



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 2020-21

Monday 4th January 2021

Monday 22nd February 2021

Date to be confirmed

Friday 9th July 2021

Message from the Principal, Mrs Paula Baines-Chambers:

Thank you for your continued support since returning in September. Despite the on-going challenging circumstances of Covid-19, we have once again experienced another successful half term. The way that our children have adapted to the changes in school is a credit to themselves and to their families - thank you once again. It has been wonderful to see our children's fantastic attitude towards their learning, showing a commitment both in school during lesson time and choosing to participate in learning clubs at break and lunch, attending after school clubs and learning at home too. There has been some superb home learning projects that have been shared with school. Our children are true DREAMers!

If you don't already follow us on Twitter, our Twitter account is, @ashwood_spencer
Each year group also has their own Twitter account where learning experiences are shared on a weekly basis.

We have some beautiful experiences planned for our children over the last couple of weeks, where we hope lasting memories will be made!

I wish you all a peaceful Christmas,
Mrs Baines-Chambers



Ashwood's first award:

We are extremely proud of and would like to congratulate Miss M. Baines and her team for their hard work and commitment to Ashwood. Through their dedication we have been awarded the Carnegie Centre of Excellence for Mental Health in Schools 'School Mental Health Award' – Bronze Status.



Nursery - 30 hour provision:

From January 2021, we will be offering 30 hours as part of our Nursery provision. If you are interested in your child accessing this, please can you inform one of our office team.

If you know of non-Ashwood families who may be interested in this offer, please spread the word.

Christmas:

This year has been a difficult year for most of us, so we feel it is important to try and bring as much festive cheer to Ashwood as we can.

You have already received this information, but here are a few reminders of festivities happening over the next few weeks:

- * Christmas cards—post boxes are at each entrance point and cards will be distributed each Monday morning.
- * Raffle tickets are still available. Thank you if you have already purchased some. We have some amazing prizes from hampers, a tablet, £50 Amazon voucher, a scooter and many, many more!
- * Name the toy and guess the amount of sweets in the jar.
- * Christmas movie afternoon with a hot-chocolate and biscuit.
- * Gift and visit from Santa (Friday 18th), followed by class parties in the afternoon.
- * Christmas dinner day—Wednesday 9th.

Christmas hampers - we have been successful in obtaining some funding from Greggs so to support our families with Christmas, we will be randomly selecting some families to receive one of these hampers. If you are one of the lucky winners, you will be notified week beginning 14th December.

Safeguarding:

Derby City are offering 'Online safety training for parents and carers' - Supporting your children to become safer, confident users of online technology. If you are interested, please visit:

www.derbyandderbyshireemotionalhealthandwellbeing.uk

Places are limited. This course will be hosted online via Microsoft Teams. A confirmation email with joining instructions, including the Microsoft Teams meeting link will be sent to each attendee prior to the event.

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.

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

Requests for holidays during term time will **not be authorised**

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 2.

Rolls Royce land - Nightingale Road: Following the recent article in the Derby Telegraph, we have been liaising with Derby City to ensure that Ashwood is kept up to date with any developments.

Update from Matthew Wilson, Regeneration Manager, Derby City

The land behind Marble Hall is currently owned by Rolls-Royce and will be transferred to and developed by Keepmoat Homes.

Prior to re-development, the ground at the former Rolls-Royce factory site will first be cleaned to allow for the construction of new homes.

The strategy for cleaning the land is based on scientific investigation and assessment undertaken in accordance with current UK guidance and legislation and has been reviewed by, discussed with and approved by the Environment Agency and Derby City Council.

The Council have confidence that development partner, Keepmoat Homes will manage this site. On-site risks including every stage of remediation (cleaning up the site) are closely managed through planning conditions. And off-site risks are controlled through a construction management plan, which has recently been agreed.

Due to final arrangements being made, there is no firm timetable on the above works, apart from expected to commence next year (2021).

Contact Information:

We have recently tried to contact some parents, only to find that the contact numbers are no longer available. From a safety point, we need to have **two contact names and numbers**.

If you have recently changed your contact details, including your address, please can you pop into the office to ensure we have the correct details. We also use a 'texting' service to send messages, so up to date numbers are also required to receive this information.

