



Dashwood Banbury Academy
an Aspirations Academy

Dashwood News: 16th December 2022



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A note from the Acting Principal...

Well the pupils at Dashwood have certainly worked their socks off this term both at school and outside in the community! It was lovely to see so many parents and carers at our Christmas Carol events both in school and at St Leonard's Church where the pupils sang beautifully; it was also great to see Early Years classes perform so well in their nativity and singing so confidently and with smiles on their faces. At Dashwood we are trying to increase the chances that the children get to perform as we know that, although it can be a little scary, it is so good for them to develop their confidence to stand up in front of an audience. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all of your support as a parent/carer community. I would also like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and I look forward to seeing you all in the new year.



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Dashwood are artists!



Lots of fantastic art has been going on at Dashwood this term! Children across the school have been using their new Art books fabulously, really displaying the breadth of knowledge and skills we try and develop here. The key facts about artists, which span many cultures and time periods, have been researched and the skills these famous artists use have been studied and practised. It is really pleasing to see children responding to the art they look at by giving their own justified opinions. Yr4 - 'I like that the sculpture is curved perfectly but I don't like that it is dull', Yr1 - 'I like the people and the darkness. I dislike the light in the ceiling' and Yr3 - 'My favourite art is the second one because it's peaceful and bright.' This is great to see as it links with our British Values of Individual liberty (having and expressing our own opinions) as well as Respect and Tolerance (for those who may think differently).

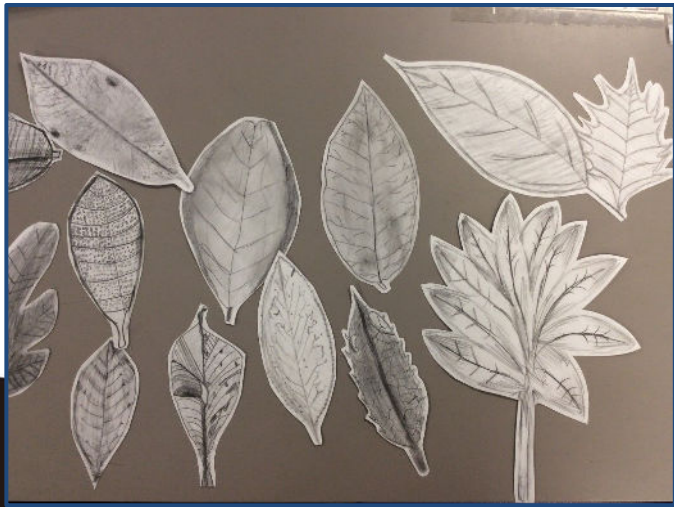
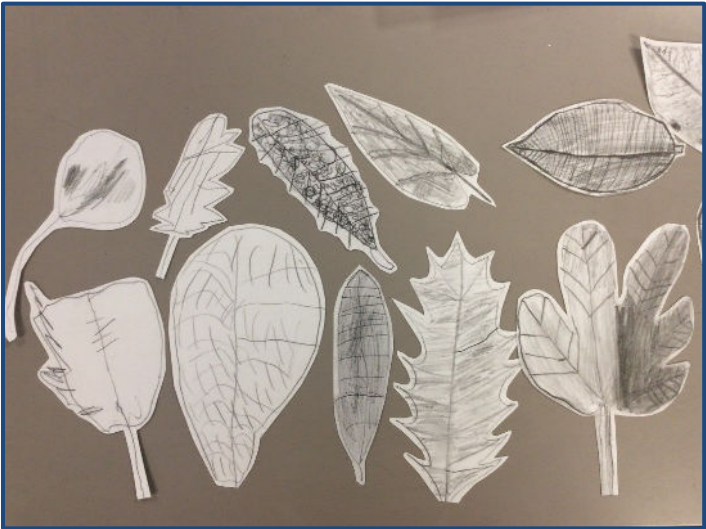


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Whole School Art Day



The whole school took part in a leaf sketching day where the children revisited prior sketching skills and practised new techniques with graded pencils before sketching a variety of leaves. We were delighted with the careful observations skills, the clear shapes and outlines, the marking of the veins as well as some of the different sketching techniques involved. These included the scumbling, stippling, hatching and cross-hatching techniques. The display will look fabulous and will really showcase the progression of drawing skills across the entire school. We are very much looking forward to our second whole-school sketching event next term which will focus on historical artefacts. Watch this space for the whole school art display!



