



DREAM

Determined risk takers who want to succeed
Resilient and respectful learners
Expressive communicators
Ambitious achievers, unafraid of mistakes
Magic happens when you dream

Message from the Principal, Mrs Paula Baines-Chambers:

I'm excited to share some wonderful updates and insights from our school this term. Recently, we hosted "History... a journey through Ashwood," which gave parents a fantastic opportunity to explore and understand our history curriculum. I'm equally thrilled to announce that next half term, we'll be continuing this approach with "Science... a journey through Ashwood," inviting parents to discover more about our innovative scientific learning.

This week promises to be particularly exciting as we're looking forward to our upcoming pantomime visit on Thursday for years 1-6, and our Early Years Christmas Workshop. These experiences are invaluable in bringing learning to life and creating memorable moments for our pupils.

Behaviour remains a key focus for us, and I want to remind everyone about our DREAM expectations. These expectations are crucial in maintaining our supportive and productive learning environment, and we need all pupils to consistently follow them.

I'm immensely proud to share that we've achieved the Inclusion Quality Mark (IQM) Flagship status - a significant milestone that reflects our commitment to inclusive education and continuous improvement. Further information can be found here, on our website: [Ashwood Spencer celebrates achievement of IQM Flagship School Status – Ashwood Spencer Academy](#)

A few important notices for our parents:

Please ensure pupils are lined up when the morning music finishes.

Our upcoming **INSET days** are:

- Monday 5th January 2026
- Friday 13th February 2026
- Friday 10th July 2026

"Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always remember, you have within you the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars."

Thank you for your continued support in making Ashwood Spencer Academy an exceptional learning community. Wishing you a lovely Christmas break, making magical memories!

Mrs Baines-Chambers

Arbor

If you have not yet registered, please do so at your earliest convenience to ensure you don't miss out on any important updates.

Should you need any assistance with signing up or accessing Arbor, please contact the school office, and we will be happy to help.

Behaviour

At Ashwood Spencer Academy, we are proud of our community where every pupil is encouraged to be a Determined risk taker, Resilient learner, Expressive communicator, Ambitious achiever, and where Magic happens when we dream.

Recently, we have noticed that some pupils are finding it challenging to consistently follow our DREAM expectations. We believe that maintaining high standards of behaviour is essential for a calm, safe, and supportive learning environment where all pupils can thrive.

We warmly invite parents and carers to work closely with us in reinforcing these values at home and school. Together, by sharing clear expectations and celebrating positive behaviour, we can help every pupil succeed and feel proud of their progress.

Thank you for your continued support in making Ashwood Spencer Academy a place where everyone can DREAM and achieve.

Pantomime

Years 1 to 6 will be attending the pantomime on Thursday 18th December 2025.

This year, we will be attending the morning show and will arrive back in school for a slightly later lunch. We are looking forward to watching Dick Whittington!

School fully fund this magical experience, however if you agree for your child to attend and they do not, we will have to pass this cost on to parents. If your child is ill, we will not recharge parents.

Nursery Autumn 2

Team Creative have had another amazing half term with lots of new learning around our topic Shine Bright. We started Autumn 2 with the story, 'Room on the Broom,' the children loved exploring the story, acting out the scenes and using their wands to mix up potions and spooky spells. We marked Remembrance Day by creating some beautiful paintings of poppies and joining in with a two-minute silence. We totally immersed ourselves in sparkle and shine for Bonfire Night by exploring colours to recreate firework pictures, and dancing around with scarves. We were all very excited to celebrate our nursery bears birthday, we had a party with singing, dancing and party hats, the children helped to plan the party by writing their party lists, making a cherry cake and some delicious jam sandwiches. We are currently enjoying lots of festive celebrations and seasonal crafts.

We had a wonderful time celebrating Nursery Rhyme Week. Each day we focused on a new rhyme, enjoying singing sessions, craft activities and small world play. Our new library sessions are proving popular, with children choosing a book each week to share with a grown-up and completing a short task of learning at home

We have continued to be fortunate with the weather and had lots of outdoor learning, developing both fine and gross motor skills. The mud kitchen is in constant use with lots of new recipes being explored!

