



Dashwood Banbury Academy
an Aspirations Academy

Dashwood News

Friday 26th January



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A note from the Principal...

I hope you have all had a lovely festive break, although it seems like a while ago now. We are firmly into the new year and Dashwood, as always, has been very busy. Year 3 braved the elements on their Stone Age day - good job Miss Gooch was there to save the day with a nice warm fire, some homemade bread and the all important tasty marshmallows. Year 6 have been down to Oxford on the train to take part in the Junior Citizens experience and year 2 are at the Leicester Space Centre as I type! As you can see we have been busy.

In our assemblies this term we are focussing on the 9 Protected Characteristics which are protected by law. This term we have focussed on Race and Religion and the importance of being respectful to all. We have talked about the term 'bias' with our older children and our younger children have started to look at the term 'stereotype'. Have a chat to your child about these terms.

I have noted that nearly all of our Dashwood pupils are wearing our full school uniform. When walking around the school, it is lovely to see them looking smart. It really does help with their attitude to learning if they feel smart. We certainly stand out at events in the community. Thank you for your support with this. Please see the next slide however to remind families about our PE uniform policy. PE is an integral part of their development and again, looking smart helps with their attitude and how they feel about themselves.

Mrs Gordon-Weeks



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P.E kit reminder

Physical Education

The school P.E. Kit is compulsory. For indoor P.E., all children require a pair of **black pumps**, a pair of sensible **black shorts** and a **white tee-shirt plain** or inscribed with the academy logo. The P.E. Kit is to be kept at school in a bag (drawstring if possible) during the week. For outdoor P.E. a pair of training shoes, **black tracksuit/jogging bottoms** and a black sweatshirt is essential.

Reminder: Children are not allowed to wear coloured jumpers/t shirts or clothing with large logos on.



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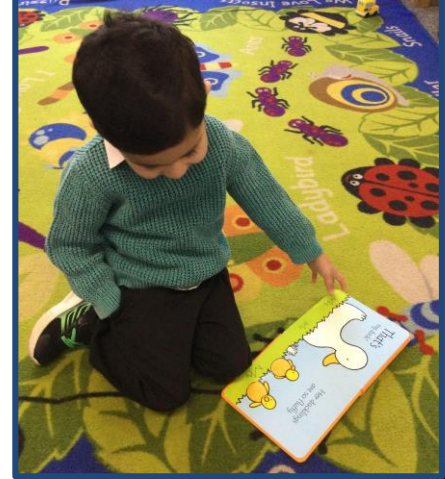
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Nursery

Cherry class have welcomed some new children and been introduced to their new topic focusing on textures and senses. They have enjoyed sharing 'That's not my...books' and explored what things feel like both inside and outside. The children have also been using their senses to smell, hear, touch and taste exciting things, learning new vocabulary to support their descriptions.

Plum class have also had some new friends join this term and settled well. Pupils have been enjoying their new home corner role play and practising mark-making on the interactive white board.

They have shown lots of enthusiasm and engagement for the class story 'The Zoo Vet' and this term's topic of People who help us.



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Reception

Reception started the term looking at the seasonal changes around school and the signs of winter. They had fun conducting experiments with ice, creating artwork and reading stories about how different animals adapt to the cold weather.

To begin their new topic of space, Reception classes enjoyed their 'wow' event in which pupils went on a space adventure for a picnic on the moon. Just like events in their class story, Whatever Next. The classes have gone on to learn more about different environments in space and how astronauts conduct their daily routines on the space station.



Year 1

Year 1 have fully embraced this term's topic of Hospitals and people who help us. The children have looked at how hospitals have changed over time, had chance to role play being a patient and a doctor in our topic area as well as learning about why Florence Nightingale is a significant person.

In Literacy the children have explored the difference between fiction and non-fiction books as well as some of the features of a non-fiction text such as fact writing and labelling diagrams. We are going to use these skills to write fact files about Florence Nightingale and other people who help us in the community.



