



Dashwood Banbury Academy

an Aspirations Academy

Growing together; succeeding together

Friday 9th February 2018

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Condition of learning for the term: Heroes

Value for the term: Respect

Subject focus for the term: History

A note from the Principal

I am really proud to say that this term has seen a huge increase in pupil engagement and focus on learning. The pupils have maturely discussed sensitive issues around historical events and heroes from the past. All lessons in school are now being taught on a new challenge and engagement planning tool which is ensuring that pupils are developing their higher order thinking skills and problem solving abilities. The pupils have been independently directing their own learning and challenging themselves to achieve more. Well done everyone for a great term!

I am looking forward to starting Term 4 where we will be focusing on the subject science alongside the Condition of Learning 'Curiosity and Creativity'. Our value for next term will be imagination.

I hope you all have a lovely, safe holiday and look forward to seeing you back at school on Tuesday 20th February 2018.

Mrs Amy Rogers

The big reveal

This week we are excited to officially reveal our mosaic that stands proudly in our playground for everyone to see. Back in the autumn term, every pupil in the school participated in a fun, creative day bringing our guiding principles to life, through art, in memory of Jo Hobbs who sadly died in 2016; Jo was one of our parent governors and a very active member of our school community. The morning was made even more special because we were joined by Jo's family who were delighted with the colour and vibrancy of the mosaic and the values it represents. We would like to thank Jo's family for the kind donation; through the events they have held in Jo's memory, for giving us the opportunity to produce something so special for Dashwood.



Hero morning

It was lovely to see so many visitors in school on Monday for our 'Bring your hero to school' morning. The children were so proud to share their books with you and it was great to see them explaining so confidently what they had been learning about. The school felt very purposeful and lively so thank you very much for coming into join us in our morning of celebration.

Purple4Polio

We were very lucky to be joined by Fred from the Rotary club on Friday last week. Fred Riches used to be the Headteacher at Dashwood School over 20 years ago! He is part of a campaign that we have supported to raise money for children affected by polio. Purple4Polio has helped to almost eradicate polio from the world. As part of his visit, we heard from a real hero - Ian Stirling. Ian had polio as a child but lives to tell his tale. To help this worthy cause, we will be selling pens from the office. Pupils, parents and staff can purchase these for £1.



Bedtime Story Evening

Pupils in Early Years attended a bedtime story evening on Tuesday 30th January. They learnt the story 'What the ladybird heard' by Julia Donaldson. They completed activities like face painting, decorating biscuits, acting out the story and even made a character using materials. Everyone had such a fun time emerging themselves in reading.





Trip to the Pet Store

Reception pupils visited Pet's at Home last week to learn all about how to look after a pet at home as part of their topic this term. They were amazed at learning what lizards eat and even got to hold the crickets and meal worms that are used as food. The stroked and held a rabbit as well as learning about money to purchase items for pets. They ended the trip with an exciting purchase for the class guinea pig Patch in which they had to carefully consider the most appropriate items to keep Patch safe and happy.

Year 1 library

Pupils in Year 1 had an exciting visit to Banbury library this term. We are very lucky to have great links with the library in which our pupils get to visit for free and learn how to use the coding system to look for books of their choice. Year 1 focused on the difference between fiction and non-fiction books and then finished the session with a story told from one of the librarians. Why not try and go to one of their free sessions over the holidays? You can find out more information at:

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/banbury-library>



Greatworth Hall

Pupils in Beech class (Year 5) visited our partnership farm – Greatworth Hall. They had a really fun day on Tuesday. They baked using farm produce, completed maths activities in the crop field and spent time with the sheep learning about life cycles and farm life. Sycamore class are looking forward to their trips later in the year.

VR visit

Year 6 visited the amazing Virtual Reality suite at Space Studio Banbury on the 2nd February to experience what it would have felt like to live in London during the Blitz. The VR put them in a house in the city during World War II with Winston Churchill's infamous address of the nation playing over the wireless. Then came the air raid siren and pupils had to board up the windows of the house to protect themselves from the 'Blitz' bombing. The children reflected on their learning over the term and how it would have felt to live at that time.



Liam said: 'I felt like I was really in a house in London during the Blitz. I could hear Churchill's speech and the air raid sirens. I was shaking because it felt so real. I went back in time!'

