



Dashwood Banbury Academy
an Aspirations Academy

Dashwood News: 31st March 2023



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A note from the Principal...

*What a wonderful term we have had. We have continued to focus on our three guiding principles of **Self-Worth, Engagement and Purpose** in our assemblies this term. The pupils have been fully **engaged** in their science topics this term and as you saw in the science fair yesterday there are some truly amazing outcomes. Year 6 have also enjoyed working with the art department at Wykeham Park Academy where they have used a variety of art mediums to create artist versions of different microorganisms.*

We also welcomed Andy David into school this term to work with our student leadership team. He has been working with the Aspiration Councillors, alongside Miss Brown, to analyse the student survey they all completed last term. The main area of development was about the pupils: making their own decisions. He also worked with our Sports Leaders and listen to the great things that our Eco-Warriors are working on. He stated that "Dashwood is leading on this out of all of our academies". Miss Brown is also looking into us working towards our Eco Mark. Well done to all of our student leaders - you certainly are change-makers at Dashwood.

Thank you for all of kind donations for Red Nose Day. We raised £ £217.54 for this charity - amazing!

I would like to wish you all a very Happy Easter and I look forward to seeing you after the break.
Sarah Gordon-Weeks



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EYFS - Nursery

Cherry class have been busy preparing for spring and Easter. They have use their fingers as tools to paint cards, made salt dough eggs, mixed ingredients for chocolate Easter nests and planted bulbs and seeds in the garden, eagerly watering them and patiently watching them grow.



Plum class have been welcoming and helping their new teacher Mandy settle into their class. They have been very proactive in explaining the class rules and routines. They have also written a joint letter to the farm to say thank you for a brilliant trip.



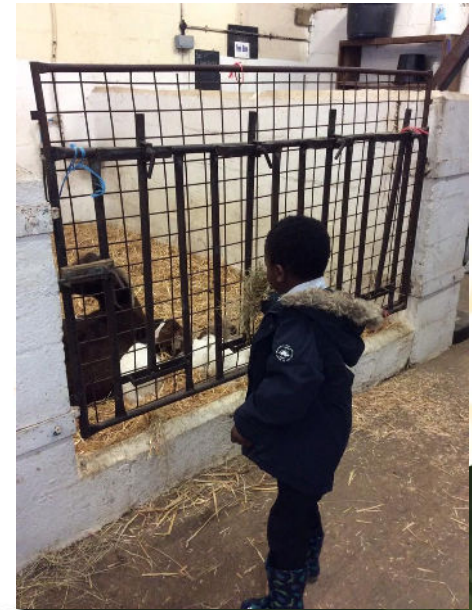
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Fun on the Farm

Plum nursery class enjoyed a wonderful trip to the farm this term. It was great to have the opportunity to meet many of the animals that the pupils had been learning about in class. This included cows, sheep, donkeys, pigs, rabbits, guinea pigs, and even some less traditional farm animals such as a lizard! A highlight of the trip was feeding the greedy goats and petting a young kid.



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EYFS - Reception



We have spent the final couple of weeks of this term looking at the signs of spring and the changes happening in the environment around us.

In Reception we have also talked about the start of Ramadan, as well as Easter traditions, and pupils have shared some of their experiences of how their own families mark these events. We have also been busy exploring the changing state of chocolate by making our own delicious Easter eggs and following clues as part of an egg hunt.



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Easter Hat Parades 2023

On the last day of term our EYFS children proudly showed us their creative Easter bonnets during our annual Dashwood Easter Hat Parade. There were some wonderful designs and plenty of beaming smiles as the pupils walked around. Thank you to parents and carers who helped the children to make their hats at home.



