



**Dashwood Banbury Academy**  
an Aspirations Academy

# Dashwood News

## Wednesday 20th December

## 2023



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# A note from the Principal...

*What a creative and festive term we have had at Dashwood. So many events have taken place including: visits to the Ridings and Chamberlains Care homes to sing carols and make decorations; carols at St Leonard's Church; singing around the Christmas tree; reception visited the Methodist church in town; enjoying a festive Christmas dinner; early years performing in wonderful nativity and Plum class singing their songs merrily.*

*We have had lots of fun and excitement for sure. As we move into the Christmas holiday period, it is important to remember that the exchanging of gifts is lovely but it is the gifts that are free that mean the most: time playing games; watching movies with family and friends; making crafts together and sharing favourite books. It is also a time to reflect on the year and think about changes we can make for the better for our families, friends and our Dashwood community.*

*I would like to wish you all a very happy Christmas and happy and healthy new year. I would also like to thank you for all of your support - we are very lucky to have such a supporting parent community. See you all in January 2024.*



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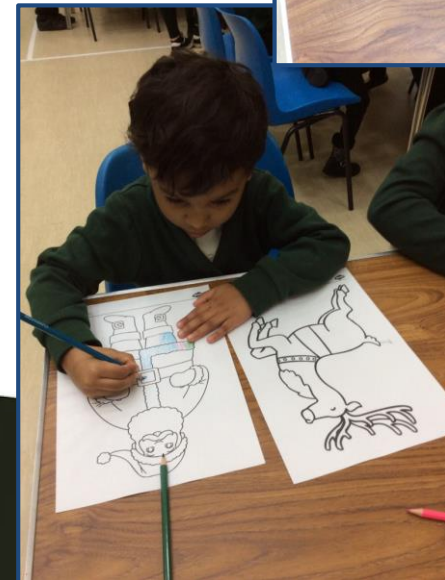
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# Reception Church Trip

Peach and Pear classes enjoyed a trip to Marlborough Church recently to find out more about the Christmas story and how some people celebrate Christmas.

The staff at the church were very welcoming and had organised a range of activities for the children to take part in, including creating their own Christingle.

The minister then talked to the classes about what each part of the Christingle represents and what Christmas means to others, including that it isn't just about opening presents and Santa Claus.



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# Christmas Carols at Chamberlaine Court

The Young Voices choir have been out in the community again, spreading Christmas spirit at Chamberlaine Court. They sang a collection of carols and Christmas songs and even gave the residents their own carol songbook so they could join in too! They delivered some Christmas cards as well, that had been carefully created by the Year 3 pupils at school. It was a lovely morning and pupils received so many compliments on their performance.

