



Dashwood Banbury Academy
an Aspirations Academy

Dashwood News

Friday 14th March 2025



Aspirations Academies Trust
In association with Quaglia Institute

A note from the Principal

It has been nice to see a little more sunshine over the last couple of weeks. The pupils have enjoyed being outside and we are hoping to go on the field very soon!

As always we have had an action packed first three weeks of this term: zoolab visits; girls football sessions; World Book Day; virtual careers talks from the NHS and so much more. On my learning walks over the last couple of weeks, I have seen high levels of engagement and some high quality outcomes from all of our year groups. Pupils are really taking pride in what they do and we are so proud of their achievements regardless of their starting points.

In our assemblies this week we have been talking to the children about when to use the word NO! We discussed when it was appropriate and essential to say NO and when it is disrespectful to say NO. Maybe open up this discussion with your child at home. Have a lovely weekend and we will see you on Monday.

Mrs Gordon-Weeks



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A visit from our local MP: Sean Woodcock

This term we have welcomed Sean Woodcock to Dashwood. He came to visit our breakfast club. He thoroughly enjoyed his visit and hopes to come again soon. Whilst he has here is was interviewed by our Head Pupils. They asked the following questions:

Why did you want to become an MP?

What sort of character traits do you need?

How did you become an MP?



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Careers: Can you help?

As you know we have high aspirations for all of our pupils to become what they want in their futures. Research shows that if we talk about careers/jobs and future goals early in childhood, they are more likely to achieve them. Not everyone wants to go to college or university; there are lots of apprenticeships offered now which opens up many more doors for our young people.

We have asked our pupils what careers they are interested in. The list below is a starting point!

Retail	Archeology	lawyer	Life guard
Vet	Teacher/secondary	Builder	Computer coder
Fireman	University Lecturer	Musician	
Farming	Author	Marine Biologist	
Doctor	Paleontology	Scientist	
Nurse	Artist	Singer	
Pilot	Ghostbuster	Soldier	
midwife	Hairdresser	Footballer	
Chef	Lorry Driver	Bus driver	

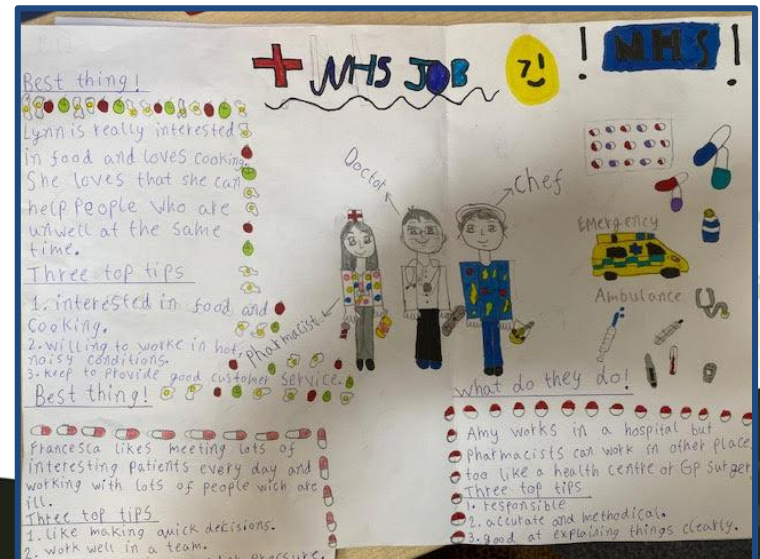
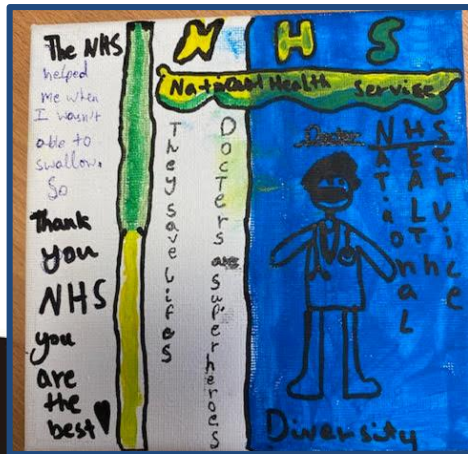
Is one of the options something you do or know someone who would be interested in coming into school to talk to our pupils? We want to inspire them and you may be the person who does that! Please talk to the office or me on the gate if you are about to help!



