



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 2024-2025:

Friday 14th February

Friday 2nd May

Friday 11th July

Message from the Principal, Mrs Paula Baines-Chambers:

This academic year we have introduced a new approach to writing. It has been a pleasure dropping into classes and seeing the impact of this approach already in our children's books. It is always lovely to hear the children confidently talk about their work and with such pride!

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!

We have some beautiful experiences planned for our children over the last week, where we DREAM that lasting memories will be made! Experiences include watching the pantomime for years 1-6, a magic show visiting school for Nursery and Foundation Stage 2, whole school sing-a-long, parties and we are hopeful for a visit from Santa!

I wish you all a wonderful, peaceful Christmas break.

Paula Baines-Chambers

Principal

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

Leadership and Management - Refine and develop the curriculum

Quality of Education - Develop a consistent, accurate approach to summative and formative assessments

Personal Development - Continue to raise the profile of Ashwood within the local community

Behaviour and Attitudes - Develop consistent approaches and careful analysis to reduce the number of behaviour incidents and increase attendance for all groups of pupils

Term Dates 2024-2025:

Spring term

Monday 6 January 2025 to Friday 14 February 2025

Monday 24 February 2025 to Friday 4 April 2025

Summer term

Tuesday 22 April 2025 to Friday 23 May 2025

Monday 2 June 2025 to Thursday 24 July 2025

Important dates 2024-2025:

- KS2 SATs Monday 12th -Thursday 15th May 2025 (**Year 6**)
- Phonics screening check week commencing 9th June 2025 (**Year 1 and Year 2**)
- Multiplication tables check within the 2-week period from Monday 2nd June 2025 (**Year 4**)

Hello and Goodbyes:

Mrs Chen and Miss Bolton are both leaving Ashwood at the end of this term. Both are relocating out of Derby - we wish them all the best and thank them for their commitment to Ashwood. Mrs Belton-Baines will be starting her maternity leave straight after Christmas; we will share baby news when they arrive! We would like to welcome Miss Preston who will be teaching Team Belief each Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Miss Bourne has been appointed as a HLTA, supporting across school and Mrs Fowkes will be working in Foundation Stage 2.

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 learnt about why we have birthdays, and celebrated this by setting up a role play tea party for the nursery teddies, making birthday cards and a delicious cherry cake! We also marked Remembrance Day with a two-minute silence.

As readers we immersed ourselves into one of our favourite texts, Room on the Broom, we acted out the story taking on role of the characters, mixed some magical potions and created lots of artwork to compliment the book.

As mathematicians we have continued to enjoy a range of number and counting games, we have also been learning how to recognise different patterns and use this knowledge to identify what comes next in a repeated pattern.

We have welcomed lots of parents into our new Wednesday Stay and Play sessions, these have proved highly popular with parents and carers enjoying a drink and snack before joining in with their child's learning. The children have loved having their parents in nursery and sharing the different experiences with them.

We had the most magical time on our school trip at The Winter Wonderland exploring the different Christmas celebrations, meeting Santa Claus, his elves and reindeers. On return to school, we changed our library area into the Polar Express, to carry on the magic by reading Christmas books and listening to stories all aboard the train.

Next half term we will be learning lots of traditional tales, we will be using new vocabulary 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. We also took part in a very special Remembrance Service, and wore the poppies made by Mrs Brown's Mum with pride. 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 diagraphs, '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 such as shorter and longer! We had a very exciting lesson using rulers to see which objects around school were longer!

Next half term, we will be learning all about Australia and comparing the country to England. We will begin to look at different writing styles such as postcards and have a go at writing some ourselves! 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 half term we have had! The children have continued to show great attitudes towards their learning. We have immersed ourselves in the class text 'How the Grinch stole Christmas'. Through this as Writers, we have written a diary recount from the perspective of Cindy Lou and have also written instructions for how to ruin Christmas. As Readers, we are continuing to learn how to decode and blend words to help with reading skills in our phonics and reading lessons. As Mathematicians, we have learnt about 2D and 3D shapes and begun to use the operations of addition and subtraction.

