



**Dashwood Banbury
Academy**
an Aspirations Academy

A prospectus for moving into Reception



Dashwood Banbury Academy
Merton Street, Banbury, OX16 4RX
01295 263240

<https://www.dashwood-aspirations.org/>



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Dashwood Banbury Academy

an Aspirations Academy

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am delighted to warmly welcome you to Dashwood Banbury Academy, a school that is a great privilege to work in. Our positive school community and vibrant environment make Dashwood a stimulating place to work and learn; we ensure your child is at its centre. Our mission statement of 'growing together, succeeding together' really sums up the ethos of the school and we have a strong and dedicated team of staff who work together with all families to create a sense of belonging. We strive to ensure there are opportunities for your child to have a variety of experiences as they move through the school to develop independence, self-awareness and confidence.

At Dashwood we ensure that we create an individual learning journey for all children, challenging them and supporting them to achieve and reach their full potential as well as being mindful of their well-being. It is very important to us that the children leave Dashwood well rounded individuals that are ready for life in the 21st century.

I am so proud to work here and love working with all our staff, pupils and families. We offer open events with a chance to come and look around the school. We have compiled this prospectus to give you an insight into life at Dashwood and we have created a video for you to watch. These are available at <https://www.dashwood-aspirations.org/about-us/admissions/>. If you would like a 1-1 appointment, please call for an appointment on 01295 263240. I really look forward to meeting and welcoming you to Dashwood Banbury Academy.

S. Gordon-Weeks

Mrs Sarah Gordon-Weeks
Principal

How to apply for a Reception place

As you know, you need to apply for your child's place in **Reception**. This application is through Oxfordshire County Council and unfortunately cannot be made directly with us as a school. This must be completed before **15th January**. If you do not get your application in on time, you reduce the chance of being given the school of your choice.

We strongly recommend you **apply online** as you should receive confirmation immediately that your application has been received. You should apply at:

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/schools/apply-school-place/reception-applications/make-application>

If you are **unable to apply online**, you can **request a form** from The Admissions Team and send it back to them at County Hall, New Road, Oxford, OX1 1ND (**0345 241 2487**).

Please call the school to speak to a member of staff if you would like any support in filling out the forms and we would be more than happy to help.

Our School Ethos



Dashwood Banbury Academy an Aspirations Academy

OUR VISION

- 🌱 **Inspire, motivate** and **encourage** everyone to dream big, be creative and become **lifelong learners**
- 🌱 Create a **safe** place where people **take risks**, make the **right choices** and **challenge** themselves to improve
- 🌱 Ensure we have **high expectations** and **aspirations** for all
- 🌱 Offer **opportunities** to experience the world, **communicate**, build friendships and create a **brighter future**
- 🌱 Develop a culture of **respect, integrity** and **compassion**
- 🌱 Equip pupils to be **resilient, confident, self-assured** young people who are ready for what their future holds in an ever-evolving world
- 🌱 **Believe in inclusion** ensuring the **community** works together in **unity**

OUR VALUES

Self-worth

- 🌱 **Belonging** / consideration
- 🌱 **Heroes** / respect
- 🌱 **Sense of Accomplishment** / pride

Engagement

- 🌱 **Fun and Excitement** / motivation
- 🌱 **Curiosity and Creativity** / imagination
- 🌱 **Spirit of Adventure** / bravery

Purpose

- 🌱 **Leadership and Responsibility** / trust
- 🌱 **Confidence to Take Action** / resilience

OUR MISSION

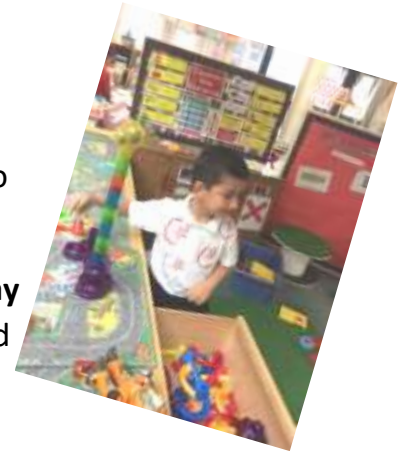
GROWING TOGETHER; SUCCEEDING TOGETHER

Why choose Dashwood for the start of your child's learning journey?











