



Dashwood Banbury Academy

an Aspirations Academy

Growing together; succeeding together

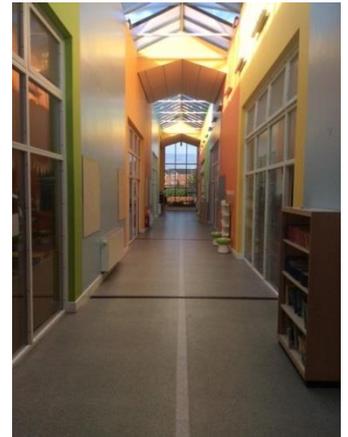
Friday 15th September 2017

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Welcome to Term 1!

A Note from the Principal

I would like to give a warm welcome to everyone returning to Dashwood after the summer holidays and to all our new staff and families that have recently joined us. It is so lovely to see the Dashwood Community increase in numbers for another year and have all year groups 'open for business' from ages 2-11 years old. Having worked here since 2008, I am so proud to say that I am now the Principal and feel very privileged to be leading such a great school with highly dedicated staff, pupils and families. Dashwood is a successful school already but I am looking forward to moving it on even further with an emphasis not only on learning but also community spirit, life experiences and future roles within the world. Our current 4 year olds will leave education in 2031! What will the world be like then? Imagine the technology that will be available! With this in mind, we will be developing 'The year of CREATIVITY.' We will try to teach pupils to think in different ways to solve problems we do not know exist yet, develop resilience and have new ideas about their learning. We will be challenging the children and gently encouraging them to take step out of their comfort zones. To support this, we are trying to be more creative in the environment – we have a brand new learning corridor and working space in the hall, new reading corners in every classroom, a library bus on the way and even a donated boat in which we intend on refurbishing so it can be used for role play outside.



Mrs Amy Rogers

Over the last two weeks, I have been extremely impressed with how smart the pupils look and their motivation to work hard. The atmosphere around school is purposeful and vibrant. Classes have been setting the expectations for the year: always looking smart in full school uniform (this includes a **clip on/traditional tie**, white shirt, blazer and black shoes for Years 1-6); behaving appropriately in and out of school; trying their best in class including neat cursive handwriting and learning their times tables and arriving on time every day. I know that this is something that every pupil will rise to and I cannot wait to see where the year will take us!

Term 1 learning focus

As always in term 1, we have collective reflections and lessons around our first condition for learning which is **BELONGING**. We aim to ensure that everyone, including, the children, staff and parents feel part of our school community where they feel valued and their cultural similarities and differences celebrated. We teach the children to be **CONSIDERATE** of others and to live with integrity. Already we are very proud of the children for how well they have settled into their new classes; welcomed new members and where some fantastic learning has taken place. To support this condition for learning, we will be holding a 'Day of Culture' on Thursday 12th October 2017. Pupils can come to school dressed in clothing that shows their cultural heritage and donate a small plate of food from that country to share with their Aspiration Families (Blue/Green/Red/Yellow Families.)



Head Pupils

We are delighted to introduce you to our new Head Pupils for this academic year. Shinade and Munib are our Head Pupils and Alyssa and Igor are our new Deputy Head Pupils. They are all extremely excited and we are looking forward to working with them.

Year 5 and 6 STEM opportunity at Space Studio Banbury



Year 6 had a lot of fun in their first science lesson at The Space Studio on Wednesday afternoon. The children learnt all about how to test whether a substance is an acid or alkali. After seeing how substances change colour once an indicator was added, year 6 got stuck in with a lot of exciting equipment making their own indicators out of red cabbage! Amazingly, this could be used to test the acidity of household substances. The other half of year 6 are definitely looking forward to their visit next week after hearing this feedback: 'That was so much fun! The equipment was so cool!' said Konrad; 'I managed to find an acid and an alkali. I can't wait until next time!' commented Jake. What a wonderful experience year 6 have had already!

WOW

We are delighted to announce that we have signed up to a 3 year project with Oxfordshire County Council to support walking/cycling/scootering to school named 'WOW'. The pupils will complete a daily tracker showing how they came to school. If they walk/cycle/scooter at least once a week, they earn points towards badges. If you are someone who has to drive to school due to distance, if you park the car a mile away and walk in then they can still earn their points. You will receive a leaflet with more information about this scheme later this term but watch out for a mascot who will arrive towards the end of September to kick start the project.

Communication Update

We would like to remind you of the many forms of communication we will use over the year to let you know about your child's progress and events taking place in school as well as celebrating all the many successes the pupils will have. For information and celebration we write whole school newsletters a few times a term and class newsletters before every school holiday. These will be posted on our website and shared on our Facebook page. The Facebook page is a way of celebrating successes; this is not a form of two way communication as it is a public page. Our large screens in the main playground and Reception outdoor area are updated daily with messages and handy video clips with tips for you at home. Our website is a font of knowledge and also updated at least once a week. We will try to send out the majority of our letters on a **THURSDAY** from now on so please look out for these in your child's book bag. Over the year, we will hold two parents evenings, send out two interim data reports and a final end of year report to update you on your child's progress.



