



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 2024-2025:

Friday 25th October

Friday 14th February

Friday 2nd May

Friday 11th July

Message from the Principal, Mrs Paula Baines-Chambers:

This has been another start to the academic year where we have welcomed lots of new families to Ashwood. I continue to be proud of how our children support those new to school to settle, become DREAMers and be part of our community. We are nearly full, with only a limited amount of spaces available.

We continue to enhance Ashwood to create the best possible environment for our children to learn and thrive in. Over the summer we had some work completed - we have had all classrooms painted and a Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) installed to further enhance our sports offer to all pupils.

In our Summer 2 newsletter I shared some awards that we achieved, I am pleased to share that we also achieved the Primary Science Quality Mark Gilt (PSQM).

Finally, a reminder that learning starts at 8:45am for Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 and 8:50am for FS2 and Years 1 and 2. Please ensure your child is in the line 5 minutes before these times.

Wishing you all a lovely half-term break of rest, fun and making memories!

Mrs Baines-Chambers

Principal

Term Dates 2024-2025:

Autumn term

Monday 4 November 2024 to Friday 20 December 2024

Spring term

Monday 6 January 2025 to Friday 14 February 2025

Monday 24 February 2025 to Friday 4 April 2025

Summer term

Tuesday 22 April 2025 to Friday 23 May 2025

Uniform expectations:

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 and black or grey trouser shorts for summer.

Please use the half-term break to purchase the correct school uniform. If your child is entitled to free-school meals, you should have been issued a uniform voucher to support with purchasing the correct uniform.

Important dates 2024-2025:

- KS2 SATs Monday 12th -Thursday 15th May 2025 (**Year 6**)
- Phonics screening check week commencing 9th June 2025 (**Year 1 and Year 2**)
- Multiplication tables check within the 2-week period from Monday 2nd June 2025 (**Year 4**)

Baby news:

Congratulations to Miss Yates who gave birth to her baby on 11th October; baby Leo is beautiful!

Mrs Belton-Baines is also expecting a baby. She will be starting her maternity leave straight after the Christmas holiday. We will share news shortly of who will be working alongside Mrs Marsh during Mrs Belton-Baines' maternity leave.

Nursery Autumn 1

Team Creative have made a great start to the school year! We have welcomed lots of new families and our returning children have quickly settled back into the nursery routine. It has been lovely watching them build up new friendship groups as they explore the nursery provision together.

We have enjoyed finding out about 'People who help us at home and in the community'. We have read lots of books and stories about the emergency services, had a role play hospital and vet and practiced putting bandages on each other and the poorly pets! This gave us the opportunity to use lots of new vocabulary in our play.

We have immersed ourselves in Autumn and the changes it brings, as artists we've rolled conkers in paint, collaged leaves in materials and created some beautiful autumnal trees using warm autumn tones. As mathematicians we have been learning to identify different colours around us and used lots of resources to sort into colour, shape and size.

During our phonic sessions we have made listening ears and thought about the sounds we can hear around us. We've been learning lots of new nursery rhymes and action songs to help us with our rhyming.

Next half term we will be learning all about different celebrations including Bonfire Night, Remembrance Day, Birthdays and Christmas.

FS2 Autumn 1

Our FS2 DREAMers have had a flying start to their time at Ashwood!

We have enjoyed getting to know each other, making new friends and exploring our new environment. We loved welcoming our grown-ups to join us for the morning too and can't wait to have them back again next half term.

This half term, our focus has been on the Wonderful Woodlands. We have enjoyed lots of stories involving woodland animals, with The Gruffalo and Owl Babies being two of our favourites! Our Forest School sessions have given us the opportunity to get creative (and a little bit messy!) with lots of things we would find in a woodland. We have tried pumpkin rolling (although we may have got carried away and painted our hands and arms too), made moving owls, carved pumpkins and tasted pumpkin soup!

The children in Reception have also begun their reading journey with the start of our Little Wandle phonics. They have WOWed us with their enthusiasm, with many excited to start reading and writing simple words and take home their first reading book.

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 core text 'Little Glow', 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 artists 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, we have enjoyed finding out about the famous Rolls and Royce! 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 about the parts of a laptop and computer and how a keyboard works.