Year 2

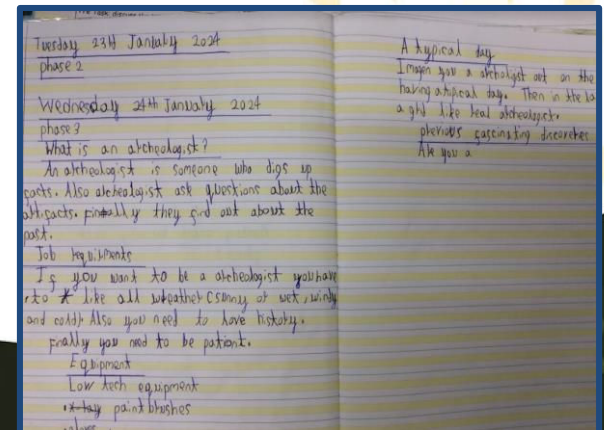
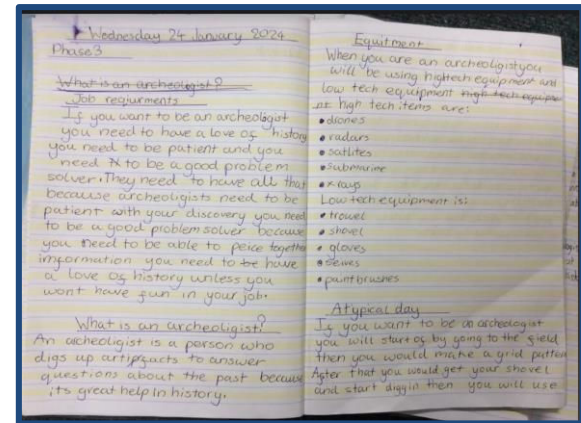
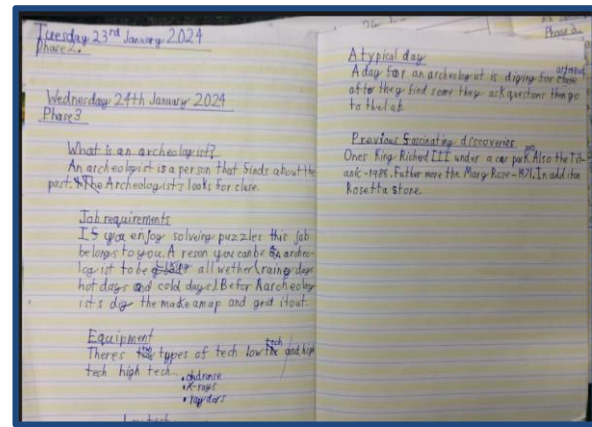
Year 2 have loved their space topic especially learning all about Neil Armstrong and the different planets. They have learnt a mnemonic to help them learn the names of the planets. Year 2 have also been lucky enough to take part in an interactive space show, where they played the role of aspiring engineers and scientists.

My	Mercury
Very	Venus
Epic	Earth
Mother	Mars
Just	Jupiter
Served	Saturn
Us	Uranus
Nachos	Neptune



Year 3

Year 3 are delighted that pen licences are now being awarded. Well done to any children who are now proudly writing with a pen. This has proved an incentive for other children who are now working really hard to form letters correctly and neatly as well as not make too many mistakes which require rubbing out. We have been working really hard on forming simple paragraphs under a clear subheading. Based on the book, 'Stone Age Boy', which we have been studying in class, we wrote clear job descriptions for an archaeologist. Another great literacy outcome for Year 3. Keep working hard to achieve your pen licences everyone.



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Year 3 Stone Age Day

Year 3 took part in an enjoyable 'Stone Age Day' last week. We wrapped up warm and spent the whole day outside finding out about what life was like in this prehistoric time. In Forest School, the children mixed mud for cave paintings, toasted food over a fire and found out about how Stone Age people cooked and kept warm. The children experienced the tricky task of making tools with stones and sticks and also practiced their spear throwing skills. Not only did they learn about how animals were hunted, they also found out about the foods which were gathered on their own scavenger hunt. After lunch, cave art was created with the mud paints and we all recreated the Cave of Hands artwork. The children had a fabulous day, did not complain about the cold and were polite and impeccably behaved all day. Well done Year 3.



