



**Dashwood Banbury Academy**  
an Aspirations Academy

# Dashwood News

## Friday 8th December 2023



**Aspirations Academies Trust**  
in association with Quaglia Institute

# A note from the Principal...

*This term is flying by and so many learning opportunities and experiences have taken place. This term we have focussed on our Guiding Principle of Engagement where the pupils have delved into the lives of different artists. Our art curriculum builds on the skills taught in the previous year - we certainly have some very competent artists at Dashwood. Take a look at the next page to see what I mean!*

*Our condition for learning this term is: **Fun and Excitement**. We also relate this to- what it means to be motivated- as sometimes life can feel so stressful that we sometimes forget to have fun and feel excited about things. It is also important to reflect with our children that we do not need huge, expensive, material objects to have fun- being with family and friends and finding free activities are sometimes the best and the ones we remember the most. It is particularly important to think about this as we approach the festive period.*

*We are really looking forward to inviting parents and carers to the Christmas celebrations we have planned. Here is a link to the Term 2 dates for events and timings.* <https://dashwood.academies.aspirationsacademies.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/8/2023/10/Term-Dates-Term-2-2023-1.pdf>



**Dashwood Banbury Academy**  
an Aspirations Academy



**Aspirations Academies Trust**  
in association with Quaglia Institute

# Anti-Bullying Week - Odd Socks!

The theme of the Anti-bullying Week was '*Make a noise about bullying*' and just like our Cultural Day in October, we could wear odd socks to celebrate what makes us all unique and different! It was wonderful to see so many different socks!

Our Anti-Bullying Ambassadors also led an assembly to raise awareness about bullying and ways to get support. They helped other pupils understand the difference between bullying and 'mean moments'.



**Dashwood Banbury Academy**  
an Aspirations Academy



**Aspirations Academies Trust**  
in association with Quaglia Institute



# Children in Need

Thank you to our Dashwood community for supporting the Children In Need appeal. We had so many delicious cake donations which raised a phenomenal £266 for the charity. Thank you so much to you all!



**Dashwood Banbury Academy**  
an Aspirations Academy



**Aspirations Academies Trust**  
In association with Quaglia Institute

# Poppy sales - a big thank you!

Thank you to everyone who supported the Poppy Appeal this year. We received this lovely message from Chris Smithson - Banbury RBL Chairman and Poppy Appeal Organiser:

*'I would like to thank your school for your support towards this year's Poppy Appeal.'*

*Your school raised a total of £369.09. Can you please pass on my thanks to your staff, pupils and parents. This is a marvellous amount, meaning that we have so far in the Banbury area raised £67,500.'*

A BIG thank to all of our Dashwood Families for your support.



**Dashwood Banbury Academy**  
an Aspirations Academy



**Aspirations Academies Trust**  
in association with Quaglia Institute



# EYFS - Nursery

**Cherry class** have been continuing with their topic of weather. Alongside this they have been practising to develop their fine motor skills using scissors. They are going to be using these new skills to create some festive snowflakes.

**Plum class** have been continuing their work on celebrations and festivals. They have decorated diyas for Diwali and learned about the significance of poppies on Remembrance Day. During Forest School sessions, pupils have been using natural items to create the initial letter of their name.



**Dashwood Banbury Academy**  
an Aspirations Academy

# EYFS - Reception

Peach and Pear pupils have enjoyed role-playing doctors and vets recently. They have been demonstrating their caring nature and also practising literacy skills by writing down appointments and prescriptions.

Reception classes also had an informative and practical mini medics session, learning about what to do in an emergency and also how to keep themselves safe to prevent accidents. The children particularly liked putting bandages on their injured teddy bears and calling for help as loudly as they could!



