



Dashwood Banbury Academy
an Aspirations Academy

Dashwood News

6th October 2023



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A note from the Principal...

I cannot believe have just ended week 5 of our first term. We have achieved so much already and already with trips to the Ridings care home; year 6 first aid training; year 1 geography field trip; phonics parent workshop not to mention all of the fabulous homework projects that were brought in.

*I introduced the pupils to two new words this year: **Dreaming and Doing**. We have talked about these words and what they mean in our assemblies. We have discussed the importance to have goals or dreams, whether they be short or long term. This could be anything from wanting to learn their 3x table; to learn to ride a horse; to go to college to study childcare or even be a landscape gardener when they are older. It is great to have dreams but the important question is 'What are you going to do now, in the present, to reach your dream?'*

We want our pupils to be motivated and inspired in the present to be able to meet their dreams. We need to foster a sense of belief that they can do anything they choose to if they work hard and have direction. Why not ask your child what their goal is? Do you have life goals that you can share your your child?

Big questions to think about this week!

Mrs Gordon-Weeks

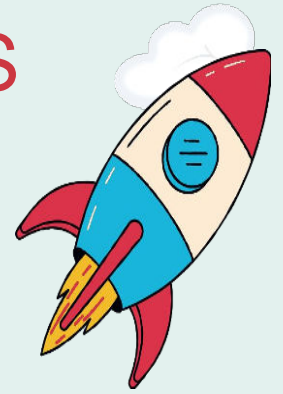


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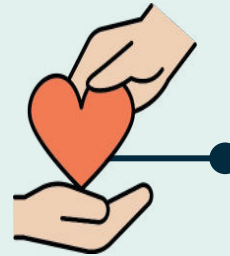


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CLEAR VISION UNDERPINNED BY A SET OF STRONG GUIDING PRINCIPLES



SELF-WORTH



BELONGING
HEROES
SENSE OF
ACCOMPLISHMENT



ENGAGEMENT



FUN & EXCITEMENT
CURIOSITY & CREATIVITY
SPIRIT OF ADVENTURE



PURPOSE



LEADERSHIP &
RESPONSIBILITY
CONFIDENCE TO TAKE
ACTION



Cultural Day

We all had a very colourful, educational and fun day last week celebrating all of our different cultures and religions. Pupils dressed in their cultural dress and looked truly amazing! Classes spent time looking at maps of where their friends came from; stood up and shared how they celebrate and different customs and every single pupil made a butterfly to describe why they are special and unique. This all links to our Guiding Principle of Self-Worth, fostering a sense of belonging and respect for others.



It is ok to...

Every pupil in the school made a butterfly. In their classes they discussed their similarities and differences. We have also discussed the importance of celebrating differences and being accepting of other people's choices. Here are a few of our butterflies. We are going to put them all in our reception area.



A huge thank you...

Thank you so much for all of the generous donations for our Dashwood Food Bank. As always, we know we can rely on our community to support events we do here at Dashwood. Remember the food bank was founded by a year 6 student from last year and it is still going strong. Please come and use it- it is for our Dashwood families. If you would like us to make you up a food parcel, please come and see us or if you would like to come a browse, that is also fine!



Accessing the foodbank

We welcome families to access our foodbank whenever they need it. If you want to access this great resource at quieter times, please feel free to come to reception from 2.30pm.

There will also be paper slips available in the office to complete if you would like to request some food bank items and we can make a food box for you to collect at a convenient time for you.



A picnic at The Ridings

On 25th September 2023, 14 of our Year 3 and 4 pupils were invited to The Ridings Care Home for a Teddy Bears' picnic with the residents! The event brought the two generations together to share a picnic style lunch and chat about the teddy bear they had brought along to join the fun. Some of The Ridings residents had bears from when they were little; one ladies bear was over 60 years old!

It was wonderful for two different generations to come together and there were a lot of smiles and laughter from all.



EYFS - Nursery

Cherry class children have been busy being creative as part of their transport topic. They have had fun making some marble prints and used 2D shapes to design some rocket pictures. They have practised mark making and developing fine motor movements with paintbrushes.



Our pupils in **Plum nursery** have been focusing on looking after themselves, their friends, and our classroom. As part of literacy they have been sharing some traditional tales and taking some of the rich story language they have learnt into their play.