Igor said: 'I got to feel what it would have been like to live in the time. The sounds helped me to experience life as a person living through World War II in London during the Blitz.'

Munib said: 'It was epic! I lost sense of the real world! I now have a sense of what people living through that time went through.'



Dashwood's Got Talent

WOW- we have so many talented and brave children in our school! This week we have had both our Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 Dashwood's Got Talent competitions where we were spoilt with a variety of amazing acts including singing, yoga, ballet, dancing and magic tricks. We were so proud of all of the performances and to everyone who had the courage to audition. However, after some really hard decision making, the winners and runners up were decided. In Key Stage 1, the winner was Harvey in year 2 for his hilarious but very

skilful magic tricks and in second place was Tulisa in year 1 for her beautiful singing of Moana; a special mention should also go to Siya and Ano for their confident and inspiring acts. The Key Stage 2 final took place this afternoon so we will announce the winners in the next newsletter.

As part of Dashwood's Got Talent, on Thursday afternoon each family competed against each other in our annual inter-family act competition. The pupils sang their hearts out with props and enthusiasm. Red



and Blue Families came joint third for their harmonies and confidence. Yellow Family came second due to their use of props and timing and Green Family won as they showed so much energy and enjoyment. They received 50 points for their family and a little treat. Well done to everyone who took part, it was a super afternoon.

Sports achievements

Pupils in Year 5 and 6 came 4th in the North Oxfordshire Schools Sports Partnership (NOSSP) Sportshall Athletics. There were 7 teams competing and our pupils particularly excelled in the relay running. During this term, Year 3 have been learning the disciplines around Sportshall Athletics. They have ended the topic with an inter-family competition where they were able to show off their new found skills. Congratulations to the Blue Family who earned the highest score and therefore received 50 points for their family. Well done to all of Year 3 for their positive team spirit.

Keeping safe and healthy

A reminder that the two Apps Snapchat and WhatsApp are not appropriate for pupils under the age of 13. Children who use these sites at a younger age leave themselves vulnerable to talking to others that they do not know.



You may have seen on the TV recently adverts from Change4Life around snack swaps. The latest recommendation is that children are given '100 calorie snacks, 2 a day max!' Find out more information and gain ideas on how to help your child stick to these rules on: <https://www.nhs.uk/change4life/food-facts/healthier-snacks-for-kids/100-calorie-snacks> We have signed up for leaflets around this topic so please ask in the school office if you would like a copy.

Important Dates and reminders

INSET days – pupils return to school for Term 4 on TUESDAY 20th February. There is a second INSET day this term on Monday 26th March.

World Book Day – pupils can come to school dressed up as a character from a Roald Dahl books on Thursday 1st March. There will also be a cake sale on the day and a class competition.

Newsletters – Class newsletters for Term 4 have gone home this week. The whole school newsletters for Term 4 will be available online on: Friday 2nd March and Friday 23rd March. **Class Newsletters** will go home at the end of the Term 4 for Term 5.

Parents Evening - Thank-you to all the parents and carers who attended parents evening this week. It is a great chance to discuss your child's learning and their next steps. If you couldn't make your appointment, please see your child's class teacher to rearrange as soon as possible.

Uniform: Please ensure all pupils in Years 1-6 wear their **blazers, ties and black school shoes every day**. If pupils look smart, they work smart!



Dates for the 2017/2018

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. **Current Nursery pupils** will return to school on **Tuesday 17th April 2018**.

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

Dates for 2018/2019

Term 1

Tuesday 4th September – Friday 19th October 2018

INSET DAY: Monday 3rd September – School closed to pupils

NB Reception and Nursery children will have a staggered start and be given their dates directly.

Term 2

Monday 29th October – Friday 21st December 2018

INSET DAY: Friday 16th November 2017 – date to be confirmed

Term 3

Monday 7th January – Friday 15th February 2019

NB Nursery children will have a staggered start and be given their dates directly.

Term 4

Monday 25th February – Friday 5th April 2019

Term 5

Tuesday 23rd April – Friday 24th May 2019

NB Nursery children will have a staggered start and be given their dates directly.

Term 6

Monday 3rd June – Friday 19th July 2019

INSET DAY: Friday 28th June 2019 – date to be confirmed