



# 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

## Mon 28th February 2022

Fri 1st July 2022

Friday 22nd July 2022

### **Message from the Principal, Mrs Paula Baines-Chambers:**

This half term has been an extremely busy one, particularly for our Year 6 pupils who underwent their SATs a couple of weeks ago. Their attitudes and commitment to these tests were faultless, they tried the best and showed just how determined, resilient, expressive and ambitious they are. They really were DREAMers!

Year 2 have also been working hard with their Secret Agent Training too. Next half term Year 1 will be completing the phonics screening check and Year 4 will undertake the multiplication tables check - both year groups have been working hard on these areas throughout the year, so this will be their time to shine.

On Thursday 26th, we are looking forward to having a day celebrating the Queens Platinum Jubilee. We have lots of fun activities planned, including our own Great British picnic.

Each year group has been allocated a commonwealth country, they will make a traditional meal from that country and our governors will judge the winning meal.

We are looking for Community Governors to join our governing body. If you know of any local businesses who would be interested please let Mrs Raynsford-Toal know.

I wish you all a lovely half-term break.

Mrs Baines-Chambers

### **Inset days 2022-2023:**

Our inset days for next academic year are -  
Thursday 1st September 2022  
Friday 2nd September 2022  
Thursday 22nd December 2022  
Monday 27th February 2023  
Friday 7th July 2023

### **Term Dates 2022-2023:**

#### **Autumn term**

- Thursday 1 September 2022 to Friday 21 October 2022
- Monday 31 October 2022 to Thursday 22 December 2022

#### **Spring term**

- Monday 9 January 2023 to Friday 17 February 2023
- Monday 27 February 2023 to Friday 31 March 2023

#### **Summer term**

- Monday 17 April 2023 to Friday 26 May 2023
- Monday 5 June 2023 to Friday 21 July 2023

### **Spencer Superstars Charitable Foundation:**

Thank you to everyone who participated and donated on our first ever Spencer Superstars Day.

Spencer Superstars mission is, 'to support children to live their passions and follow their dreams'.

Spencer Superstars Charitable Foundation supports children and young people, attending Spencer Academies, to pursue their passions and follow their dreams.

The Foundation provides financial gifts directly to children and young people, to support opportunities in their chosen field.

We are already thinking of ideas about how to celebrate Spencer Superstars Day next year!

### **Foundation Stage 1—Summer 1:**

This half term has been so exciting! We went on our first Nursery trip to White Post Farm and found out so much about the different animals, we have been learning about what they eat, where they sleep and matching mummy animals to their babies.

We have enjoyed lots of new songs and rhymes, our favorite being Old McDonald and Five little ducks. As mathematicians we listened to the story Rosie's walk and then acted out the story using positional language. We've also continued developing our number knowledge and used farm animals to combine two groups together.

As historians we have been finding out about Queen Elizabeth II. As artists we have drawn representations of the Queen and decorated crowns with shiny jewels to celebrate the jubilee.

Next half term we will be exploring the outdoors as part of our growing topic. We will be reading the story Jaspers Beanstalk and planting our own beans, caring for them and observing as they grow.

### **Foundation Stage 2—Summer 1:**

Wow – what a fantastic half term we have had in Reception! Our learning began with a visit to the farm, exploring signs of Spring and learning about the lifecycle of a chick. We then moved on to learn about the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. We particularly enjoyed learning about the Queen's lifecycle as well as making comparisons between street parties in the past and today. We have been learning to represent numbers to 20, understand the number pattern beyond 20 as well as learning to add and take away in maths. In phonics we are beginning to understand how to read with fluency and expression and have been focusing on our letter formation as well as reading our writing back to check it makes sense.

Next half term, we look forward to continuing our learning about the Natural World. We will be exploring the lifecycle of a caterpillar, growing our own vegetables and understanding the importance of caring for our environment. In maths we will be learning to double numbers, recognise odd & even numbers and how to share given objects into equal groups. In phonics, we will be gaining confidence in reading longer words and writing sentences with more independence. Finally, we are looking forward to some sunshine, as we explore our final season together and reflect on the fantastic year we have had.