NHS careers conference

This week, some of our pupils have joined some online career talks with members of our NHS: this included a paramedic who talked to the pupils about his aspirations as a teenager to become one and the steps he needed to take. The pupils learnt that there are over 3500 different jobs within the NHS and you do not to be medically qualified to do some of them.

Here were some of the outcomes of the sessions about what the pupils learnt:



Nursery

Cherry class have been enjoying the book 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt' and reading other stories with bear characters in. They have been focusing on positional language and going on their own adventures around the environment. Outside they have been practising ball skills, spending time developing hand-eye coordination when throwing and catching.

Plum class have been finding out all about the animals and work that goes on at a farm. They have been developing their vocabulary, as well as maths skills by weighing and counting farm animals. The pupils have started working on name writing and recognising some sounds in their names.



Reception

Peach and Pear classes have been exploring the continent of Africa this term. They have been finding out about the animals that they might find on safari and reading stories with characters from a variety of African countries. While reading Handa's Surprise, the children enjoyed tasting different tropical fruit from the story.

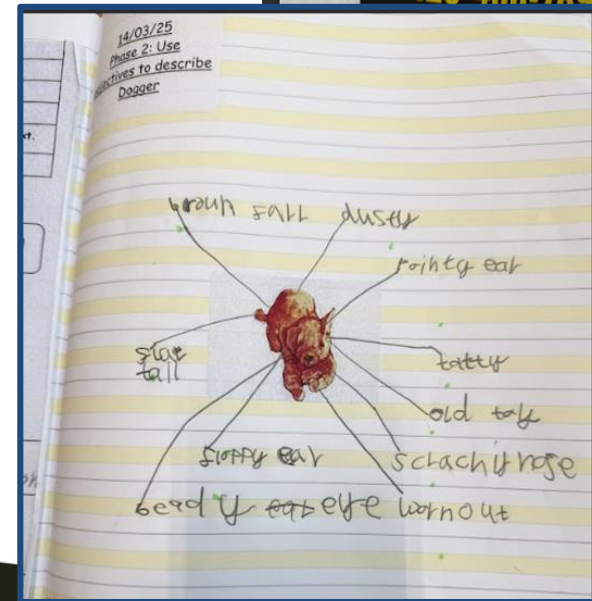
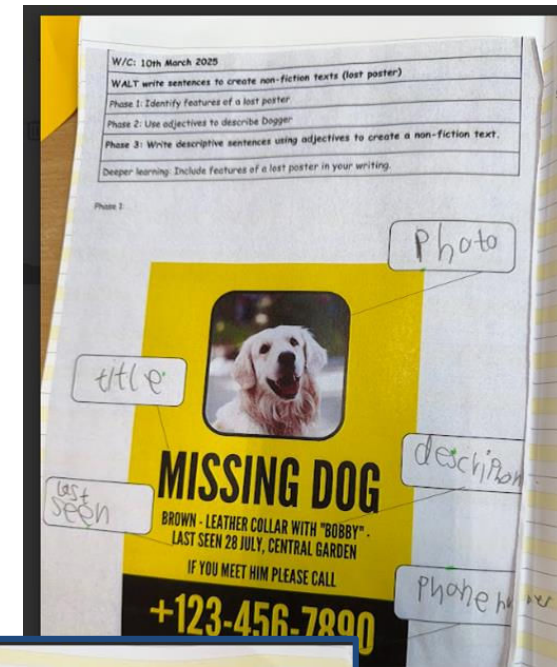
As part of this topic, pupils have also explored some African culture, listening to and replicating music, exploring pattern and jewellery, as well as creating artwork.



Year 1

Year 1 have enjoyed learning about the story Dogger. The children have retold the story, and are now looking at different features of a lost poster so that they can make their own to help Dave find Dogger!