Open afternoon for EYFS places

On Wednesday 27th September, we will be holding an open afternoon from 2pm for parents/carers who have children aged between 2-5 years old who wish to join our Nursery or Reception classes. This is also advertised on our Facebook page.

Attendance

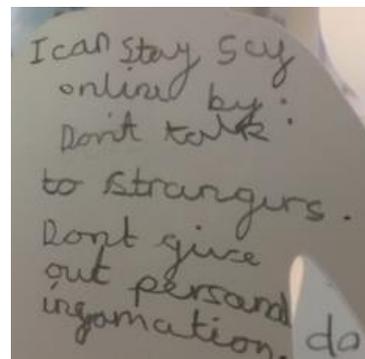
You may have noticed a number of changes recently to the information presented to you by the staff who work in your class. Your child's class newsletter will be posted on their windows/doors as usual but we will now be posting the class attendance too. The class with the best attendance each term will get an extra reward. Well done to Oak class whose attendance was 98% in week 1!

Keeping safe

Over the last few weeks, each year group has led their meetings for parents/carers about what is new and different in that year. The PowerPoints shared in these meetings are now available on the website under the relevant class pages. These include how you can ensure your child is safe when using the internet or APPs. Every week the pupils will be taking part in an e-safety lesson where they will learn how to protect themselves. This week, years 1 and 2 have learnt about safe games to play on the internet; year 3 have looked at general ways of staying safe online and will revisit these in more detail over the term. Years 4-6 have learnt they should never give out their passwords to others.



We would like to inform you about a new app called 'Sarahah' that we have been alerted to. This is an anonymous feedback app, which is being used to bully people online. 'Sarahah' syncs with Snapchat and other forms of social media. Users collect personal information from other online accounts and use this to help convince the recipient they know them, sharing names and specific locations. This is a high-risk app that enables inappropriate contact with people online. It is difficult to manage and monitor. Our advice is to avoid this app altogether. If you need any further support or advice then please come into school to see us.



Site Safety

Please can we take extra care when reversing and parking in the roads around the school. It is everyone's responsibility to ensure that our children are safe in the community and we appreciate everyone's co-operation with this matter.

Important Dates

Homework projects - We are looking forward already to sharing your summer homework projects. Please make sure you bring them into school by **Friday 22nd September**.

Newsletters - whole school newsletters for the rest of term one will be available online on:

Friday 29th September and **Friday 13th October**. Please see our website or Facebook page for these or speak to the office if you would like to request a paper copy.

Parents' Evenings - We look forward to seeing you all at Parents' Evening on either **Tuesday 26th September 3-5pm** or **Thursday 28th September 3-6pm**. You will be able to sign up for an appointment through our online system and should receive a text soon telling you what to do. If you have any difficulties with this, or do not have access to the site, please see the office staff. Early Years will hold their parents consultation meetings in the Early Years Unit; Years 1-3 will be held in their classrooms and Years 4-6 will be held in the hall. Please make sure you enter and leave the school via the main entrance by the school office as all other entrances will be closed and locked for the pupils' safety. We look forward to sharing your child's progress, achievements and how they are settling into school.

Cultural Day – On the **Thursday 12th October**, pupils can come **dressed in clothing** linked to their heritage and bring a **donation of food** to share with their peers.

PTFA events – The **PTFA** are hosting a **film night** for all years on **Thursday 21st September** (3-4pm for Nursery and Reception and 3- 4.45 pm for Years 1-6). Please see poster around the school for film information. They are also going to hold an **Autumn Ball** on **Thursday 12th October**. More information will be sent out about this nearer the time.

Dates for the Year

Term 1 Tuesday 5 September - Friday 20 October 2017

Term 2 Monday 30 October – Tuesday 19 December 2017
INSET DAY: Friday 17 November 2017 – School closed to pupils

Term 3 Thursday 4 January – Friday 9 February 2018
NB Nursery children will have a staggered start and be given their dates directly.

Term 4 Tuesday 20 February – Thursday 29 March 2018
INSET DAY: Monday 19 February – School closed to pupils
INSET DAY: Monday 26th March – School closed to pupils

Term 5 Monday 16 April – Friday 25 May 2018
Monday 7 May – May Day Bank Holiday – School closed to pupils
NB Nursery children will have a staggered start and be given their dates directly.

Term 6 Tuesday 5 June – Wednesday 25 July 2018
INSET DAY: Monday 4 June – School closed to pupils
INSET DAY: Friday 29 June – School closed to pupils