In Reception:

- We start the day developing **independence** by hanging coats up, self-registering and settling into a play based activity.
- The children are encouraged to **learn through play** with targeted adult support that moves each child on at an individual level.
- Throughout the day, the pupils will complete **focused** phonics, reading, writing, maths and topic based activities.
- All our topics start with a **WOW** event and end with a reflection (e.g. cooking, hatching eggs and even a picnic on the moon!)
- We go on a couple of **trips** in the year and invite visitors in for **workshops** e.g. mini medics first aid.
- We have **forest school** sessions weekly onsite where we complete outdoor learning activities. These include; den building, bug hunting, and planting.
- The children are invited to whole school and **after school events**, such as bedtime story night and PTFA disco's.
- We **celebrate** all cultures and beliefs through special events, such as cultural day and carnival.
- We **communicate** with you regularly through newsletters, texts, Facebook, our website and Tapestry.
- All our **school dinners** are freshly cooked and delicious! (And currently free for Reception pupils)
- We offer **wrap around care**: Breakfast Club (from 8am) and After School Club (3-6pm) at extremely reasonable rates.



A day in the life of a Reception pupil at Dashwood Academy

Time	Activity
8:45 School starts	I walked through the school gates, and I saw my teacher at the classroom door smiling and waving at me. She said good morning and told me we had a fun day planned! I said goodbye to my mum and excitedly went to the cloakroom . Another teacher was there to help me to put my things on my peg and in my drawer. I then saw one of my friends building with the Lego, so I went to play with them.
9:00 Phonics	 <p>My teacher rang the bells and told everyone it was carpet time. I paused playing and went to sit on my own bug spot on the rug. We do the register first and then we go into our phonics groups. In phonics lessons we have been learning our phonic sounds and now we are practising to read and write words.</p>
9:45 Discovery time	<p>Now it's our discovery time! This means we can choose where we want to go and play. There are always lots of exciting things out to explore, but I think I am going to go to the art area first. I like to make things and decorate them. Last week I made an aeroplane with the junk modelling and then took it outside to see how far it would fly. Today, I am going to make a card because it is my Daddy's birthday soon. I painted a picture on the front, cut out some pictures and glued on some sequins. I went to show the teacher, and she then helped me to write 'Happy Birthday' inside the card using a sound mat.</p>  <p>Next, I decide to go outside. One of my friends was in the mud kitchen so I went to play with them. We made some mud soup with carrots, leaves and flowers. I also had a race on a scooter and practised riding a bike with no stabilisers. After that I went on the stage outside and played some instruments in a band with my friends. One of my teachers used her iPad to film the song we had made up. She said she was putting it on Tapestry so our parents could see what a great job we had done!</p>
10:30	We did a quick tidy up time and then we went to sit on our carpet spaces ready for maths . We practise some counting and numbers with a song. The teacher then tells us what we are going to learn in maths . These lessons are always lots of fun because we do things like creating magic potions with a recipe, measuring how far cars go down a ramp, making pictures and structures with shapes or playing shops with money. Today, I worked with my talk partner to play a board game. We had to roll the die and count the right number of spaces to see who will get to the castle at the end. I was the winner in the first time and my partner won the second game!
11:00 Small group	<p>Next, it's time for our activity carousel. I am in the green group and today it's our turn to work in Apple class doing a speaking and listening game. The other children go into their groups too. Some do a maths activity; others do a topic writing job, and the last group do a funky finger task. All the groups swap, so that we all get to have a go at everything over the week.</p> 
11:30 Lunch	 <p>We go to the toilet and wash our hands ready for lunch. Then we line up and all go to the hall. Some children bring in a packed lunch to eat and others have school dinners. I have school dinners today and its pasta with sauce and vegetables, then wibbly wobbly jelly for pudding! Yesterday it was fish, chips and beans with flapjack and fruit.</p> <p>When we have finished eating our lunch, we get to go outside and play on the big playground and field. I saw my sister who is in Year 2 on the big playground, she waved at me and my friends while we were building an obstacle course.</p>
12:30 Well-being session	We do the register again after lunch, but this time we learnt how to answer in a different language . My friend taught us all how to say good afternoon in Spanish. Next, we have some well-being time . This is when we do activities like yoga, mindfulness or talk about the Zones of Regulation and our emotions and feelings . I like this time because it makes me feel calm and ready to learn. But sometimes if we are feeling a bit tired and need to re-energise , we can do some exercises too, my favourite is a 'Go Noodle'!
12:45 Topic	<p>Just before topic time, someone in the class has noticed that something exciting has happened! There have been some sandy footprints left in our classroom. We followed them and found a message in a bottle from Black-eyed Bill the pirate! He is from our class story. We read the letter together and it asked us to hide the pirate's treasure and draw a map of where it is.</p> 

