



Dashwood Banbury Academy
an Aspirations Academy

Dashwood News

Friday 24th October 2025



Aspirations Academies Trust
In association with Quagga Institute

A note from the Principal...

Happy half term everyone! We have had a very successful first term at Dashwood; our EYFS pupils have settled in well to all the new routines - it is so lovely to see them becoming even more independent and enjoying learning together in our setting. Our oldest pupils have just returned from a very exciting and adventurous week at Rock UK; they have taken part in many activities including the zip line, archery, canoeing and even had the challenge of making their own beds! It is great to see how much they change throughout the years.

This term we have focused on respectful relationships and how important it is to be kind and considerate to each other. We will continue the theme of respect into next term as we take part in our annual Remembrance Service and other activities that show how grateful we are to all of the people who have served in wars both past and present.

I would like to end this term but saying a huge thank you for all of your support and contributions to our foodbank. Dashwood Food Bank is now looking very healthy so please do not hesitate to come and use it. We will also be donating some of the produce to the Mosque as we know they work hard to serve and support the community through the community fridge.

Have a lovely restful half term - we look forward to seeing you after the holiday in your full school uniform. Reminder summer dresses are no longer to be worn - we need to keep a bit warmer in the winter months.

Mrs Gordon-Weeks



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Nursery

Cherry class have loved exploring shapes this term. They are beginning to recognise basic shapes such as circles, squares and triangles. They have used these shapes to creatively design their own colourful rockets. A lovely way to develop fine motor skills, support shape recognition, and have fun while learning.



Plum class have been learning about autumn and the seasonal changes seen around the school grounds. They have been exploring autumnal treasures and particularly enjoyed taking on the role of delivering pumpkins to each other. Their maths focus has been counting and sorting different amounts.



Reception

Reception pupils have been enjoying their topic on traditional tales. They have been exploring the properties of materials and using their findings to build some new houses for the three little pigs. The highlight was testing the suitability of the houses in rain and wind, by using a hair dryer and watering can!

The children have also been learning about Diwali, the festival of lights. They took part in some Diwali-themed art and craft activities and learnt about how different families celebrate this occasion.



Year 1

Year 1 have had a fabulous few weeks from designing creative friendship bracelets in DT to observing and discussing rainclouds in our science experiments.

In Creative Curriculum, we are finishing our geography topic off with creating our own town thinking about the features we have here in Banbury and other facilities that we would like to have.

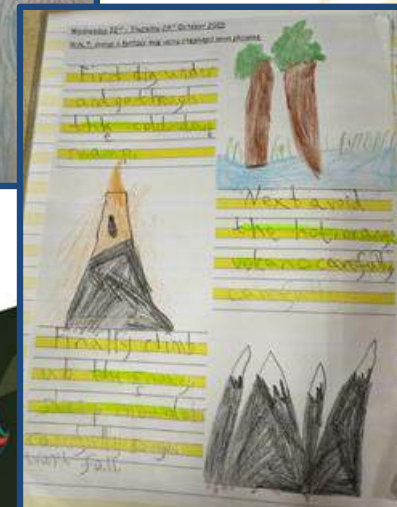
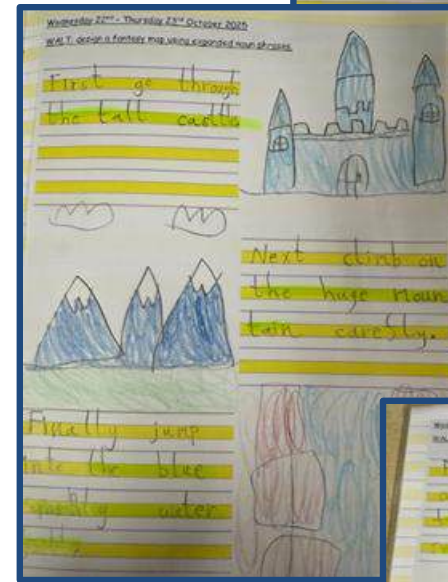
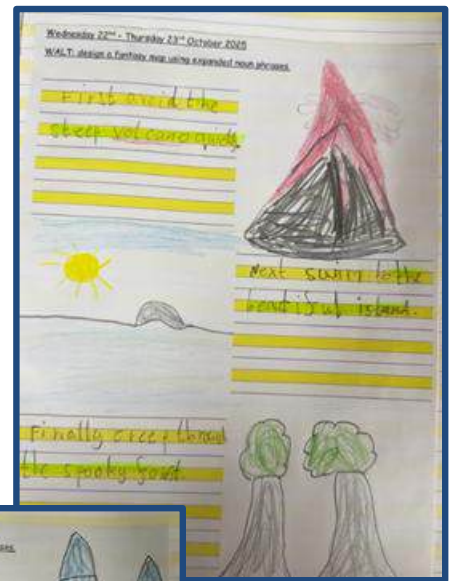
In Maths, we have also started to look at their number bonds to 10 and start to understand part whole models. In Literacy, we have been riding Squash and a squeeze and are writing letters to the old man to persuade him to get a bigger house.