Foundation Stage -

Here is the learning that we have been exploring this half term –

Communication and Language – We have been learning new vocabulary linked to celebrations. Our phonic sessions are focused on learning new phonemes (sounds) and blending and segmenting sounds in words.

Literacy – We have been listening to stories relating to celebrations and using a range of books to find out about how people celebrate around the world. We are developing our fine motor skills, learning to write for different purposes in our play.

Maths – In maths we are developing our understanding of number and amounts and have been introduced to different shapes. We have also been learning about positional language through everyday activities.

Understanding of the World – This half term we are exploring different celebrations. We have been looking how different people celebrate, and what celebrations are important to them. This has deepened our understanding of British Values and respecting the cultures and beliefs of others.

Physical development – We continue to participate in our physical movement sessions as well as engaging in physical literacy activities to improve our fundamental skills.

We engage in 'Funky Fingers' challenges to develop our fine motor skills and participate in daily Disco Dough and Squiggle sessions to support our prerequisite writing skills.

Expressive Arts and Design: We are exploring the use of different techniques to be creative, such as splat painting and modelling. We have been joining in with music sessions and learning new songs ready for our Winter Performance.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development: We have been working in small groups and acted out different roles in our play. We engage in mindfulness sessions, and reflect on our learning and interactions at the end of the day.

Year 1 -

We have had an excellent start to the year and a lovely term so far in year 1. In Autumn 1 we read the book 'Grandad's Island' and learned all about the animals that lived there. We sorted animals into their classifications and talked about herbivores, carnivores and omnivores. We used our knowledge to paint pictures of animals and label their body parts. We also learned about different sorts of families and compared our childhood to Grandad's in the 1960s.

In maths we have worked really hard on mastering numbers to 10, learning their number bonds and how to use them in number sentences. We applied our knowledge of place value by comparing numbers and working on adding and subtraction.

This half term we have been reading the story of 'How the Grinch stole Christmas'. We loved our pyjama and crazy hair immersion day to launch the book and want to thank parents for the fabulous homework that has been coming in throughout this half term. We've really enjoyed taking on different perspectives, pretending to be the mean, naughty Grinch and Cindy-Lou Who. We did some amazing writing about ruining Christmas for the Whos and look forward to writing about how Cindy-Lou Who feels when the Grinch steals all the Christmas things from her house.

We are so proud of the progress that the children have made throughout the term in all areas of the curriculum, and look forward to what they will do for the rest of the year.



Year 2 -

WOW! What a strange but AMAZING start to Year 2 we have had this year! Circumstances are very different, but we are so unbelievably proud of how the children have adapted to the changes. We would like to thank parents and carers for your support with this matter too.

The mental health and well-being of the children is at the heart of our learning so our ultimate DREAM at the start of this half term, was for the children to be happy and settled in their new learning environment after having such a long time off school. Our reconnection curriculum has supported their transition back into school and it is so lovely to see children coming into school and leaving school with a beaming smile.

In English this term, we have learnt so many writing skills which have enabled us to write our own innovated stories, diary entries, instructions and setting descriptions.

As mathematicians, we have recapped our numbers to 100, learnt how to find 10 more and less, learnt how to add and subtract two 2-digit numbers and we even learnt how to use the column method. It was tricky but we succeeded- thank you for your support at home. I know a lot of parents found the videos useful on dojo. Please do let us know if we can support you at home any further.

We have done so many exciting activities in Creative Curriculum this term, we don't know where to start! Last half term, our topic enquiry question was "Would you rather live in the city or the countryside?" We compared different places to live in, practised our map reading skills, went on a bug hunt, built different habitats to see which one wood lice preferred and so many other exciting activities.

This half term, our topic enquiry question is "Who were the first people to arrive in Britain?". We have explored the Stone Age and the different eras. We wanted to find out what the first humans used to eat so we dissected some POO to find out! We have made our own hand axes, created our own cave art, tested materials to create a shelter and used Batik to design a top for Om. We can't wait to share these with you on our next DREAM assembly video.

