



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 2021- 22

Key dates shared on our website -
ashwoodspencer.com

Wed 22nd December 2021

Thurs 23rd December 2021

Mon 28th February 2022

Fri 1st July 2022

New date - Friday 22nd July 2022

Message from the Principal, Mrs Paula Baines-Chambers:

What another productive half term we have had! This academic year we introduced a new approach to writing across school and we have been blown away by the impact we are seeing in all year groups.

It has been wonderful to see our children's positive attitude towards their learning continue to grow, showing a commitment in school during lesson time, choosing to participate in a range of clubs in school and continuing learning at home too. Our children really do show that 'magic happens when you DREAM'.

We have some special experiences planned for our children over this last week, including a trip to the pantomime, where we hope lasting memories will be made! The pupils last day of term is Tuesday 21st December - we are hopeful that Santa will visit us on this day! We return to school on Monday 10th January 2022.

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 so many great learning experiences are shared on a weekly basis.

I wish you all a peaceful Christmas,

Mrs Baines-Chambers



Punctuality/Late to school

We have noticed an increasing number of pupils arriving late over the last few weeks. Children who arrive late miss an important part of the introduction to the first lesson of the day and disrupt the learning of others. From January any children who arrive after 9am will be marked as late on the register. If a pupil arrives after 9:30 they will be marked as unauthorised unless a previous arrangement has been made with the class teacher or the attendance team.

Medical appointments during the school day

As more medical services are becoming available routine medical and dental appointments should be arranged outside of the school day where possible. If your child needs to attend an appointment during the school day medical evidence in the form of an appointment letter/card or reminder text is required. Please inform school in plenty of time ie at least the day before to avoid delays in collecting children from classes.

If the appointment will take up a whole morning or afternoon session then medical evidence in the form of an appointment letter/card/text is required otherwise the absence will not be authorised.

Covid Cases

Whilst the number of cases in school remain low it is important that we all remain vigilant and children are tested with a PCR Covid test if they have any of the following symptoms: new continuous cough, temperature or loss of sense of taste or smell.

Please ring 119 for advice or contact school if you are confused in any way about whether your child should be in school or not. We will be sending children home from school if they present with these symptoms so that you can arrange for them to be tested. Please remember that an LFT is for regular testing when you or your child have no symptoms. Walk in or drive-through testing centres will provide a result much quicker than a postal test and will mean pupils who are negative can get back to school and their learning that bit quicker. We appreciate your support in keeping school as safe an environment as we can in these difficult times.

Absence reporting

Please remember to call school on the first day of your child's absence – there is a dedicated number to select once you ring our main switchboard.

Nursery Autumn 2

This half term we have enjoyed finding out how we celebrate and mark different occasions. We have created some sparkly firework pictures and produced some beautiful pictures of poppies to mark Remembrance Day. Our nursery bear invited our teddies from home to attend his tea party as part of our birthdays theme and we are currently busy engaging ourselves in a range of Christmas activities.

As readers we are very excited about our new library area, we have been learning how to handle books correctly and enjoyed using puppets to re-tell our favourite stories.

Next half term we will be immersing ourselves into traditional tales, starting with 'Goldilocks and the three bears' and 'The three little pigs'. We will be learning lots of new story language and using small world props to act out the characters in our role play area.

FS2 Autumn 2

This half term, our Reception children have enjoyed learning about different celebrations. We have had lots of fun making Diya lamps, tasting foods, watching firework displays and much more. We have also been learning about the role of a postman and have enjoyed making, writing and posting our own Christmas cards.

In phonics, we have been working hard to read and write words using our phase 2 sounds and are becoming more confident at spotting diagraphs within words. In maths, we have been exploring the composition of four and five. We have been comparing amounts and finding 1 more and 1 less. We are becoming more confident at using a five-frame and explaining our thinking.

Next half term, we are going to be learning about Traditional Tales. We will be following instructions to bake gingerbread men, exploring maps to get to Grandma's house and writing our own alternative versions of well-known stories. We will begin to learn phase 3 sounds in phonics and will be writing lists, speech bubbles, labels and captions. In maths we will be comparing numbers to 8 and combining two groups.

Year 1 Autumn 2

What a fabulous end to this term! The children have continued to show great attitudes towards their learning. We have immersed ourselves in the class text 'The Grinch'. Through this as writers, we have written a recount in the perspective of Cindy Lou, we wrote instructions for how to ruin Christmas and we wrote beautiful Christmas poems. As readers we are continuing to learn how to decode and blend words to help with reading skills in our phonic sessions.

As scientists we have studied every day materials and conducted an experiment to find the best material for Max's kennel. As designers we have designed, made and evaluated our own 'Grinchmobiles'. As artists we have learnt to weave and thread a cosy Christmas blanket. As historians we have learnt about how toys have changed over time. As mathematicians we have learnt about 2D and 3D shapes and numbers to 20. As spiritual people we have learnt about celebrations. As computer programmers we have learnt about grouping and sorting, pictograms and Lego builders.

Next half term there will be many more exciting experiences to come, we are exploring our local environment.

Year 2 Autumn 2

We cannot believe that we are coming to the end of our first term in Year 2! We have really enjoyed thinking about pre-history and how the early humans lived. We started our Stone Age to Iron Age topic with our Stone Age day where we thought about when, where and how the first humans in Britain lived. We developed our knowledge of inventions, shelter, diet and clothing by becoming archaeologists and completing a dig, we studied pre-historic poo and we cooked our own food over an open fire. All of our knowledge was used to create amazing non-chronological reports about life in the Stone Age.

