



Dashwood Banbury Academy
an Aspirations Academy

Dashwood News

Friday 8th March 2024



Aspirations Academies Trust
in association with Quaglia Institute

A note from the Principal...

What a wonderful term we have had already - yesterday was brilliant! A great day of celebrating literature as a school - so many activities, competitions and wonderful costumes. The staff did a great job too!

This term in our assemblies we have been talking about disability and that some disabilities can be hidden. We always celebrate the similarities and differences between us and teach the children to be respectful to everybody they meet. We also discussed that people with disabilities do not want to be treated differently - as always our pupils asked sensible and thoughtful questions.

As you know, one of our aims at Dashwood is for pupils to have high aspirations of themselves and to work hard in order to achieve and have choices when they are older. With this in mind, we are reaching out to different career providers for speakers, either in person or virtually, to talk to the pupils about different jobs they may like to pursue when they are older. I am delighted to say that next week our year 6 pupils will be talking to a physiotherapist where they will gain a brief understanding of the job and what qualifications they would need to pursue this career. If you feel you could come in and talk about the job you do to inspire our pupils, please contact me. Don't worry, it wouldn't have to be a large assembly (unless you would like), it could be speaking to a small group.

Have a lovely weekend

Mrs Gordon-Weeks



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Parking, dropping off and collecting at school

Inconsiderate and dangerous parking around our school is putting the safety of our children and others at risk. We all want to keep our children safe - here is how you can help:

DO NOT park on the double yellow lines or pull up onto them to drop your child off.

DO NOT pull up on, or park on the pavements - this seriously endangers the life of our pupils who are walking on them.

Make sure your child leaves and enters your vehicle safely onto the pavement. Check for pedestrians and cyclists before opening a car door.

DO NOT drop your child in the entrance to the staff car park as our pupils and their families are walking across here on their way into and out of school

If you see an illegally or dangerously parked car, you can report it here on the Oxfordshire County Council website and log a photo of the car's registration plate, make and model.

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/roads-and-transport/parking/illegal-parking>



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Please Keep Clear...

- Zig Zags and School Entrances - these are there to protect school entrances and leave a clear view of the street for pedestrians
- Dropped Kerbs
- Resident's Driveways
- Opposite or within 10 meters of a junction - so that children can see cars and cars can see children

Please park considerately around our school and keep our children safe!



- Double yellow lines indicate NO waiting at any time
- Yellow and white zig-zag road markings indicate that parking is prohibited. So, in doing so, you are risking both a fine and penalty points.



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Don't Forget... Congestion around schools is one of the main reasons given for dangerous parking and there are other ways you could do the school run...

Have you considered...

- Walking or cycling to school instead? This is a great way to contribute to a child's 60 minutes of activity a day and is easy to incorporate into your daily routine. Try it once a week at first and see how easy it can be.
- Parking nearby or getting off the bus two stops earlier and walking the rest of the way. If you live too far away to walk or need your car for your commute to work you can still walk part of the way. Doing this everyday could add up to an adult's recommended 30 minutes of moderate exercise, 5 times a week.
- Car Sharing is a great way to reduce congestion and save you pennies. Team up with other parents or carers who live nearby - share the cost and halve the hassle.

It is everyone's responsibility to keep every child safe



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Nursery

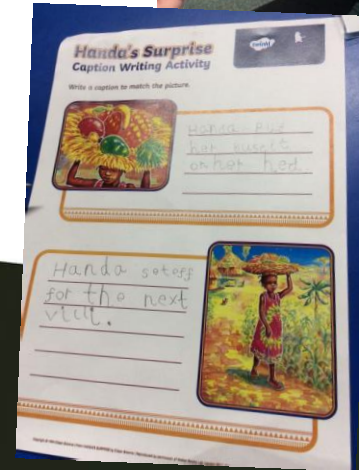
Cherry class have been 'Goina on a Bear Hunt' this term. They have been sharing the story and acting it out, exploring both inside and outside looking for bears. The children have also been creating handmade gifts and cards for the special lady in their lives.