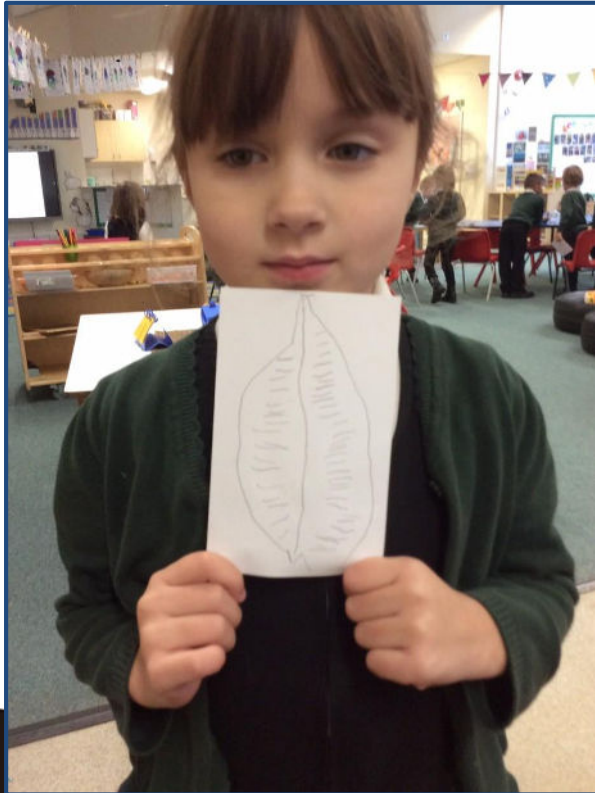


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# Reception: Sketching



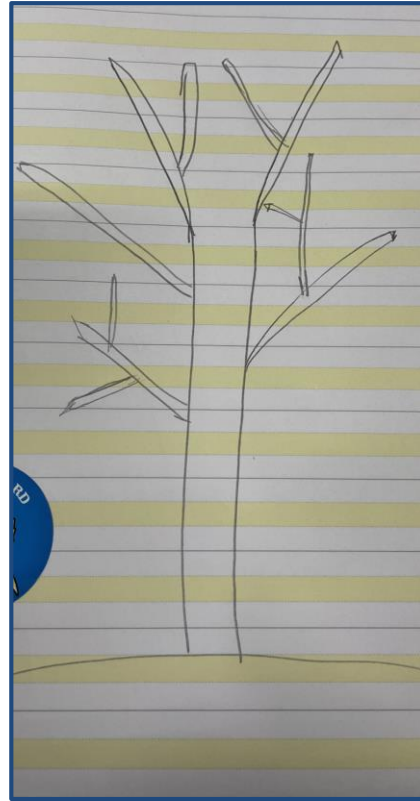
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# Year 1: Andy Goldsworthy and Vincent Van Gogh

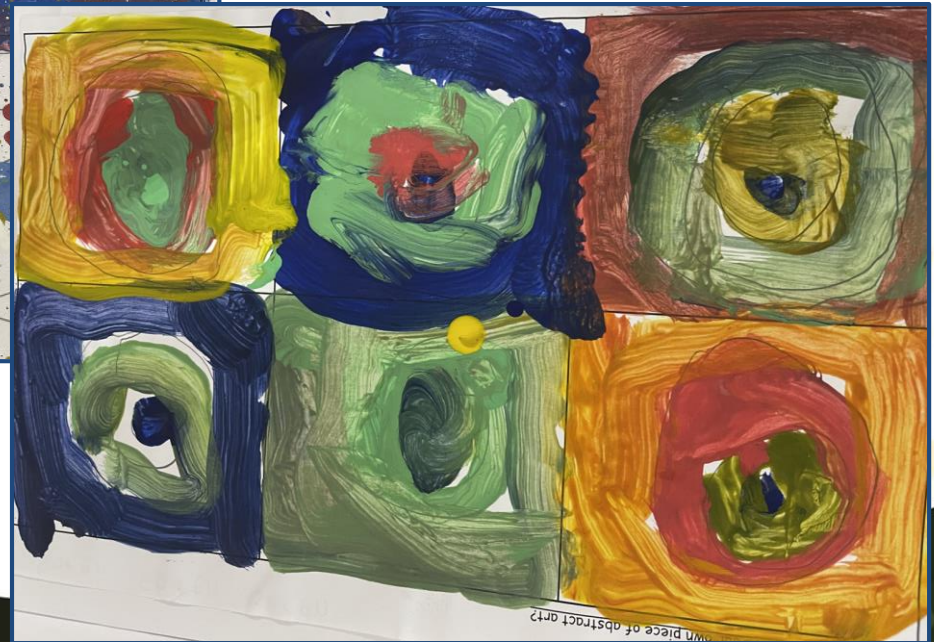


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# Year 2: Kandinsky



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# Year 3: Layering and Pointillism