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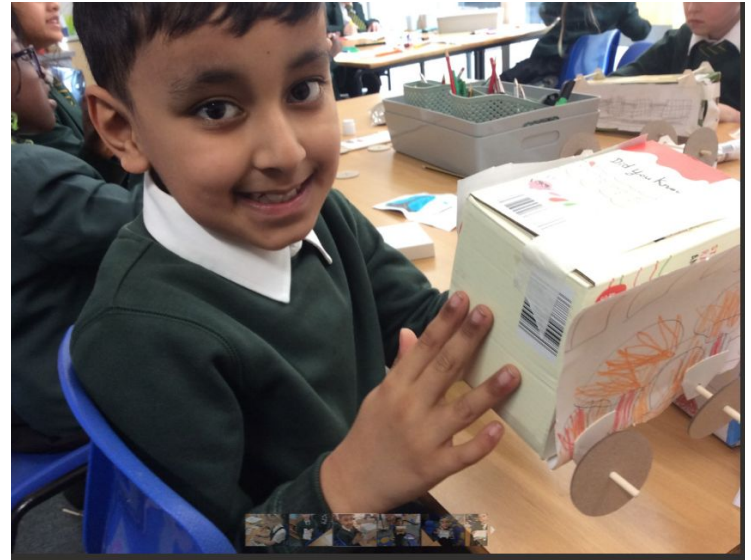
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Year 1

Year 1 have been learning all about properties of materials to help answer our driving question '*What material is most suitable for a rain shelter?*' To do this, we had to investigate how waterproof a range of materials were.

In addition to this, we have also been using our maths skills to prove which object is longest.

Finally, we have applied our knowledge of victorian toys to create our own moving toy. We are then going to write up instructions to help other children make their own victorian toy.



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Year 2

In Year 2, we have been working really hard on our '*Pirates vs Mermaids*' performance. The children have had to demonstrate great determination and bravery in learning their lines and remembering the songs. We hope you enjoyed their performance and are as proud of them as we are!

We have also been tremendous scientists this term, where we have been working towards two driving questions '*How can we as gardeners, ensure that sunflowers bloom?*' and '*How can we prove that all creatures' needs are different?*'. Each week, we have been monitoring our sunflowers growth and measuring how tall the stems have grown. In addition to this, we have produced factual and informative profiles on an endangered animal and offered suggestions of how we can save them.



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Year 3

Year 3 have thoroughly enjoyed making an Ancient Egyptian medicine. They have shown teamwork and a range of 21st century skills by working as part of a group to make the medicine for a particular ailment and then market it, producing eye-catching packaging to grab the attention of the customer. They have also created informative and persuasive leaflets for their medicine and presented all of this to the class.



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Year 3 Recorders

Year 3 have been working really hard on their recorders. They 'wowed' their parents/carers with a fantastic performance. Let's see what they do later on in the year!



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Year 4

Year 4 have thoroughly enjoyed their chocolate topic this term. We have used our DT skills to design and name our own chocolate bars and have made these delicious treats, wrapped in our own designed packaging. The wrapped products look professional and we even wrote a persuasive advert to sell the bars. A fabulous trip to Cadburys World taught us more about the origins of chocolate as well as how it is made today. The children were wonderfully behaved and showed interest and engagement throughout the day.

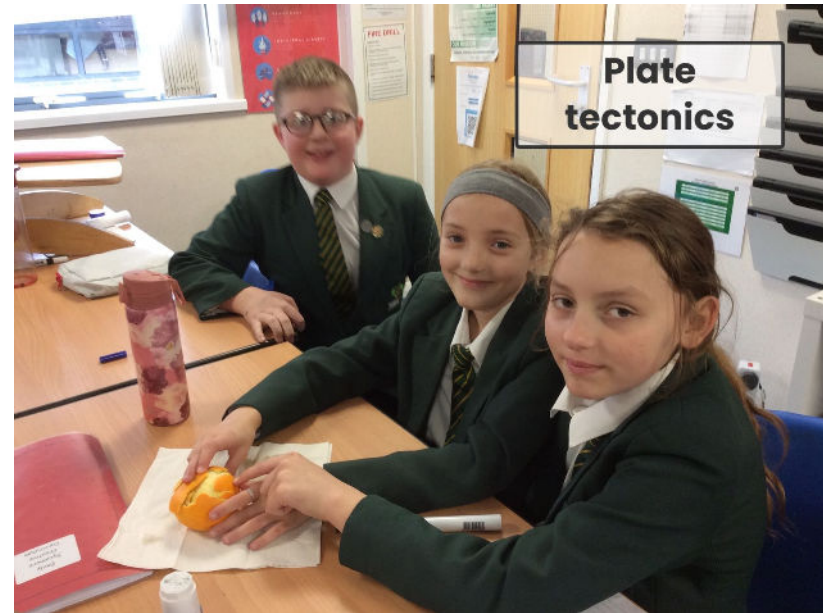
Year 4 enjoyed two science days where they found out about states of matter. After learning about solids, liquids and gases and how they can change state, the children worked cooperatively on a group project to display their understanding of why water is so amazing. We were delighted with the outcomes which displayed not only their skills in science but in art, literacy and computing too.