Next half term we will be listening to a variety of traditional tales during our topic, 'Once Upon a time,' starting with the text, 'The Princess and The Pea.'

FS2 Autumn 2

This half term, the children in Reception have been learning all about different celebrations! Our core text, 'Little Glow' supported us to learn all about Diwali and Eid! The children enjoyed a Diwali feast which was kindly made by Mr Purdy and created their very own Diya Lamps to celebrate kindness and light! As a team, we followed instructions to make special Eid Biscuits and shared them with our friends at school. The children learnt about the traditions within Diwali and Eid and thought about their own traditions within their favourite celebration. All children took part in a 2-minute silence to remember people who have helped us in the past, and people who help us in the present. We learnt about our inspirational person Captain Tom Moore and got to see medals from Mrs Brown's Grandad, Wally!

The story, Stick Man by Julia Donaldson has been a favourite book this half term! The children have enjoyed joining in with the repeated refrains, and learning new vocabulary such as beware, weary and jog!

We were also introduced to our Characteristics of Effective Learning Champions, Danny, Ellie and Ralph who are always looking for the correct behaviours for learning! The children are very eager to make them proud!

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 traditional tales! We will read the stories, The Gingerbread Man and Little Red Riding Hood, as well as an alternative story, Little Red and the Very Hungry Lion! The children will learn about the author, Floella Benjamin and understand why she is an inspirational person. We look forward to seeing how much the children grow over the next half term!

Year 1 Autumn 2

What an exciting half term we've had in Year 1! Our core story Gorilla captured the children's imaginations and inspired some fantastic writing — from detailed instructions to heartfelt diary entries. In Maths, we've been busy building confidence with place value and practising our adding and subtracting skills.

Geography took us outdoors as we learned about compass points, explored maps and even followed one on a local walk (excellent little navigators in the making!). In Science, we investigated animals, learning how to group and classify them. Over in Computing, the children developed their laptop skills while creating colourful masterpieces on a painting website. In PE, the children have been dancing their socks off, exploring rhythm, movement and teamwork. DT was also a big hit as the children designed and made their very own moving cars — lots of proud smiles when those wheels finally turned!

We rounded off the term with plenty of festive cheer, learning Christmas songs and performing them beautifully at church. A huge highlight for everyone was our whole-school trip to the pantomime Dick Whittington, which brought plenty of giggles and wide-eyed wonder.

Next half term is shaping up to be just as exciting! We'll be diving into the drama of the Great Fire of London, writing a biography and a letter linked to our history learning. In Science, we'll explore materials and learn about planting seeds. In Computing, we'll begin programming simple robot instructions, and PE will see us swinging, balancing and rolling our way through Gymnastics.

Key Date: Wednesday 11th February: Great Fire of London Parent Performance

Year 2 Autumn 2

We can't believe the end of the autumn term is here already! Year 2 have worked hard in all areas of their learning, and we can see them making progress. This half term we have tackled some tricky skills, such as sewing a running stitch, using place value to add and subtract and use an atlas to locate continents and oceans. Our handmade purses are not only beautiful but they are also functional after we have been through the D&T process of evaluating existing products, designing, making and evaluating our own products.

Our production of Camel-Ama-Ding-Dong was amazing! Everyone worked hard to learn the lyrics to the songs, the actions and their lines to ensure that we put on the best show possible. We feel that the ticket system worked well, thank you for your patience with this.

Next half term, we are studying **Great Women Who Changed the World** including Marie Curie, Mary Seacole and Emily Davison. We will be using different sources of information to learn about why they were significant in their own time and the impact they still have on the world today. We will be studying the works of Henri Matisse, ready to create our own collage masterpieces inspired by The Snail.

Key Dates:

Tuesday 20th January - Marie Curie Day, children to come to school dressed in yellow with a donation for the Marie Curie charity.

