



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 2022-2023:

Thursday 22nd December 2022

Monday 27th February 2023

Friday 7th July 2023

Message from the Principal, Mrs Paula Baines-Chambers:

What an exciting time we are continuing to have at Ashwood Spencer - there are so many wonderful learning opportunities for our pupils to explore and become fully immersed in.

As you know, this term we were awarded the Inclusion Quality Mark (IQM). This is a standard for assessing schools against a nationally recognised framework on inclusion. Following this, we also were awarded the 'Centre for Excellence' status. We now join a small group of 240 schools across the UK that have met the standard required to become an IQM Centre of Excellence for outstanding levels of inclusion best practice.

We have further invested in a lot of new reading books which have really inspired our pupils who are displaying a love for reading. This half term some magical memories have been made through the enrichment opportunities that have been provided.

It has been lovely to welcome and see many families, including those new to Ashwood, in school over the past few weeks, joining us for various events and celebrations. Thank you to those families who supported our Christmas Fair, we raised just over £1000!

I wish you all a wonderful, peaceful Christmas break.

Paula Baines-Chambers

Staff changes:

Goodbyes - we have some staff leaving Ashwood and we would like to wish them all the best in their new jobs; Mrs Quenby and Miss Jones. We welcome Mrs Leak into Team Joy and Miss Bridden to Team Compassion.

School Development Priorities - these are the priorities that we are focusing on this year:

Leadership and Management - Embed our clear and ambitious vision for providing a high-quality education through strong, shared values, policies and practices

Early Years Foundation Stage - The EYFS curriculum provides no limits or barriers to the children's achievements, regardless of their backgrounds, circumstances or needs.

Quality of Education - Our curriculum intent and implementation are embedded securely and consistently across the school.

Personal Development - All pupils have access to a wide range of opportunities and experiences to develop cultural capital and prepare them for lifelong learning.

Behaviour and Attitudes - All pupils have positive attitudes to their learning and have consistent high levels of respect for others.

Mini Police:

We are privileged that our year 5 pupils have been given the opportunity to participate in a 'Mini Police' project which will run throughout the academic year.

Here is a summary from the Autumn term -

This term, Year 5 have been extremely lucky to continue with our MINI POLICE sessions, helping us appreciate the community we live in. We have been lucky enough to have the Command Control vehicle visit us in school and we have continued to learn about the importance of protecting our environment, including those items of particular historical significance. We have also learnt how to act responsibly and safely in our local area, crossing roads safely

Nursery Autumn 2

This half term we have enjoyed finding out different celebrations. We started off with a Halloween party before creating some sparkly firework pictures to celebrate bonfire night. We produced some beautiful pictures of poppies to mark Remembrance Day and joined in with a two minutes silence.

It was also the nursery bears birthday! We made hats, invitations, cards and a birthday cake, then invited our teddies from home to attend his tea party as part of our birthdays theme.

We are currently learning about Christmas. As readers we have turned our library area into the Polar Express, we are enjoying reading Christmas books and listening to Christmas stories all aboard the train.

Next half term we will be immersing ourselves into The Land of Dinosaurs! We will be finding out what they were and how they roamed the earth. We will be learning lots of new vocabulary, listening to lots of Dinosaur stories and using small world props to enhance our learning.

FS2 Autumn 2

This half term, our FS2 DREAMers have enjoyed learning about different celebrations. We have explored the reasons why people celebrate and 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 expanding our knowledge of addition and subtraction for numbers within 10. As spiritual people we have learnt about celebrations. As computer programmers we have learnt about grouping and sorting, pictograms and Lego builders.

Thank you so much to all parents that have come into school this half term to enjoy Christmas with us! You have helped us make many magical moments for the children!

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

Year 2 Autumn 2

Year 2 have stepped right back in time this half-term as they have learned all about the Stone Age. They explored using archaeological evidence what the Stone Age people: ate, how they lived, what tools they would use and what transformations have happened between now and then. Using their Historical knowledge, Year 2 have written a non-chronological report about the Stone Age.

They have also developed their writing skills by writing post cards based on the quality text: Meerkat's Christmas. As mathematicians, they have delved into addition and subtraction proving their resilience and determination to succeed. During computing, Year 2 have become photographers learning all about taking pictures, evaluating their pictures then improving them using various editing effects.