### **Year 1— Summer 1:**

Year One have been learning all about the Great Fire of London in our DREAM Curriculum lessons; we learnt lots of facts about how the fire started and how it spread across the city. We learnt about Samuel Pepys who wrote about the fire in his famous diary and in English, we wrote a biography all about him. In DT, we made models of houses from the time of the fire and in Art we made sculptures to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee. In Maths, we have focused on doubles, halves, quarters, sharing equally and positional language. We learnt about sacred places in RE and enjoyed singing songs in music. In Computing, we learnt about how to use algorithms to make objects move on the screen. It has been a fantastic half term!

Next term, we are looking forward to learning about the seaside and visiting Cleethorpes. We will write a story based on The Lighthouse Keeper's Picnic and practise using capital letters, adjectives and time conjunctions. In Maths, we will learn about place value to 100, money and time. We will learn about making spreadsheets in Computing and Our Changing Bodies in Jigsaw. We are very excited about our Enterprise project- look out for more details about this!

Lots of exciting things will be happening next half term including meeting our new teachers and Sports Day.

### **Year 2— Summer 1:**

We couldn't be prouder of our DREAMers this half term. We have ended with our Special Agent Training (SATs) and it is astounding how far they have come.

Throughout our half term we have been using our knowledge of Geography to find out about the culture, physical and human features of Pakistan and we have compared school life there to life at Ashwood. Our favourite part was designing, frying and eating our own chapattis - delicious!

In our art lessons we have been experimenting with different collage techniques and have used these to create our own collage landscape of Islamabad.

We had the privilege of learning about Malala Yousafzai and how she fought for the rights of girls in her home country. She inspired us to write our own persuasive letters about children's rights in our English lessons.

Our Music and Computing lessons have been closely linked and we have been listening to and creating music to evoke different emotions.

We have been working hard to tell the time to 5 minutes by looking carefully at the past and to sides and counting round in 5s. Why not test us?

We are looking forward to learning all about Ancient Egypt during our last half term as year 2 pupils.

We look forward to catching up with you all at parents evening to tell you all about the great progress that has been made throughout the year.

### **Year 3—Summer 1**

Summer 1 has flown by and we are all ready for a well-deserved rest as year 3 have been non-stop with their learning!

Within maths, year 3 have been extremely resilient and overcome some tricky challenges such as solving equivalent fractions and telling time to the minute.

Throughout our DREAM curriculum, children have been transported back in time and learnt about the Anglo Saxons by making purses using Anglo Saxon designs using sewing techniques and learning how to join material together. They have been able to understand who the Anglo Saxons were, where they came from and why they came to Britain which has helped them to understand the difference between settlers and invaders. They even got to sample some Anglo Saxon food prepared by themselves and cooked by Mr Purdy -most were not a fan of the Pottage- EWW!

We are extremely excited for our school trip to Jorvik centre next half term and are looking forward to understanding who the Vikings were.

### **Year 4—Summer 1:**

Year 4 have had a choc-tastic half-term learning all about Enterprise and the Maya Civilisation. We kicked it off with a Dragon Den themed Enterprise day immersing ourselves into our Global Theme. Students had the opportunity to work in small groups to design their own cereal bar to fit their design brief. We have been scientists through investigating how sounds are created, travel and change over distance using our enquiry skills. This half-term, has included a significant religious festival (Eid), so students had the opportunity to investigate how festivals are important to religious communities, engage with religious artefacts and ask questions about what it means to Muslims. Our classrooms transformed into Willy Wonka's Chocolate Factories, as the children became Oompa Loompa's making their very own creations. Watch out John Cadbury! Our half-term ended with a trip to Cadbury's World to consolidate our learning of the Maya and Enterprise.

Next half-term, we will be completing Geography field-work at Darley Park investigating the significance of rivers to the world and our local community. Watch what you eat over half-term because we will be creating our very own digestive system model too!

### **Year 5—Summer 1:**

This half-term we have been learning about living things and their habitats in Science and all about asexual reproduction in plants. We attempted to grow garlic and strawberries to show this - our garlic has successfully grown but we're still waiting for our strawberries to grow! We've been learning about Sir David Attenborough in English and enjoyed making salt dough fossils alongside this. All of the Year 5s are extremely excited about the opening of Moorways and can't wait to have their first swimming session there.