	<p>We discussed our ideas with our talk partner, and I got a dojo point because I gave a good suggestion to the group. Then the teacher shared out the golden coins and I went and hid mine in the sandpit. I drew and labelled a map for Black Eyed Bill so he could find his treasure again and put the map in bottle.</p>
<p>13:15 Discovery time</p>	<p>It is discovery time again. I saw that the teachers had put some dinosaurs out for us to play with. This made me happy because I had told the teacher yesterday that I like dinosaurs! There were some dinosaurs I had never seen before and so one of the teachers helped me to look through a book, to find their dinosaur names. My friend and I, decided to use the wooden blocks, tubes, and loose parts to make a home for the dinosaurs. The adult then helped us to look at the dinosaur features and sort them by those that were herbivores and those that were carnivores.</p> 
<p>13:45 PE</p>	<p>Today is PE Day! We do different things in the afternoons like Forest School, PE, have exciting visitors in, or learn about something new in our topic lessons. Last week my friend's mum came into school and taught us all about Diwali. For PE we change into our PE kits and either go into the hall or outside. We practise climbing, balancing, moving, dancing, ball skills, parachute games and teamwork. Today we are being champion gymnastics and practising to move and balance on the equipment.</p>
<p>14:30 Snack & share</p>	<p>After we get back from PE, it is our big tidy up time, and everyone has their own area to go to. I tidy up the reading corner every day, so I know where everything goes. The teacher then came and gave me a stamper for tidying my area so well. After that, we wash our hands using our hand washing song to get ready for snack. I like snack time because we always get some cold milk or water and a choice of seasonal fresh fruit. My favourite is banana or pear. When we are sat eating and drinking the teacher has a chat with us. She asks us about what we have been doing at the weekend or we look at some of the photos other children in the class have put on Tapestry and they tell us about it. I enjoy seeing what my friends have been doing. Today one of my friends shared his Tapestry photos and showed us his new swimming badge.</p> 
<p>14:50 Story time</p>	<p>Now it is story time, and we all get comfy on the carpet. The teacher starts reading a story and makes us laugh when she does the funny voices of the characters in the book! Then, it's time to find out who is going to get our 'power skills certificates' today. I got one for being creative with the card I made this morning!</p> 
<p>15:15 Home time</p>	<p>At the end of the day, we go to the cloakroom to get our things and get ready for home time. Our teacher stands at the door and when she sees our parent or guardian, she calls our name to go home. I always give mummy a big cuddle and can't wait to tell her what I have done today. She was very impressed when I showed her my power skills certificate. There are some days that I stay at school a bit longer and go to after school club to play, then mummy picks me up from there when she has finished work. I can't wait to go back to school again tomorrow!</p>

The Reception Year

When your child joins us in Peach or Pear class in **term 1**, we spend time getting to know the pupils and supporting them to become familiar with our school routines and expectations. Pupils will start to make new friends and learn to play and discover together in a safe and considerate way. Our topic is based around traditional tales and we will read a variety of these during daily story and rhyme times. The pupils will learn the stories of The Little Red Hen and The Three Little Pigs and be able to retell these. As part of these themes, they will have the opportunity to make tasty bread for the Little Red Hen and are given the opportunity to design and build a house for one of the three little pigs, using a range of construction materials. During the term, pupils will also dress up in their own family's cultural clothes to celebrate all the diverse religions and cultures we have at Dashwood. Towards the end of the term, we go on an autumn walk to search for signs of the changing seasons around us and to collect some autumn treasures.



In **term 2** our topic is 'People Who Help Us', with a particular focus on vets and doctors. Pupils will learn about the different jobs some of our local heroes do; some of them may even come into school to visit us! Children particularly enjoy role-play this term, taking on roles in our doctor's surgery, veterinary centre or pet shop. There will be lots of discussions about the important roles these people have in our society but also plenty of links to health and hygiene, including food choices, hand washing and teeth cleaning. Pupils learn how to take care of pets, their local environment and themselves. They also learn how to take care of others through our Mini Medics course, which teaches basic first aid

and calling for emergency services.

As it is a very exciting and colourful time of the year, as we celebrate the many events and festivals which often happen during this term. Pupils will be able to be creative in the art area by making firework pictures, Diwali lamps and Christmas decorations. They will also have the opportunity to learn about lots of different religions, cultures and faiths and how they like to celebrate special occasions, including a visit to a Banbury church to create Christingles. As part of this topic, children will be taught about the importance of showing tolerance and respect for others' beliefs and faiths, *and* understand that there are lots of similarities and differences between us all which is exciting to celebrate what makes us unique. We finish off term 2 with a Christmas Nativity and a Christmas party.



