



Dashwood Banbury Academy

an Aspirations Academy

Growing together; succeeding together

Friday 23rd March 2018

Telephone: 01295 263240 Email: office@dashwood-aspirations.org Website: www.dashwood-aspirations.org

Condition of learning for the term: Curiosity and Creativity

Value for the term: Imagination

Subject focus for the term: Science

A note from the Principal

The second half of this term has sparked pupils curiosity. In assemblies, we have discussed options for careers and started to think about the skills needed. The pupils have all become scientists – learning about inventions and performing experiments from melting chocolate to separating materials. It has been lovely watching the pupils expand their minds and be filled with awe and wonder.

This week, our assemblies have been focused around respect and tolerance linked to RE day. We treat any form of disrespectful behaviour very seriously and have discussed with the children what this may consist of including racism and discrimination. Please help support your child with this by modelling the language we would expect to hear from others and allowing them opportunities to ask questions in a safe environment. Recently, we have discussed how ignorance is often at the route of issues and so education is the way forward.

Next term we are looking forward to focusing on humanities (history/geography) and PE alongside the Condition for Learning: Spirit of Adventure which links with the value of bravery. I would like to remind parents/carers that there is an INSET day on Monday 26th March and we break-up on Thursday 29th March 2018 for the Easter holidays. Reception to Year 6 pupils return to school on Monday 16th April and Nursery pupils start back from Tuesday 17th April 2018. I hope you all have a wonderful, relaxing break.

Mrs Amy Rogers

Matilda Production

This week we were treated to an amazing production of Matilda led by Lawrence Prestidge and his performing arts drama club. As our reading ambassador, Lawrence has supported the school all year through developing the new library bus to supporting the pupils in his drama club to gain confidence in their acting abilities. Children from years 3-6 have worked tirelessly with Lawrence to produce, that some pupils stated to be the best play they'd ever seen! We are all so proud of their achievements. A big thank you must be given to Mrs Hope for supporting the production and Lawrence for his dedication to the pupils.



RE day

On Monday 19th March, the whole school took part in R.E day. We had a fantastic day taking part in a variety of art, drama and discussion activities. Here is an example of some of the questions the year groups focussed on throughout the day: **What makes me special? Why are some stories special to people? Would Banbury be better with more religion or less? and Loyalty to country or loyalty to religion – which should come first?** The children enjoyed discussing these questions; listening to different stories from different

religions about how they believed the world was created; looked at how different religions contribute and look after people within the community and finally how different festivals are celebrated. What was noticeable when talking to the children was how mature they were with their responses; they enjoyed listening to other children who had a different faith to themselves- they asked sensible questions and started to make links between religions.



Grendon Residential



Wow! Year 4 pupils bravely took a step into the unknown last week by attending their first residential of their Dashwood life to Grendon in Northampton. They arrived on Wednesday 14th March to have a tour of the grounds and make their own beds! That was a challenge in its own right. They then completed a range of activities from Tarzan ropes to orienteering to singing songs around the camp fire. Every day they challenged



themselves to try something new and work together as a team. The children were so supportive and encouraged each other to step out of their comfort zones. We would like to say a massive thank you to the staff at Grendon and the staff from Dashwood who, without them, this wonderful opportunity would never have been available.



Greatworth Hall

Last week, Sycamore class had a thoroughly enjoyable visit to our partner farm, Greatworth Hall. The sun even shone for them! They started the day with a walk in the sheep field learning about how many sheep the farm has, how many lambs they are expecting this season as well as how to look for signs that the new



lambs are happy. After this, the children took part in a cooking session with produce grown on the farm itself. A tasty quiche was produced and taken home by everybody. Before lunch, they headed to the lambing shed where the children had the chance to hold and feed new lambs and we were incredibly pleased and excited to see two new lambs being born. They finished the day with an enjoyable walk around an incredibly muddy field. Thank goodness they all had wellies which meant we could enjoy squelching around. Thank you to Jane and Rosie from Greatworth Hall for giving them a fabulous day out!

Library Trip

This week year 2 had the opportunity to visit Banbury library. They loved exploring all the different books they had there and listened carefully to the librarian Helen as she explained all that the library had to offer; including being able to borrow up to 20 books! All children were keen to go back and visit out of school. Look out for library card sign up forms that went out this week!



Banbury Museum

Year 1 had a great time at Banbury Museum on Monday. They enjoyed looking around the gallery where they learnt more about the local history of Banbury. They also enjoyed playing with a selection of old toys and games, dressing up as Victorians and pretending to do the washing; they even had a go at making their own old toy called a thaumatrope.