Next half-term, our class text is *Black Powder* by Ally Sherrick, through this we'll be learning about the Stuarts as part of History. We hope to plan a trip but we'll give more details and send a letter out as soon as we confirm everything with the venue.

### **Year 6—Summer 1:**

This half term has been hugely important for our year 6 pupils. SATs week went really well and the children focused, worked hard and did their very best, which is all we can ask of them. Now we will wait for the results to be released later, next half term.

We have been focusing much of our learning on Volcanoes and Earthquakes in geography and evolution and adaptation in science.

We have learnt all about tectonic plates and tectonic activities, how these impact on natural disasters and had a chance to research a volcano of our choice before presenting our learning in the style of an encyclopaedia page. Children have learnt about The Ring of Fire in the Pacific Ocean and also looked at how our continents have moved positions over 4.5 billion years.

In science, we have explored the different ways in which humans and animals have adapted to their environments and learnt all about how these adaptive techniques have enabled humans to live in all areas of the world, from the Arctic to the Sahara desert. We have also had the chance to see how fossils can tell us a story about life in the past and how our local environment has changed over time.

Recently, we had a wonderful trip to see the Peace Doves at Derby Cathedral. The doves, which Ashwood Spencer Academy contributed to, were a wonderful example of sculpture and this has inspired us to make our own sculptures, using wire, in art.

In year 6, we are looking forward to learning all about refugees (in history) and electricity (in science) next half-term. We will be ambitious in our learning, using a range of sources to understand the recent refugee crisis in Europe and look to link our understanding of the current situation in the Ukraine, which has led to over 4 million people being displaced.

We will also explore electrical circuits and see how electricity has changed over time and how it shapes our world. We will identify ways to make electricity cleaner and even investigate which fruit or vegetable makes the best battery!

Much of our learning will be linked to our core text, *Refugee Boy*, by Benjamin Zephaniah. As DREAMers, we will further our knowledge, understanding and compassion towards refugees, their hardships and the challenges they have overcome.

We will also ensure our pupils are supported fully to make the transition from primary pupils to secondary school students and in doing so, aim to give the children a fantastic send off before they leave for pastures new.

### **Team Friendship—Summer 1:**

This half term, Team Friendship have been learning about new life and growing. We enjoyed the story of Oliver's Vegetables and we tried different fruit and vegetables in class. This then inspired us to learn about life cycles and how things change and grow. In class, we planted seeds and now our seeds are growing; we will soon have vegetables like Oliver. Our favourite vegetable is broccoli! We have also been thinking about how to keep our bodies fit and healthy, so broccoli is a good choice.

Team Friendship have been working hard, communicating, and interacting with our friends. We sing and sign together and this is helping our speech and social interactions.

All of Team Friendship are enjoying stories and showing our determination to engage and act out what we know. Some of our children are now using their phonics to give meaning to their work and we all celebrate in each other's success.

Next term, Team Friendship will be exploring water. The sea, a pond or a river. Could even be a swimming pool – so what do they know? This term will be inspired by artist David Hockney 'The Splash'. What would you find in the water? What was on top of the water? We will be building on their knowledge and explore new ideas.

Team Friendship will also be inspired to achieve what ever they want to be or do. We will be reading Paralympic GB Gold medallist Claire Cashmore's children's story, called 'Splash' and how she was determined to participate and win regardless of her physical barriers.

We are all DREAMers and we can do it together!

### **Team Courage — Summer 1:**

This term, Team Courage have been learning about space. In English we have been reading 'The Way Back Home' which is a story about a boy who meets an alien. The children have been doing lots of brilliant work sequencing the story and creating a new ending.

In maths we have been working resiliently to understand place value as well as counting in twos, fives, and tens. We will continue to explore this next term. We have also been doing lots of brilliant work to count within one hundred. In forest school, we have been exploring how plants grow and growing our own cress from seeds.

The children have been making great strides in the classroom. They have made progress in their team working and communication skills through determination and respect.

Next term, Team Courage will be learning about the seaside and developing our skills as determined risk-takers.