5...4.....3.....2.....1.... lift off right into **term 3** where reception children will go on an adventure to space, with Baby Bear from the story of 'Whatever Next'. Pupils enjoy an intergalactic picnic on the moon with glow sticks and later in the term design and make their own space rocket. Pupils will even get to see how far it shoots up into the air with our special rocket pump. Children will make lots of discoveries about outer space, planets, stars and the moon as well as learning about how astronauts live in space. Other themes covered this term include winter and the changing states of water as it freezes and melts. We also celebrate Chinese New Year and enjoy re-enacting the animal race from the new year story.



Term 4 children go on a very exciting journey through Africa. They learn the story of Handa's Surprise; a tale of some animals that behave rather mischievously by taking fruit out of Handa's basket. They also read stories from other parts of Africa and learn some greetings. Children particularly enjoy going on a sensory exploration, touching, smelling, feeling and tasting the different fruits that Handa has.



In this topic, children will be surrounded by patterns and sounds from Africa; learning the differences and similarities about some African traditions and their cultures and compare them to our own. We also look at African animals and the different adaptations they have, looking closely at their features and patterns.



As we approach spring and Easter, pupils will be invited to join in our annual Easter Hat Parade. You can be as creative as you like and make your very own Easter hats at home. We invite parents and carers to join our celebration – an event not to be missed! Children will also join the rest of the school in celebrating World Book Day- promoting a love of books and reading. We will also look out for the signs that spring has sprung, hoping for daffodils and buds growing in our garden.



In **term 5**, Peach and Pear classes will go on an adventure with Black Eyed Bill the pirate! Children take part in our pirate dress up day and complete activities throughout the term such as drawing treasure maps, completing a treasure hunt, counting coins and sharing them equally, and making up pirate-themed stories. In literacy sessions, pupils will make a wanted poster to find the sneaky pirate who has stolen the class's treasure! One of



our weeks is dedicated to designing, building and then testing the boats that we make. Will they float or sink?! This term, we will also be finding out about what we might find under the sea and the importance of looking after our ocean wildlife. The classes will be making pledges to help to look after our environment and how we can reduce, reuse and recycle items such as plastic.



The summer term, **term 6**, is our action-packed final term of the year. In this term, pupils get to grow their own mystery seeds, taking responsibility for nurturing them and then finding out what plant their seed has grown into. Children will learn about the life cycles of plants and animals –even getting to watch how a caterpillar transforms into a butterfly right in the classroom.

We also always try to capture exciting moments that are happening in our school environment. Last year, we discovered a nest in the outside area so we carefully, without disturbing it, took photos so we could observe what was happening in real-time! The whole school shared the moment when the chicks hatched out of their eggs - it was amazing! Hopefully, we will make some more exciting discoveries too.



During this term, we also have a variety of events such as our reception sports day, where pupils will take part in lots of different athletic activities. We visit Cotswold Wildlife Park for our end of year trip and host one of our notorious splash parties in the last week of term, where we all enjoy getting very wet! To mark the end of the EYFS before pupils move into key stage 1,

we organise a graduation ceremony. Parents and carers will be invited to see everyone dressed up in a graduation hat to receive their certificate. We use this time to celebrate a fantastic year together before we saying goodbye for the summer holidays.



Beyond Reception...What Comes Next?

When your child completes their reception year, this is the end of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), and they will then move into Key Stage 1.

Our Key Stage 1 curriculum - <https://www.dashwood-aspirations.org/curriculum/key-stage-1-curriculum/>

During **Year 1** your child will...

- continue to have the opportunity to learn through play in our environment that promotes **continuous provision**;
- take part in a **performance of Little Red Riding Hood**;
- visit **Banbury Museum** to explore toys from the past, enjoy a visit from the **Fire Brigade** and explore the delights and wonders of **Broughton Castle**.

During **Year 2** your child will...

- **perform in a play** to parents and carers e.g. Pirates and Mermaids or Cinderella;
- explore space during a visit to **The Space Centre** in Leicester.

Your child will then move into Key Stage 2.

Our Key Stage 2 curriculum - <https://www.dashwood-aspirations.org/curriculum/key-stage-2-curriculum/>

When your child reaches **year 3** they will...

- visit the local **theatre** to watch a production;
- take a trip to **Horley village** to compare town and village life;
- visit Banbury canal where they will jump on to a **canal boat** and learn about the history of the lock and how it works.

In **year 4** children will...

- **camp** on the school field where they will play games, sing songs and eat together with their friends;
- learn about life as a Roman during a visit **Chedworth Roman Villa** in Gloucestershire

During **year 5** your child will have the opportunity to...

- experience changes in life during a visit to the **Black Country Museum**
- visit **Wykham Park Academy** and **Futures Institute Banbury** to experience real science labs, experiments and even the **virtual reality suite**.