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 academic year. During Geography lessons, they have learned about all things UK including the countries and some key cities. In Science, they investigated habitats and even set up an experiment to find the perfect micro-habitat for woodlice. During DT, the children were super resilient learning to sew a running stitch which ended in them applying their skills to design, create and evaluate their own pouch. Year 2 have also enjoyed two trips to Osmaston Park searching for habitats and the countryside at Cromford where we spotted the physical and human features. During maths, they have built upon their place value knowledge and began building on their adding skills. In English, the children wrote fantastic narratives based on their core text, "The Way Home for Wolf" and an advert showing off their persuasive writing techniques. They have also been building their spelling, handwriting and reading fluency including answering retrieval questions. Next half-term, we are stepping right back in time to explore the Stone Age and investigate how Britain has changed since that time. We will also be rehearsing and performing a Christmas Performance.

Key Dates:

4th Dec - 2pm - Y2 Christmas Performance

10th Dec - 2pm - Y2 DREAM Assembly

Year 3 Autumn 1

To begin Year 3, we have written our own version of the narrative 'The True Story of the Three Little Pigs'. We learnt skills such as dialogue, fronted adverbials, exclamatory sentences and comma's in a list to uplevel our narratives and make them as fun to write and read as possible. To finish autumn 1, we have written a recipe on how to make pizza, informed by the experience lesson we had with Mr Purdy where we got to make our own pizza. They are delicious!

As part of our creative curriculum, year 3 have delved into different scientific and geographical experiences, including, food tasting and making model arms and skeletons. Amongst the fun, the children learned skills such as identifying and classifying in science and atlas skills in Geography. Overall, the children in year 3 have investigated the human body and its functions, as well as setting sail on a cruise across the Mediterranean to explore different ideas such as climate, food and human and physical features. In French, the children have learned colours, numbers from 1-10 and how to have a basic conversation. We now answer the register in French to embed this practice. The children Love it!

As mathematicians, Year 3 have been extremely busy. We have consolidated our knowledge of place value for tens and ones and moved on to understanding place value for a 3-digit number, hundreds, tens and ones. Children have looked for patterns in number and strategies to solve a range of questions including, addition, subtraction, identifying missing numbers and looking at number problems with more than one solution. Aswell as this, Year 3 have shown enthusiasm for the use of LBQ. Please look out for, LBQ tasks as independent study for children to do at home.

As readers, our class text, The Twits by Roald Dahl hooked us from the start to the end. We used this and a range of non-fiction texts to improve our understanding of what we read. We can't wait to continue our journey from the Bronze Age to the Ancient Romans!

Year 4 Autumn 1

In English, this half term we have explored writing a first-person narrative and a recount from our trip to Warwick Castle! The children have enjoyed learning various skills such as adverbials of time, place, and manner to expanded noun phrases. First, the children wrote their first-person narrative based on the picture book 'flood' where they were able to interpret the images to create their own narrative using their wow vocabulary by uplevelling words such as happily to joyfully. We also banned the word said in the classroom, therefore the children explored different ways someone can say something such as boomed, whispered, yelled and squealed. Then, the children wrote all about their lovely day at Warwick castle talking about all the highs and some of the lows of their adventure. The children particularly enjoyed talking about the Falcons at the bird show. In the DREAM curriculum, the children have loved exploring the Norman history, especially trying to work out who will be the next King of England! Linking to our history topic the children created their own pulley system in D&T, using this pulley system to create their own working drawbridge. In science exploring sound seeing how soundwaves work. We have looked at several types of fruits in French saying which we like and dislike. This half term in Maths, Year 4 have completed our first unit on place value where we explored representing and partitioning numbers up to 10,000; rounding numbers to the nearest 10, 100 and 1000 and learning about Roman numerals. Currently, we are looking at the addition and subtraction of 4-digit numbers with and without exchanges. We look forward to next term where we will cover area and our first multiplication and division topic ahead of our practice multiplication check.

Year 5 Autumn 1

What a great start to our learning in Year 5! We hit the ground running with our Mountains topic and have filled our term with new knowledge and skills. We have learned about the location and features of mountains and located them in our atlases using contour lines. We have learned about Nimsdai Purja MBE and his commendable efforts to conserve the mountain environments. We learned about the positive and negative effects of tourism around mountains and the devastating affect that litter pollution is having. Using hatching and cross-hatching we have created mountain masterpieces in Art.

We aimed high with our place value knowledge too. We can now work with numbers up to 1,000,000 when adding, subtracting and multiplying by 10, 100 and 1,000.

Our Science lessons have taught us about reversible and irreversible changes and reactions. We have conducted experiments that have involved filtering, sieving and magnetism.

The progress we have made during swimming lessons is amazing! We have been building our confidence in the water and honing our techniques.

This has also been our first half-term joining in with the Mini-Police programme with Derbyshire Constabulary.

