



Dashwood Banbury Academy
an Aspirations Academy

Dashwood News: 10th March 2023



FRIDAY 17 MARCH



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A note from the Principal...

*What a busy term we have had already! In our assemblies this term we have discussed fair trade and its meaning as well as discussing our academies 3 guiding principles: **Self-worth, Engagement and Purpose**. Our curriculum ensures that we focus on all three of these principles in order for the pupils to be able to achieve their full potential and enjoy school life. For example, the pupils need to feel good about themselves in order to learn effectively; they need to be engaged in what they are learning and be doing things that have a purpose.*

We started off term 4 with World Book Day where the pupils took part in a variety of exciting activities; they spent time decorating their book areas which have really brought their reading corners to life. We raised £160 from selling the books which means we can purchase some more books for the library- thank you for your support with this.

*Although the pupils complete a variety of science tasks throughout the year, in term 4 we have a particular focus on developing our scientific skills through planning and carry out our own experiments. It has been great to see the pupils developing their scientific knowledge, for example in year 5, they learn about the solar system and year 4 learn the difference between solids, liquids and gases. I am delighted to tell you that we are holding a **Science Convention on Thursday 30th March in hall from 3.15pm** where you can look at all the science experiments that have taken place throughout this term. The pupils will work together, in teams, to design and carry out an experiment and then choose the way they present their findings. At Dashwood, we teach and encourage the pupils to develop their team work skills as well as their communication and presentation skills. We look forward to seeing you there to share their amazing work.*

Sarah Gordon-Weeks



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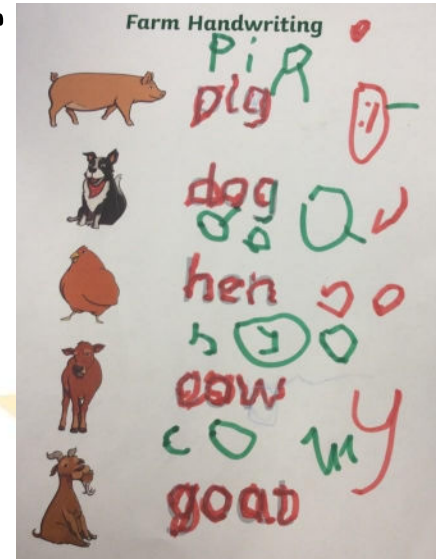
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EYFS - Nursery

Cherry class have been reading 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt'. They have been using actions to learn and sequence the story, as well as practising to use the new vocabulary. They have created some wonderful artwork based on the story for a class display.



Plum class have been very enthusiastic about their new topic 'On the Farm'. Pupils have been learning about farm animals, crops, and the daily jobs of a farmer. They have been focusing on developing fine motor skills and making purposeful and recognisable marks.



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EYFS - Reception

Reception have started their topic 'Amazing Africa' and have been introduced to the class story Handa's Surprise. They enjoyed using their senses to explore tropical fruit featured in the book and practised new vocabulary to describe what they could feel, smell, see and taste.

In PE, Reception pupils have started a series of lessons focusing on dance skills and becoming champion dances. Children have been putting sequences of movements together to music and using props such as silk scarves with grace and style.



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Year 1

Year 1 have immersed themselves into this term with their topic of Toys. So far we have had the opportunity to share our favourite toys with our class and investigate how toys have changed from the past to now. In addition to this, we have also been learning about a variety of materials that toys are made of and exploring what their properties are.

We have loved reading our new class novel *Dogger*, where we have discussed how we feel when we lose something. We are now looking forward to learning and bringing to life our instructions of how to make a victorian toy move.



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Year 2

Year 2 have started the term off with an exciting Science experiment, where we have been asked to grow the best sunflower we can. Before we started the investigation, we explored what sunflowers need to grow and how to set up an experiment. We have logged this all in our sunflower journal, where we are recording the progress of our sunflowers each week.

We have also enjoyed reading our Talk for Reading book 'If you ever bring an alligator to school, dont!'. We thought about why the alligator may have acted in the way he did and discussed whether we thought it was his fault or not. Additionally, we worked on our predicting and inference skills where we thought about how the characters were feeling in different parts of the book as well as predicting what might happen in another book in the series.