And when your child finally reaches **year 6** they will...

- learn basic lifesaving skills through the Injury Minimization Programme for children (IMPS) and personal safety at Junior Citizens, Oxford;
- go to **Rock UK** on a 3 day residential where they will take part in kayaking, raft building, archery, fencing and much more;
- visit a **theatre** in London to see a West End show
- perform in a year 6 play directed and produced by themselves!

Finally, each pupil will graduate in their very own year 6 **leavers' assembly**.



Further information regarding our curriculum and opportunities that we offer our pupils can be found on our school website - <https://www.dashwood-aspirations.org/>

Forest School Fun



Every week during alternate terms, we visit our very own forest school area for outdoor learning lessons.

We know that taking part in activities outside, not only supports children's physical and mental health, but also helps to create a connection and respect for the natural world.

The children enjoy exploring the outdoor area, hunting for mini beasts, following recipes in the mud kitchen, building dens, planting vegetables, and making camp fires.

Our pupils always leave their forest school sessions with a huge smile on their face as well as being a little muddy too!



What do the pupils think of Dashwood Academy?

We asked some children in our current Reception class what they thought about being part of Dashwood Academy. This is what they said...

I really like getting Dojo points at school. We get them if we have done something great!

The teachers always help me with my reading. I couldn't read before, but now I can!

When I come to school I feel excited and happy.

PE is fun because we play lots of games. My favourite lessons are when we get the parachute out.

Yesterday I liked making my own boat and playing with it in the water. I was happy because it didn't

I have lots of friends to play with at school. I love playing outside with them.

My teacher always tells me to be proud of my work.

At Forest School we get really muddy!

The children in Year 6 have spent many years at Dashwood Academy and are the experts in what you will experience at our school. Therefore, to help welcome new Reception children to the school, the pupils in year 6 send personalised postcards to each child before they start. We hope this helps our pupils to feel excited about the start of their journey and feel part of the Dashwood community. Here are some examples of the postcards that have previously been sent.

Dear Nina,
Dashwood is a fantastic school. you would love to be at this school, I know you will be a bit worried, so was I, but on my first day it was very exciting. you are going to fit in perfectly, you will be part of Dashwood community your teacher will be happy to see you soon. Don't be shy. Hope you enjoy dashwood school.
From Kinzah and the rest of Dashwood. 😊

Dear Leonardo
Dashwood gives you a positive outlook on your life as a student at Dashwood. This is a great place of achievements. I can promise you you will enjoy the trips that you go on. GLOM Dashwood

Dear Logan
Nice to meet you; don't be scared. Though we'll never meet I'm sure you'll love it here. I've spent seven of the best years of my life here. I'm positive that you'll make many friends here. Your teachers can't wait to meet you.
From Finn and the rest of Dashwood.

Dear Alexandra
I hope you're looking forward to starting in Reception at Dashwood. I really enjoy this school because of all the exciting trips this school prepares and other fun things like weekly forest school. Also there is lots of fun equipment for break times. I really hope you enjoy Dashwood Barbury Academy
from Pawel

What makes Dashwood Banbury Academy special?



Exciting trips near and far!

Stimulating science experiences



Supportive PTFA



Celebration of religions and cultures



Learning from important people in our community





Performing arts



Developing life skills



Sports events



Promoting curiosity and creativity



Fantastic Information Technology opportunities



Supporting charities and our community

Useful Information

Wraparound care

We offer a breakfast club and afterschool club to support parents' childcare needs.

Breakfast club – 8 am to 8:45 am

Afterschool club – 3:15 pm to 5:50 pm

More information can be found here - <https://www.dashwood-aspirations.org/parent-information/acer-after-school-club/>

Extra-curricular clubs

Each term we also offer a variety of extra-curricular clubs that children can sign up to. These are led by school staff or external providers afterschool. These activities change each term and are for pupils in years 1 to 6.

To see which clubs we have on offer please visit - <https://www.dashwood-aspirations.org/curriculum/extra-curricular-activities/>

Uniform

Pupils who attend Dashwood Academy are expected to wear our school uniform. For full details of all aspects of our uniform policy and also expectations, please see - <https://www.dashwood-aspirations.org/parent-information/uniform/>

Term dates and attendance

Attendance is very important to us and as a school we aim for 96% attendance for every pupil.

Our term dates can be found here – <https://www.dashwood-aspirations.org/parent-information/term-dates-2024-2025/>

A link to our attendance policy can be found here - <https://www.dashwood-aspirations.org/parent-information/attendance/attendance-matters/>