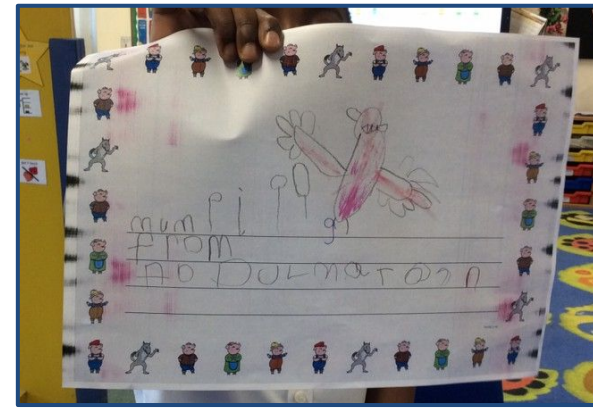


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EYFS - Reception

Our Reception classes have enjoyed our term 1 topic of traditional tales. They have tried different types of bread baked by the Little Red Hen, been left building materials from The Three Little Pigs and been transported into different lands during our fairytale story times.

We have begun our phonics lessons and the children are doing well learning to read and write the first set of sounds. We have been applying our skills by drawing and labelling story maps and writing letters to story characters and signing our names at the end.



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Year 1

Year 1 have loved learning about Banbury and Oxford over the last few weeks. We especially enjoyed a walk around our local area identifying all our physical features such as the shop, church, mosque and sorting office.



In addition to this, we have been working hard on our numbers to 10 and learning to compare them using the vocabulary less than, more than and equal to.



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Year 2

Year 2 have loved geography this term, they are passionate about continents and have even learnt the continents song! They have learnt lots of new facts about landmarks in London too - ready to help Paddington give Aunt Lucy a tour around London.

They have enjoyed creating their own instructions in literacy, including how to play a board game. They have worked really hard learning about different word classes.



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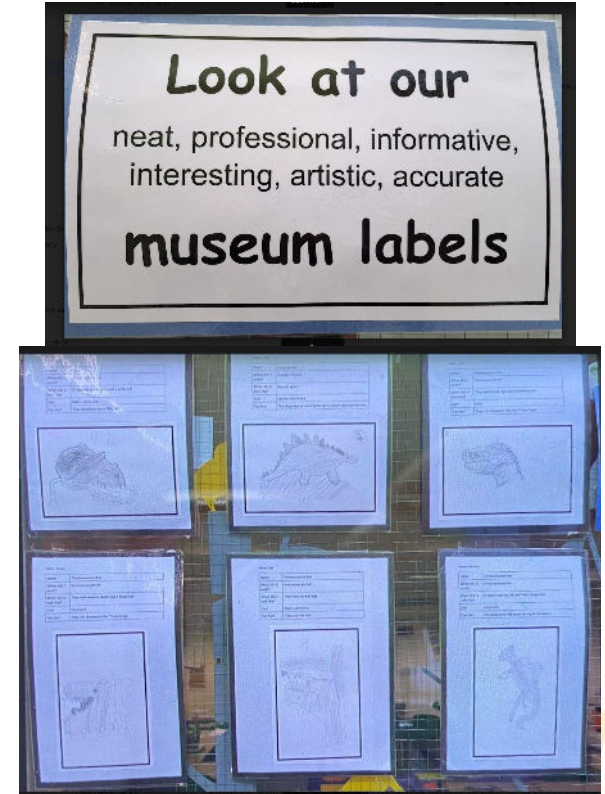


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Year 3

Year 3 have created a wonderful outcome to complete their dinosaur unit of learning.

After our visit to the Natural History Museum in Oxford, the children have developed both their sketching and computing skills to make their own museum label. They worked hard to find the key facts about their chosen dinosaur, used Google Drive to word process and used stippling and cross hatching techniques in their sketches. They look incredibly professional and the children are really proud of their work.



