



Dashwood Banbury Academy
an Aspirations Academy

Dashwood News

Friday 10th February 2024



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A note from the Principal...

This term has flown by and cannot believe that we are at the end of term 3 already. This term we have introduced a new work share celebration on a Friday whereby children are chosen from each class to come and share their learning, something they have improved on or that they just consistently produce fantastic learning week on week. Miss Gooch and I sit with them and look through their learning and they explain what they have been learning and tell us why they think they have been chosen. The quality of some of the learning has been amazing; improved presentation, quantity of work produced and the quality of the responses they are giving to their phased learning. Lots of children were achieving the 'deeper learning' tasks where they were really challenged- they appeared to love getting onto this phase.

I would like to just raise the importance of pupils attending school every day unless they are really unwell. They generally perk up throughout the day and we would always contact you if they were not fit for school. Missing school has a huge impact on not only their academic achievement but also their confidence. I have included our attendance newsletter for term 3 for you to read on the next page.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our parent community for their continued support and wish you all a lovely break.

Mrs Gordon-Weeks



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Attendance

Attendance Newsletter Term 3

Welcome back to school in 2024! We were really pleased to see the children attending on time and wearing correct uniform on the first day of term.

The new year is a great opportunity to remind pupils that they can have 100% attendance from this point on, every term is a new start. The link between attendance and attainment is clear:

In 2018/19, just 40% of persistently absent children in Key stage 2 achieved expected key stage 2 standards, compared with 84% of pupils who were regular attenders.

The UK Government is encouraging school attendance with their new campaign '**moments matter, attendance counts**'. You have hopefully seen the posters for this around the school. The aim of this campaign is to try and prevent avoidable absences - for minor illnesses or minor worries.



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Attendance letters

In term 2 we sent attendance letters to parents/carers whose child had less than 90% attendance and found that attendance improved following this. We will be sending these letters again, to inform parents if their child's attendance has dropped below 90%.

If your child's attendance has dropped below 80%, you will be invited in for an attendance meeting so that we can support you and your child. If you are worried about your child's attendance, please feel free to come and speak to a member of the leadership team for support at any time.

Holidays

We would like to remind you about the Holiday Warning letter that we sent on 5th September 2023, which is available on our website in the 'letters to parents' section.

Any application for a planned term-time absence must be made in writing to the Principal, Sarah Gordon-Weeks. We **do not** authorise any time off for term-time holidays and any families taking term-time holidays will be referred to Oxfordshire County Council for a penalty notice. We find that this practice ensures fairness for all. Please see our whole school letter for more information [here](#).

Contacting the school

If your child is unable to attend, it is very important that you contact the school by 09.00. If a child is absent without contact being made, the office staff will contact you to find out the reason for absence. If we cannot contact the main parents/carers, we will contact everyone on the contact list. In the unusual event that we cannot make contact with anyone, we may conduct a home visit to make sure everything is ok.

We are here to help!

Sometimes children have worries about coming to school, some families may find it difficult to find transport or physically get their child to school. Katy Bennett, our Welfare and Inclusion Manager is always available to support families with any issue. You can contact Katy by calling 01295 263240 or by coming into the office.



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Nursery

Cherry Class have been continuing to explore different textures, particularly enjoying the variety of materials in the sensory tray. They have been practising to listen to and follow instructions through songs, as well as learning some art skills by making Chinese New Year window decorations.

Plum Class have continued learning about People Who Help Us. They have been thinking about who they can go to if they need help. Pupils have also used lots of different materials to build fire stations and emergency vehicles. During Forest School sessions, children have started to look for signs of Spring while enjoying some brighter weather.

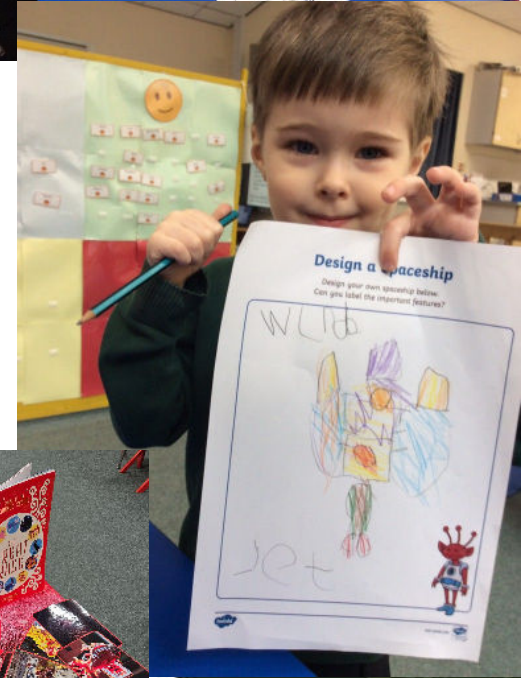


Reception

Peach and Pear classes have continued with their space topic and enjoyed becoming engineers to design, build and test their own space rockets. The friendly aliens who became stranded on planet Earth were very grateful for the children's help!