Year 2

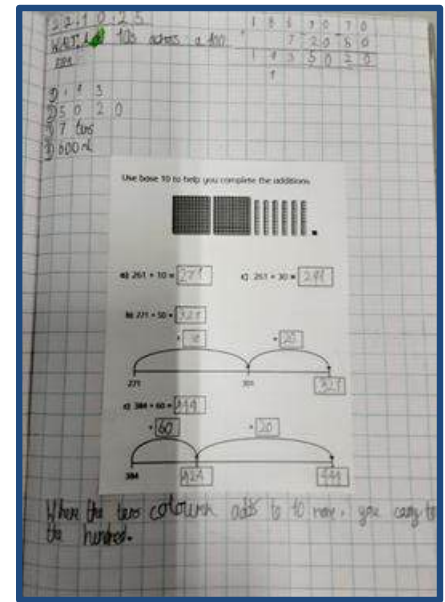
Year 2 have blown us away by creating their very own adventure map based on our story Marvellous Moon Map. The children worked on building descriptive sentences using noun phrases, to create their adventure.

In topic, Year 2 have absolutely loved learning all about King Charles III coronation, where they got the chance to re - enact the special occasion and then write a diary entry as the King.



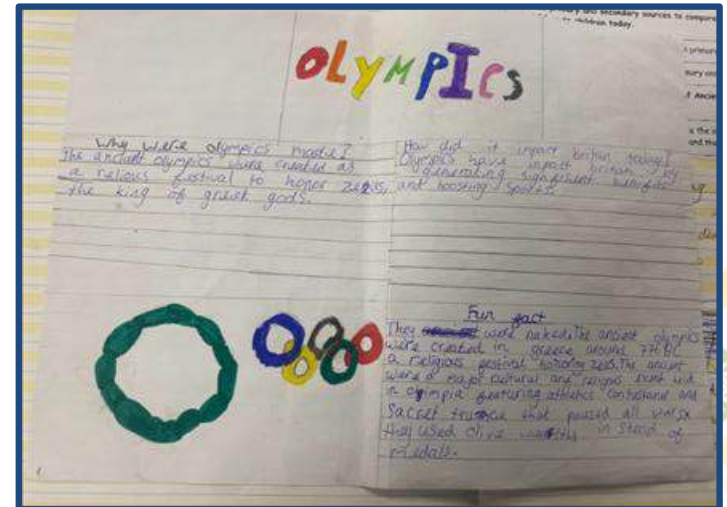
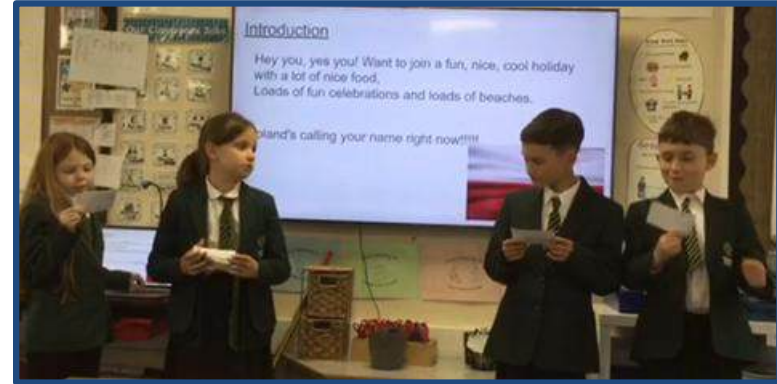
Year 3