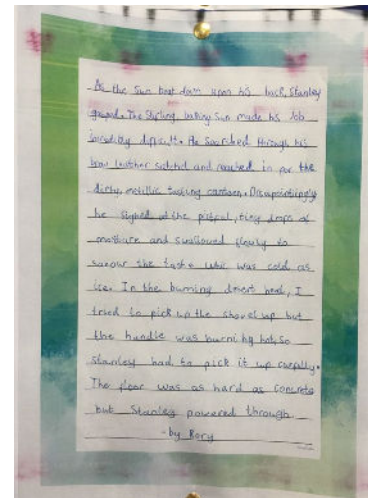
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Year 4

Year 4 have had an amazing few weeks! We have fully immersed ourselves in our Destination Europe topic. We have been following our TASC wheel to create presentations to persuade our audience to visit our chosen European country. We are excited to share these with our special visitors (Mrs Bunn and Mrs Taylor) next week!



In Literacy this term, we have been reading our new class novel 'Holes' written by Louis Sachar. We have enjoyed listening to the adventures of Stanley at Camp Green Lake. We have been selecting exciting vocabulary from the text and applying it to our own pieces of descriptive writing, which have been put on display in our classrooms.



Finally, in Maths, we have been consolidating our knowledge of place value up to ten thousand and we are now confident in rounding numbers to the nearest ten, hundred and thousand.



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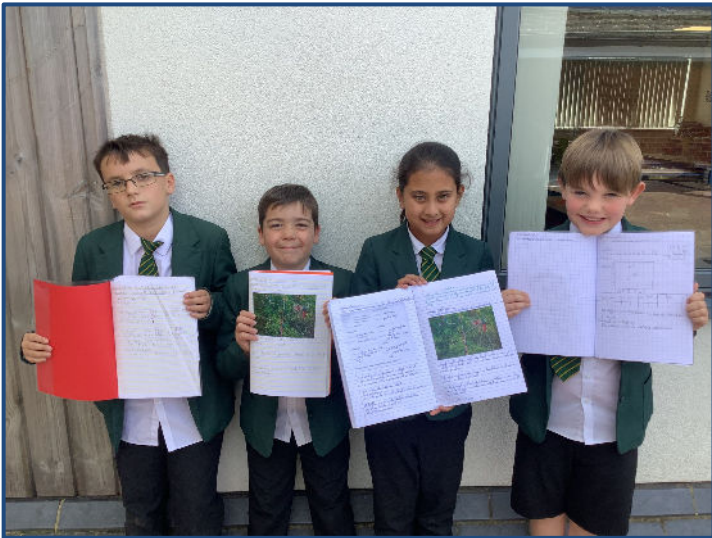


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Year 5

In Year 5 we have been learning all about deforestation in the Amazon rainforest during our geography lessons and have just started work on our own newsround style presentations to report on the impact this is having. In maths, we are putting our place value knowledge to use by working on rounding large numbers and solving problems using rounding. We have also just started looking at our new book in literacy called 'The Explorer' by

Katherine Rundell and are excited to continue working on this. Finally, we would like to celebrate all of the success we have had in the swimming pool so far this term with multiple pupils earning themselves certificates for 5m, 10m, 25m and even one 50m certificate. We are well on our way to achieving our target of getting as many pupils as possible to swim 25m before they leave Dashwood!



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Year 6

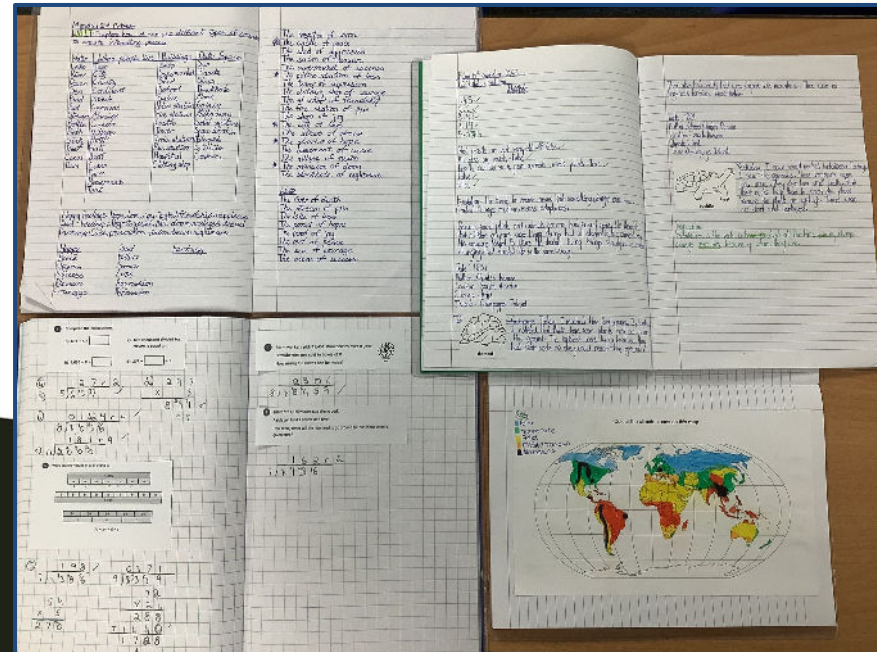
Year 6 have been working hard over the last couple of weeks, they have been looking at evolution and inheritance in science and answering how and why animals adapt to their environments. We have had a visit from IMPS (Injury Minimization Programme for Schools) and learned lots about how to keep ourselves and others safe.

