



Dashwood Banbury Academy

an Aspirations Academy

Growing together; succeeding together

Friday 1st December 2017

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Motivation, Fun and Excitement

A note from the Principal

As we are approaching the final few weeks of a very busy term we are ensuring that we continue to have high expectations for all pupils in terms of their learning and their presentation.

We are really looking forward to the exciting events coming up but it can be a stressful time for many families. Please come and speak to us if you would like any support. Our new Inclusion and Welfare Manager (Katy Nesbitt) is very supportive and available daily.

There has been much research and discussion around mental health recently and this is something I am very passionate about. Children can only learn if they feel happy and stress free. With this in mind, we are looking to bring in Mindfulness and Yoga sessions. I delivered a Yoga assembly with our Key Stage 1 pupils last week. They were amazing at calming their minds and focusing on building strength in their bodies. Yoga is a great stress reliever and excellent form of exercise. Why not try it for yourself and your child using a free APP like Headspace. I would love to hear how you get on.

Mrs Amy Rogers

Art and Design technology



Well, we definitely have some very creative pupils at Dashwood. The children have been working really hard on their art and DT projects over the last few weeks. In Year 6, pupils have been developing sketching to draw parts of a face. In Year 5, the pupils have been weaving and sewing. In Year 4, the pupils have created outstanding soap sculptures. The Year 3 pupils have produced self-portraits using pointillism and Year 2 have displayed their art work in the style of Kandinsky. Year 1 pupils have been comparing Andy Goldsworthy art to Van Gogh, Nursery have drawn nocturnal animals and in Reception the have built rockets and made their own advent calendar. Wow! The school has been transformed into an Art Gallery.



Parent Phonics/Spelling session

On Tuesday 28th and Wednesday 29th November, we welcomed parents/carers into the classrooms to learn about phonics and spelling patterns with their children. We had a great turn out with many parents feeling like they are more confident now when supporting their child to complete their homework. Thank you to the staff who organised the event and to everyone who attended it. The pupils loved having you visit their learning time.



Year 1 – The Gruffalo Play

Wow! The Year 1 pupils were so brave this week in performing their play of The Gruffalo to parents/carers and their siblings. They were confident and self-assured in their movements, singing and words. Well done to all the staff and pupils in Year 1 for such an amazing play.

Trips

Year 5 and 6 pupils had a fantastic morning exploring Space Studio Banbury's very own Big Bang event on Friday 24th November. Filled with STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths) exhibitions, our pupils experienced Exotic Animals, stick making from recycled newspaper, health and well-being equipment, assembling LED torches and the power of 5000 volts! We finished our morning of fun watching the Atomic Science show with Atomic Tom; an interactive show that amazed our pupils with science that explained everyday information. A super morning was had by all. A big thank you to Space Studio Banbury for hosting a free and exciting event that really inspired us all!



Key Stage 2 were buzzing after an assembly on the 21st November from our Polar Ambassador, Ricky Munday. The session was filled with many moments of awe and wonder as children heard of his experiences climbing mountains around the world and his work in Antarctica as an employee of the British Antarctic Survey. The assembly focused on going for your dreams and persevering through extreme conditions. Pupils had the opportunity to look at the clothing and supplies of a Polar Explorer and asked some very thoughtful questions. The assembly was followed by a KS2 Polar Explorers Programme Science Day with each class exploring a different polar investigation. Year 3 were investigating the diet of a polar explorer to understand their need for high calorie intake in order to survive extreme conditions. Year 4 were designing species that have adapted to different environments even creating their own habitats. Year 5 investigated icebreaker ships and the effect of the hull shape in order to fulfil its purpose in extreme conditions. Year 6 studied adaptation and evolution through a study of Polar species. A fantastic day was had by all with some creative outcomes led by the children's own learning and interests.

Raising money and supporting the local community

We would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who supported Children in Need and the Shoe Box Appeal. We raised a grand total of £522.41! This is the most amount of money we have ever donated to this charity. We also had 31 shoe boxes to donate to those who are less fortunate than us. Well done everyone!



Keeping safe

Over the last few weeks we have been discussing our similarities and differences and celebrating these. In assembly last week, we looked out how important it is to treat each other with respect and not to discriminate people for their culture, belief or religion. The children learnt how racism is unacceptable, unfair and illegal. It would be really useful for you at home to discuss this with your child and help them to understand that tolerance is so important when ensuring we live in a harmonious society.

Important Dates

Newsletters - whole school newsletters Term 2 will be available online on: Friday 15th December.

PTFA events – The **PTFA** are hosting a **Winter Bazar** on **7th December** and a film night on **Thursday 14th December**. More information can be found on the Christmas Events letter which was sent out Thursday 16th November.

Christmas events – please see the events letter for greater detail but whole school reminders include: Years 1-3 **Carol Service** on Friday 8th December at 9am in the hall, Years 4-6 **Carol Service** on Monday 11th December at 2pm in St Leonard's Church and **Christmas lunch** will take place on the last day of term (Tuesday 19th December).

Dates for the Year

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

We will aim to get proposed dates out for 2018/2019 by January. Please refrain from booking holidays until these have been agreed.