Since our last update, Year 3 have been doing some wonderful things. In history, we have been exploring the life and challenges of King George VI. This has allowed us to look in depth at the life of one the most interesting personalities of the 20th century and how he became a symbol for his country. In our maths lessons, we have been consolidating our knowledge of place value and have started to expand this to addition and subtraction. A highlight of the term has been our portal story based upon *The Tunnel* by Anthony Brown, where we got to make a tunnel and explore the feelings of the main characters by travelling through it.



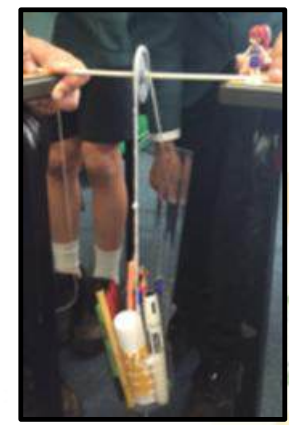
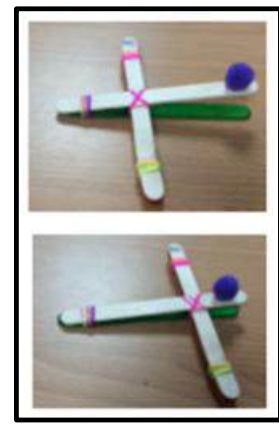
Year 4

What an amazing end of the term we have had! Earlier in the term, we had the opportunity to create and share presentations about a European country. Everyone showed brilliant communication and collaboration skills throughout. In Science, we have been learning about sound. We now know the difference between pitch and volume, how sound travels to the ear and are confidently able to label the parts of the ear and their functions. We also completed a fun experiment where we saw the effects of volume on vibrations, using a drum and some rice! Our final topic of the term was all about the Ancient Greeks. We researched what life was like as a child and compared it to life as a child today, as well as researching Ancient Greek inventions that are still used today!



Year 5

Year 5 have completed their unit of learning on The Amazon River basin with a Newsround presentation, giving vital information about the causes and effects of deforestation and well as ways in which we can support the sustainability of this area. We have ended the term with two science days in which we focussed on mechanisms which make our lives easier. The children have made their own levers, gears and pulleys before applying their knowledge into a design which would make life in the Amazon Rainforest easier.



Year 6

Year 6 have enjoyed the end of the term where they have worked towards answering our driving question in Geography: 'How do biomes and geographical features impact the decisions of the people who live and work there?'. Pupils were faced with a business scenario and they had to pitch a location in North or South America for the business to set up - considering the human and physical geographical features of a place (eg. where would be good to set up a surfing school or a theme park). Pupils then showed off their communication skills as they presented their business pitches to the classes.

In Year 6 pupils have also completed some mentor training and they're very excited to meet their mentees next term!

Why we think your business will thrive Brazil

There is lots of natural resources like how there is nearly 3 times more freshwater than the US. Brazil's varied soils means you can have a range of crops.



Don't worry about the weather!

Rio de Janeiro has an climate of tropical savanna, characterized by hot, humid summers and warm, mild winters. While temperatures are high year-round. It also has an tropical, wet and dry climate. The summers, from December to March, have high temperatures and significant rainfall, with average highs ranging from 75-88°F and lows from 63-76°F throughout the year.



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ROCK UK

Well done to all Year 6 pupils who went on residential this week! They learnt new skills, such as archery and canoeing and also tackled fears as they took on the zip line! We know they will have made memories to last a lifetime! (and we hope they get some sleep over the half term!)

Thank you to all all pupils for giving your all and to all the staff that make these events happen!