We have also worked incredibly hard this term with recapping our phonic knowledge from Year 1 which has enabled children to undertake their Phonics test. The progress the children have made has been phenomenal and we are so proud of them. Thank you again for your support at home and a big thank you to the Year 2 staff too.

As we are approaching the holidays, we would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Year 2 Team



Year 3 -

Year 3 are having a wonderful autumn term. It all started with our learning questions; what makes a country unique and what makes a leader successful?

As writers, we described two different settings in Italy, Venice and Tuscany and wrote instructions on how to make a pizza. As designers we chose different toppings for our pizza and chose flavours that go well together. Recently, we wrote a newspaper report based on the events that took place in Pompeii.

As geographers, we located the continents, oceans and rivers and focused on Italy's physical geography.

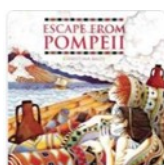
As mathematicians, we recognised the place value of digits within numbers to 1,000, used column addition and subtraction involving exchange. We maintained rapid recall of 2, 5, and 10 times tables and have started to recall the 3, 4 and 8 times tables.

As scientists, we looked at the human skeleton and identified various bones in our body and their use. We are currently investigating rocks, fossils and soil.

As musicians, we have been exploring rhythm, pitch, beat and have recently started to learn how to play a violin!

As artists, we took inspiration from Leonardo Da Vinci's portrait painting, to create a collage of Mona Lisa.

We can't wait to find out what our next learning adventure will be!



Year 4 -

Year 4 have had an amazing start to their year in Autumn 1. They thoroughly enjoyed their book, *The Highland Falcon Thief*, and wrote letters and their own warning tales based on this. The authors of the book were very impressed by their writing when shared on Twitter! They ended the half-term performing some performance poetry to Mrs Baines-Chambers who was overwhelmed by their performances and confidence.

In Maths, Year 4 looked at place value and addition and subtraction methods. In Science, the children created lots of electrical circuits and investigated ways that circuits will and will not work. Throughout the half-term, the children became Historians as they looked at the Norman invasion and the famous battle of 1066 – The Battle of Hastings. They were working towards answering the key question: How did the Normans change English identity?



Year 5 -

We can't believe a whole term has almost zoomed by. Like all year groups, starting back to school in September was exciting and scary all rolled into one but the year 5 children have embraced the changes and new learning challenges they've faced. We really have lived up to our team names: Acceptance, Generous and Patient. To begin the year, we learned who inspired our class name choices and we have tried to follow examples set by those role models each day.

After October half-term, we started an Internet Café after-school on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursday and are delighted that so many children have chosen to consistently attend to do online learning on Hegarty Maths, Reading Plus and TT Rockstars. We've been giving a raffle ticket to pupils each time they attend and there'll be a special tasty treat chosen by the winner just before Christmas. If your child would like to attend, speak to their teacher to arrange this. As the club has been so popular, we'll continue this in the New Year.

In Autumn1, our class book 'The Star Outside My Window' was fabulous and let us explore the wonders of space. In Autumn2 our book, 'The Diver's Daughter' has had an historical focus and the children have loved learning all about how the Tudors have shaped Britain today. We're really looking forward to celebrating our learning at our Tudor dress up day and Banquet on Wednesday 16th December.



Year 6 -

In a crazy year like no other, Year 6 have returned to Ashwood Spencer Academy in a way that has filled each and every one of the Year 6 staff with immeasurable pride.

Learning has not always been easy since September but nor should it be. We have had to revisit some lost or forgotten learning and show resilience but the children have grabbed each opportunity with open minds and flourished.

We started the year looking at a brand new class text, 'The Explorers'. It was absolutely gripping and inspired some wonderful work on different biomes. In maths we have been trailblazers and used technology to help us to journal our learning. We actually made our own fruit salad in a fractions lesson! Our escape room challenge in geography really got us working together as a team as the pressure intensified! We have even had a glamorous 'Vlog Awards' which showcased the amazing English work completed by the Year 6 children. Our children had the chance to watch a heart dissection as part of their science sessions and use the information to create their own incredible non-chronological report.

Our afterschool clubs are now in full flow and new exciting opportunities such as Kickboxing and Podcasting are just around the corner.

Well done Year 6.

Best wishes from all in Team Year 6!