We continued with the Pre-historic theme as we used our engineering and artistic skills to design, sew and decorate our own hammer stone bags. We learned how to complete a running stitch to join our fabric, use dye and wax to create a batik design and our developing plaiting skills helped us to create our handles. Our growing scientific knowledge of everyday materials helped us to design and evaluate our product and whether it was suitable for its purpose of carrying a hammer stone during the Stone Age.

In Maths we have been working very hard to develop our knowledge of addition and subtraction and using efficient methods to solve problems. More recently, we have been learning about money. We have learned how to recognise coins, add pounds and pence and compare amounts and how to find change. We continue to work on our rapid recall of our 2, 5 and 10 times tables and our number bonds to 100.

Of course, the highlight of our half term was our trip to West Midlands Safari Park to launch our English unit on postcards. We made lots of magical memories together. We saw Santa (who gave us very generous presents), we saw the animals up close and personal during the safari drive and some of us even had lorikeets landing on us!

Finally, we have launched our breakfast and read sessions on Monday mornings. Adults are invited to join their child in class at 8:30 for a cuppa and a pastry and have some uninterrupted time to listen to them read.

Thank you for your continued support. We cannot wait to see what the spring term brings

Year 3 Autumn 2

Throughout Autumn 2, Year 3 have been on an exciting journey!

In history, children have learnt about the Ancient Romans. We have re-enacted the story of the founding of Rome, developed the understanding of how Rome expanded and how the ruling system developed throughout their rule. We have used our historical knowledge to support us in understanding what is being portrayed within mosaics and the significance of mosaics within the Roman Empire throughout our art and design topic.

We have transformed into petrologists and volcanologists whilst studying rocks, fossils, soils and volcanos. We learnt about the devastating effect that Mount Vesuvius had upon one of the most important Roman cities, Pompeii. We got transported back in time to Ancient Rome during our now press play session.

Within our writing sessions children have learnt about the devastating effects that earthquakes can have, using technical vocabulary such as Richter scale and seismologist! They even experienced one in their classrooms and wrote a newspaper report to document the event. Later in the half term we learnt about the amazing work of the heroine Grace Darling and practiced writing a biography using the information before writing our own about another infamous female, Mary Anning.

Year 3 cont.

Multiplication and Division has been our focus within Maths sessions and we have tried to deepen our knowledge of the 3, 4 and 8 times table and use these facts to answer division questions and related questions.

Next half term we are looking forward to continuing our learning about Ancient Rome as we learn about the Roman invasion of Britain. We will also continue using our multiplication and division facts to develop our ability to multiply and divide 2 digit numbers by 1 digit numbers. Within our writing, we will be writing persuasive letters to you at home- are you ready? See if you can be persuaded.....

Year 4 Autumn 2

We have had an incredible half term in Year 4 and we are extremely proud of how the students have continued to rise to the challenges given. There have been many magical moments such as: becoming aliens investigating states of matter; creating our own water cycle collage; making our own beats using a variety of instruments and 'rising up' to adversity and bullying as part of our poetry. We are incredibly proud of our dodgeball team who represented the school and were a credit to themselves and the school. We have used an abundance of technology in order to support our learning which is proving to be extremely popular in all three classes. It has made a massive difference to our grammar knowledge, reading ability and times table fluency - some people have even been getting 100% on the times table rockstars gig (that's 100 questions!)

Next half term, we will be looking at the Ancient Greeks and how it was a time of peace and conflict. This will include writing a myth and a biography. There will be a particular focus on our times tables as we begin to approach the multiplication check at the end of the year.

Have a merry Christmas and a very happy New Year.

Year 5 Autumn 2

Year 5 have had a busy half term where we have learnt lots about the Tudors and properties of materials. We are looking forward to celebrating our Tudor day on Friday 17th December where we will celebrate all of our Tudor learning. We have carried out lots of exciting and practical Science experiments including filtering water for King Henry VIII to drink!

We are already looking forward to our learning in the Spring term, as we will be learning about trade links in geography and animals (including humans) in Science. We have lots of exciting opportunities planned for the children, including visiting Nottingham Theatre Royal to watch The Lion, The Witch & The Wardrobe on Thursday 3rd February. We will also have an aspirations day to meet lots of local professionals and find out about their careers. We are really looking forward to reading our class book, 'The Nowhere Emporium' by Ross Mackenzie, and completing some writing based around this text.

Year 6 Autumn 2

This half term we have been comparing where we live in Derby to Texas, the Lone Star State. We have looked at the similarities and differences between the two locations and considered whether a business in Derby could be moved to Texas.

We have also developed a good understanding of the heart and its importance to the circulatory system through our science work and children experienced a live heart dissection. Children have enjoyed using their scientific understanding and applied their literacy skills to write a non-chronological report to showcase their learning.

In year 6, we are looking forward to learning all about WW1 next half-term. We will be ambitious in our learning, using a range of primary and secondary sources to infer about what life was like during WW1 for people at home and the soldiers in the trenches. Year 6 pupils will show respect and thanks to those who gave their life through a range of events linked to our narrative story writing and poetry.

Year 6 cont.

We will show determination by showcasing our learning in a range of ways for example, on our 1-2-1 iPads, using Showbie, and by being expressive using drama, to showcase the Christmas Truce.

All our learning will be linked to our core text, War Horse by Michael Morpurgo. As DREAMers we will further our knowledge and understanding of life around the time of 1914 by using visual literacy, looking for similarities and differences between the book and the film produced and directed by Steven Spielberg.

We are also excited about our visit to Whitemoor Lakes for the Year 6 residential. Children will be able to take part in activities like: archery, rock climbing, abseiling, camping activities plus much more.

