



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 2025-2026:

Monday 5th January 2026

Friday 13th February 2026

Friday 10th July 2026

Message from the Principal, Mrs Paula Baines-Chambers:

I am thrilled to report a fantastic start to the new academic year at Ashwood Spencer Academy. Pupils have embraced our DREAM values with determination, resilience, and ambition. The positive atmosphere around school is noticeable, and we are proud to see our pupils engaging actively in their learning and school life.

To support this, we have introduced music playing at the start of each school day. When the music begins, it signals to all pupils that it is time to line up calmly and promptly. By the time the music finishes, every pupil should be lined up and ready to start the day's learning. This routine helps create a positive, calm atmosphere and encourages punctuality and a sense of community among our pupils.

This year, we have refined and developed our curriculum to better meet the needs of all pupils. Our focus is on ensuring a rich and connected learning experience that builds on prior knowledge and prepares pupils for future success. The curriculum is designed to be ambitious and inclusive, supporting expressive communication and fostering resilience. We are excited about the opportunities this brings for our pupils to become confident, knowledgeable learners.

We will soon be hosting 'subject showcases', this is an opportunity to come and find out about different subject we teach and how they progress from nursery to Year 6.

I warmly invite all parents and carers to attend our upcoming Parents' Evening on Monday 20th and Tuesday 21st. This is an excellent opportunity to discuss your child's progress, celebrate achievements, and collaborate on next steps for their learning journey. Please book your appointment through Arbor. If you need any assistance, do get in touch.

Thank you for your ongoing support in making Ashwood Spencer Academy a place where magic happens when we DREAM!

"The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams." – Eleanor Roosevelt

Wishing you a lovely half-term when it arrives!

Mrs Baines-Chambers

Arbor

We kindly remind you to sign up for Arbor, our school's online management system. Arbor is an essential tool that helps you stay informed about your child's attendance and important school communications.

If you have not yet registered, please do so at your earliest convenience to ensure you don't miss out on any important updates. Should you need any assistance with signing up or accessing Arbor, please contact the school office, and we will be happy to help.

Behaviour

At Ashwood Spencer Academy, following our behaviour policy helps create a calm, safe, and respectful environment where every pupil can learn and thrive. Pupils have a duty to uphold these standards, contributing to a positive school culture that reflects our values.

Parents play a vital role in supporting this by knowing the behaviour policy, reinforcing it at home, and working closely with our school. Together, we ensure all pupils succeed in a supportive and respectful community.

Pantomime

Years 1 to 6 will be attending the pantomime on Thursday 18th December 2025.

This year, we will be attending the morning show and will arrive back in school for a slightly later lunch. We are looking forward to watching Dick Whittington!

Please can you sign the permission slip to enable your child to attend this wonderful, festive opportunity.

School fully fund this magical experience, however if you agree for your child to attend and they do not, we will have to pass this cost on to parents. If your child is ill, we will not recharge parents.

Nursery Autumn 1

Team Creative have made a wonderful 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.

Our topic around 'People Who Help Us' at home and in the community has been very popular. We have read lots of books about emergency services and the children have been busy dressing up, role-playing and using their imagination to help others. In Maths we've been learning colours and how to sort and match. The children have practiced grouping objects by colour, shape and size to help with their early problem-solving skills.

We have been fortunate with the weather and immersed ourselves in lots of outdoor learning developing both fine and gross motor skills. As well as the climbing equipment, the children have loved exploring the new mud kitchen, mixing, pouring, and creating recipes and experimenting in the sand and water.

As musicians we have been learning lots of new nursery rhymes, these include, Five Little Firemen, Miss Polly had a Dolly and Wind the Bobbin up. Our Dough Disco sessions have been fun, with children singing along to familiar music whilst strengthening their fingers and hands.

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

FS2 Autumn 1

What a fantastic start to our Reception year! This half term, we've focused on settling in, learning routines, and building strong relationships with our teachers and friends. The children have done brilliantly adjusting to school life and have begun to understand our class expectations and the importance of our DREAM values – Determination, Resilient and Respectful, Expressive Communication and Ambition. We believe that magic happens when you dream, and already, the children are showing us how much they can achieve with a positive mindset!

In Phonics, we have begun our Little Wandle journey and have already learned the Phase 2 sounds: s, a, t, p, i, n, m, d, g, o, c, k, ck, e, u, r, h, b, f and l, as well as the tricky words I, is and the. The children have enjoyed exploring these sounds through games, songs, and lots of oral blending. Their ability to write these letters has also amazed us! The use of the tri-pod grip is really supporting their ability to write recognisable letters!

In Maths, we've been learning all about the numbers 1, 2, and 3, and have started exploring up to 5. We've been counting, comparing amounts, exploring shapes, and building a strong understanding of early number concepts through fun, practical activities.

