



**Dashwood Banbury Academy**

an Aspirations Academy

**Growing together; succeeding together**

# Reception

## Parent Information Booklet

# Our Ethos

We take a LEARNING THROUGH PLAY approach, so most of our teaching is done through games and activities that are both CHILD AND ADULT INITIATED.

EVERY CHILD IS IMPORTANT and has different needs. We teach from the level your child is at. Many teaching activities are done on a one-to-one basis or in a small group with others who are currently working at the same level.

Every activity has clear LEARNING OBJECTIVES e.g. playing with buckets and spades in the sand helps develop a child's fine motor skills and small world activities develop speaking and listening skills. We expect everyone to do their best and have very HIGH EXPECTATIONS for behaviour and achievements.

We believe that INDEPENDENCE is highly important and therefore we encourage the children to do everything for themselves: including putting their coats on, pouring their own drinks and tidying up. As the year goes on, we will build up the independence they have leading to learning in larger groups, in their own classrooms and completing some activities completely on their own in Literacy and Numeracy sessions.

We focus on POSITIVE PRAISE and try to ignore negative behaviour wherever possible. We use many systems to praise including: rainbow chart, stickers, verbal praise, prizes and stamps.



# Information



**Book bags:** You can purchase book bags from Cross Embroidery. Please send your child into school with their book bag every day. All children need a book bag please, even if it is not a school one.

**Food:** We are part of the fruit scheme so your child can have one piece of fruit a day as well as a carton of milk. Water is provided throughout the day in our café. For lunch, children can choose to bring a packed lunch or order a universal free school meal. Please see ParentPay information page.

**Key workers:** Each child is given a key worker. This member of staff will work with your child closely and follow their learning journey. They will be your first point of contact if you would like to discuss anything related to your child. Your child will see them at the start of their session and say hello.

**Tapestry:** Every child will have their online learning journey. We encourage parents and carers to contribute to these through uploading any pieces of work, pictures, photos etc they have been part of at home. It is great to see the different things children get up to when they are not at school. More information will be given on in a meeting with yourselves.

**Voluntary contributions:** We welcome resources to be donated to us such as: junk modelling materials, girls and boys unwanted underwear, toy animals, jigsaws etc.

**Communication:** We have an open door policy which means you can arrange to chat to your child's key worker at any time. If we are not free at that moment, we will always book an appointment for you. **Newsletters** will be put on our website telling you everything your child will be doing at school over the weeks ahead and ways you can support them in their learning. We spend lots of time ensuring these are detailed and useful so please take the time to carefully read them. We often announce trips and events that your child will be part of in the letters. (A whole school newsletter that tells you about the school events will be posted on our website too).

**Trips:** We aim to go on one big trip a year that may cost around £10-£15 but we also go on many local trips that are free. We will always inform you of a forthcoming trip via the newsletter or a separate letter if we require permission slips. All application forms filled out with the school require you to sign for local trips therefore you do not need to do this every time we go somewhere in Banbury.

**Collecting your child at the end of the session:** only those who are on the named contact list (over the age of 16) will be allowed to pick up your child unless you let us know and give a secure password.

**Homework:** Your child will be given a sound book, reading book, activities to complete and key words to learn over the year. Please spend at least 5 minutes a day completing home activities as well as reading every day.

# Uniform

The Dashwood Academy Uniform comprises of:

For Foundation Stage (Reception & Nursery) pupils:

- Green v-neck sweater (with or without logo)
- Plain white polo shirt
- Black trousers, shorts or skirt/pinafore
- Plain black or white socks or tights
- Black sensible school shoes
- Green and white summer (Gingham) dress



For Years 1 to 6, pupils wear:

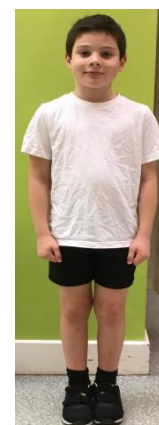
- Green blazer with logo
- Green v-neck sweater (with or without logo) – optional
- Plain white button up shirt
- Green and gold tie (clip on or traditional)
- Black trousers or skirt/pinafore
- Plain black or white socks or tights
- Black shoes



As part of the school's curriculum every pupil will do PE and games each week.

Please ensure that your child has within their school bag a PE kit consisting of:

- Plain black shorts
- Plain white T-shirt
- Plain black tracksuit bottom
- Plain black tracksuit top
- Trainers (not those worn all day)



**PLEASE NAME ALL UNIFORM AND PE KITS CLEARLY.**

Learning to organise equipment and resources is an important part of education, please help your child by ensuring that you have packed everything in their school bag that they will need for the whole week.

Jewellery, temporary tattoos and nail varnish are not permitted with the exception of a watch and plain stud earrings.