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Year 3

Year 3 have really enjoyed world book day, especially Buddy reading with Year 6. They have been learning new skills in tennis and liked using the rackets for the first time. They have written non-chronological reports on dragons and have risen to the challenge of using subordinate clauses in their writing. They have also done some amazing science experiments looking at how water moves through plants and the best conditions for growth.



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Year 4

Year 4 have had a great start to their chocolate topic and have been exploring the similarities and differences between modern and ancient chocolate making processes. This involved taste testing different chocolates including Mayan Chocolate drink! They are very excited about their trip to Cadbury World on 22nd March.



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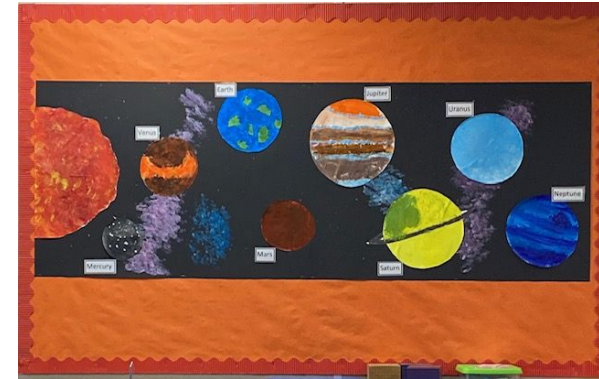


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Year 5

Year 5s have started this term learning all about space! They started the term with a WOW project, where they created a display of the solar system as a class. They have learnt about night and day and different phases of the moon.

They have enjoyed reading 'Noah and the Space ark' together in their literacy sessions and had many discussions on this book about key environmental issues - particularly around those that cause harm to the environment. They have also done some amazing short burst writing based on the book.

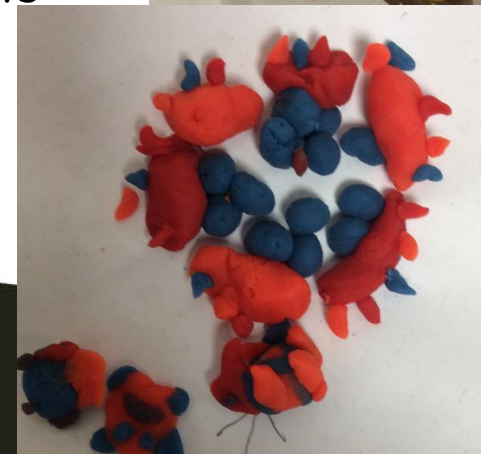


Year 6

Year 6 have enjoyed starting their science topic where they have been learning all about microorganisms. Children have begun to learn about the different types of microorganisms and have looked into how some can be harmful and some can be helpful to us.

They had fun making their own type of virus, bacteria or fungi and had to think carefully about their design and also about the type of microbe it was - whether it had harmful or helpful qualities.

The Year 6s have also completed their final round of mock assessments, before their end of key stage 2 assessments in May. We will have a letter for all parents to collect at parents evening, about these assessments (*taking place Tuesday 9th May - 12th May*)



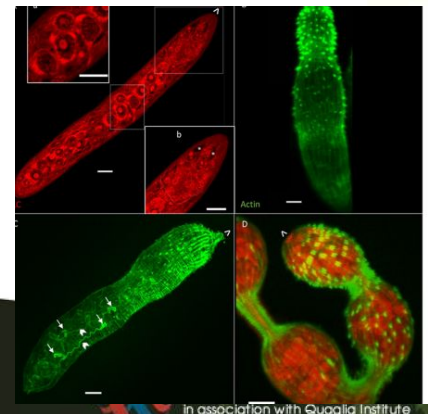
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Year 6 - Guest Speaker

Year 6 were fortunate enough to have a special guest speaker in at the start of term, to discuss their work linked to science and their studies around a parasite called *Schistosoma mansoni* - which is a worm (adults approx 1cm long) that lives in the blood vessels around the intestine in humans and causes disease. *Schistosoma mansoni* causes serious disease, and is found in tropical countries (not here!).