**Dashwood Banbury Academy**  
an Aspirations Academy



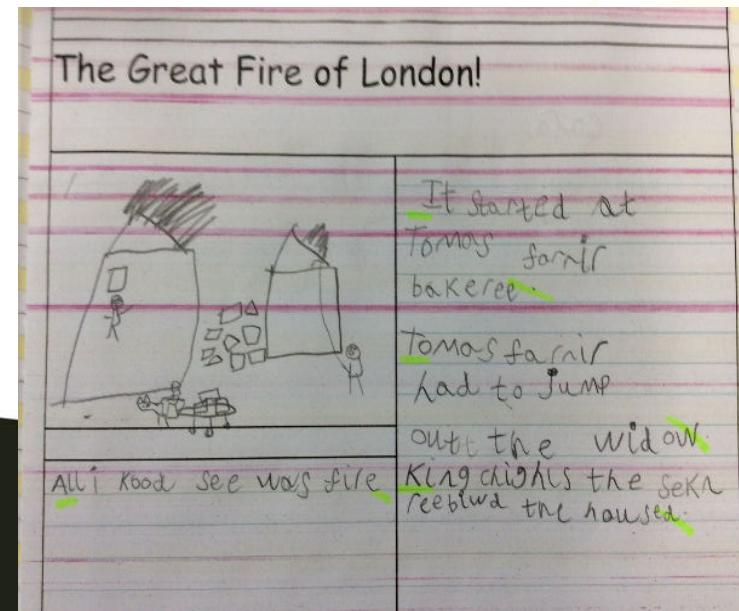
# Year 1

Year 1 have achieved so many wonderful things so far this term.

This week we have ended our Great Fire of London topic with the opportunity of making our own bread like in the bakery of Pudding lane. They looked and tasted really scrummy.

In maths, we have been working really hard to write number sentences to 10. As well as talking about doubles and pairs.

In literacy, we have completed some amazing writing using the Gruffalo text as a hook and changing it to our own journey story, using our phonics knowledge, capital letters and full stops.



**Dashwood Banbury Academy**  
an Aspirations Academy



# Year 2

Year 2's driving question this term has been: *How would my life be similar or different if I were to grow up in Chembakolli?* They have loved learning about the similarities and differences our cultures and tradition are. This week they have tried some indian food.



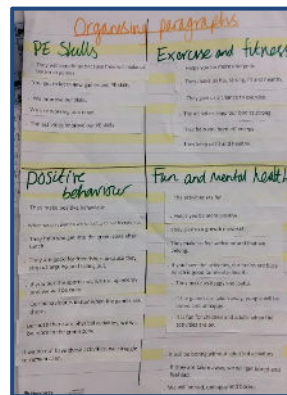
**Dashwood Banbury Academy**  
an Aspirations Academy



**Aspirations Academies Trust**  
In association with Quaglia Institute

# Year 3

Year 3 has been working so hard this term in their Literacy lessons. They became ambassadors of change for Dashwood school and have worked hard to persuade Mrs Gordon-Weeks to revamp the lunchtime activity rota, making it fun and exciting as well as developing skills and friendships even further. The children took their original ideas and developed them into clear, concise paragraphs and used formal, persuasive language to write their effective speeches. After a discussion about presentation skills, the children practised their speeches and a few children presented to Mrs Gordon-Weeks. They were a little nervous (which is normal) but did a brilliant job. We were delighted to receive an email this week congratulating the children on their fantastic vocabulary and presentations. The children are now very much looking forward to all the exciting opportunities for lunchtimes which will cater to many skills and interests. Well done Year 3 - we are very proud of you.



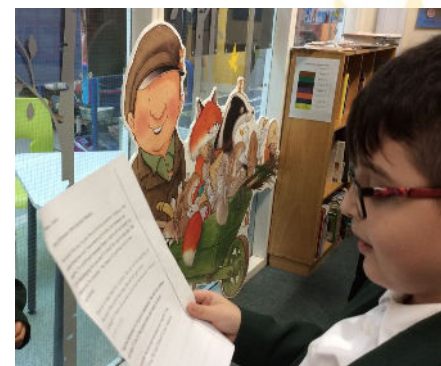
Welcome to the speech Mrs Gordon Weeks,

We are asking you politely to change your mind about taking away the staffed play time resources. We understand you don't like the play time resources because they are expensive and they get broken very easily. Can you please keep the playtime activities.

Exercise is essential for children. If we don't have play time activities we will not be healthy or fit. Additionally, we need to care about our mental health.

It is crucial to you that positive behaviour is good. But, if we don't have those activities, we will not be in the green zone. Also, the activities are vital for us to keep friendships, make new friends and make us positive. Because we have adult led activities, we're ready to learn and we have active brains.

To conclude, if you remove our organised activities, we are worried about our mental health, fitness, and our behaviour declining. Thank you for listening to my speech and we hope you reconsider your decision.