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Year 4

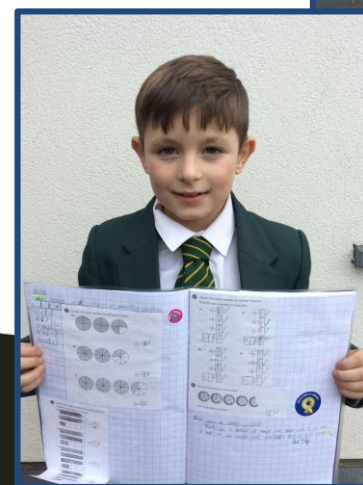
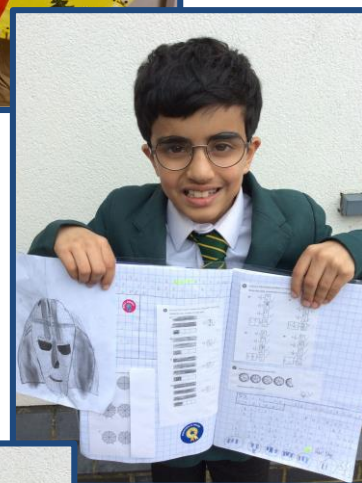
Year 4 have had an exciting start to the term, exploring what life was like in the Roman Empire. To begin our topic, we created Roman shields, which were put into practice when we had the opportunity to learn formations used by the Roman soldiers. Next, we investigated a range of Roman inventions and analysed the impact these inventions have had on Britain today. We are looking forward to learning more about the Romans, especially the rise of Boudicca and the impact she had on the Roman Empire. We will then be applying the knowledge to our Literacy unit this term, as we will be taking on the role of journalists and creating newspaper articles linked to heroes in the Roman era.



Year 5

Year 5 have been enjoying delving into the world of Saxons and Vikings. We have been exploring where Saxons and Vikings came from and learning about key events that happened in Britain at the time. We have enjoyed using this knowledge to be creative in our writing - creating character descriptions of Vikings from different perspectives and describing settings of Viking raids.

In maths, we have continued working with fractions. We have explored equivalent fractions and how to convert mixed numbers into improper fractions. This has also linked to our Mastering Number sessions where we have been exploring tenths, noticing patterns in our known facts of multiplying by 10 and working with fractions.



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Matilda Performance

Year 5 got to experience a real treat last Monday afternoon when we went to see Wykham Park Academy's production of 'Matilda'. Seeing the hard work of both the children on the stage as well as the creative team was fascinating. We were really impressed with how professional all of the pupils were and particularly enjoyed the musical numbers - especially the children who were also taking part in 'Young Voices' and performing a medley of these songs on their trip. Thank you to everyone involved for the opportunity to come and see such a well-produced show.



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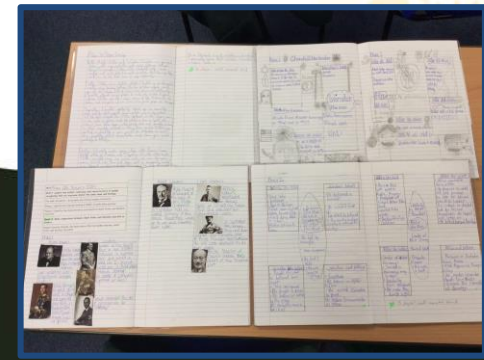
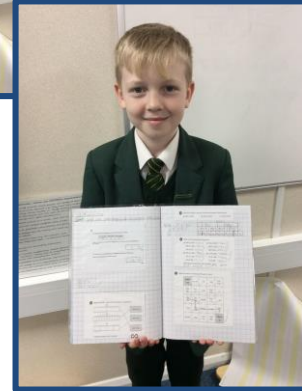
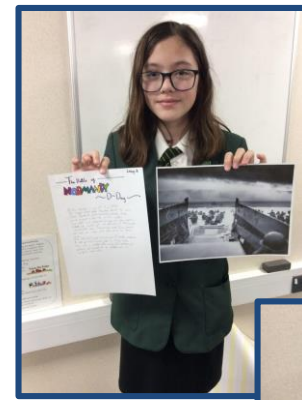
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Year 6

Year 6 have had an exciting start to the term and have loved learning all about World War II. They have been looking at which countries were involved, who the key figures were on both sides and where WWII fits in on a timeline with other history units that they have studied throughout their time at Dashwood. This theme has tied into their literacy work where they have been looking at famous speeches, what makes an effective speech and writing and performing their own informative speeches about rationing.