This week, Reception pupils have also been learning about Lunar New Year celebrations around the world. In particular, the Chinese Zodiac and upcoming year of the dragon.

They have practised using chopsticks, looked at traditional Chinese new year decorations and compared similarities and differences between Beijing and Banbury.



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EYFS Bedtime Story Event

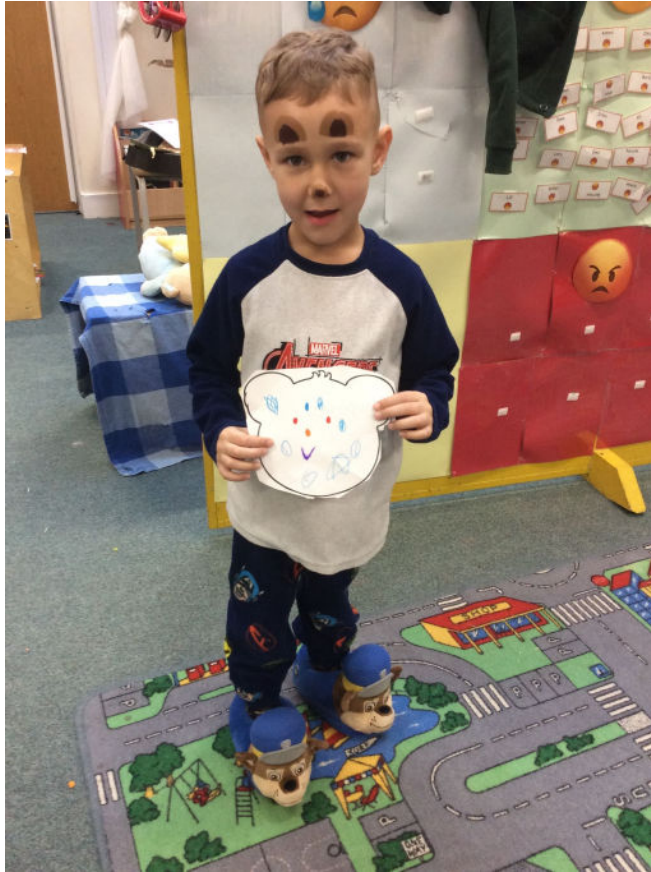
This week some of the early years children joined our afterschool bedtime story event. They came back to school in pjamas to get cosy and listen to the book 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt'. Then pupils went around in groups taking part in activities to bring the story to life. This included, face painting, biscuit decorating, mask making and yoga. Everyone also enjoyed a tasty snack and were gifted their own bedtime story to read at home. We hope this event further inspires young children to enjoy books and experience the fun of getting captivated in a story.



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Reception Parent Maths Workshop

It was great to see so many parents at the maths workshop. If you missed it do not worry. Mrs Hope has made a loom video with all the information you need to know to support your child at home to build their confidence with maths concepts.

<https://www.loom.com/share/d307668a0ce54ee79c64cd43d7c29431>



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Year 1

Year 1 have absolutely loved our topic of people who help us this term. Especially, learning about FLOrence Nightingale. To celebrate this, we all made an artefact (her lamp) to be used in a museum and help other understand why she was so important. The children worked really hard on their lamps showing creativity, resilience and determination. In addition to this, Year 1 have also been learning about height and length this week and have been enjoying measuring things in the classroom.



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Year 2

After an exciting visit to Space centre, Year 2 have produced some fantastic outcomes in all areas of their learning. They have been able to create rockets from junk modelling showing creativity, collaboration and determination. They then gave each other positive feedback on how to improve their rocket. In addition to this, they have also written some amazing poems about space using rhyming words.

Year 2, are now looking forward to practicing for their production next term!



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Year 3

Year 3 have been busy this term being curious historians and finding out about The Stone Age. Their key question has helped them research and learn from archeologists and what evidence has been found at key excavation sites. They have enjoyed an interactive tour of Skara Brae and collected evidence to help them plan and create their very own Stone Age settlement. Working in teams, pupils have had to discuss and create team rules, plan roles and then use their creative clay skills to work collaboratively. They have overcome challenges and reflected on their teamwork, which has been a brilliant experience. Well done Year 3!



