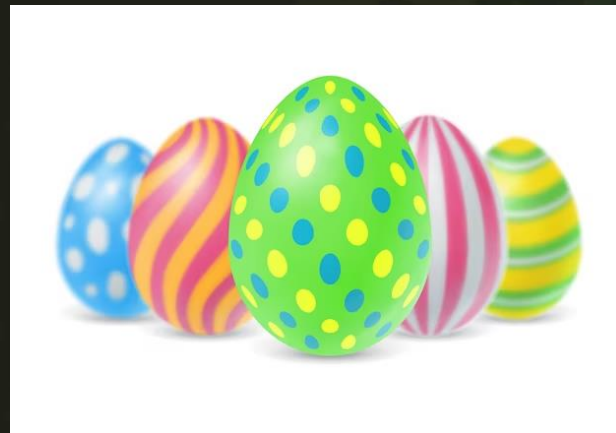




**Dashwood Banbury Academy**  
an Aspirations Academy

# Dashwood News

## Thursday 28th March 2024



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

# A note from the Principal...

*We have reached the end of a very busy term packed with trips to Warriner Farm , Greatworth Hall Farm, Norbar engineering factory and the Ridings. Last week I was lucky enough to take a group of year 3 and 4 pupils to The Ridings Care Home. On the way back, excited with their Easter treat bag, I heard one child say " that was the best afternoon I want to go back- we didn't even have to do any learning!" After having a little smile to myself, we then started the discussion about what learning actually was and when learning takes place. Then out of the blue, Logan said " But I learnt about World War Two and I listened to the elderly man talk about being evacuated to Brighton." I then posed the question: Did you learn about how to be patient and listen to their stories? Did you learn to have compassion and show kindness towards people who had just met? Did you learn how to engage in a conversation? "YES!" they all replied. I was so proud of them all; the residents of the care home were so pleased that we had visited and said how smart and clever they were. It is really important that the children know that learning maths and science is important but more importantly, it is about developing and practising the softer skills: being patient, kind, thoughtful, selfless, responsible, reliable and honest that make us feel good about ourselves and sometimes gets us further in life.*

*I wish you all a very happy Easter break. I would like to wish our Islamic community a very happy Eid al-Fitr and I hope you all enjoy your celebrations together with your family and friends.*

*Mrs Gordon-Weeks*



**Dashwood Banbury Academy**  
an Aspirations Academy



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

# Dashwood Action Committee

The DAC meeting was held 28.03.2024 and discussed the following items:

- **In-class rewards system** - clarifying rewards in place (see next page including actions)
- **Parking** around the school site. We, as a school, report illegal parking when we are aware of it by photographing the vehicle that is illegally parked and submitting the information to: <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/roads-and-transport/parking/illegal-parking> but we kindly ask that parents, carers and members of our community support us and do the same.
- **Anti Bullying policy** - our school policy has been updated and the DAC are going to make suggestions from the view of parent voice. Please see our Pupil Anti-Bullying Ambassador page at: <https://www.dashwood-aspirations.org/curriculum/pupil-leadership/anti-bullying/>
- **Clubs** - the DAC felt that the offer at Dashwood of free clubs was really good. We discussed suggestions for new and different clubs going forward which senior leaders will look into.



# In-Class and Individual Rewards for pupils - feedback and actions from the DAC

## What do we do at Dashwood?

What is working well	Even Better If - Actions
<p><b>Star of the Day Certificates</b> - pupils enjoy sharing these with parents/carers</p>	<p>Consistency - teachers/teaching assistants writing a brief comment to say why the pupil was awarded Star of the Day</p>
<p><b>Star of the Week</b> - Completed weekly in assemblies for Year 3/4 and 5/6</p>	<p>Years 1 and 2 to have a dedicated assembly where Star of the Week is awarded</p>
<p><b>Class Dojos</b> - children really enjoy receiving these in class in recognition of their behaviour, conduct and learning</p>	<p>Parents had more information about what Dojos are and how they are used at Dashwood</p>
<p><b>Sharing work with Senior Leaders</b> - Each week (normally on a Friday), pupils in Year 1 - 6 are nominated by their teacher to share progress in their learning with either Mrs Gordon-Weeks or Miss Gooch. They receive a certificate and sticker. We will text parents and carers to let you know if your child has been to this session so that they can celebrate this with their child</p>	<p>No further actions - all working well</p>
<p><b>Celebrations Assemblies</b> - at the start of each term we celebrate achievement from the previous term Pupils are nominated by their teacher for celebration certificates and one pupil is nominated for the Peace Prize which celebrates outstanding learning, progress and personal development. Parent /carers of pupils receiving certificates are invited to the Celebration Assembly</p>	<p>No further actions - all working well</p>