This half term in FS2, we've had a wonderful time exploring the wonderful world of woodlands! We've been learning all about some of the fascinating animals that live in these habitats, including clever foxes (mammals), slithery snakes (reptiles), and wise owls (birds). The children have been fantastic at identifying each animal's features and talking about what makes them special. We also took a step back in time to discover the legendary story of Robin Hood and his adventures in Sherwood Forest. The children loved hearing about his brave deeds and imagining what it would be like to live among the trees! It's been a topic full of curiosity, storytelling, and nature discovery.

We're so proud of how well the children have settled into Reception life – their enthusiasm, confidence, and resilience have shone through. We can't wait to see what the next half term brings!

Year 1 Autumn 1

The children have settled beautifully into year 1 - we are all very excited for the year ahead!

We have immersed ourselves in the class text 'Grandad's Island'. Through this as writers, we have produced super sentences, think carefully about finger spaces, capital letters and full stops. 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 body and our senses, as well as learning all about Autumn. We went on a lovely walk looking for signs of Autumn. As artists, we have looked at different drawing techniques. 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.

Next half term we will be delving into the book GORILLA, which will link our learning to animals, design and technology and plenty of exciting writing opportunities! Plus lots of fun Christmas learning!

Key dates:

Tuesday 9th December - Pickford House

Wednesday 10th December - Pickford House

Tuesday 16th December - DREAMer assembly

Thursday 18th December—Pantomime

Year 2 Autumn 1

We are so proud of how our Year 2 children have settled into their new classes and new routines. Our Jigsaw lessons have set us up for a great learning environment, thinking about our rights and responsibilities as learners. We have had a lot of fun trying to answer the question **Would you have survived the Stone Age?** by being archaeologists and looking at artefacts, learning about how we would have ensured our tribe had a balanced diet and how early humans evolved from hunter-gatherers to the first farmers. We have thought about what animals and humans need to survive and how we can ensure that we are looking after our bodies and minds so we can reach our full potential. We have been exploring the work of Anni Albers and learned the skill of weaving. We have created our own pieces of art using suitable materials to add colour and texture.

We have jam packed half term to come! We will be learning about the world as a whole and looking at the oceans and continents - developing our map and atlas skills. We will be investigating everyday materials and how their properties make them suitable for different purposes. We will be developing our sewing skills by learning to complete a running stitch and making our own bags. Once we are experts, we will be writing our own instructions so others can make their own bags too.

Most excitingly, we will be preparing our nativity play, Camel-Ama-Ding-Dong! We will be learning lines and rehearsing songs ready for our performance on **Thursday 4th December** when we will have 2 showtimes to choose from - 9.30am and 2.00pm. Our **DREAM assembly** is **Wednesday 10th December** and we are at the **Pantomime on Thursday 18th December (morning)**.

Year 3 Autumn 1

In English this half term we started by writing the narrative, The True Story of the Big Bad Wolf. We told the story from the perspective of the Wolf using dialogue, adjectives and exclamatory sentences throughout. Then we have moved on to poetry where we are writing a poem about how our senses experience summer using rhyme as the key skill. We have worked very hard!

As mathematicians, we have been using our learning from our previous years to answer a range of questions related to place value. We started with tens and ones and have progressed onto understanding place value for hundreds, tens and ones. The strategies we are using to solve number questions include, spotting patterns in numbers, using our number bond knowledge, identifying missing numbers and linking it to our knowledge of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. As DREAMers Year 3 are now showing confidence in using LBQ in most of our maths lessons, another skill we have learnt in Year 3. Please look out for LBQ tasks set as independent study and don't forget to be a Times Table Rock Stars!

This half-term in our year 3 creative curriculum lessons, the children have had the opportunity to endeavour in several wonderful experiences. Starting off with the trip to Yorkshire Wildlife Park which was a huge success with both the children and the adults. The excitement and enthusiasm shone from each child as they walked around the park, showcasing Ashwood DREAM values throughout. This trip enabled the children to further develop their learning in school as they were equipped with extra scientific knowledge on the topic of animals including humans. Back at school, the children also had the experience of making model arms, which helped the children to visualise muscles and joints! In Geography, the children have worked hard to develop map skills by going on a treasure hunt, using grid-references. We have also completed fieldwork in the local area; identifying human and physical features using a tally chart to record findings. Next term, the children should look forward to engaging in the history topic of the metal ages... If your child wants to join a club, please sign them up on Arbor. We currently have spaces in our Times Table Rock Star Club (Mondays **3.20pm to 4.15pm**) and in our EDShed/LBQ club (**Wednesdays 3.20pm to 4.15pm**). Our **DREAM assembly** is **Thursday 11th** and we are at the **Pantomime on Thursday 18th December (morning)**.

Year 4 Autumn 1

In English, this half term we have explored writing a biography on Hercules using skills such as fronted adverbials and subordinate clauses. Then we have looked at writing a diary entry where we explored using skills such as expanded noun phrases and emotive language to really capture the emotions of a soldier. In history, we have looked at the ancient Greeks from looking at their gods and goddesses to the inventions they created that we still use today like the Olympics! In D&T, we have been looking at structure and using a pulley system. We created our own Colosseum with a working drawbridge. In science we have been exploring animals including humans where we looked at human and animal teeth, we found out that our teeth have canines, incisors, premolars and molars because we are omnivores. 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.