This term **Plum class** have started a new topic learning about farms, alongside the story 'Dear Farm'. They have been using a variety of resources to create their own representations of a farm and acting out events in the story. The children were very excited when they had a surprise box arrive which became many different things, including a place to mark make and design their own stories on!



Reception

Peach and Pear classes have been learning about the continent of Africa. They have been finding out about the animals that they might find on a safari and writing some simple non-fiction animal fact files. Their class story is *Handa's Surprise* and the children had a lot of fun exploring the fruit from the story using different senses. Many pupils showed their adventurous side by tasting some types of fruit for the first time. Music lessons have involved exploring rhythms and beats using instruments and experiencing different traditional compositions from various regions across Africa.



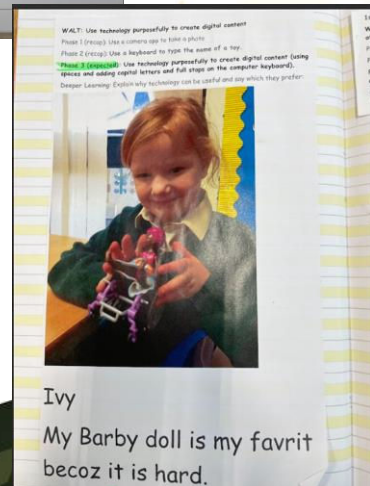
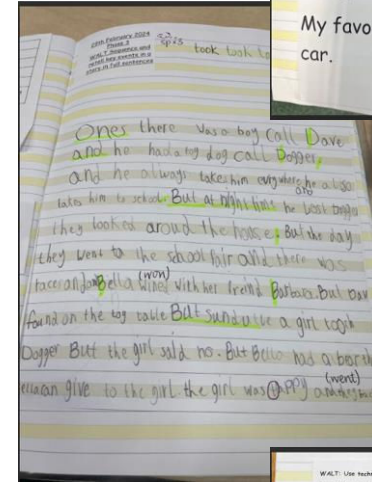
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Year 1

Year 1 have been thoroughly enjoying their topic of toys this term. The children loved bringing in their favourite toy to share with the class and then using a chromebook to write about it. They have been amazed with how much toys have changed since the past.

Similarly, in Literacy we have been enjoying reading the story 'Dogger', where we have had to use the understanding of our story to sequence the events and retell it. This has led wonderful pieces of writing.



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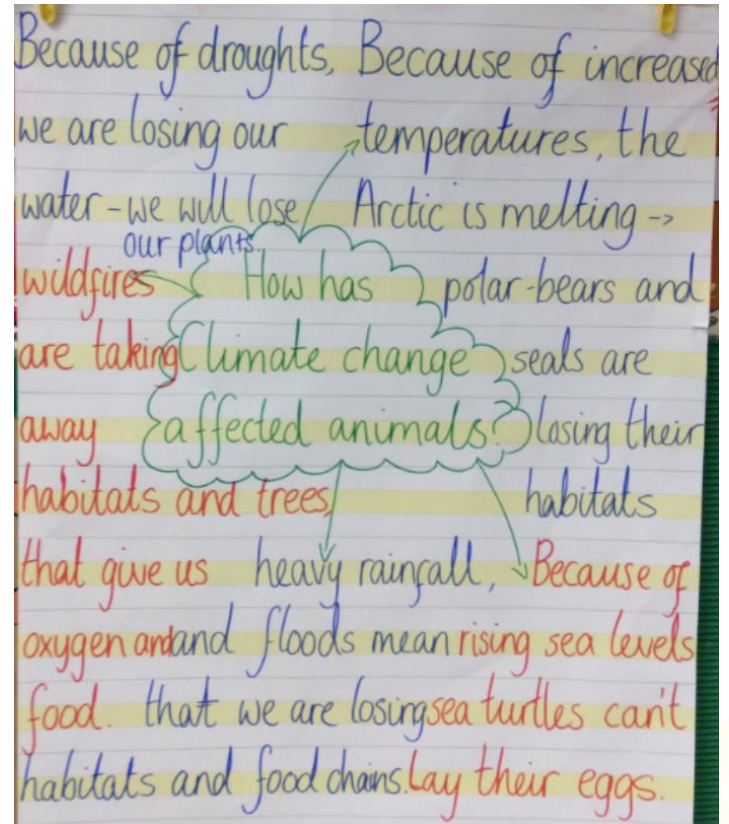
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Year 2