As Scientists, we have studied everyday 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' (with the help of some of our parents). As Historians, we have learnt about how toys have changed over time and explored playing with toys from across decades. As Spiritual People, we have learnt about celebrations in Christianity. As Musicians, we have learnt about how music can tell stories about the past. As Computer Programmers, we have become digital media creators and created artwork on iPads in the style of various artists.

Next half term there will be many more exciting experiences to come. We will be learning about a significant event in British history - the Great Fire of London!

Year 2 Autumn 2

Year 2 have had a wonderful half term in the lead up to Christmas. They have worked exceptionally hard on the nativity and absolutely loved performing it in front of all the parents and school. Once they'd performed their own play, they were fortunate enough to visit the Velodrome and watch a pantomime performance of Cinderella. I think we can all agree that our nativity was on par in both performance and professionalism. In English, they have studied the mighty mammoth and acted as stone age journalists, writing a report all about the magnificent beasts, all before receiving a visit from Santa and writing their own letter to him. Our young mathematicians have been exploring addition and subtraction, before working hard to gain a better understanding of shape. Furthermore, our historians have been studying the stone age in depth and travelling back in time to examine some ancient artefacts. As scientists, we have conducted a fair test, testing Stone Age shelters we built and how waterproof they are. We are so proud of them all and can't wait for the next term.

Next half-term, we look forward to learning all about the world's continents and oceans and visiting Birmingham's Botanical Gardens to see plants from all around our world.

Year 3 Autumn 2

This half term Year three have done lots of interesting learning and had some wonderful experiences. We had our first trip on the year to the Mandir which links to our RE Hinduism learning where we got to watch a Hindu prayer, try on some Hindu clothing and learn about the Hindu gods. Year 3 have been lucky enough to have Derby County Community Trust visiting every Friday to help us work on our resilience. We thought about what makes us unique, our strengths and what we can do when we find things hard (how to be resilient). In Science, we have been looking at Light, conducting experiments to help senior leadership light their garden sheds and have the most effective sunglasses ready for summer. Violin has continued and we have started playing the violin, learning simple songs and the names of the strings. In French we have looked at vegetables, considering the vegetables we would like and how much in weight. We began History this half term, studying the Romans, how Rome was formed and the empires growth. This continues into next half term where we put a lens on the Romans in Britain.

Our English lessons this term have focussed on non-fiction writing. We started the term with getting hooked into exploring circuits and experienced what trial and error would have felt like in Thomas Edison's discovery of a refined, light bulb that has helped shape our world today. We wrote a biography detailing key events of his life. We then travelled back in time to 753BC to understand what made the ancient Roman civilisation so amazing. Everything we have learnt will be part of a non-chronological report. Throughout this term, as writers we have used a range of skills such as; alliteration, pronouns, commas in a list, co-ordinating and subordinating conjunctions. We even found time to quiz each other about Roman facts and test our knowledge in a Kahoot.

In this Autumn term, in maths, year 3 have consolidated their understanding of addition and subtraction. They have been super busy learning new skills such as the column method, which has helped the children to add and subtract with and without exchange. In addition to this, the children in year 3 have delved into the world of multiplication and division; looking closely at skills such as grouping and sharing. There has been a focus on the 2's, 3's, 4's and 8's timetables which has hopefully consolidated a lot of their prior knowledge. As a year group, we have found that the use of manipulatives has really engaged the children in their mathematics learning this term. It has encouraged them to explore a variety of ways to work out a problem or to look at it from a different perspective. Something we aim to deepen going forward is division as that seems to be an area for further improvement. However, as mathematicians, the children have worked incredibly hard, engaging in all aspects of learning!

Year 4 Autumn 2

This term in Year 4 the children started the term exploring writing a poem about anti-bullying using skills such as similes, metaphors and rhyming words. Then, they looked at writing an informative report of the water cycle using their learning of states of matter from science and the water cycle from geography. The children enjoyed using different sentence types effectively in their report!

In the Dream curriculum, the children have explored all things water! In Science we have explored the three states of matter: solids, liquids and gases. We can now group and classify objects into states of matter and know the properties of each state. We explored melting and freezing and began to learn about evaporation and condensation. We continued to explore evaporation and condensation in Geography, where we've investigated the water cycle. We've even created our own mini water cycle where you can see each stage happen! We carried our learning into art, where we've practiced collages and tessellations and created a final project – a water cycle collage. In French, we've learnt how to introduce ourselves and make basic conversation. We used our knowledge of anti-bullying from English to create anti-bullying podcasts in computing which links nicely into our Jigsaw topic – celebrating differences.