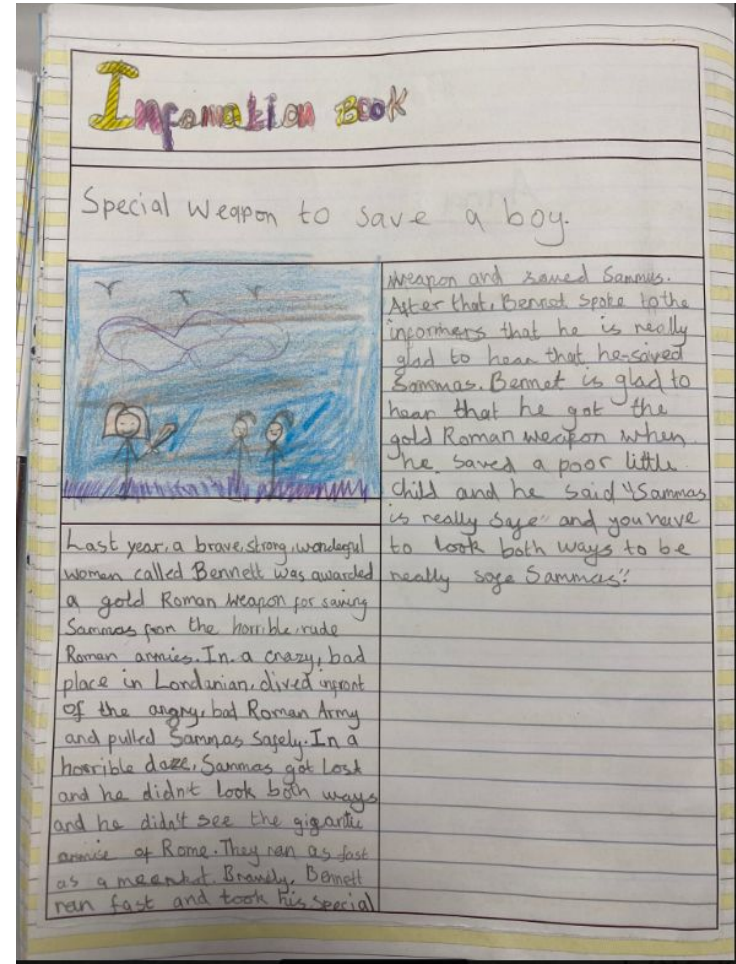
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Year 4

Year 4 have had an amazing term! Building on the exciting start to our Roman topic, we have explored deeper to understand the daily lives of Roman citizens and soldiers. Using this knowledge, we have critically evaluated how the Roman Empire expanded and how the affected the rest of the world, most notably Britain. This inspired our outcome in Literacy, which was a newspaper article which reported upon the conflict between the Romans and Boudicca the British Leader.



Year 5

Year 5 have had a fantastic time learning about the Vikings this term. They have been focussing on the difference between Vikings and Saxons and learning about famous Viking kings. They have also enjoyed reading the book 'The Last Viking' by Terry Deary.

In maths, they have continued working hard on fractions including learning how to order fractions accurately.

Finally, a massive congratulations to Sycamore class who won the TTRS competition on Friday with the highest average score!