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EYFS - Nursery

This term Cherry class have been exploring new painting techniques such as using stencils and potato printing. They also had lots of fun making some delicious stained-glass window biscuits and colourful Christmas decorations.

Plum class have been focusing their learning around the story of Elmer. This included experimenting with mixing colours and learning about what makes them and their families unique.



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EYFS - Reception

Reception have had a busy term learning about the different people in our community who help us, alongside learning about how to keep ourselves healthy and safe. They took part in an informative mini medics workshop and learnt what to do in a medical emergency. They have also enjoyed lots of role play linked to doctors and vets.

In preparation for their nativity performance, Reception children visited Marlborough Road church to learn more about the Christmas story and also create their own christingles.



Year 1

Year 1 have immersed themselves in all things Gruffalo this term. The children learnt the story through their literacy lessons by acting out the story map with actions to help them remember the story. The children then showed great bravery and confidence in their own performance of the Gruffalo. It was brilliant! To really celebrate this term's learning, pupils watched a fantastic performance of the Gruffalo at The Mill Arts Centre!

In addition to this, the children have been learning about the Great Fire of London, where they have had the opportunity to make their own bread inspired by real events. They thoroughly enjoyed making and decorating the bread.



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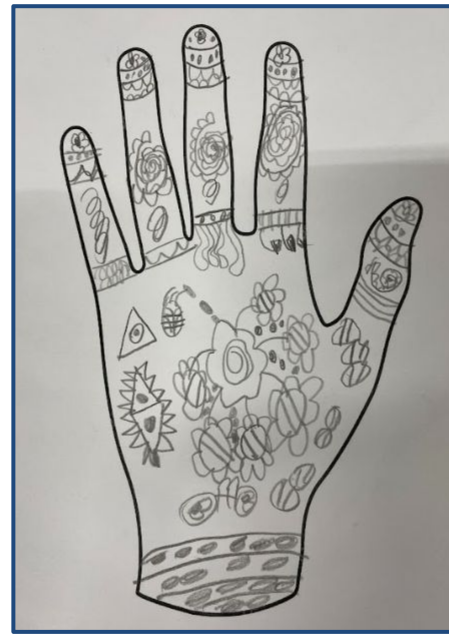


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Year 2

Year 2 have thoroughly enjoyed learning about India this term and in particular the town of Chembakolli. Children investigated the different weather patterns between Chembakolli and Banbury, followed a school day of a child in Chembakolli and even got to taste some Indian food!

Moreover, some of the greatest achievements of our pupils this term has been through their artwork. We have practiced our sketching skills to help us sketch the Taj Mahal, as well as look at various Indian artwork such as Rangoli Art and Mehndi Patterns. The outcomes have been amazing!



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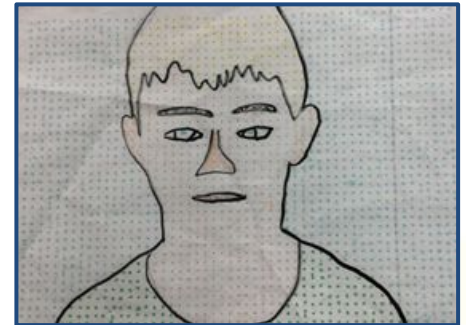


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Year 3

Year 3 have been looking at Pop Art and Pointillism as their focus for this term.

They have considered the different techniques that were used by artists during this time period and then created their own Pointillism self portraits. They took their time and really focused on the details in the portrait to bring them to life.