In literacy, we have begun to look at creative writing and poetry through our model text 'The City of Silence' and will continue to focus on how to create an atmosphere in our writing. Our maths sessions have been centred around the four functions and using these to solve increasingly complex problems using written methods such as long multiplication.

We are also very excited for our residential trip to 'Rock UK' next week and can't wait to share all of the adventurous things we have been up to!



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STEM - Space studio

Some of the Year 6 took part in a creative STEM challenge at Futures Institute - Banbury. They learnt all about problems in the Fashion industry - too many clothes being thrown away, the vast distance clothes travel and the pollution that is caused by their production.

They then came up with some fantastic ways that technology and science could fix the fashion industry. There were ideas for apps to sell unwanted clothes and upcycle them, ideas for cleaning the water from clothes production and reusing the dye and ideas about clothes that would stretch as you grow. They all had a great time and may think more carefully when buying clothes in the future.



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IMPS - Injury Minimisation Programme

Year 6 had a fantastic time taking part in the injury minimisation programme (IMPS). They took part in 2 sessions during the morning. One was a practical, hands on activity where they discussed DRS ABCs and learned how to respond in an emergency scenario - including how to give CPR. The second session showed different videos, which results in injuries. The children discussed how best to respond to these and how to minimise any injuries in the future.



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Anti Bullying Ambassador training

On Wednesday 4th October, our Anti-Bullying Ambassador received their first training session from the ***Diana Award*** which was focused on anti-racist bullying behaviour. We learned that racist bullying behaviour is when some repeatedly, verbally or indirectly targets another person based on their skin colour, their actual or assumed culture, ethnicity, nationality or race. We discussed 'exclusion' in the training: leaving someone out or treating them unfairly because of the colour of their skin.

All of the Anti-Bullying Ambassadors approached their first training session with maturity and incredible reflection - exploring how we can ensure Anti-Racist Bullying Behaviour does not happen at Dashwood, but if it should, how we deal with it and educate others to ensure that it does not continue.

Our Ambassadors: **Year 6 Leads:** Grace, Pola

Year 6: Naail, Rameen, Lacey, Nikita, Lexi D, Tilca,

Sabrina, Rosie, Mya, Ella, Sophia **Year 5:** Tomasz, Eesha-Bela, Riley



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Dashwood Action Committee

The Dashwood Action Committee is a group of parent/carers and Dashwood staff representatives who meet to discuss issues and how we can make positive change. Just a reminder of the actions from the last meeting and the things we will be running throughout the year: *internet safety parent sessions; SEN support groups and how to support child mental health issues.*

Dates for next years meetings:

Term 2: Friday 8th December 2024

Term 3: Friday 9th February 2024

Term 4: Thursday 28th March 2024

Term 5: Friday 24th May 2024

Term 6: Tuesday 16th July 2024



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Internet Safety - Parent Support

From our Dashwood Action Committee meetings last academic year, it was suggested that parent advice regarding how to keep your child safe on the internet would be welcomed. We have created an online page on our website with a wealth of information and guides to help support parents with knowing how to manage your child's online use and ways to keep them safe. The guides on this page are really useful for helping parents to stay one step ahead.