Sophie Parker-Manuel wowed the children with her impressive background and took the time to show children parts of her PhD research around the parasite and linked it to their topic learning of Microorganisms. Children in Year 6 were really engaged in the session and asked fantastic questions to deepen their understanding.



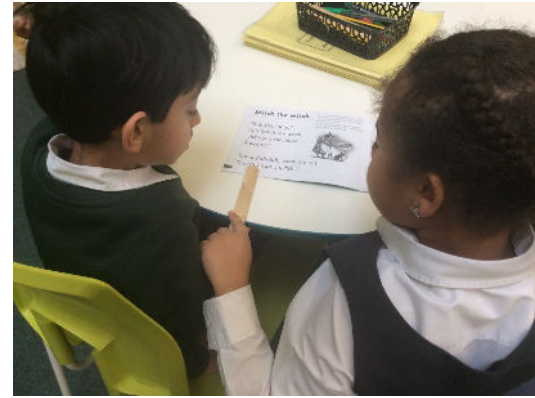
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Phonics

We are delighted with the progress that all of the pupils are making with their reading and phonics. As you can see in the picture, Fred the Frog, who is sitting on Mrs Lally's shoulder, features in all phonics lessons to help the children fred talk the words in order to read them. At 9 am and 10.30am everyday all pupils, from EYFS to year 4, are working hard to learn to read fluently, something we put at the centre of everything we do!



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World Book Day

We may not have dressed up this year but children at Dashwood had a great day celebrating World Book Day. It was fantastic to have so many children bring in some money from home to buy a book to take home. We raised over £150 to buy books for our new library, which is in the Grove area!

Children also enjoyed time throughout the day where they participated in a buddy reading session with another year group and they enjoyed creating a reading display in their classrooms too.

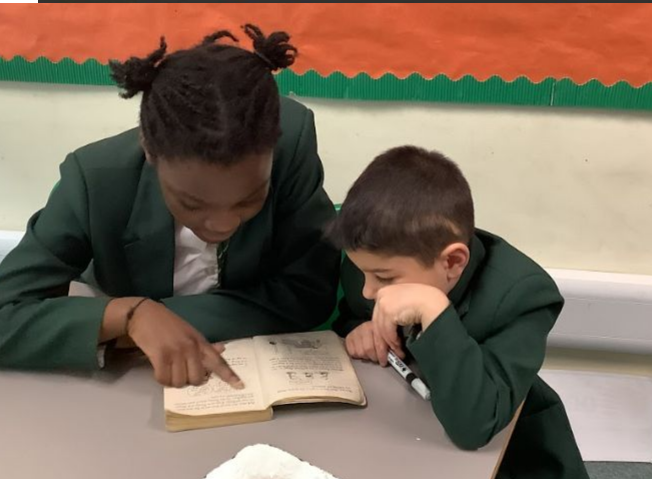


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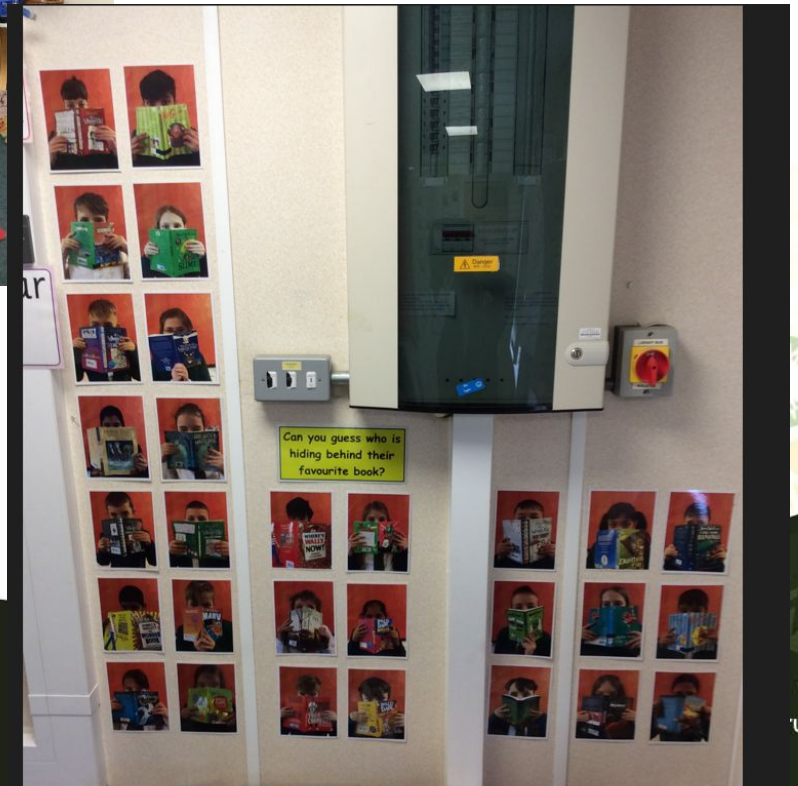