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Year 5

Year 5 have been learning about earthquakes and volcanoes. They have enjoyed exploring tectonic plates and understanding how earthquakes and volcanoes are formed. They have researched the impact of these devastating natural disasters. They have also made a fantastic iMovie explaining why some areas of the world have more volcanoes and earthquakes than others.



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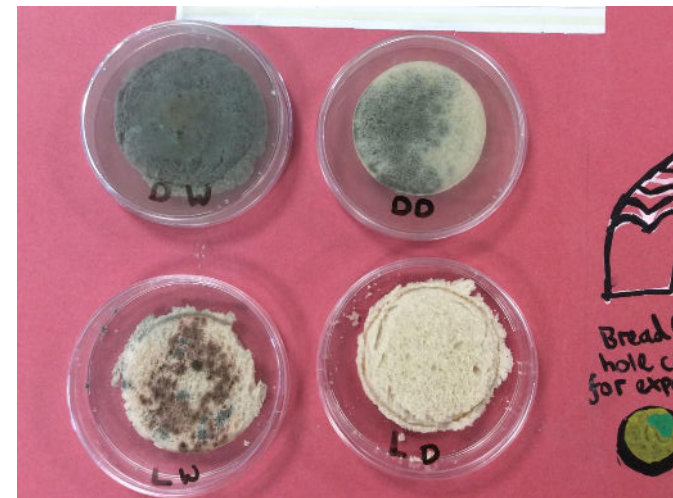
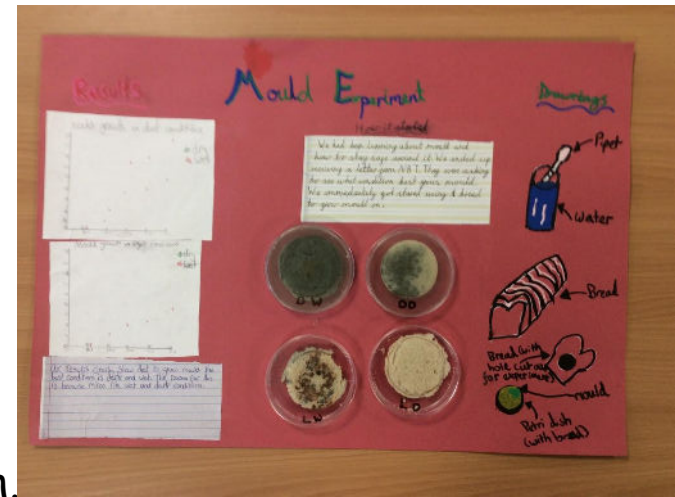
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Year 6

Year 6 are have enjoyed investigating which conditions mould grows best in. They have enjoyed monitoring the growth in different conditions and discussing the outcomes.

They have really enjoyed studying some Shakespeare and children have engaged with the story of Macbeth. It was great to see them act out parts of the play and they have worked hard to develop some descriptive writing based on the first scene of the play.

Finally, children showed excellent teamwork and sportsmanship in their year group family competitions - where they demonstrated their skills from PE this term in a match of basketball and a game of cricket!