# What are Class Dojos?

Class Dojos are used in each class by teachers staff to recognise the positive learning behaviours and progress of pupils but also include personal development in recognising character of our pupils such as being kind, showing integrity, helping others etc.

Each child has their own Dojo character which appears on the class whiteboard screen and they collect Dojo points. Classes use class Dojos in different ways - rewarding individual pupils who reach a certain number of Dojos with a prize or they may be collecting Dojos as a class towards an end of term treat!

We are currently looking into how we can manage the interface between Class Dojo and parent alerts so that parents know when their child has a been awarded a Dojo. Watch this space!



**Dashwood Banbury Academy**  
an Aspirations Academy



**ClassDojo**

# Parent conduct onsite

I would like to take this opportunity to direct your attention to the unacceptable conduct policy.

<https://dashwood.academies.aspirationsacademies.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/8/2023/01/Dashwood-Unacceptable-Behaviour-Protocol-023-01-17-1.pdf>

Dashwood is, and always will be, a safe place, free from intimidation or fear for all its pupils and parents that attend. I will not tolerate any form of aggressive behaviour on site towards staff or between parents. If this does occur, I will not hesitate to withdraw permission for people to be onsite. If issues arise outside of school, the police have advised that they contact them for support.



**Dashwood Banbury Academy**  
an Aspirations Academy



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

# Can you spot 'Dashy' the Dashwood Bunny on the Banbury Easter Trail?!

Here is 'Dashy' the Dashwood Bunny that has been decorated by many of our Dashwood pupils! There is an Easter Trail taking place in Banbury over the Easter weekend. Find out more at:

<https://www.banburyguardian.co.uk/news/people/win-prizes-by-finding-ten-bunnies-hidden-around-banbury-shops-this-easter-4569286>



**Dashwood Banbury Academy**  
an Aspirations Academy

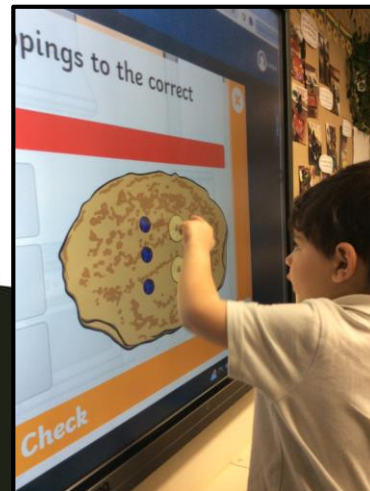


**Aspirations Academies Trust**  
In association with Quaglia Institute

# Nursery

**Cherry class** have been enjoying the spring weather and watering all of the new flowers that have been opening up in their garden. They have been creating some Easter themed crafts and role-playing with the small world animals, practising to make and match the animal sounds.

**Plum class** have continued with their farm topic, learning new vocabulary for the names of baby animals and then seeing them in real life on their farm trip. The pupils have particularly enjoyed crafting animal puppets and using them in a puppet theatre to tell creative and imaginative stories. They have had a big focus on counting and learning numbers. Recognising numerals in the environment and practising to count accurately.



**Dashwood Banbury Academy**  
an Aspirations Academy



# Reception

Reception children have been learning about the signs of spring and spotting these seasonal changes outside. Continuing on the science theme, they have also enjoyed exploring changing states of matter by melting solid chocolate into a liquid, to create some delicious chocolate Easter eggs.