Year 3 Autumn 2

As writers, in English we couldn't believe our luck when we completed our treasure hunt and discovered a STAR! We enjoyed naming our class star and looked at various constellations. As authors, we used images, drama and lots of talk to write a narrative based on a lost star. We are looking forward to sharing our narrative with children in reception at story time. Our trip to Yorkshire Wildlife inspired us to write a recount of the day. We had lots of fun watching an iMovie and photographs of our wonderful trip.

In maths this half term we have worked on consolidating addition and subtraction knowledge using column method with and without exchange. Through careful modelling and the use of abstract and concrete examples, the children have channelled their inner mathematician and had fun time doing it. After this we have started practising our 3-, 4- and 8-times tables, multiplying and dividing. Next half term we will be continuing multiplication and division, learning the column method.

This half term in our DREAM curriculum we have travelled back in time to the Metal Ages to explore how life changed over this era as we evolved from using stone, to bronze to metal in tooling to farm, fight and trade. In Science we have studied rocks and soils including our personal favourite; fossils! This linked to our book Stone Girl, Bone Girl which looks at the early life of Mary Anning. In RE, we have studied the religion Hinduism and what life is like as a Hindu; we have had a workshop with the Open Centre to see some artifacts from the Mandir.

Next half term, we will be studying Italy in Geography and making pizzas in DT in a MasterChef style competition.

Year 4 Autumn 2

This term in Year 4 the children started the term exploring writing a narrative based on our class text 'The Flood' the children explored a range of skills such as fronted adverbials, direct speech, reporting clauses and precise verbs. 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 carried our learning into art, where we've practised collages and created a final project – a water cycle collage. In French, we've learnt how to introduce ourselves and make basic conversation.

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 practise 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.

Looking ahead to next half term, the children will be writing a lyric poem and a persuasive letter to the council. In maths the children will begin to expand on their multiplication knowledge where we will start to look at how when we divide by 10 and 100, we can get decimal numbers. In the dream curriculum we will be learning all about living things in science, the Bronze and Iron age in history and using Tie dye in art!

Year 4's trip to Swanwick lakes will be on the 15/16th January where the classes will be going on one of those dates.

Year 5 Autumn 2

This half term we have explored all things space, civil rights and cooking. In English first we wrote a persuasive speech trying to convince our teachers and head teacher to give us extra break. Then, we wrote a short narrative based on the poem 'Windrush Child' by John Agard. Swimming has continued to be a highlight of our week and we are making progress constantly. This term, we even learnt life-guard skills and practised these with our peers. In Maths we have revisited multiplication and division – consolidating our knowledge of dividing and multiplying by 10, 100 and 1000. We have learnt new fraction knowledge and can now find, compare and convert equivalent fractions. We can now subtract and add fractions, not only with common denominators, but different denominators too!

Our DREAM Curriculum has been full of super interesting learning! We loved our DT lessons and used our healthy eating knowledge to design, make and evaluate our very own school meal – which was delicious! In Science, we now know all about space and the planets. We really loved diving deep into the galaxy. We found it so interesting to see how the world is impacted by the sun and see why we have seasons, years, daylight and night-time. During our history lessons, we have learnt about the civil rights movement. We have explored how the Windrush generation have impacted our country to this day. Civil Rights activists, like Rosa Parks and Martin Luther King Jr, have formed our understanding and allowed us to understand the impact peaceful protests have had on our lives. In French, we have been learning how to write and say the date. Ask us when our birthdays are!

Next half term, we are delving deeper into multiplication and division. We will write a setting description using our knowledge from our space unit and a non-chronological report all about our learning on the Savannah. We will explore the African Savannah Biome in Geography and properties and changes of materials in science. We will learn how to speak about the weather in French and create our very own self-portraits in Art. We can't wait to get learning.

Year 6 Autumn 2

In Year 6, we explored a wide range of exciting and meaningful learning. In History, we investigated the causes and consequences of World War I, discovering how soldiers lived, how alliances were formed, and how the war changed life across the world. We linked in this learning into our Reading and Writing lessons too. In Science, we studied light, learning how it travels, how shadows are created, and how reflection and refraction help us see the world around us. In Computing, we developed our programming skills by using variables in our games that respond to user input. In Art, we designed and created sculptures that expressed different emotions, experimenting with materials and techniques to bring feelings to life in 3D form. Altogether, these topics helped us think creatively, work scientifically, and understand important events in history.