**Dashwood Banbury Academy**  
an Aspirations Academy



**Aspirations Academies Trust**  
In association with Quaglia Institute

# Year 4

Year 4 have been showing their creative flare over the past few weeks. In our art sessions, we have focused on sculpture through researching and comparing the work of Barbara Hepworth and Alberto Giacometti. We have then created our own sculptures through exploring the themes in their work. Year 4 were very excited to use different mediums including soap, foil and clay, to create unique sculptures based upon emotions. We are looking forward to exploring our computing skills to create an IMovie to present our outcomes.



**Dashwood Banbury Academy**  
an Aspirations Academy



**Aspirations Academies Trust**  
In association with Quaglia Institute



# Year 5

We have had an exciting couple of weeks in year 5. Sycamore class have now nearly finished sewing their Christmas decorations and Beech class are looking forward to starting theirs next week. In maths, we have been developing our understanding of multiplication and division. We have learnt about prime, square and cube numbers, as well as exploring how multiplication and division are linked. The children have been really impressing the adults by using a lot of new mathematical vocabulary in their written explanations. In literacy, we have just finished writing poetry, which are being put into a class book for us to share, and we are moving on to looking at the book 'The Polar Express'. We have enjoyed reading the story and inferring character. The children are very engaged in our history topic of the Victorians. We have been learning about the lives of children, which included lots of surprising facts, and we really loved our trip to the Black Country Living Museum.



**Dashwood Banbury Academy**  
an Aspirations Academy



s Trust

# Year 5 Black Country Museum Trip



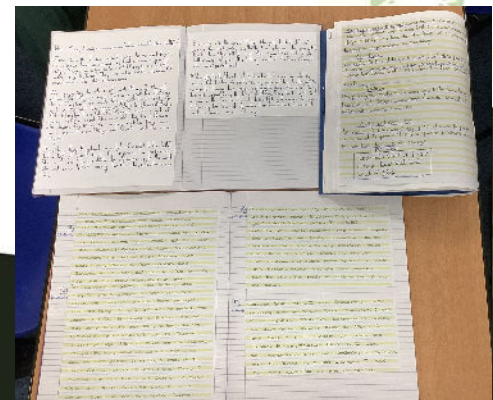
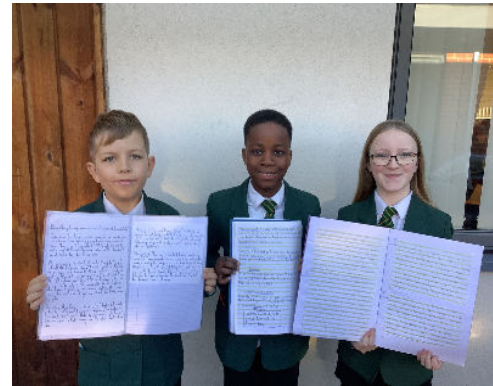
**Dashwood Banbury Academy**  
an Aspirations Academy

**Aspirations Academies Trust**  
In association with Quaglia Institute



# Year 6

Year 6 have had an amazing time learning all about light and experimenting with shadows in science. We planned and carried out our own experiments to test how shadows change depending on an object's distance from a light source. We then plotted our results on to line graphs and drew conclusions from our findings. In history, we have been comparing the reigns of Elizabeth I and Mary I. We have considered what they each achieved in their reigns and have written our own discussion texts to decide on who we felt was the more successful Tudor monarch. We are now moving on to our art unit to finish out the term and have begun learning all about the life of Leonardo da Vinci and his famous works.



**Dashwood Banbury Academy**  
an Aspirations Academy



# Christmas with The Ridings!

Dashwood had some special visitors from The Ridings care home come to visit this week and they brought with them some lovely decorations which you can see on the Christmas tree in our Office. A selection of pupils from The Young Voices choir visited The Ridings this week for their annual Christmas tree switch on. The mayor was even in attendance! Dashwood pupils had already made decorations for them which were displayed proudly in the home when we arrived. The pupils also gave out individual Christmas cards today after they had sung some carols. It was a lovely afternoon!



**Dashwood Banbury Academy**  
an Aspirations Academy

In association with Scagla Initiative

# Orienteering Festival

A group of Year 5 and 6 pupils represented Dashwood at the orienteering festival event held at Wykham Park Academy on Thursday 23rd November. They had a great time following the clues to find locations with the support of some secondary school sports leaders. The intent of this event was to engage new audiences and to improve health in new and different ways. Well done to all of the teams on a successful event!



