



Dashwood Banbury Academy
an Aspirations Academy

Dashwood News: 26th May 2023



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A note from the Principal...

We have blinked and now we are at the end of term 5! I wanted to start by saying a huge well done to all of our Year 6 and Year 2 children who have all taken tests over the last few weeks. They have shown resilience and determination and we couldn't be prouder. I would like to say a huge thank you to the staff for ensuring that the pupils were well prepared but not stressed about the tests. Thank you for all of your support at home too to keep them relaxed.

This term in our assemblies we have been looking at what it means to live in a democratic society which is one of our British Values. At Dashwood we encourage the pupils to have an opinion and give them opportunities to take part in debates. We have been working on developing their ability to 'make decisions'; and the importance of thinking things through carefully before we act.

It was wonderful to see some of our families at our Dashwood's 'Big Coronation Help Out'. There was a real sense of purpose throughout the afternoon. We planted onions, strawberries, garlic, corn and tomatoes. We are taking good care of them with many children asking to water them! The plants look amazing too. We would like to say a huge THANK YOU to the PTFA who brought the plants; they are certainly a lovely addition to our environment. We know that if our environment looks lovely, our pupils will be more likely to respect it and feel calm.

I would like to wish you a very happy half term and I look forward to seeing you in term 6.

Mrs Gordon - Weeks



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A royal reading encounter....

On Thursday 18th May, 2 pupils from Year 6 had the opportunity to go and take part in a 'dream library' workshop, working alongside top children's authors, Malorie Blackman and Cressida Cowell. Not only did they get to talk to the authors and discuss their ideas all around reading for pleasure, they were visited by a very special VIP guest... Her Majesty, Queen Camilla! The 2 pupils represented Dashwood and spoke confidently to Her Majesty about their love of reading. Well done! We are so incredibly proud to have been able to be a part of this event. An experience of a lifetime...!



EYFS - Nursery



Cherry class have continued with their minibeast topic and learning about different insects. They have created some lovely salt dough honeycomb pieces and bees, as well as using marbling and printing techniques to create some spider webs like in their class story, 'The Very Busy Spider'.

Plum pupils have been enjoying the warmer weather and spending lots of time outside. They have been mixing up natural ingredients in the mud kitchen, hunting for bugs in their bug hotel and experimenting in the water tray. They have also been working collaboratively each week on a big art project linked to their class story, creating different characters from 'Sharing a Shell' using a variety of resources and techniques.



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EYFS - Reception

Reception classes continued their pirate topic and had fun innovating their class story. They practised a range of skills while designing, making, and testing out boats they made using junk modelling. The majority of which successfully floated on water! While learning about the oceans, the pupils showed lots of interest in finding out more about the impact of plastic waste on the environment. They then went on to design posters to inform people of how they can look after the world around them. They have now pledged to try to reduce waste paper and put the correct waste in the recycling bins.

The final week of term saw Reception focusing on leading healthy lifestyles, such as eating a balanced diet, getting enough sleep, good hygiene practises and the importance of mental well-being.



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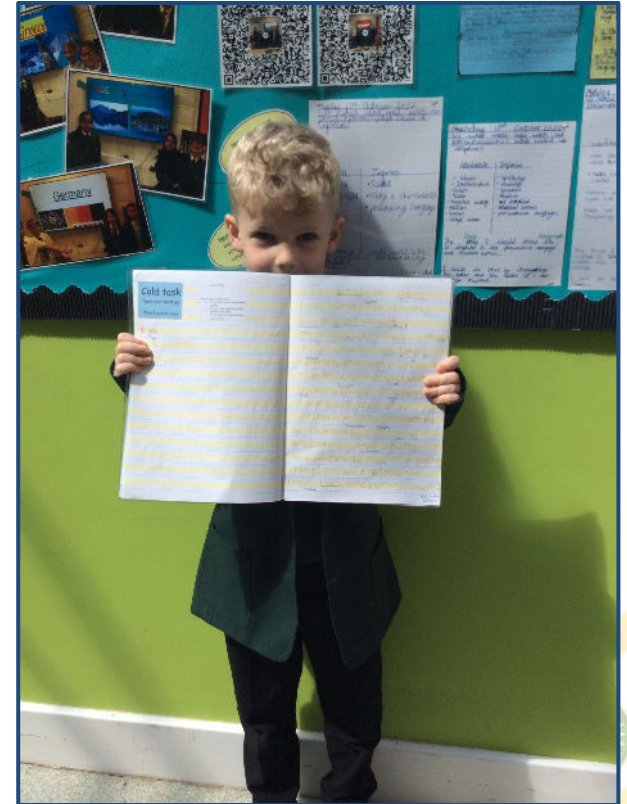
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Year 1

Year 1 have had an exciting end to their Little Red Riding Hood topic. They have written their own versions of the story and created some fact files about wolves. They even used their reading skills to find the facts and information that they wanted to include.