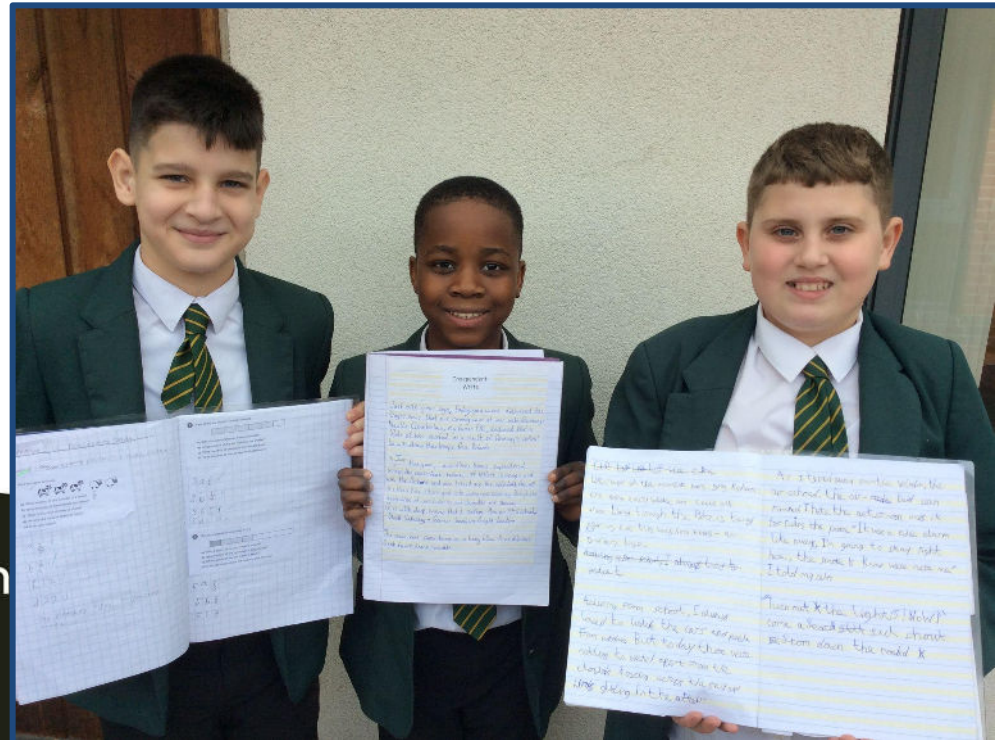


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Year 6

Year 6 have continued to delve deeper into their WWII unit and have been looking at interesting topics such as the use of propaganda, the Blitz, evacuation and Hitler Youth. They have also been putting themselves in the shoes of children during the war to write impactful setting descriptions using emotive language and creating TASC wheel projects to answer our driving question - How can we document what life was like for children in WWII?

During maths, they have been working on understanding ratio and scaling and using this knowledge to solve problems.



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Year 5 & 6 Girls' Football

A huge congratulations to our Y5+6 girls football team who attended an event at Wykham Park to compete against other local schools. They played incredibly well as a team and finished joint first whilst not conceding a single goal!

The intent of this event was to develop sport specific skills and the progress that the children made was really evident across the morning. The focus school games value was RESPECT. The children really took this on board, demonstrating excellent behaviour and manners, it was especially lovely to see the children enjoying running under the respect tunnels at the end of the matches.



PTFA Disco

What a wonderful evening we had at the PTFA Discos! Terrific moves and smiles on faces were a definite theme of the event.

We are so grateful to our amazing PTFA and Dashwood Staff who helped to organise the event. All the proceeds will go towards the Christmas Pantomime and Christmas gifts for our EYFS pupils.



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Pencil Cases

From after half term, **only children in Year 6** will be able to bring a pencil case into school. We are working really hard to improve the presentation and standard of pupils work. There is too much temptation to write in different coloured pens and can be distracting in lessons. Please keep them for homework and creativity at home.



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.



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



Term 4 Dates:

<https://dashwood.academies.aspirationsacademies.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/8/2024/02/Term-4-Dates.pdf>



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World Book Day

WORLD
BOOK
DAY

On **Thursday 7th March** we invite pupils to come in dressed as their favourite character. There will be prizes for the best dressed on the day! Remember - you don't have to spend out on a costume, why not make your own at home? Check out 'World Book Day' official website for some ideas where you will find some familiar Dashwood faces!

<https://www.worldbookday.com/celebrate-world-book-day/dressing-up/>



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World Book Day

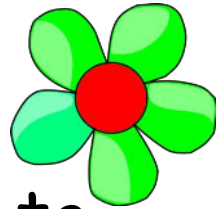
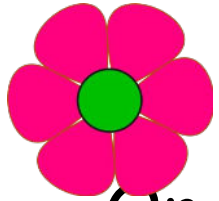
WORLD
BOOK
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Cake Sale Competition

We invite all pupils to make or decorate cakes / biscuits in the style of their favourite story or characters. The competition will run across the school and there will be winners from EYFS, KS1, Lower KS2 and Upper KS2. All pupils who enter will receive a certificate for their entry and the cakes will be sold, after they have been judged, at break time and after school! **Please send entries into classes on Thursday 7th March,** labelled, remembering we are a nut free school.



PTFA Event: Special Lady in your life market



On **Friday 8th March** the pupils will be able to visit our very own market to choose a small gift for a special lady in their life.

If you would like your child to visit the market, please pay £3.00 on Parent pay by **Tuesday 5th March at 4pm.**

All proceeds go towards paying for the children to watch a pantomime at Christmas performed by an external company.



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Parents Evenings

Parents Evenings will be held on:
Tuesday 19th March - 3.30-6pm
and Thursday 21st March -
3.30-6pm

We will send you a link to book on after half term. We want to see all families to talk about their child's progress so please ensure you book on.



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Plum Class visit to Warriner Farm

Plum Class will visit Warriner Farm on Wednesday 20th March. They will visit in their normal sessions. All day children will be split into two groups. When they are not at the farm, they will join the reception classes.



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Year 6 Easter Academy

Come and join us for a day on **Thursday 11th April** to get our brains into gear before we start the last few weeks before the SATs tests. We will do some focused tasks in the morning and then for the last part of the day we will do some fun easter activities... we will even throw in a chocolate egg!

All you need to do is click on the link and sign up!

<https://forms.gle/mWA61Lvccp3j9uDF9>



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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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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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