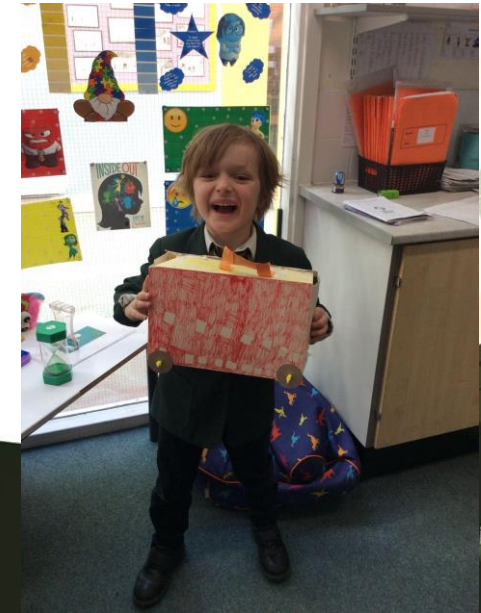
During carpet sessions and story time, pupils have been talking about and sharing their knowledge of Ramadan and learning about traditions associated with upcoming Eid and Easter celebrations.



# Year 1

What an exciting last few weeks Year 1 have had! We have completed a science experiment about materials for rain shelters with some brave volunteers as well as designing and creating our own moving cars as part of our toy topic.

We have also started to work on our numbers to 50, using the language of tens and ones. In addition to this, Year 1 have also created incredible instructions on how to make the victorian toy the Thaumatrope.



# Year 2

Year 2 have been really passionate about climate change and have been creating adverts to protect polar bears. We used our knowledge of climate change to create our own investigation about greenhouse gases, where we looked at how long it would take ice to melt within different situations.

Year 2 have also made up and written their own fable story about how an elephant got its hump! We have had some great results with a range of adjectives and adverbs.



# Year 2 Play

We are so proud of how hard year 2 have worked to put on their performance of Hansel and Gretel. They have persevered when learning the 8 different songs as well as their lines.

Thank you to all the parents for your support with helping your child learn their lines, providing costumes and other support at home. We hope you enjoyed watching the show as much as we did!



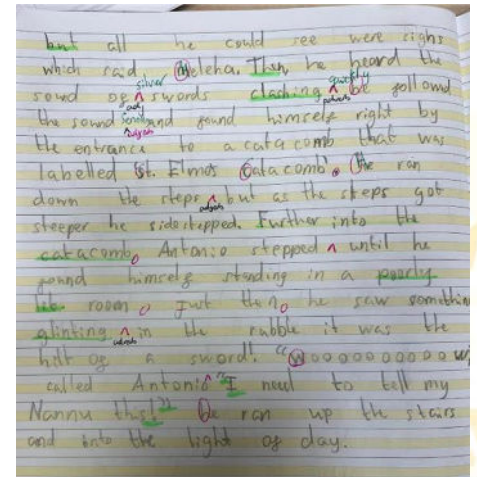
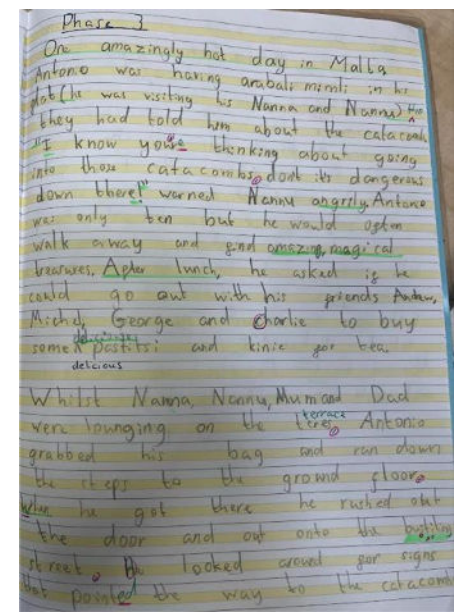
**Dashwood Banbury Academy**  
an Aspirations Academy



