



Dashwood Banbury Academy

an Aspirations Academy

Growing together; succeeding together

Tuesday 19th December 2017

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Motivation, Fun and Excitement

A note from the Principal

Wow, what a busy and exciting term we have had focusing on bringing fun and excitement to our lessons and showing motivation to succeed. The pupils and staff have all worked incredibly hard and have been rewarded with many exciting Christmas events. I have been extremely proud of the work that has taken place towards our Year of Creativity. The pupils have shone through with their artistic skills and produced some wonderful creations.

Over the term, pupils have been completing acts of kindness and have been nominated to achieve a kindness leaf which is placed on our trees in The Grove. At the end of each big term, we will be awarding the new Kindness Cup for one person who has been nominated. This term the winner is Thomas E in Year 4! He was nominated three times for acts of kindness towards others. Well done Thomas! The cup will be placed in our trophy cabinet with his name clearly labelled to show others in the school. I look forward to announcing the next winner before Easter.

The Chair of the Local Advisory Board at Banbury Academy and Space Studio has put together a lovely Christmas message from all of our Aspiration Academy Trust schools in Banbury. This is a wonderful celebration of all our schools and can be found at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TTqtN3onxCU> I would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas for those who celebrate this festival and a safe holiday to all. I am looking forward to welcoming you back to school in the New Year with a focus on being a Hero to others through showing respect for all.

Mrs Amy Rogers



Art work

As you know, this term's subject has been Art and Design Technology and the pupils have all been working on special projects. They have drawn, painted, created, sculptured, collaged and even sewn their way through the term resulting in some amazing creations. Why not ask your child's teacher if you can come and see some of the amazing creations that have been made.



Raising money for the school through PTFA events



We would like to say a massive THANK YOU to all the members of the PTFA. They have worked tirelessly to produce two wonderful events for the school this term – the Winter bazaar and the film night. Both were a great success. There was such a lovely sense of community spirit at the Winter Bazaar with everyone enjoying taking part in the raffle, tombola, purchasing gifts and eating the delicious food. At the film night, pupils ate popcorn whilst watching their films in the dark. Both events raised a total of over £650! This is amazing. The money raised is being put towards developing the outside area in front of the new Library



Bus to make a reading garden. With these funds, we will be able to get started sooner than we thought! Thank you to everyone who supported the events.



Trips

Over the last few weeks, Year 6 have visited the Story Museum in Oxford as part of their reading project. They had a magical experience and watched a performance led solely by one woman. They came back inspired to complete their own writing around the book they have been studying – Polar Express.

Year 3 visited Banbury's Mill Arts centre to experience life at the theatre. They watched a super performance of The Wind in the Willows. The performance was very exciting.

Supporting the local community

As part of our community work, members of the choir sang at Morrison's supermarket in December to help raise money for cancer charities. Children in Key Stage 2 have been building links with the residents at the Ridings Care Home. They wrote to them to start the process off and are hoping to visit them regularly for events. Unfortunately they couldn't go before Christmas but they did enter a competition and 15 of them one a selection box. We are really proud of all the work we are doing for our local area and it is so lovely to see Dashwood become an integral part of the community.



Plays



In Plum Class, the Nursery children sang their way through the Christmas story. They bravely stood up in front of a crowd of parents/carers and performed to the best of their abilities. In Reception, they told the 'Wiggerly Nativity' story. The children sang beautifully, danced and used clear, loud voices to tell the story. Well done to all the pupils involved and a special thank you to the parents/carers for supporting



the plays and to all the staff who made them a great success.



Christmas events

Well, we have had so much fun over the last few weeks. The pupils and staff worked together in their Aspiration Families to decorate Christmas trees. All Families were given 10 points for taking part. The winners were voted by our brilliant cooks in the kitchen. Blue Family won! They won 50 points and a special chocolatey treat as they included decorations which spoke about the true meaning of Christmas.

Over the last two mornings, pupils have spent time with their family members to complete crafts. It was a lovely atmosphere in the hall with everyone enjoying their activities. Today, we have had our Christmas lunch with crackers for all. We are fully into the Christmas spirit now and ready for the holidays.



Keeping safe

Over the holidays, help keep your child safe by ensuring they never go outside without an adult and you monitor any devices they use. Many pupils may have access to new devices such as tablets and/or phones. Find out more about protecting your children on: https://www.gustodio.com/en/parental-control/?gclid=EAlaIqobChMIqoCfhueV2AIVLrftCh1CBAN3EAAAYASAAEgKLHfD_BwE

Office updates

If you didn't hand in your meal choice form for Term 3, please return this on the first day of the New Year. We would like to remind you that the school Facebook page is used only for celebrating success and will not be used to communicate between parents and school. If you have a question, query or concern, please come and speak to us directly, call or email the school and we will be able to discuss things with you. As

you will be aware, the page is not private so we do not want any personal messages to be posted. We thank you for your support with this matter.

Important Dates

Reception to Year 6 return to school Thursday 4th January 2018. Nursery pupils (Plum and Cherry Class) **return on Monday 8th January** due to home visits for new pupils.

Clubs: if you have signed your child up for a club, these will begin the week beginning the 8th January. A text will go out confirming the place and time for the clubs in the new year.

Newsletters - whole school newsletters Term 3 will be available online on: Friday 12th January, Friday 26th January and Friday 9th February. **Class Newsletters** will go home at the end of the term.

Dates for the Year

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

Main dates for 2018/2019

Term 1

Tuesday 4th September – Friday 19th October 2018

Term 2

Monday 29th October – Friday 21st December 2018

Term 3

Monday 7th January – Friday 15th February 2019

Term 4

Monday 25th February – Friday 5th April 2019

Term 5

Tuesday 23rd April – Friday 24th May 2019

Bank Holiday Monday 6th May 2019

Term 6

Monday 3rd June – Wednesday 24th July 2018