



# Dashwood Banbury Academy

an Aspirations Academy

Growing together; succeeding together

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2018

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**Condition of learning for the term: Spirit of Adventure**

**Value for the term: Bravery**

**Subject focus for the term: PE and Humanities**

## A note from the Principal

We started off the term with a great conversation around what it means to be brave. In assemblies, we looked at how bravery isn't only stepping out of your comfort zone, it's about standing up for what you believe in and having the confidence to say no. It would be great if you could continue these chats with your child(ren) at home and consider how they can become good citizens.

Last week there was an incident in which a number of pupils from various schools got into a fight in the local community. Whilst we do encourage pupils to play outside and have less 'screen' time, I strongly advise that this time is supervised. Worryingly, one of the pupils from a different school was seen with a knife. I have contacted local community workers and we will be working with other schools to tackle this issue in the community.

*Mrs Amy Rogers*



## Wow

As you know, all topics start with a WOW – an exciting event that hooks the pupils in. In Nursery the pupils went on a dinosaur hunt having discovered a giant egg had hatched! They went on to make their very first posters asking if anyone had seen the dinosaur. They posted these around the school. Have you seen a dinosaur walking around town? Please let Nursery know if you have!



Year 4 visited Space Studio Banbury where they were given the opportunity to hold exotic animals and learn about habitats and diets. They were all extremely brave and showed great Spirit of Adventure. Year 1 pupils have been making shadow puppets as part of their light topic. In Year 2 they played with hand puppets then designed their very own. Reception pupils had a very special visitor: Black Eyed Bill! This pirate showed up having left the children many clues and notes in bottles. Since then, the pupils have been inspired to write their own letters to him and post them in bottles!



## Home projects

What an amazing amount of work has gone into producing outstanding homework projects this term. The pupils have shown amazing skills in working from home to develop their knowledge. Across all year groups there was a variety of activities completed from 3D models to booklets and even a family tree made from real twigs in Year 6 by Micaela! If your child has not yet handed theirs in, please bring it to school on Monday.

### **Dashwood's Got Talent visit to The Ridings**

On the first week of the term, this year's 'Dashwood's Got Talent' finalists wowed residents at The Ridings care home with their act. The children loved performing here and once again did Dashwood proud. Our community links continue to grow with the care home and we are hoping to welcome residents into school to listen to pupils read on a regular basis.



### **Year 3 Banbury Canal Trip**



Last week, Year 3 pupils had the opportunity to climb aboard a canal boat for a short voyage along Banbury Canal as part of their WOW event. During this voyage, they received a talk on the history of Banbury Canal. When they were not aboard the boat, they took a stroll alongside the canal and predicted, recognised and assessed potential risks to safety. What a great local experience for the pupils to have.

### **Year 6 Chance to Shine Cricket session with a specialist coach:**

Year 6 got the full benefit of being out on the field for their first 'Chance to Shine' cricket session in the warm weather last week. The children played games that encouraged them to work as a team and work on their batting and bowling skills. They particularly enjoyed 'diamond cricket', where 6 batters played at once! This sporting support will continue through-out this term.



### **Keeping safe and healthy**

New game played by many: Fortnite, is a free to join, (payments to upgrade come later!) online multiplayer survival game set on post-apocalyptic earth. Children are able to play against other players and build teams from across the country or further, enabling you to communicate verbally through Playstation, Xbox etc., which is where the problems can arise. This game is for 12 years old plus and is extremely dangerous for pupils our age to be playing. Not only does it suppress the emotional part of their brains, it also is a platform in which inappropriate interactions can take place.

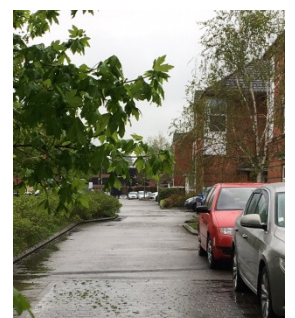
Whilst playing the game on Playstation, a pupil in one of our Academy schools was repeatedly approached by someone disguising their voice (apparently it sounded like Darth Vader). The person kept asking if the child was alone, or if they could contact them later when they were. Luckily, the child's mother was in the next room and overheard what was being said - stopping the game instantly.

Please ensure that any games your child plays have full parental controls in place, they are supervised and appropriate for their age. For more information on this game you may want to read the following article: <https://www.hertfordshiremercury.co.uk/whats-on/family-kids/parents-need-know-fortnite-battle-1312212>

Don't forget you can request help in setting parental controls by asking in your phone shop and/or through any TV and internet package you may have.

### **Walking to school and parking**

Many more pupils are now walking/cycling/scootering to school on a regular basis which is amazing. Not only does this create a healthy lifestyle but it also helps to avoid congestion on the roads. With this in mind, we kindly request that you do not park your cars (even for a two minute drop off/pick up) in residential areas or on double yellow lines. The photo posted here is of an area in Alma Road which you may not realise is residential only. We have had a number of complaints about locals being blocked in by cars so please refrain from pulling up in this private parking area. At the end of last term there was an accident with a pupil in another local school which was partly involving parked cars blocking a line of site. Please be mindful of this and aim to walk/scoot/cycle to and from school daily.



### **Supporting each other**

We are committed to working with families and build a great community spirit at Dashwood. The Youth Club plans are well underway and this weekend is the final push for earning blue tokens at Tesco. Please support us by voting for the project. On a slightly separate note, we know that times are very hard on a financial note at the moment. As a school we are able to give out Food Bank vouchers so please come and speak to the office at any time if you feel these would benefit you and your family.

### **Important Dates and reminders**

May day: Reminder that school is closed for May day on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2018.

Newsletters: The next school newsletter will be online on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> May 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 23<sup>rd</sup> – Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> 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).

Acer After School Club: The final day for the club to be open this year will be Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> July. This means that After School Club will be closed on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> July to allow staff to pack away for the summer.

### **Dates for the 2017/2018**

#### **Term 5**

Monday 16 April – Friday 25 May 2018

Monday 7 May – May Day Bank Holiday – School closed to pupils

#### **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 4<sup>th</sup> September – Friday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2018

**INSET DAY: Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> September – School closed to pupils**

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

### **Term 2**

Monday 29<sup>th</sup> October – Friday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2018

**INSET DAY: Friday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2018 – date to be confirmed**

### **Term 3**

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> January – Friday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2019

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

### **Term 4**

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> February – Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2019

### **Term 5**

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April – Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2019

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

### **Term 6**

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June – Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2019

**INSET DAY: Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2019 – date to be confirmed**