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# Year 4: Sculptures



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# Year 5: Textiles



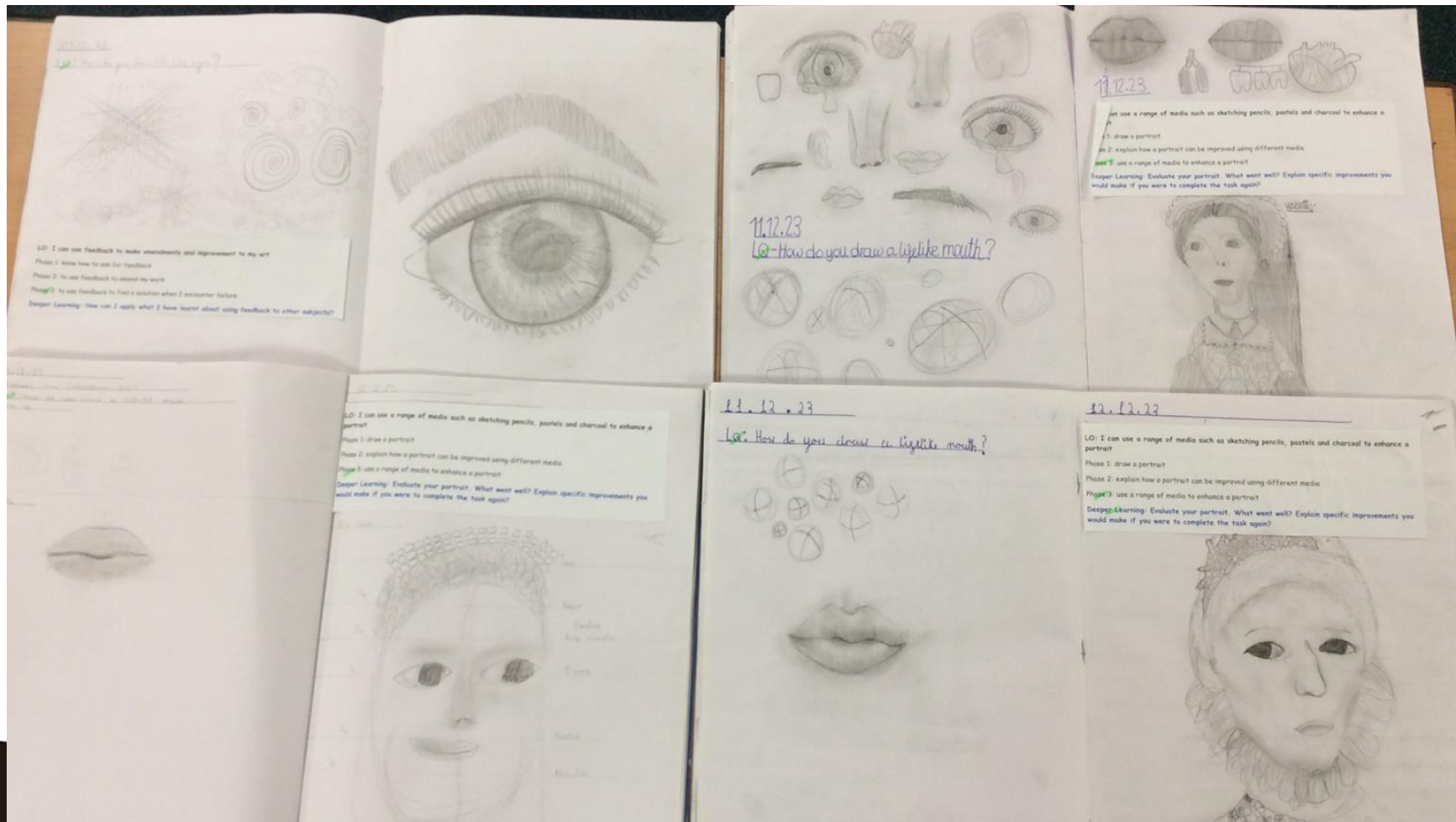
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# Year 6: Portraits - sketching



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# Christmas Dinner and Dress-Up Day



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# Christmas Concerts

What a wonderful new addition to our festive celebrations! It was fabulous to see so many Year 3 and 4 families who joined us to sing around the christmas tree in the playground. We hope the whole of the community enjoyed the beautiful singing too - hopefully they heard.

It was also lovely to see so many families at the year 1 and 2 Christmas Concert! The readers read confidently; the singers sang beautifully and the christmas tree twinkled in the background. Next year I think we need to have two concerts as we appreciate it was a bit of a squeeze!