Year 2 have been really busy rehearsing for their play coming up in a few weeks. We have been really impressed with their perseverance with learning the songs.

Year 2 have really enjoyed learning about our new text 'If you ever want to bring an alligator to school don't' and have written some fantastic letters about why alligators shouldn't be in school.

We are also learning more about climate change and children are very interested in how they can help.



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Year 3

Year three are being scientific this term as we have started to investigate plants. After creating a group collage to show the key parts of the plant, the children wrote paragraphs about the key function each part of the plant performs. For example the stem holds the plant upright and transports water around the plant whereas the petals attract insects so that plants can reproduce.

We have set up an investigation to find out what plants need for healthy growth. Ash Class are finding out if the amount of water affects growth. Silver Birch is finding out about the impact light has. Both classes have had to carefully consider the variables of their test (what will they change and what will we keep the same?). We are monitoring the investigations and are looking forward to drawing conclusions later in the term.



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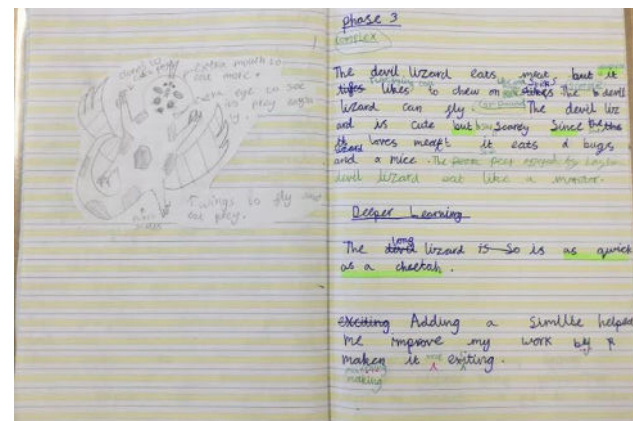


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Year 4

This term, we have been developing our descriptive writing skills. To do this, we have designed our own creatures and used a range of different sentence structures and conjunctions to describe their features, habitats and eating habits. This has linked to our environmental topic in Science where we have explored the impact humans have on our world.

Rowan Class have had the exciting opportunity to learn how to play clarinettes. So far, they have learnt how to build the instrument and play basic notes.



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Year 5

Year 5 have been creating models of the Solar System using clay. We talked about scaled sizes, as well as looking carefully at what the planets look like and what they are made out of. We have also been looking at the book 'Noah and the Space Ark' focusing on the environment, pollution and global warming and writing our own formal letters of support for these. In Maths, we have continued working on fractions including adding and subtracting fractions with different denominators.