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

# Year 3

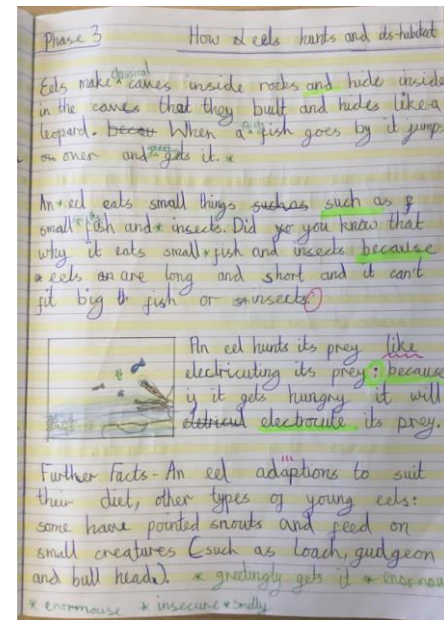
Year 3 have been further developing their excellent writing skills this term. The children now know what a generaliser is and used them confidently in their non-chronological writing about a mythical creature. After looking at the key features of an adventure story, the children have innovated the text to write their own stories with a clear beginning, middle and end. The children have really focussed on including fronted adverbials in order to add detail about the time, place or manner of the following verbs as well as including dialogue with inverted commas. We have been delighted that the children have also included many of the previously taught skills including, subordinating conjunctions, effective verbs and expanded noun phrases. There has been some great progress in the writing across Year 3. Well done everybody. The next round of pen licences have been awarded and the children are relishing the opportunity to proudly show off their presentation skills. Next term, our handwriting focus will be on joining letters as some children are raring to go.



# Year 4

This has been an exciting term for Year 4. Rowan have continued learning the clarinets and Aspen are looking forward to the opportunity next term. We have further developed our literacy skills, by enhancing our explanation texts to describe animals in different contexts.

To finish our TASC Wheel project this term, we planned and recorded a podcast, based on a current environmental issue. Recording a podcast has been a new exciting experience and the children have found this both challenging and rewarding!

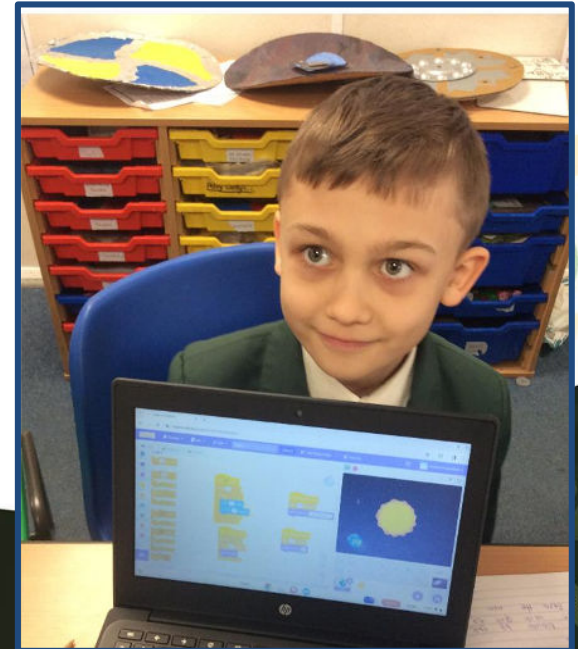
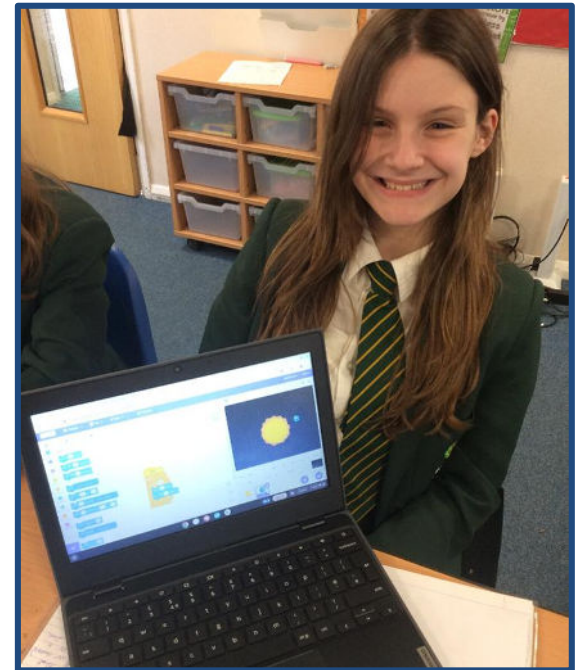


# Year 5

Over the past couple of weeks we have been continuing to enjoy our topic about space. Our learning has been focusing on the Moon and how the planets move. We have ended our topic creating a Solar System Simulation through Scratch - a coding programme. The children had to write the code to ensure their planets moved accurately, fixing any bugs they encountered.

In writing, we have been using our knowledge of the Sun to write a non-chronological report. It has really shown the scientific knowledge the children have learnt, as well as the writing skills we have been learning about. We have especially focused on adding detail using commas, dashes and brackets.