In maths they have continued working on fractions, decimals and percentages. They have been learning how to find percentages of amounts and ordering mixed fractions, decimals and percentages. Year 6 have also had a continued focus on arithmetic, practicing these skills regularly is important at this point in the year.

In addition, we had a great time in our first mentoring session and leading activities for our mentees. Being role models for younger pupils in the school is helping us to build our confidence and leadership skills whilst supporting other members of our school.



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Year 6 Mentoring



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Junior Citizens

Year 6 had an amazing time at Junior Citizens in Oxford and were all fantastic when dealing with the scenarios they faced. They approached each task they were given with a mature attitude and all had a chance to practice their skills when dealing with an emergency by making simulated 999 phone calls to the emergency services. They gained lots of experience and knowledge about how to deal with situations they may face in the real world and how to keep themselves safe in these situations.



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Sports Hall Athletics

A group of Year 6 pupils attended a sports hall athletics competition on Thursday 25th January at Wykham Park Academy. They had a great time competing against other local schools in a range of indoor track and field events. The intent of this competition was to develop sport specific skills and support individual development in sport. They were all fantastic and showed excellent teamwork and sportsmanship throughout the event with two pupils also receiving an additional certificate for showing the school games value of determination. Well done to everyone who competed!



Young Voices

On Tuesday 23rd January a group of pupils from Years 3 - 6 travelled to Birmingham Resorts World to take part in Young Voices. They joined thousands of young people on the night to become part of a choir as they performed a fantastic repertoire of songs that they have been practising since September. They also accompanied artists on the night such as MC Grammar and joined the dance group, Urban Strides. It was a fantastic experience and the pupils were fantastic role models in the busy arena setting. Well done to all involved!



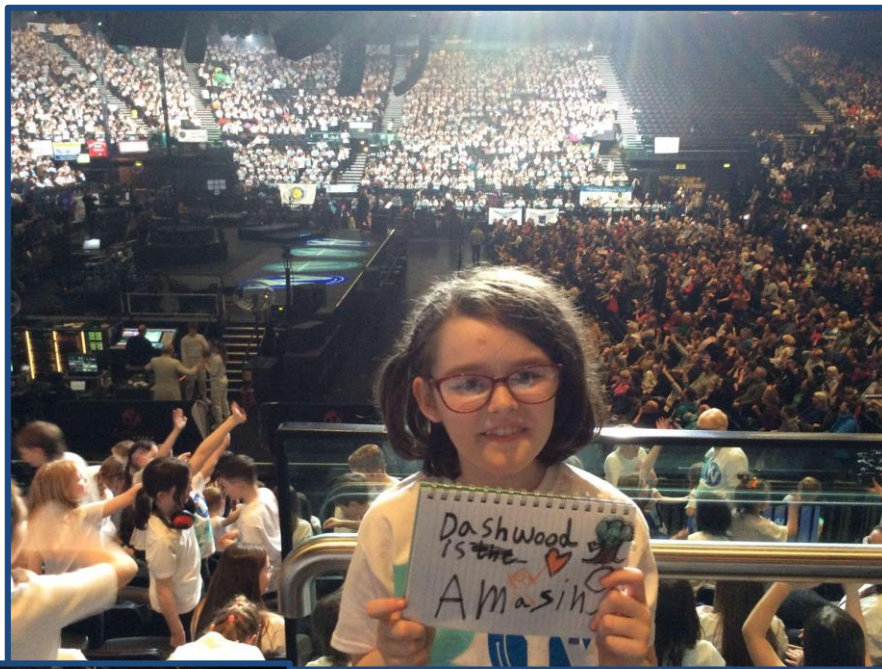
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Arbor Update

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/Feb 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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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 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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Early Years Maths - Parent Support Session

Is your child in Early Years?