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World Book Day



World Book Day



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World Book Day

We had over 200 entries in the book recommendation competition! It was great to have so many good suggestions and we will be making these into books that pupils can look at in our library area, for when they need some inspiration when choosing their next reading for pleasure book!

Every child that entered received a certificate, some received stickers and bookmarks too and 4 lucky winners across the school also received a brand new book, specially picked for them! Well done to all who sent an entry in!

The winners were:

EYFS - Sophie - Pear class
Years 1 & 2 - Chenal - Hazel class
Years 3 & 4 - Beau - Aspen Class
Year 5 & 6 - Noah - Sycamore class



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Harriers V's Dashwood Girls Football

We had the pleasure of hosting Harriers for the first girls' football match of the season on Tuesday 28th February 2023. There was a real buzz around the match and both teams were excited to be playing a match. Harriers were an excellent team and gave Dashwood a really good match especially in mid-field with an excellent goalkeeper.



Dashwood scored the first two goals and went on to win 4-1! All the Dashwood girls played so well together and we know that they are going to have a fantastic season!

The team: Zuzanna, Martyna, Penny, Nicole, Ruby, Annabelle, Tulisa, Areeha, Olivia, Harmony (Year 6), Aaidah (Year 5)



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Uniform:

It is really important that all pupils have the correct uniform as stated in our policy. **All pupils from year 1 should be wearing a tie with a shirt not a polo shirt.** Please ensure that they are labelled - sharpies are the best!

Can I just take this opportunity to remind you that **trainers are not to be worn** as part of our school uniform.

We do not want our expectations of uniform to slip. When the correct uniform is worn, the pupils look extremely smart. We regularly get comments from the public about how smart they look when we are out and about. We had a very successful discussion about how we can support with uniform and the rising costs. Please see the next page for an overview of what we discussed in the Dashwood Action Committee.

Ties will be available to buy from the school office soon. We will let you know when these are available.



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P.E Uniform

It is really important that all pupils also have the correct P.E kit in school too. As you can see from the pictures they are wearing:

- Black shorts/joggers
- White polo shirt or round neck
- Black plimsolls or trainers
- Black jumper

These can be purchased cheaply in tescos, sainsburys and other stores and do not need to have a logo.

If you need any support with uniform, please do not hesitate to contact us.



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Healthy break-time snacks

We encourage all pupils to have a healthy snack at break-time - something that will give them **sustained energy** and that is **kind to their teeth**. Our tuck-shop sells snacks that are under 100 calories and *lower in sugar* or *sugar-free*. Some suitable snacks that you can provide from home are:

- A piece of fruit or fruit pots such as melon or grapes (cut-lengthways)
- Yoghurt tubes
- Fruit loaf
- Low-sugar healthy cereal bars - not chocolate covered (as these are high in sugar)
- Vegetable sticks such as carrot or cucumber

Crisps, even though some may be under 100 calories, do not provide any health benefits or the sustained release of energy children need. **Please do not give these as a break-time snack or sweets or chocolate of any kind.**



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Healthy Break-time Snacks

At Dashwood Banbury Academy, we are committed to supporting our pupils to make healthier choices to ensure they form the best habits now, for a healthier future. We know that it can be difficult to know what to do when it comes to snacks, so we have sought NHS advice to help you make and buy healthier options. Fruit and veg snacks are always the best choice, but if children are having packaged snacks, remember to only aim for one small one once a day that is under 100 calories.