Additionally, we have been thinking about how we can improve the school environment. As a result the children have made posters about picking up litter, to put up in school, as well as some butterfly feeders to go in the wildlife area and for our own gardens.

This week, the children have been learning about computer programming and have been giving characters instructions using the Scratch junior app so that they can move in different ways across the screen. It was lovely seeing how absorbed they were trying to make their characters move and checking whether they had the correct instructions or not.



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Year 2

Firstly, we would like to say a massive well done to all of the Year 2 children for showing such resilience and determination during their end of Key Stage assessments last week. Everyone tried their very best and we couldn't be prouder of them. We celebrated all their hard work at the end of the week with a special treat and reward.

In addition to this, Year 2 have shown off their creative flair through designing several types of puppet. They have had to learn the skill of stitching and practicing the running stitch with their hand puppets. Alongside this, they also had the opportunity to create either a finger, spoon, sock or lollipop puppet to perform in a puppet performance. Their designs and performances were incredible.



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Year 3

Year 3 have had an exciting few weeks learning about rivers and canals. They have learnt about water pollution and then created their own water filters in forest school. They have been on a walk along Banbury canal and were lucky enough to see a canal boat going through the locks too! They have used this knowledge to design and create their own sustainable and safe bridge using tinkercad, a great computing resource and then recycled materials.

In literacy, we have been looking at a poem called 'The Sound Collector' and then the children created their own fantastic poem, thinking carefully about the sounds they would 'collect'.



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A visit from an architect...

Year 3 had a fascinating visit from Lynn Palmer, who is an architect, at the start of their DT project to design and build a bridge over a canal. She explained what architects do and how she designs houses. She then showed them some amazing bridges from around the world and discussed the things that designers would need to consider when designing a bridge.



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Year 4

Year 4 have been learning the skills and rules required for a successful game of handball. The children are really enjoying our weekly games and are developing skills in a range of passes as well as finding an effective space and intercepting the ball. The game is fast paced and fun and we have been really impressed with the teamwork shown.

Year 4 have also continued to practise daily for our Musical Extravaganza and what a fabulous show it was!



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Year 5

What an exciting term year 5 have had. They have really enjoyed making their wheeled field guns in DT for their WW1 topic.

They have been rehearsing for their Musical Extravaganza every day, and Wow what a show!

As well as this they have had a great team building day!



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Year 5 Team building day

Year 5 had an amazing time on their team building. They solved problems, communicated with each other, they were resilient and used their initiative. Most of all they had a huge amount of fun!



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Year 6

Year 6 have been working hard at the end of Term 5 and have been enjoying learning all about the human body in their science lessons. They have learnt all about the skeletal system, the digestive system and the circulatory system.

Pupils have then used their scientific knowledge to write their own newspaper reports all about an humans and have extended this to write explanation texts, from an aliens perspective, detailing how humans are formed.

The have loved joining in with their PE sessions too and completed an inter house competition as a year group, where blue house came out on top. All pupils worked hard to earn points for their houses.



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Well done to all of our Year 6 pupils

It was fantastic to see you all working so hard to complete your Key Stage 2 assessments! We hope you enjoy all of the fun things we have coming up in term 6 - your last term at Dashwood! Well done to all of you for your hard work and commitment to your learning!



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Dashwood's Big Help Out

Thank you so much to all of the pupils, parents/carers and staff who helped make our Dashwood's Big Help Out such a huge success. We planted up all the raised beds and pots and we think you will agree, our school environment looks so lovely and vibrant as a result! Thank you to the **PTFA** for making this all possible with their donation to fund the plants, to **Hilliers** for their kind donation of shrubs and to **Keter** for the super planters!



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Year 4 and 5 Musical Extravaganza

Year 4 and 5 performed a spectacular Musical Extravaganza to the parents based on the theme of friendship. They rehearsed for hours over the term perfecting the songs: *Get by with a little help from my friends*, *My best friend*, *You've got a friend in me*, *I'll be there for you*, *Count on me* and *Give a little love*. Well done to everyone, you were amazing!



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Dashwood's Got Talent

Over 100 pupils braved the Dashwood's Got Talent auditions and demonstrated their spirit of adventure and bravery in front of Ms Beaumont. She had the tricky job of choosing the finalists from the very large pool of talent that we have here at Dashwood!

The final was incredible, filled with a whole range of talents: singing, dancing, instrument playing, jokes and even squats!



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And the Year 1 - 3 winners were...

Best Entertainer - Alfie

Best Performer - Lydia

Judges' Choice - Jenson

Runners Up - Nikodem, David

Overall Winner - Emilia



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And the Year 4 - 6 winners were...