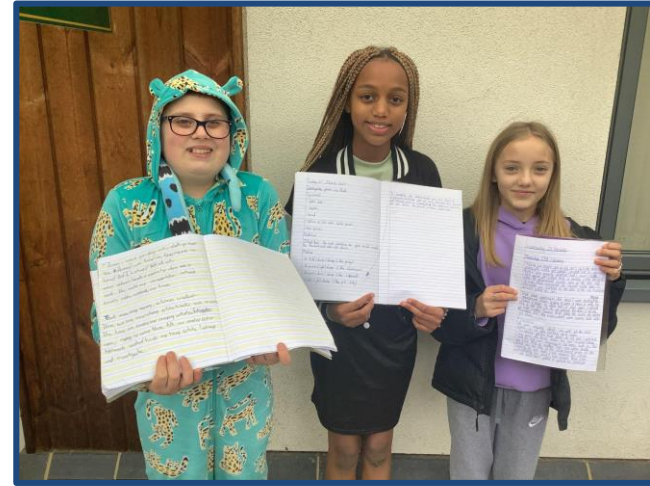
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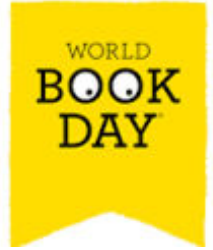
Year 6

Year 6 have had an amazing start to Term 4 and have been enjoying our science unit on microbes. We have been finding out all about the different types of microorganisms, how they can be both helpful and harmful, designing our own microbes and testing the best conditions for growing mould. During Literacy, we have been working on creating cohesion within our writing and how to write effective dialogues. In Maths, we have been focusing on ratio, units of measure and shape and solving problems involving these.



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World Book Day

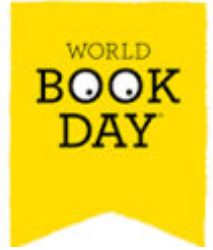


Wow! We have had an incredible World Book Day at Dashwood. So many incredible outfits (pupils and staff!) - it was so hard to choose the winners of the most creative costume in each class. The cakes came pouring into school on the morning too, and it was fierce competition to decide the winners. Thank you for your support at home with costumes and cakes. We'll send an update when we restock our library thanks to the donations for cakes and books. Well done to all!



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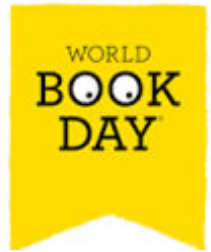
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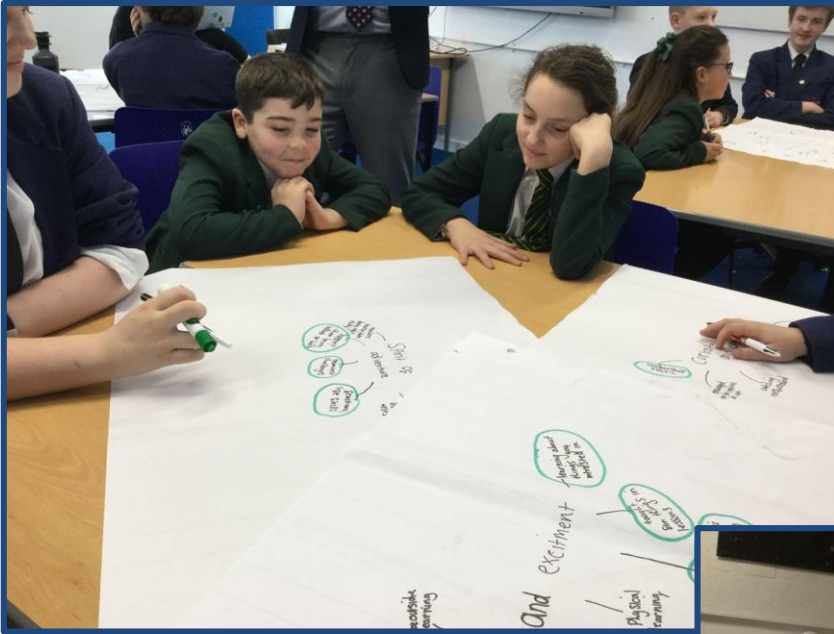


Norbar

A selection of pupils in Year 6 have recently had the opportunity to go and visit Norbar Torque Tools. They were lucky enough to explore the factory on a special tour where they saw the tools being made. They took part in a workshop where they saw the CAD software they use to make the initial designs for the tools. They then completed a science experiment looking at precision and accuracy and finally had a workshop on electrical components and circuits.