Year 1 have also loved finding out about toys from the past and investigating how toys have changed over time.



Year 2

Year 2 have had a fantastic start to term 4. Everyone has enjoyed our class text '*How the camel got its hump*' and have written some brilliant pieces of writing including a character description and a diary entry.

Our science topic also links nicely to our class text, where we have looked at how different animals (including camels) adapt to their habitats and environments.

We have been really impressed with year 2s commitment and energy when starting to learn their lines and songs for our performance of *Cinderella Rockerfella*.



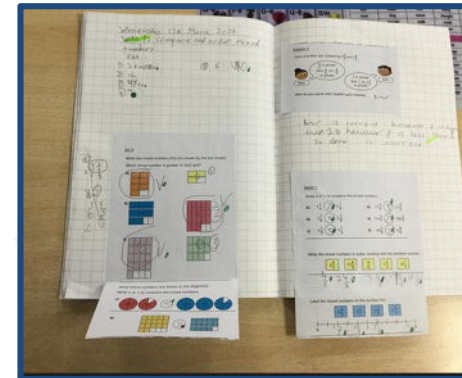
Year 3

Year 3 have had an exciting couple of weeks. In maths, we have been consolidating our multiplication and division skills and have started our measurement unit. In literacy, we have been exploring a range of writing tools such as expanded noun phrases and generalisers and will be using these skills to write a non-chronological report on a mythical creature. Everyone is excited by our module on Ancient Egypt where we have built on the success of Egypt Day to learn about the culture and history of this fascinating civilisation. In Science, we are exploring the life cycles of plants and are currently monitoring the growth of our cress.



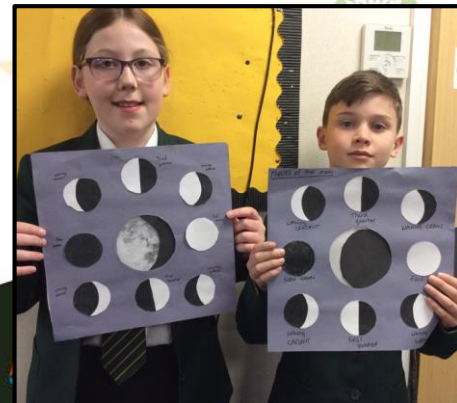
Year 4

We have had an amazing start to the term! All of our learning this term is based around chocolate! In Literacy, we have been designing our own chocolate bars and wrappings, which we are in the process of creating persuasive adverts for our brand new bars. In maths, we have started our fractions unit. We have learnt how to plot fractions on a number line, identify mixed fractions and compare fractions. We cannot wait for our trip to Cadburys World next week, and to start making our own chocolate bars!



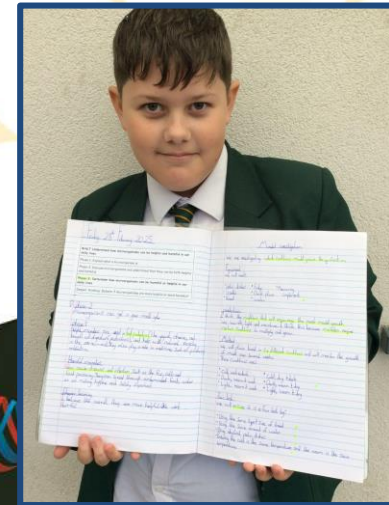
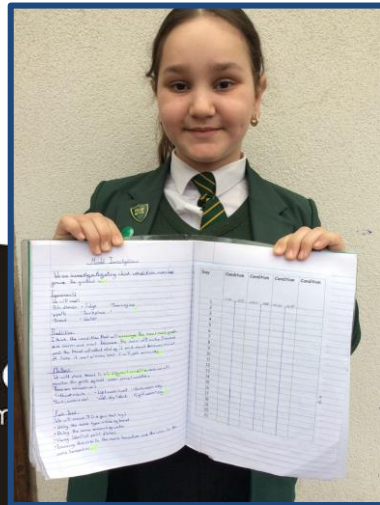
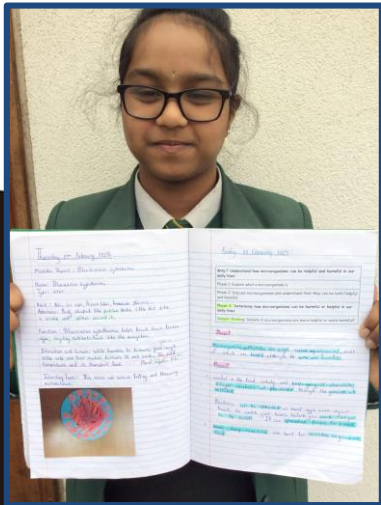
Year 5