**HARRIERS BANBURY ACADEMY
INVITE YOU TO THEIR ANNUAL**

FIREWORK NIGHT

**THURS
06
NOVEMBER**

**GATES OPEN AT 5:00 PM
DISPLAY 6:00PM - 6:30PM**

**FAMILY TICKET
£14 - 2 ADULTS + 2 CHILDREN**

**ADULTS
£5**

**CHILDREN
£3**

**UNDER 3'S
FREE**

ON THE DOOR - FAMILY £15, ADULT £6, CHILD £3.50

**FOOD, DRINKS
STALLS + MORE**

**TICKETS AVAILABLE ON
EVENTBRITE** (booking fees apply)
PRE BOOKING IS RECOMMENDED

<https://harriers-ptfa-fireworks.eventbrite.co.uk>

**PLEASE NOTE, PERSONAL SPARKLERS + FIREWORKS ARE NOT PERMITTED AT THIS EVENT.
ALL PROCEEDS GO TO HARRIERS BANBURY ACADEMY PTFA**



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Uniform

Please see attached letter sent out this week regarding expectations for uniform:

<https://dashwood.academies.aspirationsacademies.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/8/2025/10/Uniform-letter-full-2025.2026-to-parents.pdf>

At Dashwood we have high expectations for uniform as we know that when pupils *look smart*, they *think smart* and that it helps them feel a sense of belonging to our Dashwood community. So many of our pupils looks smart in their full school uniform each and every day. Thank you to those parents and carers who support us in this important aspect of our daily school life!



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Parents/Carers.....



Can you help us with any of the following?



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Blazers

If you have any old blazers at home that are no longer needed, we would love to find them a new home in school!

Please bring to the school office - any blazers will be very much appreciated!



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We are looking to update our school football team kits ...

Can you, or do you know of anyone/a business, that would sponsor a new kit for our girls and boys football teams?

Also, do you know of any T-shirt printing business?

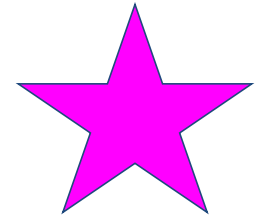
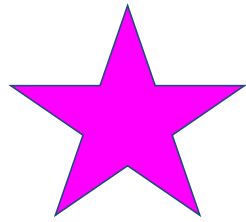
Any support or information would be greatly appreciated. Please email Miss Gooch at:
office@dashwood-aspirations.org



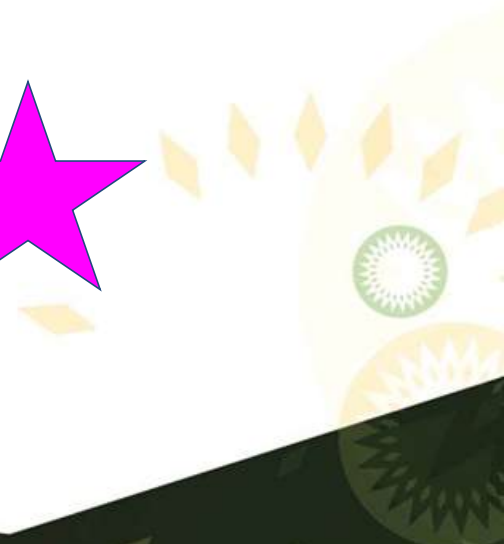
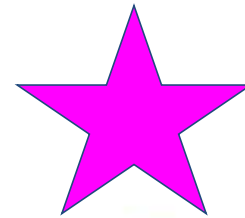
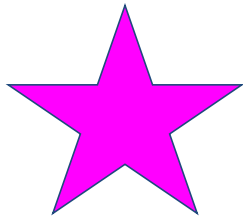
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Whole School Reminders



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Parents Evening

Tuesday 4th November 3-6pm



Thursday 6th November 3-6pm



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PTFA Meeting Disco meeting

Friday 7th November at 9am

Please come and join us! Remember you do not need to commit to every event - any help you can offer, however small, will be much appreciated!



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PTFA Disco

PTFA School Disco - Friday 21st November 2025: Tickets will be available on ParentPay for £3.50 from **Now!** Please sign up by 4pm on Tuesday 18th November 2025. 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. Please note that Year 6 pupils must be collected from this event by an adult on the contact list.