Best Entertainer - Arthur and Tulisa

Best Performer - Emily

Judges' Choice - Marley J

Judges' Choice - Eric

Runners Up - Freddie

Overall Winner - Nathan



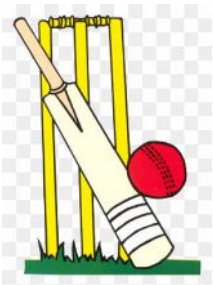
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Sports

Cricket Festival - Banbury Cricket Club



On Thursday 18th May, some of our Year 6 boys and girls took part in the North Oxfordshire School Sports Cricket Festival at Banbury Cricket Club. Supported by Mr Shaw and Mrs Galloway, the day was filled with many cricket matches and sunshine! Both teams played with passion and super teamwork - supporting and cheering one another along. They have also showed a key characteristic of team sport which is fair play; always congratulating the other team. We are very proud of all the players!



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Dashwood Action Committee Meeting

Date of the next meeting: Friday 7th July 2023
9-10am

Agenda:

1. Updates from actions from the last meeting
2. Reflection of the year
3. Events you would like see next academic year
4. PTFA update

Tea, coffee and biscuits provided.



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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/permanent markers are the best!

Can I just take this opportunity to remind you that **trainers (even black ones) 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 Tesco's, Sainsbury's 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.



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Reminders:

Please can we be mindful about language when out in our community. We have had reports from parents and residents in the local area that inappropriate language is being used towards each other. At Dashwood we teach the pupils to be respectful and kind towards each other and we would appreciate this to be modelled and upheld within our community as we know that pupils learn from the adults around them.



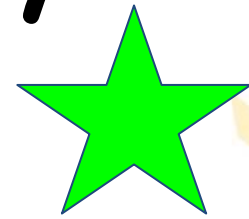
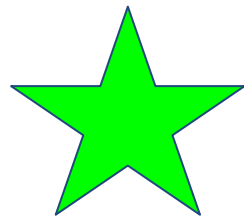
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Up and coming events
and dates for your
diary



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SEN Support Group Banbury

About us

A support group that is run every other Monday to help support parents/carers of children with SEN, diagnosed or undiagnosed. Tea/coffee and refreshments will be provided. £1 donation per person.

Find us on Facebook: SEN Support Group Banbury or
message us 07432003645

**Cromwell Lodge Hotel, OX16 0TB. Every other
Monday 09.30am-11.00am.**



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Sports Days

Monday 12th June

Years 1 and 2 Sports Day at 9-10am. Please wait at the gates by the bike shed and we will open them when all of the children are inside.

Years 5 and 6 Sports Day at 2pm. Please wait at the gate by the bike shed and we will open it when all the children are ready.

Tuesday 13th June

Years 3 and 4 Sports Day at 9-10am: Please wait at the gates by the bike shed and we will open them when all of the children are inside.

Wednesday 14th June

Reception Sports Day at 9-10am: Please wait at the gates by the bike shed and we will open them when all of the children are inside

Plum morning nursery at 11am: Please wait by the large gate where you drop them off and we will open it when all the children are ready.

Plum afternoon nursery at 2.30pm: Please wait by the large gate where you drop them off and we will open it when all the children are ready.



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PTFA: A Special Man in your life market



On Friday 16th June, your child will be able to go to the school market, set up by the PTFA, to buy a small gift for a 'Special Man in their life.' If you would like your child to take part in this event, you will need to sign up and pay on parent pay by **between Monday 5th June and Tuesday 13th June at 4pm.** Please ensure you sign up by this date as the **option will disappear at 4pm** meaning you will no longer be able to sign up and take part. This is because we need to ensure we have enough gifts and prepare for the event. I will send text reminders.



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Year 3-6 Enterprise Event

We run this event every year where the children in years 3-6 design, make and market a product to sell. On this day the children in years 1-6 can come to the event and purchase a product. They will need up to £1 in loose change if possible. Money raised will go towards books for the library.



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Transition Days

In order for the children to feel confident, excited and less anxious about the new school year, we have our transition days in the last two days of term. They will spend these two days:

Thursday 20th July and Friday 21st July with their **new teacher in their new classrooms**. You will receive a letter stating which teacher they will be having and where their new classroom will be later on in the term. On these two days they take part in lots of 'getting to know you' activities, set new class rules, give out jobs for the new term and vote for the new Aspiration Councillors. So it is essential that they attend these days so they do not miss out.



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Dates for Term 6

Here is the link to Term 6s list of events:

<https://dashwood.academies.aspirationsacademies.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/8/2023/05/Term-6-Dates.pdf>



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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

Term 3: Tuesday 9th January to Friday 9th February 2024

Inset day on Monday 8th January

Term 4: Monday 19th February to Friday 29th March

Term 5: Monday 15th April to Friday 24th May

Term 6: Monday 3rd June to Wednesday 24th July

Inset day on Friday 28th June



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