



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:

I am delighted to share that we have been successful in gaining 'Elklan Communication Friendly Status'. This is awarded to schools that have trained and supported their staff in communication and language development. Building on this inclusive practice, this half term we have introduced a Makaton sign each week. I have been blown away by how well our children have learnt these signs and how they are using them around school each day, promoting beautiful manners.



On very rare occasions it may be necessary to seal off the school so that it cannot be entered from the outside. This will ensure that pupils, staff and visitors are safe in situations where there is a hazard in the school grounds or outside the school in the near vicinity. A lockdown is implemented when there are serious security risks for the premises due to, for example, nearby chemical spillage, proximity of dangerous dogs, serious weather conditions or attempted access by unauthorised persons. Just as we have regular Fire Drill practices, we also have a lockdown practice. This is nothing to worry about, however it is important that we practice, should the need to 'lockdown' ever arise. We will be having a lockdown practice this week.

I wish you all a lovely half-term break and look forward to welcoming you back on **Tuesday 1st March** (school is closed to pupils on Monday 28th February).

Mrs Baines-Chambers

Safeguarding:

A note of people in school to speak to if you have any concerns for the safeguarding of children. **Key people with safeguarding responsibilities are Miss Morgan Baines (Designated Safeguarding Lead), Mrs Sharon Mayer (Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead), Mrs Paula Baines-Chambers (Principal) and Mrs Kim Smith (Vice Principal).**

Social Media:

A notice to parents to be vigilant when children are using mobile phones, computers, tablets etc. at home. We are mindful at school of potential dangers when children are online. Please remind your child of the need to be safe when using these devices. **Please also ensure that the apps / sites are age appropriate.** Unfortunately we have recently seen an increase in incidents involving social media that are taking place out of school.

Age restrictions - TikTok is 12+ years with parental guidance, Snapchat, Facebook and Instagram are all 13+ years and WhatsApp is 16years.

Reading:

Please listen to / read with your child at home each day. As a parent, you are your child's first and most important teacher. When you help your child learn to read, you are opening the door to a world of books and learning.

Reading allows us to be transported from our own world to another. Between the pages of a book, we can become immersed in the lives of fictional characters and learn about a culture entirely different from our own. We can also learn new words and phrases, experience a range of emotions, and acquire skills and knowledge.

Evidence suggests that children who read for enjoyment every day not only perform better in reading tests than those who don't, but also develop a broader vocabulary, increased general knowledge and a better understanding of other cultures.

Stay and Play:

We are pleased that Ashwood's stay and play will resume on Friday 11th March at 9:00am. This will be held in the canteen.

Nursery Spring 1

This half term we have enjoyed immersing ourselves in traditional tales. Our favourites being Goldilocks and The Three Bears and The Three Little Pigs. We made our own porridge which was delicious! Then explored different materials (straw and sticks) to construct and make houses to use in our role play area.

We have developed our storytelling skills and joined in with repeated refrains using puppets, small world characters and wearing masks to act out the different roles. As mathematicians we have sorted bears, chairs and beds by size and compared and ordered the size of straw, sticks and bricks. We've developed our number recognition to at least 5 and further improved our counting skills.

Next half term we will be zooming into space! We will be enjoying lots of space related stories including 'Whatever Next' by Jill Murphy. We will be retelling the story using small world props and thinking about what we would pack if we were to go on a space adventure to the moon. As artists we will create rockets and space pictures thinking about colours and shape.

FS2 Spring 1

This half term we have enjoyed exploring alternative versions of traditional tales and the conflicts that arise. We have learnt about characters, settings and events in order to make up our own stories. In maths, we have been deepening our understanding of the numbers 6, 7 and 8 as well as practically combining two groups to find the total. In phonics, we are getting really speedy at reading diagraphs and have begun to read longer words by chunking them into 2 parts e.g. car-park. We have also enjoyed learning about Lunar New Year and participating in the RSPC Big Garden Bird-watch.

Next half term, we are looking forward to exploring stories set in space. We will take part in an enterprise project where we will be designing our own rockets. We will be increasing our confidence in reading longer words that contain more than one diagraph and begin to write simple sentences. In maths, we will be deepening our understanding of the numbers 9 and 10 as well as learning about 3D shapes and making patterns. We are also looking forward to Spring and can't wait to spend time in our growing area – if you are a keen gardener and can lend us a hand, please get in touch!