INSET DAY

Friday 28th November

**School Closed to all pupils
due to staff training day**



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Dashwood Action Committee

Tuesday 2nd December

Dashwood Action Committee Meeting at 9am:
Come and join us to discuss: **how we can promote reading at home and clubs offered** as well as a coffee and a biscuit.



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PTFA Pantomime: Cinderella

Friday 19th December

PTFA Cinderella Pantomime Performance for all pupils in Years 1-6 during school day. EYFS pupils will receive a small gift from the Festive Elves!



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Whole School Reminders

Healthy snacks at breaktime

Reminder that all breaktime snacks **must** be fresh fruit or vegetables. These can be whole or cut up pieces of fruit, a pot of grapes, raspberries, strawberries, blueberries etc, raisins, vegetable sticks - carrots, cucumber etc. No fruit substitutes such as fruit stars or wipers are allowed. Please ensure your child has these separate from their lunchbox each morning so they can eat them at break time.

Healthy lunchboxes

At Dashwood, we encourage all pupils to have a healthy lunch. Please ensure that this is a nut-free lunch (including NO chocolate spread) and is a balanced mix of foods with **one** treat only. There are some ideas on the next page.

Drinks

To support dental hygiene, please ensure that your child has **water only** in bottles in class. They can bring fruit juice/squash to have with their lunch. If they bring squash into class they will be asked to save it for their lunch and can access water from class instead.



The NHS recommends that a healthier lunchbox should include:

Starchy carbohydrates that keep your child feeling fuller for longer (wholemeal bread, pasta, potatoes, rice). **Top Tip:** If your child does not like wholemeal bread, try making a sandwich from one slice of white and one slice of wholegrain to get them used to it. Please ensure sandwich fillings are also low sugar - no chocolate spread please.

Make healthy swaps to cut down on crisps, chocolate and fruit bars that are high in refined sugar. Find out more about healthier snack swaps at <https://www.nhs.uk/healthier-families/food-facts/healthier-snacks/>

Only **ONE** small treat should be included in lunchboxes if absolutely necessary. No 'grab bag' crisps or extra-large sized chocolate should be included. A portion of fruit or a low-sugar yoghurt are much healthier choices. Calories should be under 100 calories.

Include at least one portion of vegetables or salad: cherry tomatoes, cucumber, celery sticks and sliced peppers all count towards your child's '5 a day'. You could add a small pot of cream cheese for your child to dip their vegetables in.



At Dashwood Banbury Academy, we believe that school meals are a great choice for your child, but if you choose to make a packed lunch for them instead, here are some tips for providing a healthier lunchbox. Please help your child to live a healthy life.



Include fresh fruit that is in season: chopped apple, raspberries, strawberries, blackberries, blueberries and melon, all make great snacks too. **Top Tip:** add a squeeze of lemon juice to chopped fruit to stop it from going brown.

Include a source of protein such as beans and pulses; eggs; meat; cheese; and fish.



REMEMBER: We are a NUT-FREE school.

Please **NO** peanut butter, chocolate spread or nuts as snacks as some of our children and staff members have severe allergies.



Find healthy lunchbox choices and ideas from the NHS at Change4Life and <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/eat-well/food-guidelines-and-food-labels/the-eatwell-guide/>



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Whole School Reminders

Uniform - earrings and jewellery

We remind all pupils that a single stud earring in each ear only can be worn as per our uniform policy. **No hoop earring are permitted in any year group.** If your child has their ear(s) pierced, please ensure that these are removed on PE/swimming days or that your child can remove the earring(s) themselves or that they are taped over.

As per our uniform policy, no jewellery should be worn to school. If your child wears this to school, they will be asked to remove it.





Up and coming events and dates for your diary



<https://dashwood.academies.aspirationsacademies.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/8/2025/10/Term-2-Dates-2025.pdf>



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Parent and Carer Support Section



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

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

[Report child abuse | Oxfordshire County Council](#)

[Report abuse to the NSPCC](#)

If a child is at immediate risk of harm, call 999.



Parent Support Workshops from Camhs

<https://www.oxfordhealth.nhs.uk/camhs/oxon/sir/webinars/>



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NHS
Oxford Health
NHS Foundation Trust

PARENT WEBINAR

Parents are the most important part of young people's lives and hold the key to helping them. Let us help you, to help them.

