



DREAM

Determined risk takers who want to succeed
Resilient and respectful learners
Expressive communicators
Ambitious achievers, unafraid of mistakes
Magic happens when you dream

Inset days 2023-2024:

Friday 27th October 2023

Friday 22nd December 2023

Monday 26th February 2024

Friday 12th July 2024

Message from the Principal, Mrs Paula Baines-Chambers:

This academic year has started with us welcoming lots of new families to Ashwood. I am very proud of how our children have supported those new to school to settle, become DREAMers and be part of our community. We pride ourself on being a diverse, inclusive community; we now have over 45 different languages spoken at Ashwood which is wonderful! School is now nearly full, we have a limited amount of spaces.

As you are aware, we are always looking to improve Ashwood and create the best possible environment for our children to learn and thrive in. Over the summer we had some work completed - we have created a 'Forest School' area within our EYFS outdoor area (this is work in progress...tree planting to follow!). To support the transition from EYFS to Year 1, we have created an outdoor learning environment outside our Year 1 classes.

Last academic year we were extremely proud of our end of key stage 2 data which was in line with national. This year, we are continuing to build on this. You can support by listening to your child read daily and complete the homework that is set.

Finally, I would like to congratulate Mrs. Smith, who has been successful in securing a promotion and will be Principal at St Giles Spencer Academy from January 2024. I would like to thank her for the commitment and dedication which she has shown to Ashwood over the past three years.

I wish you all a restful and safe half term.

Mrs Baines-Chambers

Newsletters:

This academic year we will be sharing two new newsletters each half term. You will have already received the 'Attendance' newsletter and later this week, a 'Safeguarding' newsletter will also be shared. We hope that you find these useful in supporting your child to keep safe and to attend school regularly.

Upcoming events:

Week beginning 13th November; we will be participating in the National Anti-bullying week. The theme this year is 'Make a noise about bullying'.

During this week we will be exploring and sharing the definition of bullying and how this differs to 'unkind behaviour'.

Pantomime: This years pantomime is Mother Goose

We are delighted to announce that once again, years 1-6 will be visiting the pantomime on **Friday 15th December**. This is fully funded by school! More information will be shared closer to the event.



School uniform (see our policy on our website)

- Royal blue sweatshirt
- Black or grey trousers, or knee-length skirt
- White polo shirt
- White, black or grey socks / tights
- Flat BLACK school shoes

Trainers are not acceptable

- Blue and white striped or checked dresses
- Black or grey trouser shorts

PE Kits - Pupils to wear their PE kit on the day of their PE lesson

- White T Shirt
- Blue or black shorts
- Black pumps and **trainers for outdoor PE**
- Sweater for **outdoor PE**
- Navy or black track suit bottoms for **outdoor PE**

Nursery Autumn 1

This half term we have welcomed lots of new children to our nursery. They have all settled well and enjoyed exploring the nursery both indoors and out. It has been lovely watching them all become independent learners as their educational journey begins.

We started our learning by reading the story Elmer and identifying our favourite colour, then as mathematicians we learnt how to sort these colours into groups. As artists we painted self-portraits and drew pictures of our families and our homes. We have thoroughly enjoyed our weekly forest school sessions, spent exploring the outdoors and participating in a range of activities.

Next half term we will be immersing ourselves into Celebrations! Starting with Bonfire Night, Birthdays and Remembrance Day, before thinking about Christmas. We will be listening to lots of new stories, learning different songs and rhymes and engaging in a variety of craft and creative activities.

FS2 Autumn 1

"Wow! What a great start to a new term for our youngest DREAMers. They have all settled in so well. The children have been learning our classroom routines, making new friends and becoming ambitious achievers. At the start of the term, we were learning all about ourselves! We explored our topic, 'Our Class is our Family' and discussed what we liked about ourselves and our friends. In Maths, we have been singing lots of number rhymes, using our fingers to represent numerals and building our understanding of numbers to 4. In Phonics, we have been learning our first sounds (s,a,t,p,i,n,m,d,g,o,c,k,ck,e,u,r,h,b,f,l). We are starting to learn how to blend these sounds together to read short words. In English, we have been learning all about Wonderful Woodlands, through the books, 'The Gruffalo', 'The Owl Babies' and 'The Leaf Thief'. The children especially loved learning the words to the Gruffalo song, and enjoyed performing it in our weekly FS2 assembly. To conclude our Autumn theme, the children explored a pumpkin patch where they used their scientific investigation skills to inspect the insides of a pumpkin, and watch how it became soup. We can't wait to see how the children will continue to develop and grow in Autumn 2.