Find out more at: <https://www.nhs.uk/healthier-families/food-facts/healthier-snacks/>

 Please support your child's health by only giving them one of these snacks to eat at break time	 If your child brings these in as snack, they will be asked to pack it away and bring it home with them.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lower sugar fromage frais or yoghurt• Plain rice cakes or crackers with lower-fat cheese• Sugar-free jelly• Fruit: an apple, pot of berries, satsuma segments• Vegetable sticks: carrots, cucumber, celery, tomatoes• Low-sugar cereal bars (check the sugar content as these can often be high)• Under 100 calories - healthier choice snacks - rice cake snacks, malt loaf or small portion of dried fruit	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Croissant - plain or chocolate/syrup filled - the sugar content in these are very high• Cereal bars or chocolate-covered cereal bars the sugar content in these are very high• Crisps• Chocolate bar of any kind• Cookies, biscuits or cake of any kind



Keep an eye out for the 'Good Choice' badge on products in stores and when shopping online to help you quickly find healthier options.

Drinks: To support oral health, in class, drinks must be **WATER ONLY**. Squash is only permitted to be drunk with lunch and should be a low-sugar or no-added sugar options.

NO fizzy or energy drinks are permitted at any time.



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The NHS recommends that a healthier lunchbox should include:

Starchy carbohydrates that keep your child feeling fuller for longer (wholemeal bread, pasta, potatoes, rice). **Top Tip:** If your child does not like wholemeal bread, try making a sandwich from one slice of white and one slice of wholegrain to get them used to it. Please ensure sandwich filling are also low sugar - no chocolate spread please.

Make healthy swaps to cut down on crisps, chocolate and fruit bars that are high in refined sugar. Find out more about healthier snack swaps at <https://www.nhs.uk/healthier-families/food-facts/healthier-snacks/>

Only **ONE** small treat should be included in lunchboxes if absolutely necessary. No 'grab bag' crisps or extra-large sized chocolate should be included. A portion of fruit or a low-sugar yoghurt are much healthier choices. Calories should be under 100 calories.

Include at least one portion of vegetables or salad: cherry tomatoes, cucumber, celery sticks and sliced peppers all count towards your child's '5 a day'. You could add a small pot of cream cheese for your child to dip their vegetables in.



At Dashwood Banbury Academy, we believe that school meals are a great choice for your child, but if you choose to make a packed lunch for them instead, here are some tips for providing a healthier lunchbox. Please help your child to live a healthy life.



Include fresh fruit that is in season: chopped apple, raspberries, strawberries, blackberries, blueberries and melon, all make great snacks too. **Top Tip:** add a squeeze of lemon juice to chopped fruit to stop it from going brown.

Include a source of protein such as beans and pulses; eggs; meat; cheese; and fish.



REMEMBER: We are a NUT-FREE school.

Please **NO** peanut butter, chocolate spread or nuts as snacks as some of our children and staff members have severe allergies.

Find healthy lunchbox choices and ideas from the NHS at Change4Life and <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/eat-well/food-guidelines-and-food-labels/the-eatwell-guide/>



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NO sweets should be included in any lunch box or as breaktime snack. There are no health benefits and they are bad for children's teeth.

Dashwood Action Committee

Parking: We discussed the continued issue with parking around the school and how we can prevent congestion, illegal parking and prevent an accident.

Actions:

- To purchase a banner to go on the gate to remind the community of safe parking around the site
- To write to the council to ask to see if they can put a barrier on the pavement to stop children running into the road when they leave the top gate.

Uniform Swap: We discussed the rising costs of uniform. We discussed how useful it would be to be able to swap uniform and support families to ensure they can access uniform.

Actions:

- To make starter packs of uniform
- To make a pop up stall to swap uniform at key points in the year. Parents can bring in uniform that is in good condition and have the chance to swap it for larger sizes or make a voluntary donation which will go back into buying goods for the Dashwood Food Bank.