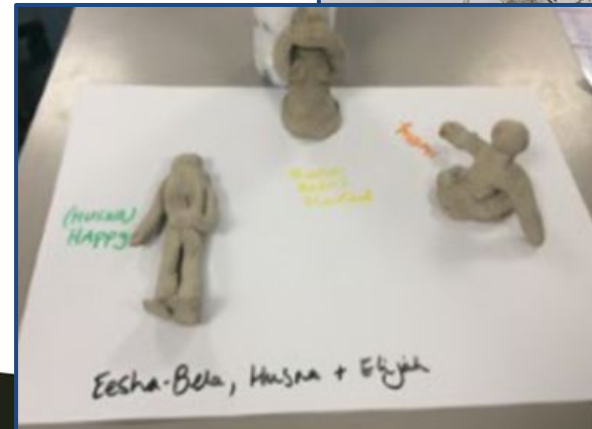
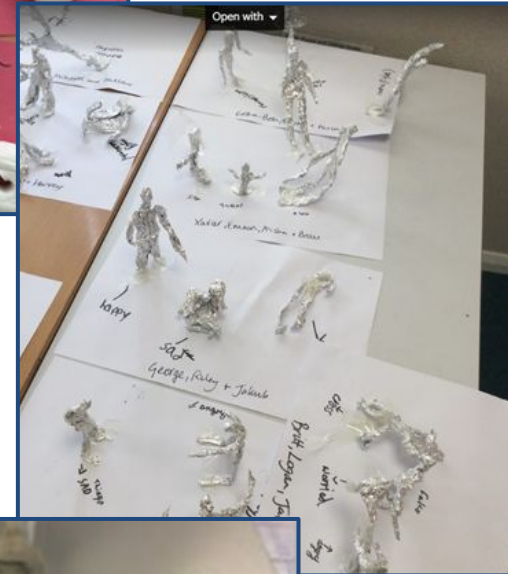
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Year 4

Year 4 have thoroughly enjoyed learning about sculpture this term. They studied Barbara Hepworth and looked at the inspiration for her sculptures. They then moved onto the work of Giacometti and saw how his work portrayed people's emotions. Working in foil and then clay, they worked in groups in sculpt Giacometti 'style' people showing different emotions to tell a story.



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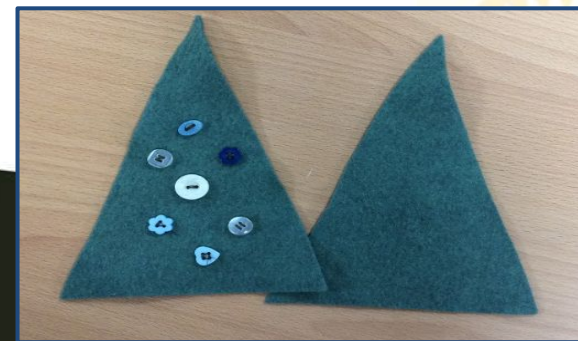


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Year 5

Year 5 have produced some incredible outcomes this term (as we are sure you'll agree!). They have developed their stitching skills whilst making Victorian Christmas tree decorations. They had to carefully design their outcome, before choosing decorations to stitch on.

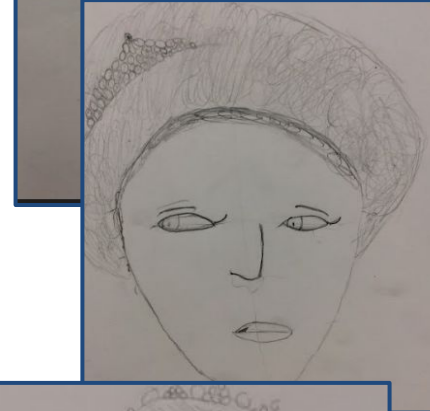
Pupils then had to combine all elements of their decoration and carefully fill it with stuffing. Children worked really hard to complete their decorations and really enjoyed the opportunity to develop a new skill too, whilst having a fantastic outcome to take home to share with their families.



