



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 2023-2024:

Friday 22nd December 2023

Monday 26th February 2024

Friday 12th July 2024

Message from the Principal, Mrs Paula Baines-Chambers:

This half term we have welcomed lots of visitors to Ashwood to share our good practice. We hosted the IQM Inclusion Fusion Cluster Network for the East Midlands, this was a very positive experience where we received some lovely comments and feedback. We have also had local Derby schools visit to look at our SEND provisions.

We were also extremely proud to be the winners for the 'best use of technology /IT in schools' award. It is wonderful to have our IT journey and the positive impact that the technology has had on our pupils recognised at a national level! This is testament to all the staff who have made our vision for the use of technology a reality at Ashwood. We look forward to continuing our IT offer to further enhance teaching and learning.

We have some special experiences planned for our children over these last few days, where we hope lasting memories will be made! The pupils last day of term is Thursday 21st December - we are hopeful that Santa will visit us on this day! We return to school on Monday 8th January 2024.

I wish you all a peaceful Christmas,

Mrs Baines-Chambers



Newsletters:

A reminder that we also have a termly Safeguarding and Attendance newsletter. We hope that you find these useful in supporting your child to keep safe and to attend school regularly.

Staff updates:

As you are aware, Mrs Smith leaves Ashwood at the end of this term following her promotion to Principal at St. Giles Spencer Academy. We wish Mrs Smith the best in her new role and look forward to working closely with St Giles.

Mrs Fisher will be our school SENDCo and Mrs Sims our Assistant SENDCo.

We also welcome Mrs Kausar, who will join Mrs Leak teaching Team Joy.

School uniform (see our policy on our website)

- 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
- Black or grey trouser shorts

PE Kits - Pupils to wear their PE kit on the day of their PE lesson

- White T Shirt
- Blue or black shorts
- Black pumps and **trainers for outdoor PE**
- Sweater for **outdoor PE**
- Navy or black track suit bottoms for **outdoor PE**

Final data results 2022-2023:

We are please to confirm that our attainment for last academic year was in line with the national at 60% for pupils reaching the expected standard in reading, writing and maths and 9% achieving a higher standard. In reading 64% achieved expected and 24% the higher standard, writing 73% at expected and 15% greater depth, maths 73% at expected and 20% at the higher standard.

Nursery Autumn 2

This half term we have enjoyed finding out how different occasions are celebrated. We started off with Bonfire Night and created some sparkly pictures to represent fireworks. In our squiggle while you wiggle sessions, we used scarves and pom poms to dance like fireworks shooting across the sky. 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, before celebrating with a tea party as part of our birthdays theme.

As readers we turned our library area into the Polar Express, and enjoyed reading Christmas books and listening to Christmas stories all aboard the train. We had the most magical time at Winter Wonderland exploring the different Christmas celebrations and meeting Santa Claus, his elves and reindeers.

Next half term we will be immersing ourselves into The Land of Dinosaurs! As historians 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, the children in Reception have been learning all about different celebrations! We have followed 'Little Glow' around Bonfire Night, Birthday's, Eid, Diwali and Christmas, whilst discussing the similarities and differences between them. The children especially enjoyed the Diwali feast, baking a birthday cake, making Diya lamps, and more recently our trip to the National Adventure Farm where they saw Santa and all of his helpers!

In Phonics, the children have been learning some new sounds, including the digraphs, 'th, sh, ch, ng and nk', and lots of new tricky words! They are becoming so confident in their learning and are all very eager to learn more! In Maths, they have been consolidating their knowledge of number, by showing numbers in different ways. We have also started looking at shapes, and learning positional language.

Next half term, we will be learning all about Australia, and comparing the country to England. We will then be looking at traditional tales, including The Gingerbread Man, and Little Red Riding Hood. We look forward to seeing how much the children grow over the next half term!

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 funny Grinch 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 how to become digital painters and use tools for different purposes.

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 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 have used and what transformations have happened between now and then. Using some of their historical knowledge, Year 2 have written a non-chronological report about woolly mammoths then wrote an independent non-chronological report about their own made-up animal. 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, they have learned and used the skill of batik dying and learned how to plait. As design and technologists, Year 2 have developed their skill of threading a needle, tying a knot and performing a running stitch (showing tons of resilience and determination!). This half-term, Year 2 have also had the chance to visit Forest School once a week where they have explored the outdoors, created lots of foraged pieces of art which ended with roasting food around a real fire (just like the Stone Age people did!). Thank you to Miss Baines and Mrs Hanson for your Forest School expertise. Finally, Year 2 have been expressive communicators by performing a Christmas production. Thanks again to all that could watch their performance, the children really impressed the Year 2 staff with their loud voices and expressive actions.

Next half-term, Year 2 will be answering the question: Do the same plants grow all over 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

Year 3 have travelled back in time to the 753 BCE to study the amazing Ancient Romans. Using our knowledge of where Italy is in the world from last half term. we learnt about the vast empire the Roman's created, their Emperor's and compared the Roman's to the Ancient Egyptians which we learnt about in Year 2. In Reading we read Escape from Pompeii, a fictional story based on the eruption of Mount Vesuvius. As Artists, we considered how colour creates affect. We painted Mount Vesuvius before it erupted (calm and peaceful) and then after it erupted (dark and frightening) using colour to represent the difference in mood of the painting. We found this story exciting and engaging. In Science we have become geologists, studying rocks, learning their classification, the rock cycle and fossils. In RE, we have looked at life as a Hindu and next half term we will be visiting the Mandir, the Hindu temple of worship to consolidate our learning about Hinduism.

This term in maths we have carried on looking at addition and subtraction even going to the swap shop (exchange). Also, we have started our journey of multiplication and division. Looking at sharing and grouping and using arrays! We have looked at our 2s,3s,4s,8s and 10s and spotting the patterns within the timetables.