Dashwood Food Bank: We discussed our food bank and how we can sustain it.

Actions:

- For the Aspiration Council to advertise the food bank
- Put more notices on Dashwood's Facebook page
- To write to tesco to apply for their 'grant token scheme' where they support local charities and groups - we will let you know if our nomination is successful!



Dashwood's Food Bank

Come and visit the food bank. We have a variety of essential items to add to your cupboards.

We have cereal, tinned foods, pasta, coffee/tea, rice, biscuits, toiletries, cleaning products and much much more. Come and have a look!

If you would like to donate to our food bank, please add to the box in the office. Items we would like are: UHT milk, soup and pasta sauces.



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Keeping all of our children safe

In our PSHE lessons, **keeping safe** is theme that we cover in all year groups at a level appropriate to their age.

At home, please support this learning by talking to your child about the dangers of picking up items up when they are out and about and always asking or telling a trusted adult about anything that they are unsure of. Recently, a vape, that had been picked up from the pavement on the walk to school, that had sadly been thrown and not placed in a bin, and brought it into school. These items look very appealing to children, often brightly coloured and named by their 'flavouring' things such as 'Gummy Bear'. In the same way that we would educate our children about the dangers of smoking cigarettes, and picking these up from the floor, vaping needs to to have the same focus. They look tempting and we certainly do not want children putting these in these mouths as they may have seen adults do. Let's all work together to keep our children safe from potential hazards and dangers.



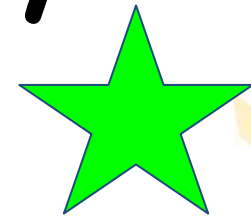
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Up and coming events
and dates for your
diary



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Red Nose Day



Red Nose Day
Friday 17th March

FRIDAY 17 MARCH

Children can come to school dress in
RED.

Bring some loose change if you can to
support this charity.

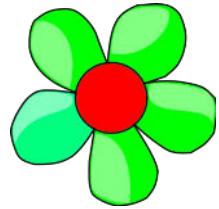
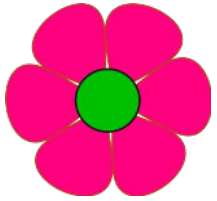


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PTFA Event: Special Lady in your life market



On **Friday 17th March** the pupils will be able to visit our very own market to choose a small gift for a special lady in their life.

If you would like your child to visit the market, please put £3.00 in a named envelope with their name and class. Pop it in the PTFA box in the office by **Tuesday 14th March**. We will not be able to take any money after this date so we can prepare for this event.



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Parents Evenings

Tuesday 21st March 3.30-5pm and Thursday 23rd March
3.30-5.50pm

EYFS: EYFS Classrooms
Year 1,2 and 3: In their classrooms
Year 4, 5 and 6: Hall

*Nursery (Plum Class) are on Tuesday 14th and Thursday
16th March*



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Parking: Thank you very much to all the parents and carers who are working together to keep all of our children and community safe. A few reminders:



- it is illegal to park on double yellow lines;
- it is an offence to drive on the pavement even for a short distance;
- please do not block local residents driveways; we have had some complaints from people living on Alma Road.

I appreciate that there is limited parking around the school grounds however, it is imperative that we do not park opposite the school gate, on the double yellow lines when dropping and collecting children from school. It gets very busy by the gate, with lots of cars so if you could park further away from the school and walk, that would be preferable and reduce the traffic by the school. I appreciate your cooperation to ensure that we prevent a serious accident from occurring.



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Dates for Term 4

Please see the attached link for a list of all of the events we have planned for Term 4.

<https://dashwood.academies.aspirationsacademies.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/8/2023/02/Term-4-Dates.pdf>

Last day of term 4 is Friday 31st March.



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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)

Monday 8th May 2023: Extra Bank Holiday for the Coronation of Charles III

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 Tuesday 5th September to Friday 20th October 2023

NB Nursery pupils will start later and be given their dates directly. Reception will also be given their start date separately as we undertake home visits in September.

Next academic terms INSET days: 1st and 4th September, Friday 24th November, 8th January and 28th June 2024



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