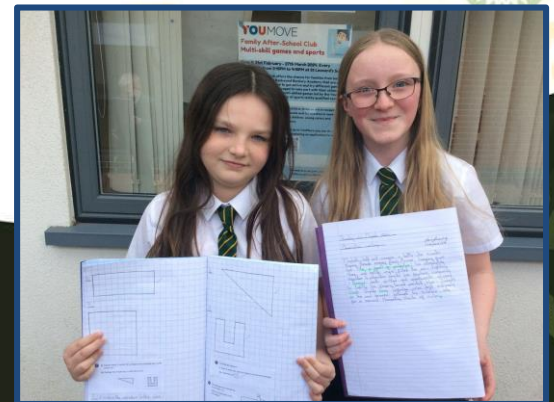
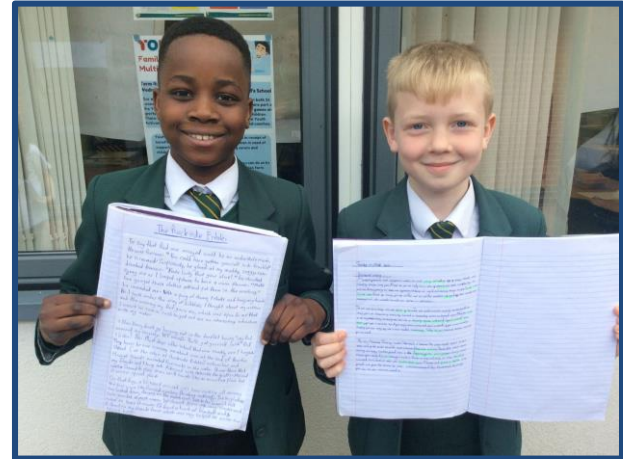
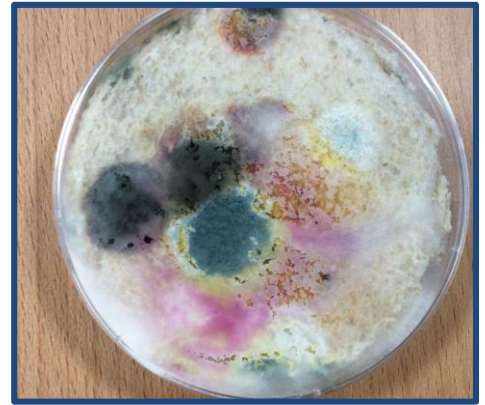
Maths has seen us learning how to multiply up to 3 digits by 2 digits - some of us prefer the area model method, others the grid method.



# Year 6

Year 6 have been investigating the best conditions to grow mould in science. We set up the experiment and tracked mould growth over time in three different test conditions before compiling our results into a graph and drawing conclusions based on what we found. Year 6 have also been learning about Shakespeare and the play of Macbeth. They have enjoyed learning about the characters, their motives and actions as well as considering who the real villains were. As part of this unit we also did some acting of a scene from the play and wrote our own descriptive passages based on the same scene.

In maths, we have continued to practice our arithmetic skills whilst learning about shapes, angles, area and perimeter. We've also had some great career day link opportunities to find out about roles within the NHS, the aviation industry and a visit from a scientist.





# Nursery Farm Trip

Last week, Plum class visited Warriner Farm. They had a wonderful time meeting different farm animals and learning about how to look after them.

Some highlights included feeding the goats, stroking the lambs and seeing a huge tractor! There were plenty of baby animals too, some less than a day old.

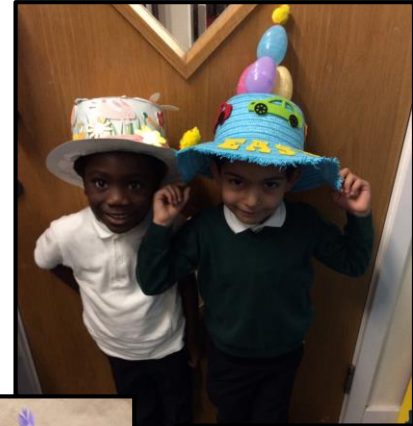
It was also very exciting going to and from the farm on a big coach for the first time.