Key dates - MTC practice from the 17th to the 28th November

Dream assembly on the 11th December

Pantomime on the 18th December

Year 5 Autumn 1

This half term, we have explored all things Joseph Wright, trade and time zones. In English first we wrote a biography about Joseph Wright and then we wrote a recount about our first swimming lesson. We have really seen how much we've all improved in our swimming already! In Maths we have extended our place value knowledge and looked at numbers up to one million. We used this knowledge to practice addition and subtraction up to one million and have now moved on to enhancing our multiplication knowledge. We loved our art lessons and used Joseph Wright and L.S Lowry as inspirations to create our own perspective drawings with shading based on a light source. In science we have gained an understanding of forces and how these act in our world. We have completed experiments which explore friction, air resistance and water resistance and discussed our findings. During our geography lessons, we have learnt about the meridians dividing the Earth and how the rotation of the Earth effects the time zones and day and night. In French, we have been looking at how to share details about our family pets.

Next half term, we are looking at a new period of history, the civil rights movement. Our book next half term is John Agard's Windrush Child, which we will be focusing on in our reading lessons and using it in our DREAM lessons to support our understanding. We will be writing a narrative and a persuasive speech in English. We are excited to be exploring space in our science lessons and will have lots of facts to share with you!

Key dates:

Science Aviation Workshop – Tuesday 25th November

DREAM assembly – Friday 12th December

No swimming last week – Wednesday 17th December

In Week 6, each class will have a full DT experience day.

Panto - Thursday 18th December

Year 6 Autumn 1

This half term, Year Six have settled and become familiar with the expectations of their new building. In Geography, we've explored natural disasters such as earthquakes, volcanoes, and tsunamis, learning how they occur and how communities recover from them. In Science, we studied classification and enjoyed a fascinating workshop handling real animals. In Computing and Design & Technology, pupils designed digital products and created 3D models using Tinkercad.

Next half term, we're looking forward to our three-day residential trip to Whitemoor Lakes and the launch of our new History topic, War, beginning with World War I. We'll visit the National Memorial Arboretum to explore the memorials and reflect on remembrance before heading off on our adventure. In Science, we'll be learning about light, and in Art, we'll be creating sculptures. We're also excited to welcome you to our first DREAM Assembly, where we'll share some of our artwork and poetry.

This term we've also introduced some exciting **after-school clubs**:

- **Monday:** Board Games and Art Club
- **Wednesday:** Tutoring Club
- **Thursday:** Independent Learning Club
- **Friday:** Drama Club

Our Tutoring Club is a fantastic opportunity for children to get extra support with their learning. In the past, pupils who attended these sessions made some of the biggest progress — and they really enjoy the sessions too!

Key Dates:

- **12th–14th November:** Residential Trip to Whitemoor Lakes
- **12th December:** DREAM Assembly
- **18th December (morning):** Pantomime

Thank you for your continued support. We're looking forward to another exciting and successful half term ahead!

Team Courage Autumn 1

This term, Team Courage have been exploring different things we can hear on the farm! We have researched how many kinds of farms we can find around the world and linked this information to the noises (Onomatopoeia) that they might hear. The children really enjoyed learning about a 'rice' farm in China and the sounds they can hear in the farm. Using our research, they could hear lots of adults chatting as they harvested the rice, the flow of water in the paddies and the wind blowing through the rice. Very different to the farm we visited this term, no animals or tractors.

Linked to our skills development and theme this term, we went to the local shop and brought ingredients to make bread. Developing our numeracy and sensory learning alongside making gorgeous bread with honey! We discovered there is a honey farm in Derbyshire and Mrs Sims bought us some honey.

Next term, we will be building on our research around the world, as our topic is about what we can see and how different countries celebrate together. Do you know where the first Christmas tree was used to celebrate Christmas? Do you know if it snows in every country in the world? These are some of the things we will be researching.

We will also be going out on our minibus to participate in different activities. We hope to go to watch the 'The Snowman' musical concert at Pride Park as well as our Christmas pantomime. We also hope to attend a nativity so we can see and understand more about the birth of baby Jesus and the nativity story.

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

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 farm small world environments and finding out about farm animals. We enjoyed sharing the story 'Noisy Farm' and linking this to the sounds each farm animal makes. We continued our farm activities by painting farm animals, counting with animal counters and making animals with the playdough. We had a very successful visit to the farm to see some animals, feed them and sit on a tractor. It was great fun and we all enjoyed travelling together on the minibus.

Next term, we will be exploring how we can travel around the world and different modes of transport. We will also focus on different celebrations that happen around the world and have our own celebrations in class. Team Friendship staff look forward to working together with you and the children next term.

Attendance:

As you know, we have set a **target of 97%** for our attendance. This is in-line with the National average.

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

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

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