PTFA events: Film night and market

We would like to thank all the PTFA members for their support over the last two events. The children really enjoyed themselves completing new and exciting activities such as buying gifts for loved ones and attending film night. The PTFA have worked so hard to raise over £265 towards our reading garden. Thank you so much everyone!

Sports achievements

Year 2 had a fantastic time at Banbury Academy on Thursday completing their multi skills festival that was organised by year 7s. They took part in lots of exciting activities like archery and parachute games. All children did Dashwood proud showing great resilience. Well done to the children who won a certificate in their groups for self-belief and showing great respect!



Keeping safe and healthy

In order to support the local community but also, more importantly, for the safety of your child(ren), we kindly request that you do not park on double yellow lines or in the residents only parking areas. We also request that younger pupils do not ride scooters or bikes in the playground as they are busy areas with lots of foot fall meaning children and adults could be hurt. Please ask them to walk with their scooters/bikes or even place them in our bike/scooter shed until you have dropped off/collected your child.

Screen Time

Do you feel like your child has too much screen time? Screen time includes any time they spend watching the television, videos, DVDs, computers, tablets, video games and handheld devices. Recent research by the National Health Service states that too much screen time overstimulates the brain which can result in the children becoming stressed and anxious; it is also said that it can affect their ability to sleep comfortably. As the spring appears to be finally with us, it is good for us all to reflect about what we do in our 'calm' time. Rather than playing on our phones or watching a film, why not go for a walk, play in the garden or bike or scoot to the park! You can find out more information on: <http://home.bt.com/tech-gadgets/internet/tablet-smartphone-screen-time-advice-parents-kids-11364191314228>



Youth Club

We are trying to set up a Youth Club on site for children aged 9-12 in the local area that attend Dashwood and other schools. We need support to set the club up and staff it so we will be sending out more information soon. In the meantime, you may have seen that we are currently in the running for support from Tesco through their token scheme.

When you shop in Tesco, ask for the blue counters to vote for our project!

Inpsire Maths

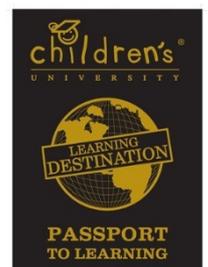
We have now fully integrated Inspire maths into lessons from Years 1 to 5 and the pupils are loving it. They have been able to use concrete resources to gain a greater understanding of concepts then move onto pictorial representations before securely answering more abstract questions. We will be holding a parent workshop next term in order to demonstrate different mathematical strategies and methods so you can support them at home.

Music Lessons

We are pleased to announce that we have had some interest in pupils receiving music lessons in school time led by Oxfordshire Music Service. If you are interested in your child learning an instrument, click on the following link to find out more information: <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/public-site/music-service>

Children's University

We are really pleased to announce that we have signed up to Children's University! The Children's University (CU) Trust is a charitable trust that provides 7 to 14 year olds (and 5 to 6 year olds with their families) with exciting and innovative learning activities and experiences outside normal school hours which they are able to log on a pupil passport to earn certificates. The children will be able to log hours of learning linked to after school clubs they attend in school as well as places they visit. More information will be coming out during the first week of term 5 and on our website. In the meantime, you can find out more at: <http://www.childrensuniversity.co.uk/>



Important Dates and reminders

INSET day – There is an INSET day this term on Monday 26th March. School will be closed to all pupils.

Newsletters – Class Newsletters will go home at the end of the Term 4 for Term 5 along with project based homework which will be due in on Friday 27th April 2018.

Uniform: Reminder that large and brightly coloured bows/headwear are not part of the school dress code. Pupils should wear discrete headwear that is part of the school colours.

Transition days: As we are now moving swiftly into the latter part of the school year, we are starting to consider arrangements for next year. The pupils in Foundation Stage through to Year 5 will all be moving to the next class. As part of the transition process, all pupils will move into their new classes for the last three days of term 6 (**Monday 23rd – Wednesday 25th July 2018**). This will give them the opportunity to feel settled before entering the long summer holidays. (Please note, as discussed in the meetings at the start of the year, pupils in Reception, Year 2, 4 and 5 will be re-classed for next year to support their transition into later life.) It is **VITAL** that **ALL** pupils attend these transition days as they will receive their homework for the holidays and be completing belonging activities with their new teacher(s).

Dates for the 2017/2018

Term 4

Tuesday 20 February – Thursday 29 March 2018

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 New 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 2018 – 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