Year 6

Year 6 have enjoyed learning all about Leonardo Di Vinci, and studying his work. They took some time to carefully write a biography all about his works in science and art and then enjoyed focusing in on his more famous portraits (such as The Mona Lisa and The Last Supper) and carefully considered techniques that he used in his art work.

They linked this to their history learning this term and are on the way to producing some fantastic sketched portraits of Queen Mary I and Queen Elizabeth I, using sketching techniques that they have been practising.



Sports

Hockey

On Thursday 10th November 2022, Year 5 and 6 pupils took part in the North Oxfordshire School Sports Partnership Hockey Competition at Wykham Park Academy. Competing against six other teams from local primary schools, our pupils played with resilience and skill, thoroughly enjoying the competition.



Football

A team of our Year 5 and 6 pupils attended a 5-a-side football tournament at Wykham Park Academy and did an amazing job representing the school. The boys team showed respect and positivity towards each other and their competitors and did not lose a single match on their way to winning the competition! The girls team made lots of progress and worked really well as a team to score lots of goals, finishing third in their competition. Well done to both teams!



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Aspiration Council spreading joy!

On Wednesday 16th November, our KS2 Aspiration councillors were invited to Futures Institute. This was a fantastic opportunity to develop a consistent approach to student voice across the Aspirations Academy Trust and to demonstrate how important pupil voice is.

Nancy attended and told us about her day 'We were asked to stand up and present on something that we were excited to share about our school.'

Aleah and Nancy did a great job sharing all the great pupil leadership opportunities that we have at Dashwood and what pupils are working towards at present.

All of the Aspiration Councillors are working hard on different initiatives; this term they decided to write Christmas cards, made by our pupils, and send them to the residents of two care homes - The Ridings and Bromford Gardens - bringing some joy to people living in our community.



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Anti-Bullying Ambassador update

The Anti-Bullying Ambassadors have met to discuss a child-friendly Anti-Bullying Policy. Using what they learned at the Diana Award Training, the ambassadors have written a policy that pupils at school will be able to read and understand. The Anti-Bullying Ambassadors will also be setting up 'worry' boxes in the new year and are planning a quiet, reflective space in The Grove area.

Aleah, our Anti-Bullying Ambassador Lead, has designed a logo to support their campaign. We think you will agree, it looks great and encompasses what they are supporting; being kind and taking care of one another.



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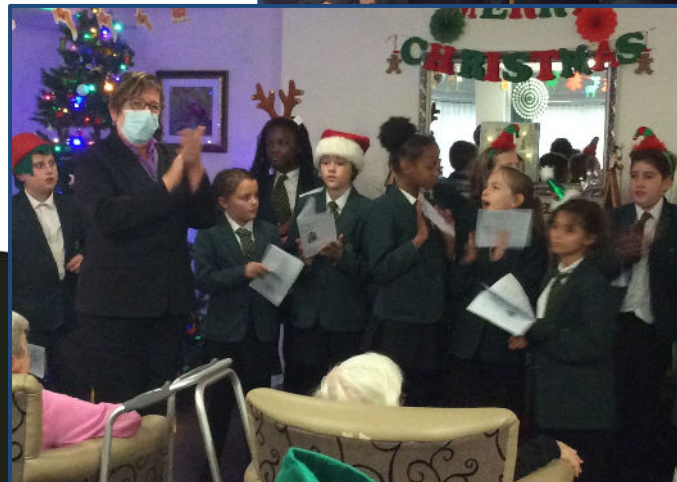
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Community Singing

The children at Dashwood once again did us proud. A group of children from Years 4, 5 and 6 went to visit The Ridings care home, on 1st December, for their annual Christmas light switch on to sing them some carols. It was such a special afternoon, the deputy mayor was in attendance too to switch on the lights! The children loved talking to the residence and even got given a special gift for their efforts. They also took with them Christmas cards that were made by the aspiration councillors and decorations made by after school club!

A group of children also visited Bromford Home to sing some carols and hand out Christmas cards too!