CAMHS
Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS SESSIONS FOR PARENTS AND CARERS

SUBJECTS INCLUDE

- TEEN ANXIETY
- SELF HARM
- LOW MOOD
- HOW TO TALK TO YOUR DISTRESSED CHILD

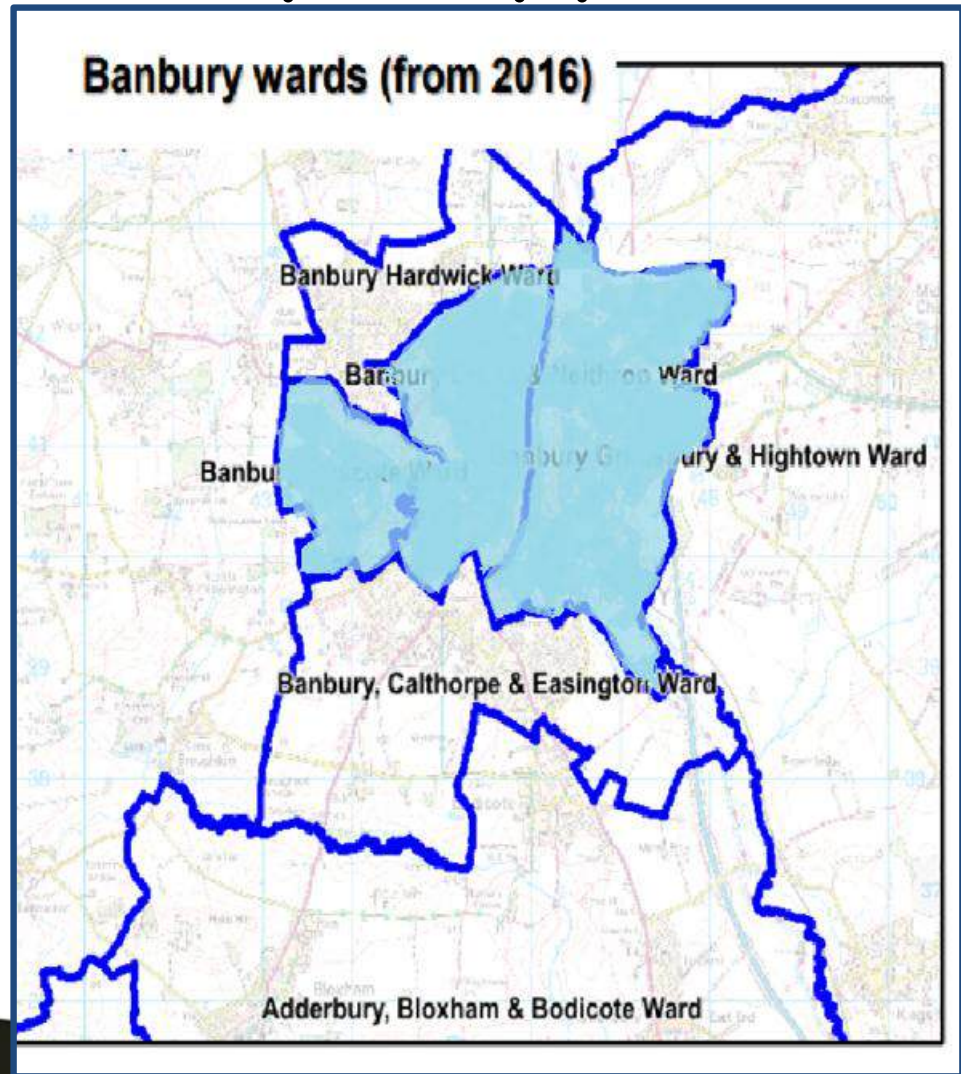
[WWW.OXFORDHEALTH.NHS.UK/CAMHS/OXON/SIR/WEBINARS](https://www.oxfordhealth.nhs.uk/camhs/oxon/sir/webinars/)



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Standing in the Gap-support for parents

Standing in the Gap are delivering **FREE** Managing Anger and Managing Anxiety workshops to **any families** living in the Ruscote, Neithrop, Grimsbury and Hightown wards of Banbury. See the picture below. The wards we are supporting with **FREE** workshops are in light blue.



