



Dashwood Banbury Academy

an Aspirations Academy

Growing together; succeeding together

Thursday 28th September 2017

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A great first term already!

A note from the Principal

I am so proud of how hard the pupils have been working this term. They are calm, settled and focused on learning. When I walk into lessons, I find that I am giving out so many Principal stickers to pupils who are working well that I have had to order more already! The pupils' behaviour around school is excellent. During this week, we have been talking about looking smart and encouraging the younger pupils to keep their ties on. When I took assembly on Monday, I looked upon a sea of pupils who looked impeccable. Thank you for supporting our uniform policy and ensuring your child has what they need every day.

Mrs Amy Rogers

Homework projects

The standard of homework projects handed this term is as high as ever. It is a great credit to the pupils for putting in the effort to complete their homework and they will be receiving certificates and Aspiration Points to reward them. We have a new scheme set up for weekly homework this year. For every piece they complete, they get given a 'raffle' ticket which had their name on it. This gets put into a box and at the end of the term, a name will be drawn out for a prize. This means, the more they complete, the better chance they have of winning! We ask that you support your child at home to complete their homework to a high standard using neat, cursive writing.



Refining the basics

As you know, the focus in learning over this term is getting the basic skills right that will enable the pupils to be challenged in their learning. This has meant a focus on handwriting, number and times tables. The pupils have definitely been rising to this challenge and ensuring they are always considering these skills in every lesson they take.

cursive

handwriting



Celebrations

We were very lucky to welcome Reverend Sue Burchell from St Leonard's church to school on Monday for our Harvest Assembly. She taught us the true meaning of harvest and how we can help others around us. Thank you to those who have donated non-perishable food for the local Food Bank. We had lots of items brought in showing what a great community spirit we have.

Library Bus

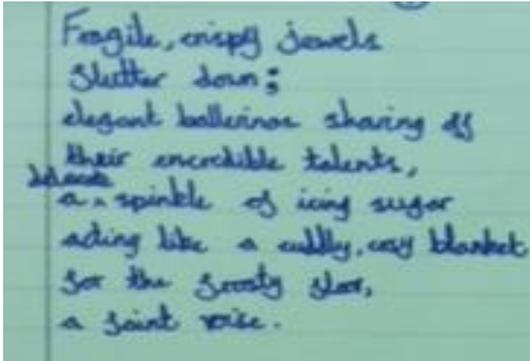
You will have noticed some building work taking place at the top of the field this week. We are really excited about this as it signals the arrival of our new library bus. The double decker bus has been converted into a beautiful space to hold our library books and develop a love for reading. It is due to arrive over the half term. As they create the space for the bus, we will use the left over soil to create some mini hills in which the pupils are able to run up and over during their free time. We will keep you posted on the updates of this exciting project.

Healthy Living

Our 3 year project with Oxfordshire County Council to support walking/cycling/scootering to school named 'WOW' will start this week. The pupils will meet a mascot on Friday 29th September to encourage them to walk or cycle to school. Alongside this project, we have many events that take place in school to encourage a healthy lifestyle. For example, Key Stage 2 pupils are taking part in the mile a day challenge again this year – they will run/walk a mile every day in school so each term they end up running a marathon! The pupils are really proud of themselves as they check off each mile.



National Poetry Day



On Thursday 28th September, we celebrated National Poetry Day. The pupils learnt about what poetry really is and enjoyed listening to, talking about and writing poems that rhyme, are funny and even form riddles. They discovered that poetry is a great way to express thoughts and feelings. We definitely have many budding authors in this school as the poetry they produced has been amazing. Here is Isla Nobles, year 5 metaphors poem.

Morning Routines

We have noticed that the mornings on the main playground are very busy and so we have decided to change a few of our routines. Years 1-6 classrooms will now be open between 8.45 and 8.50 each morning so when your child arrives to school, they can **come straight into class** and get on with an activity set by their teacher. **No classes will line up on the playground.** This should ease congestion and also give you the opportunity to catch up with their teacher if needed. The classroom doors will be shut at 8.50am promptly (8.55am in Reception) so all pupils should be in class by then. This new format should allow those of you who have younger children the chance to drop each of your children off in their classrooms.

Keeping safe

During Internet Safety lessons this week the Nursery children have been learning about what games they are allowed to play on in school and that they are not allowed to access YouTube without adult supervision; reception have been learning that they must ask if they are unsure about what to click on when using the internet. Year 1 have been learning about passwords and how to keep safe when playing online games. Year 2 and 3 have been discussing what personal information they should and shouldn't share on the internet. Year 4 have discussed what the internet is used for and year 5 have looked at safe and unsafe scenarios linked to staying safe online. Finally, year 6 have looked at social interaction online and whether this differs from relationships you have in the real world.

We work very closely with Gooseberry Planet which is a company who support Internet safety. They give lots of useful information to schools, pupils and parents. Find out their latest news on: <http://gooseberryplanet.com/parents/>

Holidays

Please remember that pupils are given 3 months a year in which they are able to take holidays. Term time holidays are not permitted. Every day a pupil misses school, they are missing out on important learning opportunities. Taking your child out of school for a holiday is illegal and could lead to a hefty fine. It is vital that you check the term dates below or on our website before booking any holidays to ensure that they are not in school terms and that they return to school at the end of each holiday on time.

Important Dates

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

Friday 13th October. Your child's class newsletter will be out this week and also on the final week of term. Please see our website or Facebook page for these or speak to the office if you would like to request a paper copy.

Cultural Day – On the **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 an **Autumn Ball** on **12th October**. Please see posters around the school for more information.

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