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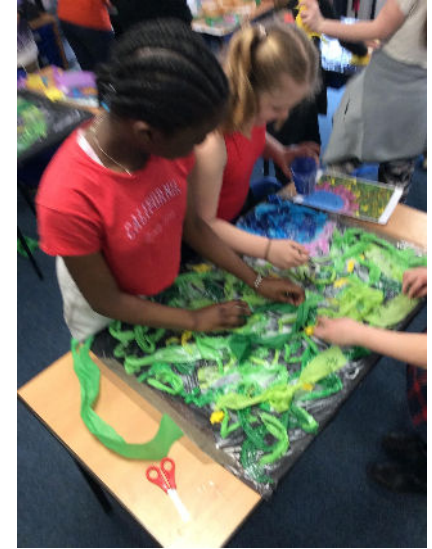


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Year 6 Science and Art visitors

Year 6 pupils have had a super term learning all about micro-organisms. They were very fortunate to have a visit from one of our parents who worked on a parasite called *Schistosoma Mansoni*, which is a worm that lives in the blood vessels around the intestine in humans and causes disease.

Pupils learnt about microscopy and the images it creates. They then had a amazing day working with teachers from Wykham Park Academy on creating their own micro-organism art. Pupils loved the individual and large-scale pieces that they created!



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Wonderful Work



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TTRS Competition Dashwood V Jewell Academy Bournemouth



A closely fought battle ensued when Dashwood took on Jewell Academy for the 3rd round of Top of the Rocks!

Dashwood perseverance paid off with us finally winning! Over the week we answered 360, 838 questions correctly. The top classes were Chestnut, Oak and Rowan. Amazing performances from Simao, Tulisa and Kaiden in Year 6, Daniyal and Caiden in Year 4, Rory in Year 3 and Sophia in Year 2.

Well done to all the children who worked so hard on their times tables all week.



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Student Leadership Training and updates

Many of our Pupil Leadership groups received training this term from our Aspirations Trust! All of the training was focused on the pupil as '**change-makers**' who can use their voice and make a difference to causes and matters that they care about.

The Junior Leaders (Year 5) and Sports Leaders (Year 6) learned how to manage groups of younger pupils and engage them in physical activities which they will continue to plan and lead in lunchtimes, in PE lessons and in sporting events.

Our Aspiration Councillors spent their session looking through our recent Pupil Voice survey. They discussed two strengths from the survey and two areas they wanted to focus on to make improvements.

Our Eco-Warriors shared what they had been working on so far this year including litter-pick campaigns and raising awareness of caring for our environment - in school and out in the community.

Our Anti-Bullying Ambassadors also shared their campaign to raise the awareness of what bullying is and isn't and how pupils can get support.



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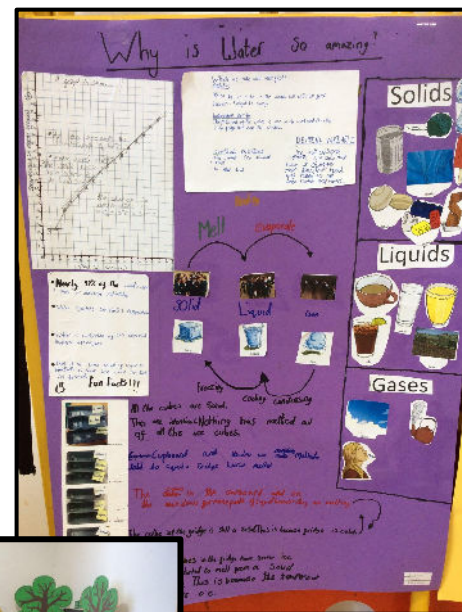


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Whole School Science Fair

This year we have held a fantastic Science Fair with a competitive element to bring our science term to a celebratory finale. Each year group have busily worked on their science objectives, developing their knowledge of scientific concepts as well as their investigative skills.

The children have worked cooperatively in groups and have been encouraged to use their flair and imagination to display their findings in an effective and engaging way. We have been delighted to see such a range of ways to demonstrate their understanding... computing using the chromebook presentation and word processing tools, art and design, graphs in maths as well as the use of diagrams and pictures. They look amazing and we couldn't wait to show them off in the hall.



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The Oxford Literary Fair

On the 28th February some of our pupils from Year 6 attended a very special author event in Oxford as part of the **Oxford Literary Festival**.

Children sat through a special talk by the author **Joseph Coelho**, where he told them all about his work and writing processes. He discussed 'The Power of Poetry' and, as the new children's laureate, the discussion was very powerful.

After the talk children had the chance to meet the author too and take part in a book signing.