Finally, it was great for Years 4, 5 and 6 to return to St. Leonard's Church again this year for their carol service on Tuesday 6th December. It was lovely to see some many family and friends there to celebrate with us.



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Winter Fayre

Our Winter Fayre was a great success this year - at least we were in the warm! It was great to see so many smiley faces having a go at all the games and the listening to the cheers when prizes were won on the tombola. I would like to say a huge thank you to all of the PTFA for all of their hard work in organising the event! We look forward to many more PTFA events in the new year including film nights, discos and markets



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Charity Fundraising

This year we have already supported the Poppy Appeal where you all raised a grand and impressive total of **£468.78**. This contributed to the £57,000 that was raised in Banbury.

We also raised **£250.24** for Children in Need. Again an amazing contribution for such a worthy charity. Thank you for all of your generosity as always.



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Dashwood Action Committee

Thank you to all of the parents that attended our first meeting of the year where we discussed **homework** and **parental workshops**. We had a productive discussion about both of these and here are a summary of the key points discussed:

- *Is there too much/too little homework? How do the children respond at home?*
- *Is the homework meaningful and related to classwork?*
- *How is homework rewarded and marked?*
- *How can we support parents to support their children at home in maths, literacy and spellings? Can videos be made?*
- *When is the best time to do the parent workshops? What workshops would be useful?*

We will be discussing this as a staff after Christmas and we will inform you of any changes we make! We have put some Open Classroom Parents/carers visits in and Reading/phonics workshops- please see the events for term 3 link at the end of this document.



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Is your 2-year-old eligible for a free Nursery place?

At Dashwood Academy Banbury we have places for this age group in our Cherry Class!

From daily song & story sessions to outdoor fun in our Forest School and garden areas, your child will learn through play.

Dashwood has been rated Good by Ofsted and our Early Years Curriculum aims to develop your child's confidence, conversation and curiosity.

At Dashwood there are no Nursery admission fees – it's free to join – and your child will be given a 15-hour funded place.

Your 2-year-old will also automatically receive a place for 3-year-olds in our Plum Class to continue their education journey without needing to reapply.

**We would love to tell you more about what we do,
so please get in touch.**



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Safeguarding

Mobile phones: We ask that you do not use your mobile phone whilst dropping off and collecting your child from school. We have both vulnerable children and adults that attend Dashwood Banbury Academy and need to ensure they are kept safe. Staff will kindly ask you to put your phone away if they are being used outside the classrooms.

Winter Safety: Following the tragic events in Solihull this week, please ensure that you speak to your children about safety around water such as our canal and river and the hidden dangers of playing on ice. Obviously, most of our children would not be out on their own, however please be mindful of them playing outside unattended especially by water.



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Safeguarding

We have had a report, via one of our parents and that came from a secondary school, just outside of the Banbury area, reporting of a man trying to get a student into his van. The student was fine but it is worth remaining vigilant and ensuring that our Dashwood children are always in the care of their parents or a trusted adult/family member when out and about.



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Dates for Term 3

Please see the attached link for a list of all of the events we have planned for Term 3 already.

<https://dashwood.academies.aspirationsacademies.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/8/2022/12/Term-3-Dates.docx.pdf>

We look forward to seeing you on Tuesday 3rd January at 8.45am.

Have a very Happy Christmas and enjoy you New Year Celebrations!



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Term 3 Tuesday 3rd January – Friday 10 February 2023

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

Term 4 Tuesday 21 February – Friday 31 March 2023

INSET DAY: Monday 20th February 2023 - (no children in school)

NB: *there will be no After School Club on Friday 31 March*

Term 5 Monday 17 April – Friday 26 May 2023

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

Monday 1 May 2023: May Day Bank Holiday (School closed)

Term 6 Monday 5th June to Friday 21 July 2023

School will close at 1.45pm on Friday 21st July 2023.

INSET DAY: Friday 23rd June 2023- (no children in school)

There will be no after school club Friday 21st July.

2023 - 2024 Term dates:

Term 1 Monday 4th September to Friday 20th October 2023



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