**Dashwood Banbury Academy**  
an Aspirations Academy



**Aspirations Academies Trust**  
In association with Quaglia Institute



# World Book Day Preparations

Year 5 pupils had a fantastic opportunity to take part in a special workshop for World Book Day 2024! World Book Day isn't until 7th March next year, but the pupils at Dashwood worked with the World Book Day team to help develop their 'no cost dressing up pack'. The results were fantastic and we can't wait to see some familiar faces in their nationwide campaign pictures next year! We've had a preview of the profession shots - and they're great!



**Dashwood Banbury Academy**  
an Aspirations Academy



**Aspirations Academies Trust**  
in association with Quaglia Institute



# 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.



**Dashwood Banbury Academy**  
an Aspirations Academy



**Aspirations Academies Trust**  
in association with Quaglia Institute

# We are changing our catering supplier

We are changing our catering supplier to Impact Food Group across our Trust. The food has been tried and tested already in other schools in the Trust and we will have a tasting session before the end of term to try the new delights! As soon as we have any other information, I will let you know re: new menu choices etc. It will be booked through parent pay just like you do now.



**Dashwood Banbury Academy**  
an Aspirations Academy



**Aspirations Academies Trust**  
in association with Quaglia Institute

# 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



**Dashwood Banbury Academy**  
an Aspirations Academy



**Aspirations Academies Trust**  
in association with Quaglia Institute



# 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/>



**Dashwood Banbury Academy**  
an Aspirations Academy



**Aspirations Academies Trust**  
in association with Quaglia Institute



# Up and coming events and dates for your diary



**Dashwood Banbury Academy**  
an Aspirations Academy



**Aspirations Academies Trust**  
in association with Quaglia Institute





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>



**Dashwood Banbury Academy**  
an Aspirations Academy



**Aspirations Academies Trust**  
in association with Quaglia Institute

# 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!



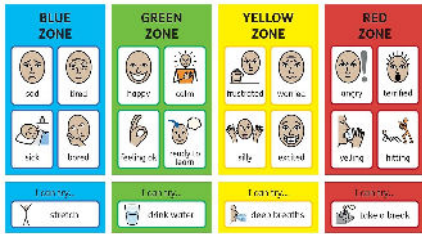
**Dashwood Banbury Academy**  
an Aspirations Academy



**Aspirations Academies Trust**  
in association with Quaglia Institute



# The Zones of Regulation: Parent workshop



Thursday 7th December

We will be holding a workshop for parents and carers based on the Zones of Regulation which is what we use in school to support the pupils with understanding their emotions and helping them to self regulate. Come along and see what it is in more detail - you may pick up a few strategies to use at home.



**Dashwood Banbury Academy**  
an Aspirations Academy



**Aspirations Academies Trust**  
in association with Quaglia Institute

# 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](#).

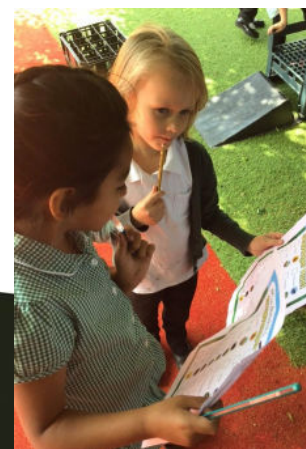
We are hosting some **open days/evenings** for prospective parents to find out more about Dashwood Academy and welcome all those interested to join us.

**Thursday 19th October at 5pm**

**Tuesday 14th November at 9am & 5pm**

Please register your interest at the school office.

[office@dashwood-aspirations.org](mailto:office@dashwood-aspirations.org)



**Dashwood Banbury Academy**  
an Aspirations Academy

**Aspirations Academies Trust**  
in partnership with Quaglia Institute



# 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



**Dashwood Banbury Academy**  
an Aspirations Academy



**Aspirations Academies Trust**  
in association with Quaglia Institute



**Dashwood  
Banbury  
Academy**

## 2023 - 2024 Term dates:

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

**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*



**Dashwood Banbury Academy**  
an Aspirations Academy



**Aspirations Academies Trust**  
in association with Quaglia Institute