around the world. She was a symbol of unity and certainly a role model to us all.

## **Super learners already!**

It has been a pleasure walking around the school this week. The pupils are looking smart, refreshed and ready to start the new academic year. They have enjoyed settling into their new classes and are very pleased to be back with their friends. Already I have seen pupils writing their own haiku poems, making power points, column subtraction in maths and much more.



It is lovely to see everyone in their school uniform. It is really important that the correct uniform is worn every day and their P.E is in school all term so it is there when needed.

### **Look what happened over the summer!**

Over the summer holidays our new fitness equipment arrived. Pupils have already enjoyed challenging themselves on the different apparatus – they are all going to be super fit in no time!



### **Forest School**

Jason, our school caretaker has worked hard over the summer to tidy up the forest school area. He has cut back brambles, made a new mud kitchen area, revamped the camp fire and taken down the fence to open up our garden area. This year we really want to transform the garden so we can grow our own fruit and vegetables as well as incorporate a sensory garden. We know being outside is so good for our mental health so we want to ensure the outside space is purposeful for the pupils to enjoy.



## **First Day back at Dashwood... what have we been up to?**

### **Exciting News!**

Commando Jo's has landed at Dashwood! Commando Jo's is one of the U.K's leading education providers, utilising the expertise of former service personnel to improve the education outcomes for pupils through their RESPECT programme. As you know at Dashwood we are committed, not only to improve the pupil's academic achievements, but develop their characters to make them a confident and well-rounded people. The RESPECT programme fits nicely with our school aims as over the last couple of years we have been developing our curriculum to give the pupils opportunities the chance to collaborate on a group task to develop their communication, team work skills and resilience. **RESPECT** stands for:

**R**esilience **E**mpathy **S**elf-Awareness **P**ositivity **E**xcellence **C**ommunication **T**eamwork

This week some of the pupils have taken part in some of the Commando Jo's missions using some top secret equipment. One class had to rescue the eggs from the swamp. They were encouraging each other and certainly enjoying the mission! All year groups will be taking part in Commando Jo's sessions and we look forward to sharing the missions they take part in.



### **Key information, dates and reminders:**

**Friday 16<sup>th</sup> September:** Year 1-6 Home Learning Projects due in to school to be shared.

**Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> September:** Homework project showcase- from 3.15pm on this day, you will get the opportunity to have a look at all of the amazing homework projects that have been created over the summer holidays- a treat not to be missed!

**Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> September:** School photos

**Friday 30<sup>th</sup> September:** Cultural Day - This will be a celebration of all of our different cultures and religions in school. Pupils can come to school dressed in special clothes from their heritage or culture.

**Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> October and Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> October:** Parents Evening. These will be face to face meetings. More information about how to sign up for these will follow.

**We have had to change the date of the Autumn Ball – more information will follow!**

**Friday 21<sup>st</sup> October:** Last day of Term 1

## **Term Dates for 2022/2023**

### **Term 1**

**INSET DAYS:** Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> and Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> September (no children in school)

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> September – Friday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2022

*NB Nursery pupils will start later and be given their dates directly*

### **Term 2**

Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October – Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2022

**INSET DAY:** Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2022 (no children in school)

**NB:** *there will be no After School Club on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December*

### **Term 3**

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January – Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2023

*NB Nursery pupils will start later and be given their dates directly*

### **Term 4**

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> February – Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023

**INSET DAY:** Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2023 (no children in school)

**NB:** *there will be no After School Club on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March*

### **Term 5**

Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April – Friday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2023

*NB Nursery pupils will start later and be given their dates directly*

*Monday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2023: May Day Bank Holiday (School closed)*

### **Term 6**

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June – Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2023

**INSET DAY:** Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2023 (no children in school)