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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 you contact them for support.



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Free online parenting support

Online Parenting Courses - Family Lives

Family Lives has produced a series of online parenting courses that are free to access. I have sampled the teens one and found it very accessible.

<https://www.familylives.org.uk/how-we-can-help/online-parenting-courses>

Family Lives offers a confidential and free* helpline service for families in England and Wales (previously known as Parentline). They can be contacted on **0808 800 2222** for emotional support, information, advice and guidance on any aspect of parenting and family life. Their website is also a rich source of useful support and advice.



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 or hand to Miss Gooch or the school office.



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Old blazers, ties and summer dresses



We are committed to ensuring that all pupils can be able to wear our smart school uniform. Please donate your blazers, summer dresses and ties if they are in good condition. We can then sell them in our second hand shop in the office. We buy books with the proceeds!





We now have some new ties available to purchase from the school office for £4.50.



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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.



FREE

BANBURY YOUNG SINGERS

For all children in years
3-6 who love singing!

Thursdays
during term time
3:45 - 4:45 pm
St Mary's Primary
School, Banbury
Entrance and car park
on Bluecoats Close

- Join weekly practice sessions
- Sing a wide range of songs
- Take part in concerts
- Develop singing and musical skills
- Make new friends

Banbury Young Singers

Sign up online by scanning the QR code OR fill in this form and bring it your first session

This form MUST be filled in by a parent or carer



Name	
School	
Year group	

Do you give permission for your child to walk home on their own?
IF CHILD IS IN YEAR 5 OR OLDER

YES NO

Please list any other adults who can collect your child
Name and relationship to child

--

Parent / carer name	
Parent / carer email PLEASE WRITE CLEARLY	
Emergency contact phone number(s)	

Medical or SEND information about your child

--



Podding Pie
COOKERY SCHOOL

A WEEK

COOKERY CLASSES



10-17-24-31
January 2026

11am - 1pm



Grimsbury
Community
Centre



Podding Pie
COOKERY SCHOOL



Cherwell

FREE

Parent & Child classes

- ✓ Cook simple, healthy, one-pot family meals
- ✓ Learn new skills with confidence
- ✓ Weekly recipes, quizzes, and take-home food
- ✓ Special focus on budget-friendly cooking
- ✓ All ingredients included!
- ✓ Healthy dessert sessions included 🍏🍰

DISTRICT COUNCIL
NORTH OXFORDSHIRE

To Book: **email: grimsburycommunity5@gmail.com**

Subject line: Podding Pie

Or come in to collect a booking form, open to 10 parent and child (1 adults and 1 child)



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2025 - 2026 Term Dates

Term 1 2025: Thursday 4th September - Friday 24th October 2025

INSET Day: Tuesday 2nd and Wednesday 3rd September - School closed for pupils

Term 2 2025: Monday 3rd November - Friday 19th December 2025

INSET Day: Friday 28th November - School closed for pupils

Last day of term - Friday 19th December - school will close 1.30 pm on this day.

There will be no After School Club

Term 3 2026: Tuesday 6th January - Friday 13th February

INSET Day: Monday 5th January 2026 - School closed for pupils

Term 4 2026: Monday 23rd February - Friday 27th March

Term 5 2026: Monday 13th April - Thursday 21st May

Bank Holiday: Monday 4th May - School Closed

INSET Day: Friday 22nd May - School closed for pupils

Term 6 2026: Monday 1st June - Friday 17th July

INSET Day: Friday 26th June - School closed for pupils

INSET Day: Monday 20th July - School closed for pupils

Last day of term - Friday 17th July - school will close 1.30 pm on this day.

There will be no After School Club



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Update: Early finish

Please note that, in the next academic year 2025 - 2026, to align with the Aspirations Trust Schools in Banbury, we will be finishing at 1.30pm on Friday 19th December 2025 at 1.30pm

We will also finish at 1.30pm on Friday 17th July 2026