Next half term, we will begin to learn a little bit more about each other and those around us through our new topic "Let's Celebrate". With the help of our new focus text, we will follow Little Glow as she discovers the ways in which different families celebrate key events across the year. We will explore the similarities and differences and learn about the traditions that many families follow when celebrating together. We will also go on our first educational visit to the Winter Wonderland at the National Forest Adventure farm and welcome our families back in to school for a celebration of our learning and an afternoon of fun at our Winter Workshop (keep your eyes peeled for dates over the coming weeks).

Year 1 Autumn 1

The children are starting to settle into year 1 and are beginning to understand the classroom rules and expectations. We have immersed ourselves in the class text 'Grandad's Island'. Through this as writers, we have retold the story using nouns, verbs and adjectives. We have produced super sentences. As readers we are learning how to decode and blend words to help with our reading skills in our phonics sessions. As scientists we have studied parts of the human and animal bodies and learnt the needs of survival. As artist we followed the style of Henri Rousseau, thinking about various brushstrokes and colour mixing primary / secondary colours to create different animals from Grandad's Island. As historians we have studied our own and local history as well as Grandad's history - this included dancing to classic 'Beatles' songs! As musicians we have learnt how to find the beat, sing, perform and compose music. As spiritual people we have learnt about belonging particularly within the Christian faith. As mathematicians we are mastering numbers to 10. This includes place value, more than, less than and how to use the part, whole model. As computer programmers we have learnt how to use our laptop mouse and keyboards to draw pictures and write sentences.

We have been busy! Next half term Christmas will come early though a mysterious, green creature might not be happy about it ...



Year 2 Autumn 1

Year 2 have had a great start to the year! Lots of our learning has been based around our book 'The Way Home for Wolf' and we wrote our own stories based on this. We also enjoyed writing poems based on The Bathroom Fiddler by Michael Rosen. In Maths, we studied Place Value and Number and also 2d and 3d shapes. We built upon our Year 1 learning about Geography and learnt about the physical and human features of the countryside. We are hoping we can still visit the Peak District on Thursday! As spiritual people, we learnt about what Jewish people believe and as scientists, we learnt all about animals including which animals are carnivores, herbivores or omnivores their habitats and carried out an experiment to find out which habitat woodlice prefer. In PE we enjoyed learning about orienteering and in Music we loved singing and talking about different styles of song. We learnt about different types of IT and how to use IT safely in Computing and in PSHE, we learnt about 'Being Me'. Now we are looking forward to next term's learning.

Next term, we will be studying the Stone Age through the story of Stone Age Boy. The children will become archaeologists as they investigate what transformations have happened.

Year 3 Autumn 1

Year 3 have had a lovely start to this half term. We are settled, have made new friends and we have some amazing talent shining through in English, Maths and the DREAM Curriculum.

As writers, we began the half term writing a fairy-tale narrative based on The Three Little Pigs Reimagined. We wrote about some hungry Lions and kind Deer as we made the story even better. Following on, we are writing instructions on how to make pizza. We have had experience lessons making Angel delight and Jam sandwiches and are going on a trip to Pizza Express to make our own pizza's. Delicious!

As Mathematicians, we have deepened our learning of place value from Year 2 by looking at numbers up to 1,000. We have used our hundreds, tens and one's place value grids. Manipulatives, drawings and written methods have helped us to solve addition and subtraction calculations including exchange. Let's go visit the swap shop!

In the DREAM curriculum this term, we have been looking at Italy and the surrounding regions in Geography. We have looked at Europe as a continent, tried some Mediterranean food and compared Italian cities to Derby. In Science, we have looked at human and animal skeletons and muscles and how to keep ourselves healthy with a balanced diet. We have been looking at computer networks and devices being connected to each other in Computing. We have started our Violin lessons with Dora and are looking forward to playing them next half term.

As we move into next half term we have lots of exciting lessons planned. We are going to be studying the Romans, become geologists in science and visit the Mandir. We can't wait!

Year 4 Autumn 1

We have had a fantastic start to our academic year! The children have been exploring how the Normans changed the English identity and the cultural impact of this. As scientists we have been investigating electricity, creating our own circuits and switches. In computing, we have been learning about the internet, what to trust, who owns it and how it works. As mathematicians, we have consolidated our knowledge of place value which we have used in problem solving with rounding, addition and subtraction. We have read 'I talk like a river' and used this as inspiration to write a holiday brochure for our favourite destination. We had an amazing time at Warwick Castle and explored how the Normans lived and how we can still see their legacy today. Utilising this experience, we have written a recount of our adventure. Next term, we will be learning about the water cycle and how changes of states of matter link to it. In English, we will be writing a variety of texts based on a mystery novel. Within Maths, we will be exploring measurements, perimeter and consolidating our knowledge of times tables.