Aspirations Council Training and Networking Day



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Cross-Academy Pupil Voice - Agents for Change

On 29th February 2024, our Year 5 and 6 Aspiration Council representatives and Head Pupils visited Futures' Institute for a collaborative Aspirations Networking and Training Day.

We started the training day by sharing our presentation on Dashwood News. We discussed the reasons for introducing DBA News and why it is important to us. We then listened to the other schools presentations on the projects they have been working on this past year.

In the next session, we had the opportunity to work collaboratively in mixed groups consisting of primary and secondary students. We discussed key conditions for learning including fun and excitement, curiosity and creativity and spirit of adventure, and what this looks like in our schools.

The final session of the day saw us return to our school groups to analyse the latest data from the Pupil Voice Survey. We discussed the outcomes of the survey, looking closely at each year group, and discussed key areas we would like to work on as a school.



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Pupil Leadership Training - Sports Leaders, Junior Leaders and Aspiration Council

Some of our pupil leadership groups received some 'trust training' for their roles.

The Aspiration Council met to follow up on the previous day's Aspirations Networking and were joined by our younger councillors from KS1 and Lower KS2. They discussed the outcomes of the Pupil Voice Survey, analysed the data and suggested reasons behind the scores for each year group. They then voted on the two statements they wished to work on as a school.



Our Aspiration Council

Ivy, Bella, Levente, Oscar, David, Samaya, Holly, Reuben, Charlotte, Freddie, Lacey, Rameen and Kelsey



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Our Sports Leaders and Junior Leaders also received some bespoke training on how they can lead playground games for their younger peers and lead Level 1 Inter-Class sporting competitions and larger events such as sports days and Level 2 competitions where we compete against other schools!

Our Year 6 Sports Leaders: Aaidah, David A, Rameen, Kelsey, Laurie, Oliver, Noah C, Michael, Alfie, Lexi D, Rosie

Our Year 5 Junior Leaders: Tomasz, Regan, Flogert, Victor, Roseann, Hanna S, Ibrahim, Jessica, Lexi P, Elise, Xavier, Nathan K, Charlotte, Maja, Taniah



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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



Term 5 Dates:

<https://dashwood.academies.aspirationsacademies.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/8/2024/03/Term-4-Dates-1.pdf>



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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.



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:

Promoting resilience

- Date: Thursday 25 April 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

Understanding childhood anxiety

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



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Supporting talk and language at home

Language skills are important to enable children to access all aspects of the school curriculum, as well as overall child development. A child's ability to communicate effectively supports emotional and social development, including emotional expression and building relationships. Early language skills can also be a predictor of future educational success.

Here are some useful links to videos with ideas of how to support language development at home from Tiny Happy People at the BBC.



Tips and advice

Experts and parents give their advice on language learning and child development.

- [How does talking about the past help children's language skills](#)
- [How can you help children to say words properly](#)



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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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Easter Football Camp

@ St John's RC Primary School

Avocet Way, Banbury OX16 9YA



Week One : Tues 2nd to Fri 5th April | Week Two : Mon 8th to Fri 12th April

In our **22nd** Year!

Our Half Term Camp runs
within the safe & secure
environment of
St John's RC Primary School

FUN games for
Boys & Girls of all abilities
aged 4 – 12

Kick Off: 10.00am

Final Whistle: 3.00pm

Drop off/Registration available from 9.30am
(Earlier by prior arrangement)

To Book: Call/Txt/WhatsApp/Email **Mark** on

07952 579358

mark@markandrewsfootballcoaching.co.uk

Camp Fees

1 Day : £20

Then £15 per day

5 Days : £70

Then £12 per day



Payment Details:

Mark Andrews

Cash on the day or alternatively by
Bank Transfer to 40-09-02 / 21588257



[markandrewsfootballcoaching](https://www.facebook.com/markandrewsfootballcoaching)



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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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