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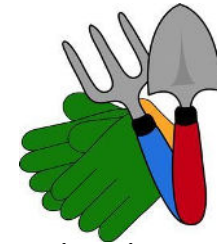
PTFA Updates



I would like to take this opportunity to thank the PTFA for all of their hard work in making the 'Special Lady in your life' event so special and for all of the other events that have been organised throughout the year.

From the events that we have had so far, we have purchased some musical instruments. We are planning to use future funds for:

- Gardening equipment including bulbs, compost for the planters in the playground
- A theatre experience for all pupils in the Autumn term
- A parking sign to go on the main gate.



All proceeds go directly back into the school. I will keep you update with what we purchase so you know what the money is being used for.

If you would like to join the PTFA, please come and see us. You do not have to commit to every event; any help would be appreciated!



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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 are available to buy from the school office. Please come in and purchase one if needed.



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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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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.

**Salvation Army Food Bank (George Street): No vouchers needed.
It is open on a Tuesday and Friday 10.30-12pm.**



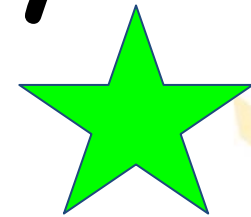
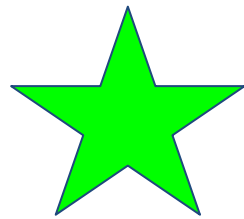
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Up and coming events
and dates for your
diary



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Kings Coronation Card Competition



Our local MP, Victoria Prentis has launched a competition to design a card that she will send to the King on behalf of the local community.

Entries must be A4 and should be sent to **Victoria Prentis MP, House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA** **by Monday 17th April**. The entry must have their name, class, school and age on the back.

See this letter for more information:

<https://dashwood.academies.aspirationsacademies.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/8/2023/03/Coronation-Card-Competition-Letter.pdf>



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King Charles III Coronation

As you will be aware we will be celebrating the King's Coronation in May. In recognition of this historical event, King Charles has marked Monday 8th May as the 'Festival of Volunteering.' To help our pupils understand the meaning and importance of volunteering, we are going to hold an event at school to recognise 'THE BIG HELP OUT.'

On Monday 22nd May from 3.45-5.30pm we are going to plant bulbs in our new planters that are in the playground and in the library bus reading area. **Bulbs purchased by the PTFA - thank you!**

If you would like to join us then please sign up at the office.

Tea, biscuits and squash will be provided.



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Dashwood's School Newspaper: The King's Coronation

If you decide to do some volunteering, let us know and we can interview you for Term 5's newspaper. You may be a Beaver, Cub or a Brownie or you may be doing something to celebrate in your local community. Let us know and share with everyone your achievements.



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Travelling Books' Fair is coming to Dashwood

The popular book fair will be coming to Dashwood next term - **27th April 2023 until 2nd May 2023**, bringing you an unbeatable range of the latest and best children's books.

There are over 200 titles for you and your child to choose from, and with prices starting from only £2.99, there's sure to be a book for everyone. **All books on the book fair will be on a 3 for 2 offer.** If you can't make it to our Book Fair, try the discounted Gift Vouchers available at www.travellingbooks.co.uk/parents. They're a great way to ensure your child doesn't miss out. Don't forget that every book you buy can help to get **FREE BOOKS** for our school library!



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Competition!!!



Year 4 and 5 Musical Extravaganza Performance

Wednesday 24th May at 2.30pm -Performance to Year 4
parents

Thursday 25th May at 2.30pm - Performance to Year 5
parents

Children will need to wear a colourful t-shirt and black
trousers. The theme of the show is Friendship.



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Dashwood's Got Talent

Let's see who has talent at
Dashwood - *KS1 and KS2 only!*



Do you think you have got what it
takes to reach the grand final?
Can you sing, dance, tell jokes or
even do some magic?



If you can and would like to, get
practising and look out for the sign
up sheets that will be coming out in
Term 5.



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Dates for Term 5

Here is the link to Term 5's list of events:

<https://dashwood.academies.aspirationsacademies.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/8/2023/04/Term-5-dates.docx.pdf>



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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

Term 2 Monday 30th October 2023 to Wednesday 20th December 2023

Inset day on Friday 24th November



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