In Maths, we have looked at area, and how we can use grid squares to calculate the area of different shapes. We have also completed a unit on multiplication and division where we covered the 3-, 6-, 9-, 7-, 11-, and 12-times table whilst also learning how to multiply by 0 and divide a number by 1 and itself! This really helped us when it came to our first practice multiplication check. Finally, we have learnt about length and perimeter and developed skills in measuring in metres and kilometres, working out the perimeter of regular and irregular shapes and finding the missing length of rectilinear shapes.

Year 5 Autumn 2

What a busy half term we have had!

After kicking off our History topic with a double dose of Tudor experiences we went on to learn about the succession of the throne. We learned about how Henry VII brought the Houses of Lancaster and York together with a strategic marriage and how his son Albert never gained the throne. We were horrified by how Henry VIII treated his wives and fascinated by the quick succession which led to Elizabeth I's phenomenal reign.

In DT we have learned about Tudor Pottage and the very meagre nutritional value it would have provided for Tudor people. We evaluated and improved the recipe to ensure it was a balanced meal.

In Science we have been learning about forces and how we encounter and use them in everyday life. We used this knowledge to create our own products using mechanisms.

Next half term we will be exploring the Transatlantic Slave Trade and how it was abolished as a result of many factors leading to the Abolition of Slavery Act. We look forward to visiting the Sea Life Centre in Birmingham as we learn about animals and their suitability to their habitats.

Year 6 Autumn 2

This term, Year 6 has been filled with exciting learning experiences both inside and outside of Ashwood Spencer! In English, we have developed our writing skills by creating biographies about inspirational figures. In maths, we became fluent with fractions, sharpening our problem-solving abilities and developing our understanding of equivalent fractions. Science lessons illuminated our understanding of light and how it impacts the world around us. A major highlight was our residential trip to Whitemoor Lakes, where we pushed ourselves to overcome fears, try new activities, and enjoy precious moments with friends. In history, we explored the fascinating topic of World War II and reflected on its impact during our visit to the National Memorial Arboretum.

Looking ahead, we are eager to dive into our new theme of *Global Awareness and Sustainability* next term, as we continue to grow as thoughtful, informed citizens of the world!

Team Friendship Autumn 2

This half term Team Friendship have been finding out about different celebrations, making sparkly pictures and painting fireworks for Bonfire night and used lots of light up toys in the sensory room. We collaged poppies to mark Remembrance Day and joined in with the 2 minutes silence.

Team Friendship have been learning about people who can help us and focused on the story 'Postman Bear'. The children enjoyed mark making onto paper and putting them into envelopes. We sang the song 'This is the way we post a letter' whilst posting our own letters into the class post box.

In Maths, we have been learning about shapes, using the Interactive Whiteboard to play shape games and posting shapes into our own shape monster boxes to sort. The children also used shape cutters and tools with playdough to make their own shapes.

Next half term we will be learning all about Dinosaurs. We will be reading lots of dinosaur stories, listening to new rhymes and learning lots of new vocabulary. We will be making our own small world scenes and using dinosaur props to enhance our learning activities.

Team Courage Autumn 2

In Team Courage we have been exploring the different roles we have in school and in our community. 'The Jolly Postman' story helped us to visit different adults who needed our help!

Mr Purdy, our school chef needed our help to make porridge! So we practised and made instructions to make porridge. Mrs Greatorex in the office, lost all the stamps so we designed and made her a book of stamps. Mrs Eade needed help to find missing books in the library so we made her a fiction/non fiction and information books to use. Mrs Bryne lost her sports equipment so we made posters to help her find them.

The children enjoyed helping and learning how to work together as a team and how adults have different roles in school.

This term, for maths, we have explored shapes and linked them to objects around us and in the outdoor environment. The children discovered we have so many square windows in our school!

Next term, we will be exploring dinosaurs! Where are they? What happened? Which dinosaurs can we see today? Any? We will also be starting our sensory swimming sessions and life skills – visiting a local shop and making meals in class.

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.

Requests for holidays during term time will not be authorised

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

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 1.