In Mini-Police we have learned about the role of a PCSO and how they can check if you are following the rules. If you don't, you might get a fine.

We learned the phonetic alphabet and how this helps people like the police to give clear information. We went inside a police car and saw what they carry and they keep us safe. We were allowed to operate the "blues and twos". Ruhika, Team Generous.

'I enjoy Mini-Police because we got to see what it is like inside a police car.' Lilly, Team Generous

Year 6 Autumn1

In Year 6 this half term, we have been developing our knowledge in the field of STEM (Science, Technology and Engineering and Maths) by taking part in two exciting workshops. In September, we were joined by the RAF, where we learnt to use code to give instructions to drones for flying at different heights. We used our teamwork and communication skills to work together and make sure that we did not collide with anyone else! In October, we took part in an engineering workshop with Rolls Royce and the industrial cadets. This time, we used different shapes to build strong structures with straws and sellotape and then used our new knowledge to design our own model rollercoasters. We then launched the vehicles and watched them go! During our art lessons, we designed and created sculptures using wire, foil and Modroc based on the work of George Segal – a messy, but interesting challenge with great results!

In history, we have enjoyed learning about World War 1- reading War Horse by Michael Morpurgo and writing narrative stories about soldiers in the trenches. Next half term, we will continue this theme by examining how warfare changed between WW1 and WW2 and looking at the timeline of events from one to the other. We will also visit the National Memorial Arboretum as part of our World War 2 learning and think about the impact that the war had on families on the Homefront and the soldiers that fought for Britain.

Team Friendship Autumn 1

Team Friendship have been busy this term, settling back into school after the holidays and getting to know our key adults and new friends. We have been learning new routines within the school day and accessing the new learning areas and resources within the classroom.

This half term we have been exploring woodland environments and finding out about woodland animals. We enjoyed sharing the story, 'Wow, said the owl' and linking this to exploring colour and sorting items by colour. We continued our owl learning, reading the story, 'Owl Babies' and made our own owls using paper plates. We then focused on the story, 'The Gruffalo', naming woodland animals, talking about their features and exploring this further using small world scenes. We loved making our own 'Gruffalo crumble' and enjoyed tasting it.

Next term, we will be exploring people who help us, both in school and in the community. We will focus on a range of occupations, exploring each role and relating it to our own experiences. We will also be learning about some familiar 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 worked hard to recognise our new approach to learning and how our routine of 'now' and 'next' gives us a structure and understanding of our day.

This term we have been exploring inside the woods and we have found different animals who live there. Team Courage looked after a friendly owl, called 'Snowy'. The owl was quite unwell but was able to recover from a broken wing! The children have taken care of him, followed instructions to mend his wing and fed him healthy food. The owl has now flown back into the 'book' and looking after the owl babies. However, suddenly a Gruffalo appeared in the woods. The children have written a description of what it looks like and followed a map to find the Gruffalo in the cave. The Gruffalo was making 'crumble' and the children enjoyed making their own crumble using our fine motor skills.

Next term, we will be exploring people who help us, in school and in the community. We will look at each role and what they do. The children will use their mathematical skills to survey how many teachers, teaching assistants, other staff and children we have in school. We will let you know our results!

Team Courage staff look forward to working together with you and the children next term.

Thinking of becoming a teacher?

Now is the perfect time!

For the 2025/2026 academic year, the UK government is offering financial incentives to help you train to teach.

For more information visit George Spencer Academy SCITT @GSASCITT

Attendance:

We have set a **target of 97%** for our attendance. This is in-line with the National average. Please help us by ensuring your child is at school unless unwell and that they arrive on time each day. We want to reduce 'lost learning time' for our pupils; we are sharing the following information which is calculated over a school year.

Requests for holidays during term time will not be authorised

0 days off school	100%	Perfection
Equates to 2 days off school each year	99%	Excellent
Equates to 5 days off school each year	97%	Good
Equates to 10 days off school each year	95%	Slight Concern
Equates to 20 days off school each year	90%	Concerned
Equates to 30 days off school each year	85%	Very Concerned

Every Minute Counts

Lateness = Lost Learning

(Figures below are calculated over a school year)

5 Minutes late each day	3 days lost
10 minutes late each day	6.5 days lost
15 Minutes late each day	10 days lost
20 Minutes late each day	13 days lost
30 Minutes late each day	19 days lost

If your child is absent it is YOUR responsibility to inform school. Absences are always unauthorised until we have been informed. You can now report your child's absence from school by calling our main number 348356 and choosing option 1.