As scientists, Year 2 explored materials and conducted a fair test to discover what material would be best for their Stone Age shelter. As artists and design and technologists, Year 2 have created Stone Age Hammer Stone bags using various techniques: plaiting, stitching and batik. Finally, Year 2 have been expressive communicators by performing a Nativity production (the first in many years at Ashwood!).

Next half-term, Year 2 will be answering the question: Could sorting your rubbish save the world? They will be exploring their new text 'Alba the Hundred Year Old Fish' and will become geographers by exploring atlases to locate continents and oceans.

Year 3 Autumn 2

This term, year 3 have been developing their times-table skills through TT Rockstars and in class learning. We have been using counters to create arrays and developing our division skills. We will continue with this after Christmas. During English, we have been writing two non-fiction pieces exploring a part of the creative curriculum. We have written a non-chronological report on the Ancient Romans and a biography about Mary Anning. At the end of term, we explored poetry and wrote our own. We have also been using our skills as historians to explore the ancient Romans. We have compared Ancient Rome and Ancient Egypt to use or knowledge from year 2 whilst also exploring the ruling system in Rome. As scientists we have been exploring rocks and soil. We are looking forward to the new term after Christmas!

Year 4 Autumn 2

This half term our global theme has been Transformations and our topic enquiry has been how the transformation of water affects our weather. Within science and geography, we have been investigating the water cycle and the states of matter water goes through. We have also investigated what other materials are solids, liquids and gases. We have looked at mixtures, how to separate them and when water evaporates and condenses. We have then been experimenting with collage techniques before creating our own water cycles collages. We have been listening, speaking and writing sections of The Little Red Riding Hood story in French. This half term in maths, we have explored the concept of area by using physical resources such as post-it notes and counters, before moving onto counting squares. Then, we deepened our understanding of the times tables, including the relationship between 3, 6- and 9-times tables. Finally, we looked at multiplying and dividing numbers by 1, themselves, and 0. Within English, we have written a persuasive letter to an author to encourage them to come to our school and discuss the importance of reading. Then we explored writing a factual tour as a particle traveling through the water cycle.

Next term, we will be exploring Ancient Greece, the creation of democracy, the arts, comparing the different ages of Ancient Greece and the associated styles of pottery. In music, we will be looking at how songs and lyrics can change the world. In English, we will be studying Greek Myths and Legends and the techniques used to impact the reader. In maths, we will be continuing to study multiplication and measuring length and perimeter. Within computing we will be learning the valuable skill of creating, using and reading spreadsheets. In art, we will be studying artists who create sculptures, the materials they use and how they utilised them to impact the viewer.

Year 5 Autumn 2

Year 5 have had a tremendous half term! We have had plenty of fun manipulating our images in Computing, but also understood the dangers and harm this can bring, ensuring we always use computers and technology safely and responsibly. Within PSHE, a variety of cultures and differences have been celebrated. We have learnt the importance of tolerance, understanding and respecting those around us. During our PSHE sessions we have also discussed bullying: the impact it can have on others; what constitutes bullying and how we can all play a part in ensuring it doesn't happen. Year 5 have really enjoyed taking a step back in time, learning about the Tudor Era and its historical significance. These learnings have also been transferred into some of our science lessons and how we can separate materials using different processes, enabling us to make some clean drinking water for Henry VIII! Science has given us the opportunity to develop our scientific investigation skills and understand changing materials, irreversible change and thermal conductors. In English we have published a balanced argument, ensuring we understand how to research opinion and incorporate both views for and against a given subject. We have also been improving our narrative writing skills, ensuring we can grab and maintain our readers' interest. Maths has helped us grow our knowledge of fractions, multiplication and division and increase our overall fluency. In Year 5 we have further improved our confidence and abilities at swimming during our weekly visits to the local pool. Our R.E. lessons have enhanced our understanding of the world around us, the different cultures and religions such as Christianity and Humanism, this has also helped with our PSHE learning and respecting and valuing everyone, regardless of beliefs.

