



Dashwood Banbury Academy Newsletter

an Aspirations Academy

Friday 9th February 2017

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Dear Parents and Carers,

What a creative and curious term we have had. All year groups have been engaged in a very active curriculum both in and outside of school.

Young Voices

On 31st January 30 pupils from years 3 - 6 made their way to the NEC, for the Young Voices 2017 concert. Children have been working hard since September to learn a selection of songs and dance routines which they then performed with 6,500 other children. It was a really exciting day for all involved. Children arrived at The NEC at 1.30pm for a 2pm rehearsal then after a quick break for food and a change into our Young Voices T-Shirts it was show time at 7pm. A big well done to all of the children involved - you sang and danced your hearts out. A big thank you to the parents and staff that made the journey to The NEC to support Dashwood choir!

Experimenting in Plum Class

Some of our youngest superstars this term have been very curious and creative. They have been learning about light and dark in science and what an experiment is; the children made their very own lava lamp and were so enthusiastic and excited by this that they want to make one at home with their parents.



Year 3 Botanical Gardens



Year Three went on a very enjoyable trip to Oxford. To make the most of the day, we visited the Natural History Museum and the Botanic Gardens. At the Natural History Museum, the children were wowed by the diverse and impressive collection of ancient dinosaur remains, fossils, skeletons of various animals (they didn't realise how gigantic an African elephant was) as well the huge collection of displayed animals from tiny insects to a huge bear. The children were truly engaged. The Botanic Garden visit was a fabulous way to end out topic on growing plants. After meeting our informative tour guide, we visited the glasshouses to learn about how plants adapt and survive in their extreme environments. They found out about rainforest plants, plants which grow in the desert and those which thrive in swamp conditions. The bravery recognition goes to Alan, Finn, Jack and Katy who volunteered to put their finger in the Venus Flytrap. Thankfully, they still have all ten fingers!

London Parliament



With an early start on Thursday 2nd February 2017, Year 6 Books for Breakfast pupils travelled by train and the London Underground to Westminster to visit Parliament. On entering the Parliament Education Centre, pupils were invited to watch a film about the Women's Right to Vote. Projected on to four walls, the key historical story of the suffragette movement was told through the eyes of three women who were all fighting for women's right to vote. They then visited the Palace of Westminster for a guided tour; the children were allowed in the viewing gallery and saw a real life debate in the House of Commons.

From their British Values learning in class and focus on the Rule of Law, children reflected that a law is made in Parliament and that laws tell us what we must and must not do and that they are necessary to keep us safe. Parliament make and change laws and the children learned that all three parts are needed to do this.

Careers

Year 6 had a fantastic day learning about and trying their hand at different careers. The children got to speak to and have workshops with a personal trainer, carpenter and rapper. This was a wonderful opportunity for them to learn how they could pursue these options if they wanted to and get to try them out. Each child left school with a bird box that they had made from a strip of wood, a rap about themselves and with a bit more valuable knowledge of how to keep themselves healthy and fit. The children also got to cook some traditional British meals: toad in the hole, vegetarian shepherd's pie and scones. We really enjoyed tasting these at lunchtime. A busy but extremely fun day was had by all; every child learnt or tried something new!



Inter-family singing competition

What an exciting morning we had in our families. Each house chose a song to perform as part of our Dashwood's Got Talent competition. We are delighted to announce that the winning team was Green Family. The score board is brilliant as it encourages healthy competition, determination and promotes a sense of accomplishment. All of the points from our inter family events will be added to the scoreboard throughout the year for all to celebrate.

Skip2Bfit

On Wednesday, Key stage 1 and 2 pupils skipped their way to a positive mindset; learning that if they were determined they could improve and achieve! Skip2Bfit's John McCormack spent the day with us promoting skipping as a fitness and wellbeing activity for everybody. The Youth Sport Trust award winning skipping workshops use specially designed counting skipping ropes to incorporate numeracy whilst promoting fitness and healthy living. Our aim is to ensure that Skip2Bfit challenges are set on a daily basis in our lunchtimes and that the ropes will be used in our Active Learning sessions. Pupils were also provided with free blueberries to educate them that exercise and eating healthily go hand in hand. What a fun and exciting day we all had. Please do not send your child in with their own skipping ropes as children should not bring anything from home to school. We have plenty for them to use in school.



Planetarium

You may have been wondering what this big blue bubble is. Well this week many of the children got to visit the planetarium for a star and planet gazing experience of a lifetime. The children were amazed by the show and couldn't believe how real the experience was.



Ready Steady Read

EYFS: Open Very Carefully by Nicola O Byrne and Nick Bromley

KS1: The Hundred Mile an Hour Dog by Jeremy Strong

Lower KS2: Harry the Poisonous Centipede by Lynne Reid Banks

Upper KS2: The Wolf Wilder by Katherine Rundell

Health Lunch Box Ideas:

- Tuna fish Star Sandwiches – use a cake cutter to make it fun!
- Sugar Free Jelly

Active Challenge:

Why not ask if you can go for a family swim or walk this holiday. How many lengths/widths can you do? Here is a link to some nice Banbury walks:

<http://www.mapmywalk.com/gb/banbury-eng/2-29km-walk-on-31-10-2013-route-3179077217>

Let us know how you get on!

Finally we would like to wish you a safe and fun half term break. We look forward to seeing you back in school on **Tuesday 21st February** to start term 4. Don't forget, there is an INSET on Monday 20th February.

2016-17

Please find below the term dates for this academic year.

Term 3 Tuesday 3 January 2017 – Friday 10 February 2017

Term 4 Tuesday 21 February 2017 – Friday 7 April 2017

INSET DAY: Monday 20 February 2017 – School closed to pupils

Term 5 Monday 24 April 2016 – Friday 26 May 2017

BANK HOLIDAY: Monday 1 May 2017 – School closed to pupils

Term 6 Monday 5 June 2017 – Friday 21 July 2017

INSET DAY: Monday 26 June 2017 – School closed to pupils

2017-18

Proposed dates

Term 1 Tuesday 5th 2017- Friday 20th October 2017

NB: Reception and Nursery will be given start dates separately.

INSET DAY: Monday 4th September 2017 – School closed to pupils

Term 2 Monday 30th October 2017 – Tuesday 19th December 2017

INSET DAY: Friday 17th November 2017 – School closed to pupils