Year 5 have been working on their creativity Power Skill linked to our Earth and Space unit. In groups of three, children used paper mache techniques to create a class Solar System. The Collaboration Power Skills were very much focussed on and children had to really work together to be successful. A critical evaluation of the outcome as a teaching resource also took place. An understanding of Phases of the Moon was also developed through a creative task - the children created a model of the Lunar phases which could be adapted and changed. We are now looking forward to creating our Phase 3 outcome where day and night will be explained creatively through a scratch model or teaching poster.



Year 6

In Year 6 we have had a great start to Term 4 and are enjoying our science unit on micro-organisms. We have been learning all about different classifications of microbes, investigating the best conditions for growing mould and designing our own microbe including writing a lab report to accompany this. In maths, we have been working on converting measures and on finding the area and perimeter of 2D shapes. During literacy, we have been working hard on our reading skills, answering questions by finding evidence in a range of texts and are beginning to write our own warning stories. Additionally, in PE we have been developing our teamwork in both cricket and basketball sessions.



ZooLab

Earlier this term, our Reception pupils had a visit from Ranger Charlie from ZooLab, who brought some very special guests into the classroom!

The children were given the opportunity to handle some animals which included; a giant snail, cockroach, stick insect, tree frog, snake, and desert rats. They learnt about each creatures' adaptations, habitat and also threats. We were very impressed with how many pupils pushed themselves out of their comfort zone and thoroughly enjoyed the experience.



World Book Day: £209.62 raised

We had a wonderful day last week celebrating the world of books. It was lovely to see so many excellent costumes - so much effort which created a lovely atmosphere in school. Thank you for all of your support as always at the events. We are looking forward to buying some more books for the library with the money we raised.



Eco Warriors Trip to Ardley Recycling Centre

Our Eco-Warrior Pupil Leadership Team arranged a visit to the Ardley Energy Recovery Facility in Oxfordshire - one of the leading recycling plants in the United Kingdom. Our Eco-Warriors were keen to find out more about how we can all do our bit towards caring for the environment and to learn more about the people that work there and their careers!



Aspiration Council and Leadership Conference

On Thursday 6th March, the Aspiration Council participated in the student voice conference. The Eco-Warriors presented to the other schools at the conference, about their recent trip to Ardley Recycling Centre and how Dashwood is focusing on helping save the environment. Following this, we analysed the pupil voice survey results and decided on our new targets to work on for the year. We are looking forward to discussing these targets with Mrs Gordon Weeks in the near future.



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Aspirations Learning Institute

Have you ever considered a career in teaching?

The Aspirations Learning Institute are creating a culture of learning supporting the work of all Aspirations Academies by providing the essential training and development required to help continually improve the performance of teachers, support staff, pupils and academies.

The Aspirations Learning Institute oversees CPD, Initial Teacher Education, and accredits/ provides apprenticeships, foundation and higher degree level programmes.

Excitingly, the programmes offered by the Aspirations Learning Institute are available to members of the wider community and could support you to get in to teaching!



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Useful websites to find out more about what the Aspirations Learning hub can do to support you

https://www.aspirationsacademies.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/Aspirations-Learning-Institute-The-Details_compressed.pdf - To find out more about the Aspirations Learning Hub

<https://sites.google.com/aspirationsacademies.org/aspirations-learning-institute/home> - To learn more about the routes to teaching

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-teacher-training> - Use this Department for Education service to apply for a teacher training course to teach in a state



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