<https://www.dashwood-aspirations.org/parent-information/supporting-your-childs-safety-online/>

Kidscape is also a great resource for parents and carers:

<https://www.kidscape.org.uk/programmes/digital-safety-training-for-parents-and-carers/>



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Minibus update

As you will be aware, the minibus was sadly vandalised during the summer holiday. We rely on having a minibus to transport us to events such as sporting and curriculum days held at Wykham Park Academy and other venues.

We are working hard to source a new minibus and hope this will be in place by the end of year (December/January). In the meantime, we will be borrowing the use of Wykham Park Academy's minibus as much as possible and thank them for this opportunity.



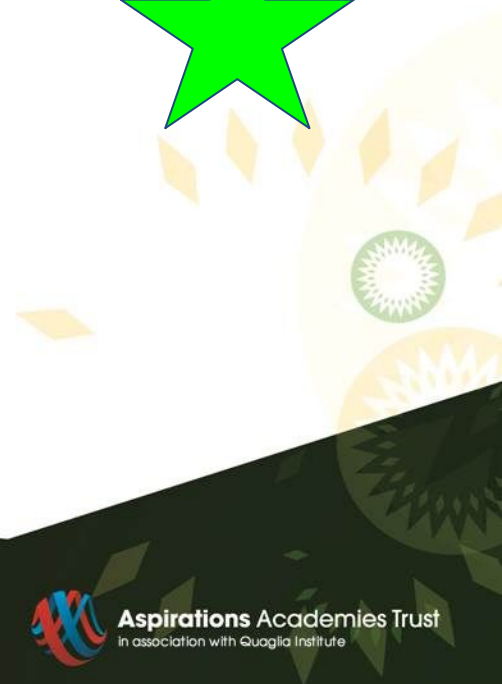
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Up and coming events and dates for your diary



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PTFA Dress up Day

Friday 20th October 2023

Theme: Express Yourself

Pupils and staff can come to school dressed in clothes that represent you as an individual.

Pay £1- all proceeds go back into the school.



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PTFA Winter Ball

Friday 3rd November

We are excited to invite the pupils from Reception to Year 6 to our PTFA Winter Ball. £3.50 a ticket. Tickets will be available on parent pay soon!

Pupils in Reception and KS1: 3.15-4.15pm. *Children can bring their party clothes to change into. You do not need to collect them at 3.15pm*

Pupils in Key Stage 2 (Years 3-6): 4.30-5.30pm. Please collect your child at 3.15pm as normal and drop them back at school for 4.30pm. We will sign them in at the office.



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Does your child have Special Educational Needs?

Being a parent of a child with Special Educational Needs and/or a Disability can be challenging at times, but you are not alone and support is available.



We are holding a coffee morning, where Parents and Carers of children can join us for a drink and chat with Mrs Houlihan; members of the leadership team and other parents and carers, to share ideas, tips and offer advice in a friendly environment. We can also discuss what support you would like at these groups. We can invite guest speakers and signpost you to events and other support groups locally. We are looking into guest speakers who may be able to support at these sessions in the future about a variety of topics linked to SEN. Watch this space!

Our first coffee morning will be held on: **Friday 1st December 2023 at 9am**. Come and have a coffee/tea and a chat. Come through the office and we will take you through!



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Is your child starting school September 2024?



Was your child born between **1st September 2019** and **31st August 2020**?

If so, you will need to apply for their reception school place from 1st November 2023 via the Oxfordshire County Council [website](#).

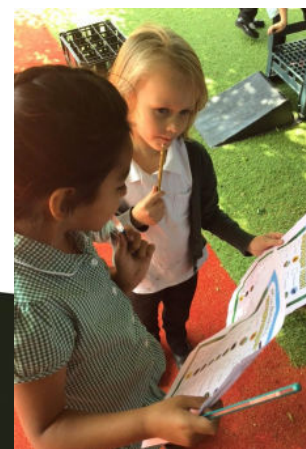
We are hosting some **open days/evenings** for prospective parents to find out more about Dashwood Academy and welcome all those interested to join us.

Thursday 19th October at 5pm

Tuesday 14th November at 9am & 5pm

Please register your interest at the school office.

office@dashwood-aspirations.org



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2023 - 2024 Term dates:

Term 1 Tuesday 5th September to Friday 20th October 2023

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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