In the interests of safety, practicality and hygiene it is suggested that long hair is tied back with a plain fixing. We are aware of the fact that children are continually subjected to fashion influences with regard to hair styles, some of which are appropriate to the school situation whilst others are not. Bearing this in mind Grade 1 shaved hair is not advisable. Tramlines or patterns are not permitted as are bright and unnatural hair colours.

Many thanks for your co-operation.

Dashwood Banbury Academy uniform can be purchased from:

Cross Embroidery Ltd  
Units 5-6  
Lower Cherwell Street  
Banbury  
Oxon  
OX16 5AY

Phone: 01295 270555

# Timetables

The day starts at **8.45 am** and finishes at **3.15 pm**. It is really important these times are stuck to as much as possible. Being late can really affect a child's self-esteem and security.



The children come into school and register themselves. They then play in the unit. They have four input sessions a day where they sit down on the carpet to learn. During their independent learning times, the outside area is open as well as inside. Children are encouraged to tidy up after themselves and manage their own behaviour and hygiene. Please help support them with this by encouraging them to get dressed and feed themselves.

Two/three adults will be interacting with the children throughout the day, whilst another is carrying out individual/small group activities e.g. writing a letter. We also have music and/or story time every day.

We have a lot of fun in the unit and we are sure you and your child will enjoy your time here. Further details will be given out at the start of the year in our essential meeting (e.g. homework etc) and during your home visit.

# ParentPay

We use ParentPay for booking school meals, for paying for trips and breakfast and afterschool club.

Breakfast Club: Please pre-book a place through the school office and charges will be applied to your ParentPay account. Sessions will be charged at £3 from 8 am (which includes a light breakfast).

School meals: may be ordered termly or weekly and need to be pre-booked by at least the Thursday before the week required. If you have forgotten to book by the deadline, you will need to provide a packed lunch as the kitchen cannot otherwise guarantee sufficient quantities. Please ensure you book the correct choice, as changes will not be possible on the day.

Afterschool Club: Please pre-book a place through the school office and sessions booked will be added to your ParentPay account. Sessions will be charged at £12 per child and siblings at £8. The session is from 3:15 pm till 5:50 pm, children can be collected at any time during the session, but all children must be collected before 5:50 pm. If you no longer need your session, please cancel by 9 am on the day of the book or else you might still be charged.

Trips: All class trips are payable on your ParentPay account; when you pay online, this also automatically gives your consent for your child to attend.

If you require assistance with your ParentPay account or password, please contact the office.

We may be moving to another platform for bookings and payment, more information will be sent you in due course.

## Check list of starting school

- \_\_\_\_\_ I have brought the correct school uniform and shoes
- \_\_\_\_\_ I am aware where my child is coming in to school and where I have to pick them up from
- \_\_\_\_\_ I have got my child's birth certificate or passport ready to show their key worker on the home visit
- \_\_\_\_\_ I know when my child's home visit is and will make sure my child is present as well as key adults who look after them
- \_\_\_\_\_ I have completed an admission form with the school stating any medical information, dietary requirements and who will pick my child up each day
- \_\_\_\_\_ I know what day my child starts school
- \_\_\_\_\_ I have read through the booklet and noted any key questions I have ready for my child's home visit

Thank you for taking the time to read this booklet, we hope it tells you the basic things you need to know. If you need any other information please just ask!

# Teachers' Top Tips for Getting Ready to Start School

In Reception we encourage children to be as independent as possible. Please use this sheet as a guide to the skills we would ideally like children to have, by the time they start school. If there are any issues or worries relating to these, the class teacher will be happy to discuss this during home visits. We understand every child is unique and develops different skills at different times.

## Self-Care

I know when it is important to wash my hands  
I can wipe my nose.  
I can ask for help when I don't feel well or I am hurt.  
I have a good bedtime routine so I won't be too tired at school.

## Toilet

I can go to the toilet on my own, wipe properly and flush.  
I can wash my hands with soap and dry them afterwards.

## Eating

I can use a knife and fork.  
I can have a go at opening packages and wrappers on my own.  
I know to get a drink when I am thirsty.

## Getting Dressed

I can button and unbutton my clothes.  
I can put my own shoes and socks on.  
I can put my coat on and use a zip.  
I can put my uniform on by myself.

## Reading & Writing

I am practising to hold a pencil correctly.  
I enjoy tracing patterns, colouring in and drawing pictures.  
I can have a go at recognising the written form of my name and writing it myself.

## Personal & Social

I am able to talk about myself, my interests, my needs and feelings.  
I am happy to tidy my belongings and look after my things.  
I can listen and follow instructions.  
I know it is good to try and share and take turns.  
I feel confident and happy about starting school and making new friends.

## Maths

I like practising to count objects.  
I can recognise some numbers.  
I show an interest in shapes and construction.