If so, would you like to learn how to best support your child at home with their maths?

Come and join us for an Early Years Maths Support Session on **Thursday 1st February at 9am** in the hall.

You will be given some excellent resources to help your child at home!

If your child is in our Early Years, we look forward to seeing you there!



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PTFA Ball: Friday 2nd February

PTFA Disco: Tickets will be available on ParentPay for £3.50 from the 8th January 2024. **Please sign up by 4pm on Wednesday 31st January 2024.**

Please note, parent pay will close at 4pm on this day as we need to ensure we have time to organise the event with the correct numbers. We will not accept any more ticket purchases after this time. We will run two sessions:

EYFS and KS1 (Year 1 & 2): 3.15 - 4.15pm Children can bring a party outfit to wear in a named bag and we will take them down to the hall. You do not need to collect them at 3.15pm.

Key Stage 2 (Years 3 - 6): 4.30 - 5.30- Children will need to be collected from school at 3.15pm as normal and brought back to school for 4.30pm. They will come through the office; a table will be there for them to be signed in.



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KS1 - Parent Support Session

Is your child in KS1?

If so, would you like to learn how to best support your child at home with their maths?

Come and join us for an Early Years Maths Support Session on **Wednesday 7th February at 9am** in the hall.

You will be given some excellent resources to help your child at home!

If your child is in our KS1, we look forward to seeing you there!



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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



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Parent support - child wellbeing

The School In-Reach team is holding several webinars for parents over the coming year. These awareness sessions contain useful information about how to support your child with some of the commonly seen emotional and mental health concerns.

Please visit: <https://www.oxfordhealth.nhs.uk/camhs/oxon/sir/webinars/> for a list of webinars that may be of use and how to sign up to them. Here are some key ones that are coming up:

Communication and coping in social situations

- Date: Thursday 7 March 2024
- Time: 6.00 - 7.30pm

Attention and movement differences in children and young people

- Date: Thursday 23 May 2024
- Time: 6.00 - 7.30pm

Promoting resilience

- Date: Thursday 25 April 2024
- Time: 6.00 - 7.30pm

Understanding childhood anxiety

- Date: Thursday 27 June 2024
- Time: 6.00 - 7.30pm



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Free after school family sessions offer

Next term, Cherwell District Council are running free after-school family YouMove sessions at St Leonards School on Wednesdays 3.15-4.15 for Term 4 (21st February - 27th March).

These sessions will be open to families from both St Leonards and Dashwood who are part of the YouMove programme. It will be a mixture of different sports such as Martial Arts for both parents and children. We understand that you might not be able to get there for the start of the session due to St. Leonards but you can just join in when they get there. The criteria for YouMove is one of the following:

- Free School Meal
- Early Help Assessment
- Young carer
- Refugee
- Universal credit
- Personal Independence Payment
- Children in or on the edge of care

See the poster
below for more
information

Families can apply here https://platform.youmove.org.uk/public/application_forms



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YOU MOVE

Family After-School Club Multi-skill games and sports



Term 4: 21st February - 27th March 2024. Every Wednesday from 3:15PM to 4:15PM at St Leonard's School.

Our after-school club offers the chance for families from both St Leonard's School and Dashwood Banbury Academy that are part of the YouMove programme to get active and try different games and sports. Parents are encouraged to take part with their children. There will be a mixture of multi-skilled games led by the Youth Activators as well as a variety of sports led by qualified coaches.

YouMove is available if your child or children are in receipt of benefits related free school meals and for children in need of support; this includes refugee children, young carers and children in or on the edge of care.

If you are not currently signed up to YouMove you can do so by scanning in the QR code and completing an application form.



No need to book, just present your YouMove card on the day.



**Sign-up to YouMove
by scanning the QR
Code above**



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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 or hand to Miss Gooch or Amber Hardcastle (Year 6) DBA News Editor. **The next issue will be sold just before the Easter Holidays so you have time to get your stories in!**



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2023 - 2024 Term dates:

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

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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