Year 6 Autumn 2

Year 6 have had a very exciting Autumn Term, challenging themselves indoors and out. They really made their teachers proud on our residential stay at Whitemoor Lakes, where they showed themselves to be resilient and respectful in all their activities. Facing their fears on the climbing wall, working as a team to build buggies and developing their communication skills in group games.

In Science, we have studied the circulatory system, making a working model of the heart and observing a heart dissection to further develop their knowledge of the way that the heart works.

Pupils practised their debating skills in a discussion based on our balanced arguments about heart transplants, from our class text 'Pig Heart Boy' by Malorie Blackman. They began by formulating their ideas in teams and then working together to create their own speeches. Following this, they have created some very thoughtful pieces of writing. Year 6 have worked hard on fractions and problem-solving skills in maths and we have been impressed with the progress they have made in their assessments.

Team Friendship Autumn 2

This half term, Team Friendship have been very busy celebrating different occasions. We used our exploring skills linked to the story 'Going on a Bear Hunt' and we discovered celebrations of Autumn changes, light festivals, birthdays, Christmas traditions and finally working together to chase an 'Elf' around our school! Hope you enjoyed reading their book for home, "We're Going on an Elf Chase"!

Within our learning, we have used 'food' to engage and excite our investigation techniques. We started by making pumpkins soup, birthday cakes, a jam sandwich and fruit kebabs! The children have used their reading skills to follow picture/word instructions to support their investigations. This has also supported their communication skills with each other, as they help each other to participate and celebrate.

After the Christmas holidays, Team Friendship will be finding out about 'farms'. What does a farm do? Which animals can we find on a farm? We will use the book 'Farmer Duck' to inspire our reading and learning and look at the character animals and compare to the real animals on a real farm.

'Merry Christmas' from Team Friendship and Mrs Sims

Team Courage Autumn 2

This half term the children have been learning about Christmas. We have read our class book Meerkat Christmas, which has supported our learning of a postcard. The children have been enjoyed learning about the journey of post and writing their postcards. The children have learnt about addresses and why you might send/receive a postcard. Team Courage enjoyed our class trip to the post box and we learnt about collection times and the use of stamps. Each child posted their postcards and we have received them back. In Maths, we have been learning about addition and subtraction. Team Courage have learnt how to add 2-digit numbers together using resources and the column addition method. We have been applying similar methods to subtraction. We have been using part-whole models and number lines to support our understanding. We also used our knowledge of addition to help us to pay for our stamps. In Forest schools/nurture the children have been on learning trails and cooking. We have made gingerbread men, fruit salads and mince pies.

Happy Retirement

We would like to wish Mrs McKenzie a wonderful retirement. Mrs McKenzie has worked at Ashwood for just under 6 years, ensuring school is clean, tidy and safe for everyone. We are extremely grateful for all her hard work and commitment that she has given to school. Enjoy a well earned rest Mrs McKenzie - you will be deeply missed!

Key Dates Spring 1

Return to school on Monday 9th January 2023

Year 1

Osmaston Park – 15th February 9.30 - 11.30am

Dream Assembly – 16th February at 2.45pm

Year 2

Thursday 12th January - trip to Osmaston park

Thursday 2nd February - trip to Birmingham Botanical Garden

Tuesday 7th February - Fire safety talk (link with community link: Fire Station - Ascot Drive)

Synagogue workshop (date TBC)

Year 3

Mandir trip - Friday 10th February (11 to 12pm)

Mandir trip - Monday 13th February (11 to 12pm)

DREAM assembly - Friday 17th February

Year 4

Tuesday 10th January—Greek dress-up day

Friday 17th February - Greek Pot Art Show and DREAM celebration

Year 5

Tuesday 24th January—pm, Cooking in the canteen with Mr Purdy

Thursday 9th February (TBC) - Trade link experience.

Tuesday 14th February (TBC) - Alvaston Science Experience (11.30-1.30)

Friday 17th February - DREAM Assembly

DOJO Treat – Friday 17th February

Year 6

World War 1 Experience Day - Wednesday 11th January

SATs information evening for parents - Monday 30th January

Tea and Quiz night with parents - Monday 6th February

DREAM assembly - Friday 17th February