Year 1 Spring 1

WOW - How amazing are our Year 1 children? Another fantastic half term where you have shown us what '**DREAMers**' you really are! We have immersed ourselves in the class text 'The Enormous Turnip'. **Through this as writers**, we have written incredible stories about our own enormous vegetables and designed persuasive adverts for our own Ashwood Fruit Smoothies. **As readers**, we are continuing to learn new phonemes and graphemes and how to use this knowledge to help us read and spell words! We are enjoying our new reading books and love taking story books home every week. **As mathematicians**, we have mastered numbers to 20, focusing on bridging and crossing the 10 with addition and subtraction.

As scientists, we have learnt about plants and trees and how they grow and what they need to survive. We have helped make our school beautiful by planting lots of flowers. **As Geographers**, we have learnt about our immediate locality, direction, followed and created our own maps - this has supported us as **computer programmers**. We became maze explorers and learnt how to create and debug algorithms. **As artists**, we have explored the technique of drawing and learnt a variety of skills that can be used with different mediums, such as charcoal, pencil and chalk. **As spiritual people**, we have learnt about what is important to Muslims, why Muslims fast during Ramadan and how they celebrate the end of the fast with Eid.

Next half term we will be learning all about the glorious British weather and our seasons!

Year 2 Spring 1

We cannot believe that it is already the end of Spring 1! This half term our global theme has been 'Global awareness and sustainability.' We have really enjoyed learning and thinking about plants and leaves. We began our topic with an investigation into seeds and bulbs and we enjoyed dissecting seeds and bulbs to learn about their structure. We have discovered that seeds and bulbs require water, sunlight and nutrients to grow and have enjoyed investigating whether or not plants will grow when we have modified these conditions. We have planted our own seeds and bulbs and have monitored their growth over the last five weeks. Some of seeds have grown to a whopping 11 centimetres!

We have continued with this theme throughout our writing where we have written an information text all about leaves. We have learnt how to distinguish simple leaves from compound leaves and we thoroughly enjoyed our visit to Osmaston park where we identified simple and compound leaves in our local area. We have even developed our ability to become independent researchers by using a variety of different sources to become experts on oak, birch and beech leaves. We have been 'expressive communicators' by delivering a series of presentations and even participating in a 'leaf off.'

In Maths we have been working very hard to develop our knowledge of multiplication and division and have used efficient methods to solve problems. We have learnt how to recognise columns and rows within an array and have used these skills to support our understanding of multiplication. We have learnt the component parts of a division sentence and recently have learnt how to share and group to divide. We continue to work on our rapid recall of our 2, 5- and 10-times tables and our number bonds to 100.

We have thoroughly enjoyed using music to help us remember the world's continents and oceans. We have learnt to use an atlas to identify the world's continents and oceans. We were fascinated to learn about the spherical shape of the world on google earth and which animals live in hot and cold places in the world.

Of course, the highlight of our half term was learning different printing techniques. We have enjoyed using the grid method to support our ability to draw to scale.

Thank you for your continued support. We cannot wait to see what spring 2 brings.

Year 3 Spring 1



Year 3 have had a wonderful spring term with our topic enquiry; how has the past influenced the present? This prompted us as historians we explored and interpreted primary and secondary sources to learn more about the Romans in Britain. As writers, we persuaded our felt tip to stop their strike. The arrival of a mysterious egg in our classrooms and 'The Boy who Grew Dragons' inspired us to keep a pet dragon! As poets we have enjoyed taking a closer look at the seasons and will write a poem about spring.



Year 3 cont.

As mathematicians we continued to focus on rapid recall and application of the 3, 4 and 8 times table. This was really useful when we solved column multiplication and division problems involving remainders. Recently we have been writing amounts in pounds and pence, linking our learning of place value, calculating column addition and subtraction including exchange.

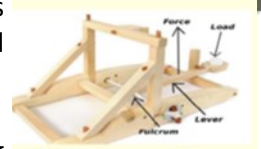
As scientists we discovered the parts of a flowering plant including the male and female parts that help plants to reproduce. We asked lots of scientific questions, planned our investigations and after careful observation over a period of time, recorded our results.