Year 5 Autumn 1

This half term, Year 5 have been exploring space! Through our scientific skills, we have been discovering the different planets in the solar system and how they orbit the sun. We've used our researching skills to identify key facts and figures about each planet and compared them. In Geography, Year 5 have been learning about the planet Earth and its moon. We identified the moon cycle and used lines of longitude and latitude to identify different locations. We also used the equator to identify and discuss the polar regions and tropics. In English, we began by writing a story about our dreams and goals for the future. We then wrote a transmission report from a different planet, using our science learning to inform our writing. In Maths, we began with place value, identifying the value of digits from ones, tens and hundreds to thousands, ten-thousands and hundred-thousands. We then used this to help with addition and subtraction problems to one million! We ended the half term with multiplication and division.

Next half term, we will be learning about different materials. Year 5 will also move on to History and learn about the Tudors. In Maths we will continue with multiplication and division and learn more about fractions. In English we will use our persuasive skills to create a balanced argument, followed by a creative writing piece based on a narrative.

Year 6 Autumn 1

In our Year Six classrooms, children have smoothly transitioned into the new school year, eager to embrace fresh challenges and knowledge. As we wrap up our exploration of World War I this half term, they are now poised for an exciting leap into the history books, embarking on a journey through the compelling era of World War II. Our budding scientists have been immersing themselves in the fascinating world of light and preparing to uncover the electrifying secrets of electricity next half term. On the creative front, they've crafted their first war-themed narratives, transporting us to the frontlines with gripping tales of courage and resilience, alongside a poignant poem that beautifully reflects their thoughts and emotions.

Looking ahead, our Year Six students are gearing up for their much-anticipated residential adventure, where new friendships will be forged, and unforgettable memories created. And on the horizon, we're thrilled to announce a Year Six Art Fair, a showcase of creativity and talent that promises to be a celebration of the artistic skills our students have honed throughout the year so far.

But our commitment to their growth and success extends beyond the classroom. With tutoring clubs available every Wednesday and Thursday, we ensure that no child is left behind in their educational journey at Ashwood. By providing them with valuable support on their path to passing their SATs and achieving a greater chance of success in their future GCSEs. As Malcolm X once said, "Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today."

Year Six is off to a remarkable start, and the journey ahead is brimming with learning, exploration, and a myriad of enriching experiences.

Team Friendship Autumn 1

In Autumn 1 we have been learning about people who help us. We have been using our time in our first few weeks building positive relationships with staff and creating friendships with other children. In math's, we have been learning about matching, comparing sizes and patterns. The children have been focusing specifically on the fire brigade and singing songs that link. Our favorite song has been 5 little firemen. The children have been using lots of different resources to promote counting and build on our learning questions. The children have been making lots of paintings and pictures. We have focused on fine motor skills this half term, which has involved activities such as threading, cutting, sticking, building drawing and lot's more. In English, the children have been role-playing being in the fire brigade, being police officers and dentists. We have enjoyed using the sensory area in the classroom which has had lots of different textures and smells which has engaged all learners in our classroom. We have had lots of fun using the sensory scarfs, Boomwhackers, Purple Mash and Playdoh.

Next half term we are looking forward to our topic of Celebrations!

Team Courage Autumn 1

Team Courage have been busy this term, settling into our new ways to learn with Mrs Sims and we seem to like it! We have been developing different ways to regulate our feeling and show respect to everyone. The story, 'The Mindful Magician' has helped us recognise our feelings and ways to manage these feelings. This has allowed us to work together to learn and extend our knowledge to learn more.

We know the role of architects and designers as we have enjoyed 'The Building Boy' story. Just like the building boy who struggled, but kept going to achieve what he needed to do, we realised everything has a beginning, middle and an end and whatever we feel, we can keep going and achieve our goal.

Next term, we will be celebrating different events, locally and from around the world. These will be from our own birthdays, our family celebrations and our achievements, to looking at historic celebrations and why we celebrate. For example, 'Guy Fawkes Night', 'Remembrance Day', 'Diwali' and 'Christmas'.

Thinking of Teaching?

With a range of bursaries and scholarships available for teacher training, get your application in now!
Apply now: <https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-teacher-training>

Get in touch: GSASCITT@george-spencer.notts.sch.uk