As writers, Year 3 applied the knowledge gained in history and reading to write a non-chronological report about the ancient Romans whilst showcasing skills such as; alliteration, commas in a list, complex sentences and wow words! Our second piece of writing was a biography which focused on a 19th century fossil hunter and palaeontologist, Mary Anning. Next term, our time travel continues to discover that Britain has become part of the Roman Empire!

Year 4 Autumn 2

Our half term has been fun-packed with learning about states of matter and how they create the water cycle. Did you know that nearly all of the water we drink today has passed through a dinosaur? We were able to demonstrate this when we created our own water cycles in class. We have used Now, Press, Play to deepen our understanding of each stage. We continue to work towards being fluent in all of our multiplication tables and the competition on TTRS is fierce. All classes have earned extra playtime this half term for their hard work (we also dominate the whole school competitions too). Our music lessons have introduced our instruments (pbuzzes) which we are beginning to get the hang of. We are looking at using tuned instruments to play pieces of music. Our writing has been inspired by The Highland Falcon Thief and we have written our own narrative about a lost ticket and an amazing journey to our choice of destination. We have finished the half term by bringing our learning together and writing a script to guide tourists around the water cycle.

We are very excited to begin our topic on Ancient Greece, when we come back. Our Learning Question is; How would you like to be ruled? We'll kick it off with an Ancient Greece day before learning all about myths and legends, Greek art, democracy and sculpture.

Year 5 Autumn 2

This half-term, Year 5 have been exploring the global theme of significance. In English, we examined the importance of homework and created a balanced argument to outline the pros and cons. We also wrote a short narrative based on The Snowman story. In History, we examined the significance of the Tudors and Henry VIII. We discussed his impact on Britain and the impact that other Tudor monarchs have had. In science, we have completed several different experiments to further test and understand the properties of different materials. In Maths, we finished the first part of our multiplication and division topic before moving on to Fractions.

After Christmas, we will continue to build on our multiplication and division knowledge. Spring term also sees us debate the importance of fair trade and its impact on us and others in the world!

Year 6 Autumn 2

As we reflect on the incredible journey of learning during this half term, our students have delved into a diverse array of subjects, each fostering a unique set of skills and knowledge. In maths, our young minds have mastered the details of fractions, paving the way to tackle more complex concepts next half term. History came alive as children immersed themselves in the compelling narratives of World War II, gaining a deep understanding of the events that shaped our world. Meanwhile, in science, the wonders of electricity sparked curiosity and discovery, setting the stage for future innovators. English lessons witnessed the art of biography writing, as children brought to life the stories of significant individuals in history. Creativity reached new heights in computing, where variables were harnessed to craft engaging games, showcasing the fusion of logic and imagination.

The highlight of the term was undoubtedly the residential trip, where children not only expanded their academic horizons but also conquered personal fears, fostering resilience and companionship.

Looking ahead to the next half term, a captivating journey awaits. Science will turn its focus to the intricate balance of living things in their habitats, Geography will transport us to the captivating landscapes of Texas, and mathematics will delve into the realms of fractions, decimals, and percentages. English will take a fictional turn, inviting children to unleash their creativity through the art of storytelling. Excitement peaks with a school trip to the Birmingham Sea Life Centre, promising an enriching experience and memories to last a lifetime.

We are immensely proud of the commitment and enthusiasm demonstrated by our Year 6 children in engaging with our new homework system. The introduction of Learning By Questions has been a significant stride toward personalised learning, allowing students to complete learning at home and reinforcing their understanding of key concepts. Witnessing our students take ownership of their learning journey is truly impressive. It's heartening to see the positive impact of this approach to homework and witnessing children foster a sense of responsibility of their own learning.

We hope to run a SATs information evening next term in hope that you can gain a clear understanding of what to expect during SATs, along with helpful strategies for supporting your child's success. We want to create an open space for questions and discussions, strengthening the partnership between home and school.

We hope you all enjoy a restful Christmas break, full of magical memories.

Team Friendship Autumn 2

As we come to the end of this half term in Team Friendship, we reflect on the incredible journey of learning our children have embarked upon. This half term, we have been exploring diverse celebrations such as; Bonfire Night, Diwali, birthdays, and Christmas. In our maths lessons, the children have explored 2D shapes and have been honing their counting skills up to 5, using lots of counting songs and games to secure our knowledge. In design & technology have been crafting fruit fireworks and gingerbread houses, we have also been creating diva pots and poppy bowls, to develop our creative skills of using different materials. The children have been using their fine motor skills; creating beautiful Christmas crafts for the fair and crafting snowmen tree decorations. Meanwhile in art, they have created pointillism pictures using different techniques and tools. The children have been experiencing maps within our geography lessons, which the children enjoyed allowing the cars to drive on. Throughout this half term, our history topic has been toys from the past. The children have loved experiencing and using the toys! Including: a rotary telephone, a spinner and jacks. The children have really enjoyed learning how to use these toys and even dressed up in some retro clothing.

In Spring 1, Team Friendship will be learning all about the weather, seasons, Earth and Space.

Team Courage Autumn 2

This half term, Team Courage have been very busy celebrating different occasions. We discovered celebrations of Autumn changes, light festivals, birthdays, Christmas traditions and finally working together to chase an 'Elf' around our school!

Within our learning, we have looked at the book, 'The Owl who is Afraid of the Dark' and we discussed how we could help him and celebrated in his success to fly in the dark. All the children have their own copy of the book to keep and will remind them they can do anything if they talk and try their best.

Next term, we will be exploring our world, space and its impact on our daily life.

Happy Christmas holidays.