As musicians, we have been exploring rhythm, pitch, beat and have continued to play violins using a bow! As artists, we really got our hands dirty exploring mod roc, manipulating our materials to create a sculpture that is strong and stable.



As engineers, we were given a design brief to create a catapult! We researched mechanisms at play in catapults. We are looking forward to testing the launching power of our completed catapults!



As French linguists, we have been improving our communication and are gaining confidence in our knowledge of colours, numbers and basic conversation.

Next term, we are taking a break from travelling back in time and are going to become guardians of the planet, with a focus on; settlements and land use, sustainability, the practice of using natural resources responsibly, so they can support both present and future generations.



Year 4 Spring 1

We have had another fantastic half-term! We have been immersed into the Ancient Greeks which involved our dress-up day and finding out why the different time periods in Ancient Greece can be interpreted into cake. We have enjoyed learning about different myths and writing our own. In maths, we have extended our learning of multiplication and division and started learning about fractions. One of our highlights of the half-term, was enjoying an aspirations morning where we learned about some different careers and the steps needed to achieve their DREAMs. We have also sculptured a multitude of Ancient Greek-inspired pots to represent the different time periods within Ancient Greece. Finally, for our Design and Technology project, we have designed and created our own electronic wire loop game.

We are looking forward to learning more about sustainability next half-term and the rainforests of the world.

Year 5 Spring 1

One of our highlights from this half-term is our visit to the Theatre Royal in Nottingham to watch The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe. It was lovely to see how stories from books can be brought to life on the stage. Our learning this half-term was based around the global theme of global awareness and sustainability - to have meaningful connections to this, as part of our geography, we had visitors come into school to teach us about powering our world in more environmentally friendly and sustainable ways.

Our core text 'The Nowhere Emporium' has been really exciting and the children have produced some fantastic creative writing linked to this.

We started learning about fractions in Maths this half-term and this will be continued when we return to school next half-term.

Year 6 Spring 1

This half term we have been focusing much of our learning on World War 1 and life in the trenches. We have investigated the roles of men and women and looked at the different technological advances thanks to the war, with particular reference on weapons and war machines.

We have looked at the role of propaganda and how this changed hearts and minds to convince the British public to support the war in the later years.

We also had a fabulous few days at Whitemoor Lakes. Children experienced a whole host of activities which built on their communication, team building skills and resilience. Children took part in: climbing, abseiling, zip-wire, archery, buggie building and much more and have clearly grown from their experience on the year 6 residential.

In year 6, we are looking forward to learning all about WW2 next half-term. We will be ambitious in our learning, using a range of primary and secondary sources to infer about what life was like during WW2, what the home front was and how it helped Britain. We will also explore why Europe ended up in War shortly after the 'War to end all wars'. We will show determination by showcasing our learning in a range of ways for example, on our 1-2-1 iPads, using Showbie, and by being expressive using Now Press Play.

All our learning will be linked to our core text, Letters From the Lighthouse by Emma Carroll. As DREAMers we will further our knowledge and understanding of life around the time of 1920 - 45 by: using visual literacy; to bring WW2 alive and by showing understanding about the life of Anne Frank.

We will also have experience days, encouraging children to experience being an evacuee, improving the nutritional value of a staple meal (using WW2 rations) and a trip to a WW2 memorial.

Team Friendship Spring 1

In Team Friendship we are so proud of each other and how we have made friends and enjoyed each other's company as we learn. This has allowed us to communicate in our own special way and explore new sensory and visual adventures.

We have learned about traditional stories especially the characters and what they say to each other. Mrs Sims showed us how to use head phones and how to use 'Now Press Play'. This was so interesting and acting out what the characters did was fun.

During sensory circuit our class mapped out the Gingerbread Man story as our Geography driver. The children used apparatus and different skills to move in directions and hide using positional language. They enjoyed using the phrase in their own communication to be the main character - "Run, run, as fast as you can! You can't catch me I'm the Gingerbread Man."

This term our main introduction to learning is through Science. Our main question is about 'food' and what types of food we can eat and how to make it. Team friendship have made porridge for the three bears and so many Gingerbread Men as they keep running away! We are exploring different healthy food and we are making our own healthy lunch box to eat. We will be going to the forest to eat our lunch but we have to look out for the big bad wolf!