# EYFS Easter Hat Parades

This week, our early years children took part in some traditional Easter hat parades for their parents and carers. We were amazed by the diverse designs and creativity that went into all of the hats on show. The children paraded confidently and proudly in front of an audience and the Reception children also treated everyone to a couple of spring themed songs too.

A huge thank you to all of the families who supported their children to create their fantastic Easter bonnets.



# The Ridings: Easter Crafts

A group of pupils from Year 3 and 4 had an amazing time visiting The Ridings care home. They really enjoyed completing some Easter themed activities with the residents and loved to engage in conversations too. As always, the group of pupils showed us how considerate and thoughtful our pupils are. Well done to all who attended.



# New books for the library

Thanks to donations from World Book Day we were able to add over 100 new books to our library! These were carefully chosen and selected through book reviews that all pupils completed.



# Library Fundraising

Inayah (Year 5), through her after school fundraising selling of sweet cones, bracelets and bookmarks, has raised **£43.90** for new school books!

Thank you so much Inayah for all of your efforts in supporting Dashwood; we look forward to buying new books for the library in Term 5!



# Year 5 - Greatworth Farm Trip



Dash  
an Aspirat

# Oxford Literary Festival

A selection of pupils from Year 6 had the opportunity to attend the Oxford Literary Festival today and see author M.G. Leonard speak about her latest book in the Twitchers series. She discussed how she got her ideas for her character and setting and inspired the Year 6 pupils to do some of their own story writing. They couldn't even wait until they got back to school and began reading her books on the train home.



**Dashwood Banbury Academy**  
an Aspirations Academy

Aspirations Academies Trust  
Association with Quaglia Institute

# The Travelling Book Fair returns to Dashwood Thursday 25th April - Tuesday 30th April

The travelling book fair visits Dashwood and will be around from Thursday 25th April - Tuesday 30th April. 100s of books on offer with prices starting from £3. We will be based on the main school playground - look out for the book fair signs.

We have been lucky to secure the same offer as last year, meaning **ALL** books are **3 for 2!** Buying books at this book fair will mean we receive an amount of the total sales to spend on books for the school! Cash and card payments (through online page) welcomed!



**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/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 eveninas
- **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 5: Thursday 23rd May  
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/>





# 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-5-  
Dates-2024.pdf](https://dashwood.academies.aspirationsacademies.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/8/2024/03/Term-5-Dates-2024.pdf)



**Dashwood Banbury Academy**  
an Aspirations Academy



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

# Parent workshop: Mobile Phones

Are you worried about the prospect of your child having a mobile phone? Or, do they have a mobile phone and you are concerned about how they are using it and what they are accessing? Please note: we highly recommend year 5 parent attend as they are becoming more independently in the community.

**Come and join us on Friday 3rd May at 9am**

We will have a discussion about this concerning issues using evidence and support strategies. A google link to sign up for this will come out in the first week back



**Dashwood Banbury Academy**  
an Aspirations Academy



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

# PTFA

The next meetings will be on:

Wednesday 8th May at 2.15pm

Wednesday 5th June at 2.15pm

Please come along ; it is great to have your support! Remember that you do not have to attend every event, any help is appreciated!



**Dashwood Banbury Academy**  
an Aspirations Academy



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

# 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.*



# 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



**Dashwood Banbury Academy**  
an Aspirations Academy



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



# Supporting talk and language at home

Following on from our previous information about developing language skills, we have highlighted some further relevant websites below. We hope these will be useful in supporting talk at home and answering common questions that some parents may have.



Here is a link for information for families who are speaking more than one language. [Tips and advice for bilingual households](#).

Advice on [How to Respond to 'Why' Questions](#) from your child.



# Safeguarding - What to do if you have a concern about a child

If you have a concern about any child at any time you can, as a member of the community, make a referral. For more information on how to do this follow:

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/children-education-and-families/keeping-children-and-young-people-safe/report-child-abuse>





# Easter Football Camp

@ St John's RC Primary School

Avocet Way, Banbury OX16 9YA



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

In our **22<sup>nd</sup>** 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](mailto: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)



**Dashwood Banbury Academy**

an Aspirations Academy



**Aspirations Academies Trust**  
In association 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? Or tell us what you have been up to in the Easter break!

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

## 2023 - 2024 Term dates:

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



**Dashwood Banbury Academy**  
an Aspirations Academy



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