In Spring 1, Year 6 will be exploring an exciting range of topics across the curriculum. In Science, we will investigate the heart and the circulatory system, discovering how blood travels around the body and why this system is vital for keeping us healthy. Our Geography lessons will take us across North America as we learn about the desert and tundra biomes, as well as the people and animals that live in these extreme environments. In French, we will focus on *À l'École*, building vocabulary linked to school life. In RE, we will consider the big question, “*What do religions say to us when life gets hard?*”, exploring beliefs, comfort and guidance from different faiths. Finally, in Design and Technology, we will develop our textiles skills by learning sewing techniques to create our own blankets.

Team Courage Autumn 2

This half term, Team Courage have been visiting different places in our community and exploring where we would like to visit around the world!

We have been busy! Locally we have been to the shops, park and the café, also decorated the Christmas tree on Nightingale Rd. To support our learning, we have been to a farm and a musical concert. It was wonderful! The children had hands on experiences of farm animals, including a falcon! Also, we now have inspired musical conductors in class who have shown their love of music and instruments. We have seen great improvement in their core strength and handwriting skills too.

Our literacy and knowledge of the world have been inspired by researching different countries and stories from around the world. We have explored, South America, India, China and Africa, finding out so much information. Did you know in the rainforest, a ‘sloth’ is the slowest animal in the world! The children have developed a good knowledge of directions and map reading in our numeracy development.

After the Christmas holidays, Team Courage will be using our superpowers and having fun to find out all about food and nutrients we need to be healthy. We will be using ‘Supertato’ superhero books for us to explore and learn how working together with our friends can help us in everyday life and gain more independence in our life skills development.

Thank you for your continued support and Team Courage wishes you a ‘Merry Christmas’.

Team Friendship Autumn 2

This half term, Team Friendship have been exploring different countries around the world, along with various celebrations. During the topic, we have read lots of books with settings from around the world and explored sensory activities linked to the stories. A particular favourite for all of the children was the rainforest. We introduced some new books—*Parrot Tico Tango*, *Walking Through the Jungle*, and *Animal Boogie*—which were very popular. We especially enjoyed looking at the bright pictures, predicting which animals we would see next, and listening to the CD. When learning about Bonfire Night, we created our own firework pictures and strengthened our fine motor skills using spray bottles to create new effects. We also watched a firework video, listened to the sounds, and identified different colours. In maths, we’ve been exploring 2D and 3D shapes and finding out which ones will roll down a ramp. We have also been developing our turn-taking skills when playing games, and learning how to match and sort items by colour and pattern.

We ended our very busy half term by enjoying a Christmas sing-along and having our own Christmas party in class. Next half term, we will be exploring the theme *Super Me*, using the story *Supertato* as the starting point for many of our activities. During this topic, we will explore superheroes, make our own capes and masks as part of our Art and Design work, and take part in lots of sensory exploration activities using vegetables. Team Friendship staff wish you a Merry Christmas and hope you enjoy the holidays. We look forward to continuing to work together with you and the children next term.

Attendance:

As you know, we have set a **target of 97%** for our attendance. This is in-line with the National average.

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

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

If your child is absent it is YOUR responsibility to inform school. Absences are always unauthorised until we have been informed. You can report your child's absence from school by calling our main number 348356 and choosing option 1.

Attendance and punctuality:

Despite a challenging half term marked by significant illness, we are optimistic for improved health and attendance as we move into the Spring term.

However, we have observed a concerning pattern of consistent lateness among some families. Punctuality is crucial as arriving late disrupts children's ability to settle into the school day confidently and fully engage with their learning from the start. This issue significantly affects their progress and well-being, and addressing it will be a key focus for us next term.

Also, a reminder that parents should report their child's absence. You can use the absence reporting section on Arbour, or the messaging service on our phone. This ensures timely and accurate recording, which supports our safeguarding and attendance monitoring processes.