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# Christmas Concert - Year 5 & 6 at St. Leonard's Church

It was wonderful to see so many families at St. Leonard's Church last Wednesday for our Year 5 & 6 carol service. The pupils sang beautifully and there was a lovely duet and individual readings to accompany the songs.

At Dashwood, we pride ourselves on educating our pupils in the British Value of Mutual Respect and aim to develop their understanding of different faiths and cultures. Throughout the year, we have visitors to school from different faiths and we arrange visits to other Banbury churches and our local Mosque on Merton Street. Over the years, we have built a lovely relationship with the Banbury Madni Masjid and are proud to be volunteering at their food bank each Thursday. It was wonderful to see parents and pupils of different faiths in church showing mutual respect even though it is a different faith to their own. This teaches our children to be mutually respectful, despite differences, and develops an understanding that even though a faith or culture may be different from their own, we respect that difference. The most important message that came from the carol service was one of peace, care and kindness for one another. A message that all faiths share.



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# EYFS Nativities and Christmas Singing

Plum nursery children sang beautifully during their annual Christmas singing showcase. Many had never performed in front of an audience before and did incredibly well learning the lyrics and actions to some popular Christmas themed songs.

Reception children performed their traditional nativity show 'Wriggly Nativity' to a packed out hall this week. I am sure all parents and carers who were in attendance will agree that they too impressed everyone with their lively and fun production. Thank you to families for supporting pupils to learn their lines and source costumes for the show.







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# Festive Panto comes to Dashwood!

What a treat we had this week, supported by our very generous PTFA! It was great to see so many smiling faces and audience participation. What a great way to finish the term! Thank you from us all to the PTFA. One of the pupils said 'It was the best day ever!'



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# EYFS Elf Visit

Our EYFS pupils had a surprise visit from two spritely elves. They each took a treat home, courtesy of the PTFA. Lots of smiles and thankfully no tears!



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# Arbor Update

As you will be aware, we have transitioned over to use Arbor to store all of your child's information, attendance records and medical needs. This system will enable parents/carers to log into an account and view all the information that the schools holds on your child/ren and also enables you to update information as necessary when things change.

Once set up, this will also be the place that you can book activity clubs, parent evening sessions. You will also use the portal for booking meals, breakfast and after school club, giving consent for trips and making payments for these items.

Just so you know our timeline for rolling out the full system for you to access (*please note that these are approximate timings*) :

- **January 2024** - use the parent portal for communication. Emails will be sent instead of texts. (texts will only be used to inform parents/carers if we are late back from a trip etc)
- **February 2024** - Parents and Carers will be able to book activity clubs and Parents evenings
- **April 2024** - Parents and Carers can book school meals and make payments for all trips and events.



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# We are changing our catering supplier

We have changed our catering supplier to Impact Food Group. Please see the link here for the three week menu. We will be starting on **Week 1**. You can also look for the menu on our website under whole school newsletters. Meals need to be booked by Thursday 4th January. We will send a reminder in the holidays. Here is the link:

<https://dashwood.academies.aspirationsacademies.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/8/2023/12/Innovate-Primary-Menu-From-January-2024.pdf>



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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 suggest how we can make positive change.

As a result of the group, we have run a behaviour workshop for parents; added slips in the office to request food items; revamped the boat and developed our internet safety page on the website.

In the last meeting we talked about how we teach maths in school, especially our early maths. With this in mind, we will be running two maths sessions, one for EYFS and one for KS1 in the first instance.

## Dates for next years meetings:

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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# Up and coming events and dates for your diary



<https://dashwood.academies.aspirationsacademies.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/8/2023/12/Term-3-Dates-2024.pdf>



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Banbury  
Vision  
2050  
Have your say on Banbury  
Town Centre → Banbury2050.co.uk

# Banbury Vision: 2050

Cherwell District Council are wanting to develop a vision for Banbury town centre to ensure it meets the needs of all the residents, businesses and visitors now and through to 2050.

Our [Banbury 2050 project](#) will help to identify actions that will support the town centre to flourish and become more accessible, welcoming, safer and an active place for all to live, work, study, shop and enjoy.

They understand that town centres are changing and must adapt, and this essential project will enable them to get prepared and set a direction of travel for Banbury in the coming years.

They need you to help them. This is your chance to have your say and shape the future of Banbury town centre by telling them what you think before the closing date of **Monday, 15 January 2024.**

The more voices they hear, the better informed they are to create a town centre vision that will unlock Banbury's immense potential through to 2050.

Here is the link the survey to have your say:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/Banbury2050>



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# SEN Parent Support



On the 27th February, at 9am, Michael Parker, a communication and interaction specialist, will be coming into school to run a parental support session for parents of children who have a special educational need. He will be able to listen and advise as well as you having the opportunity to ask him questions.

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScuABCult3LhaIJogwSg-pJgkBg6rThrj9sGfzd6In\\_mgC1Sg/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScuABCult3LhaIJogwSg-pJgkBg6rThrj9sGfzd6In_mgC1Sg/viewform)



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# De-escalation Strategies: Parent workshop 2

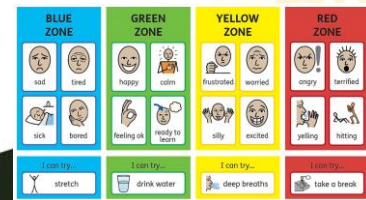
**Thursday 25th January 2024 at 9am**

From our staff training on the INSET day, we are going to run a session on '**How to de-escalate a situation when a child is struggling to regulate.**' As the workshop was so popular, we will run the session in the hall. In this session we hope to share some scenarios and discuss how they can be dealt in a calm manner.

Please fill out the google form link to feedback on the previous session but also your input will help us to plan future sessions

**ADD**

**link from AG**



BLUE ZONE	GREEN ZONE	YELLOW ZONE	RED ZONE
sad	happy	relaxed	angry
tired	excited	worried	terrified
sick	feeling ok	silly	yelling
bored	ready to learn	excited	hitting
I can try... stretch	I can try... drink water	I can try... deep breaths	I can try... take a break



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# Is your child starting school September 2024?



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

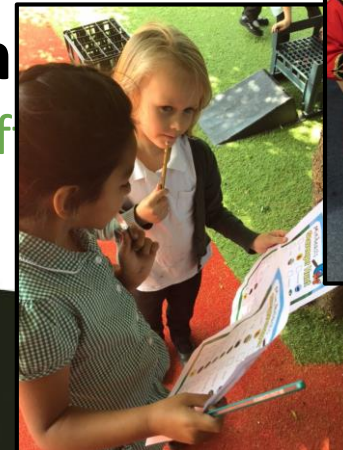
If so, you will need to apply for their reception school place from 1st November 2023 via the Oxfordshire County Council [website](#).

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. [of aspirations.org](https://www.aspirations.org)



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# Does your child have an article for the DBA News pupil-led newspaper?

We love hearing from our pupils about talents, hobbies, interests or clubs they are involved in outside of school!

If they want to share a piece of artwork, poem, story or any other creative arts, we would be delighted to share it in the DBA News!

Maybe they would like to share an article about their pet or an event you have celebrated as a family - perhaps a religious or cultural event?

Please send stories to: [office@dashwood-aspirations.org](mailto:office@dashwood-aspirations.org) or hand to Miss Gooch or Amber Hardcastle (Year 6) DBA News Editor



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## 2023 - 2024 Term dates:

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

*Inset day* on Monday 8th January

**Term 4:** Monday 19th February to Thursday 28th March

Bank Holiday: Friday 29th March

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

Bank Holiday: Monday 6th May

**Term 6:** Monday 3rd June to Wednesday 24th July - School finishes at 1.45 pm

*Inset day* on Friday 28th June

## 2024 - 2025 Term Dates:

Term 1 2024: Wednesday 4th September to Friday 25th October 2024

Term 2 2024: Monday 4th November to Friday 20th December 2024

Term 3 2024: Tuesday 7th January 2025 to Friday 14th February 2025



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