



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 2022-2023:

Monday 27th February 2023

Friday 7th July 2023

Message from the Principal, Mrs Paula Baines-Chambers:

Thank you for your continued support and helping make this half term so successful. It was lovely that so many of you were able to attend Parents Evening. If you were unable to attend, please speak to your child's class teacher to arrange a time; at Ashwood we value our partnership with parents.

Health and Safety - we are required to have practise fire drills and lock-downs. Lock-downs can happen for a variety of reasons, for example, nearby chemical spillage, proximity of dangerous dogs, serious weather conditions or attempted access by unauthorised persons. These drills are nothing to worry about and are simply part of our health and safety procedures. These will take place during the next half term.

The past few weeks have continued to be busy weeks in school. We have hosted lots of visitors. They have been blown away with the learning they saw happening and commented on our purposeful environment, carefully designed for our pupils at Ashwood. We gave them lots of ideas to take back to their schools!

After the half term, Year 6 and Year 2 will be working hard to prepare for their SATs which will take place in May. Year 1 are also continuing to prepare and aim high for the 'phonics screening check', as are Year 4 in preparing for their multiplication check which both take place in June. These national tests are a chance for the pupils of Ashwood to showcase just what DREAMers they truly are!

We have a range of learning apps that all pupils can access at home - please see your child's class teacher if you are unsure about what is available.

Wishing you all a lovely half-term break.

Mrs Baines-Chambers

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 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.

Mini Police:

In Year 5, during our mini-police sessions we have learnt about the dangers of knife crime and even had the drone team in to demonstrate drones in action!! We also had the opportunity to meet the High Sheriff who reinforced the importance of dreams and aspirations, and how we need to work hard in school to achieve these.

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 2.

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 for summer
- 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**

Nursery Spring 1

This half term we have welcomed some new families into our nursery, the children have all settled well and enjoyed exploring the nursery both indoors and outdoors. It has been lovely watching them all become independent learners as their educational journey begins.

We have been busy immersing ourselves into The Land of Dinosaurs! The children have been finding out how and when dinosaurs roamed the Earth. They have learnt some new vocabulary and have been using this to notice similarities and differences in dinosaurs. We have sorted herbivores and carnivores as well as taking on the role as a fossil hunter and creating a large-scale dinosaur Skeleton!

We celebrated Chinese New Year by creating dragon masks and used them to perform our dance as we listened to Chinese music. As Mathematicians we enjoyed listening to the traditional Chinese New Year story and racing the twelve animals using ordinal numbers.

As Readers we always enjoy using our library area and looking at books for pleasure. We are currently creating our own class book to share with others, full of our learning about dinosaurs.

Next half term we will be learning about different modes of transport and how we travel to a range of places, whether by land, sea or air. We will be listening to lots of stories and using small world props and resources to enhance our learning.

FS2 Spring 1

What a half term our FS2 DREAMers have had! We have loved exploring some of our favourite traditional tales, joining in the repeated refrains, retelling with the help of puppets and acting out in play with our peers. We have learnt about characters, settings and events in order to make up our own stories and have enjoyed improving our writing skills, both with our teachers and in our own free play. In maths, we have been deepening our understanding of the number 5 and exploring its number bonds. We have been introduced to the numbers 6, 7 and 8, looking at different representations and their composition. 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 enjoyed joining in with the rest of the school to celebrate Mental Health Week.

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 and discovering what it takes to become an astronaut. In phonics, we will be increasing our confidence in reading diagraphs and longer words and will begin to write simple sentences. In maths, we will be deepening our understanding of the numbers 9 and 10, as well as exploring how to combine two groups to get a total. 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 superhero vegetables. As readers, we are continuing to learn new phonemes and graphemes and how to use this knowledge to help us read and spell words! As mathematicians, we have mastered numbers to 20, comparing numbers and adding by counting on. As scientists, we have learnt about plants and trees, how they grow and what they need to survive. We have planted beautiful planters for our community link - The Littleover Nursing Home. As Geographers, we have learnt about our immediate locality, direction, followed and created our own maps - this has supported us as computer programmers. 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've had a 'plant'astic half-term and start to 2023. We started off the half-term with a trip to the local park to investigate leaves in order to gather knowledge for our information text. In maths, we learnt about all things money before moving onto learning to use multiplication and division. In science, we learnt about plants, seeds and bulbs. Our investigation involved planting seeds and bulbs in different conditions and measuring their growth. This also led into a trip to the botanical gardens in Birmingham where we were fascinated by plants from all over the world. As geographers, we explored the world including the continents and oceans. We became robot programmers in computing lessons learning about algorithms and debugging our coding.

Next half-term, we are looking forward to diving in and exploring our new explorers topic.

Year 3 Spring 1

Year 3 have had a wonderful spring term, enquiring about how the past has influenced the present?

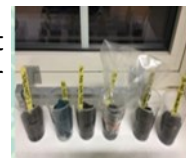


This prompted us as historians we explored and interpreted primary and secondary sources to learn more about the Romans in Britain. As writers, we persuaded our felt tip to stop their strike. The arrival of a mysterious egg in our classrooms and 'The Boy who Grew Dragons' inspired us to keep a pet dragon! As poets we have enjoyed taking a closer look at the seasons.

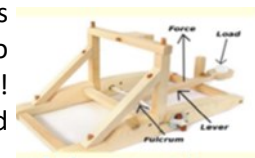


As mathematicians we continued to focus on rapid recall and application of the 3, 4 and 8 times table, applying this knowledge to column multiplication and division with remainders. Recently, we have started to think about length.

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 stuck in, exploring mod roc, manipulating our materials to create a figurative sculpture. As engineers, we were given a design brief to create a catapult! We researched mechanisms and look forward to testing the launching power of our completed catapults!



As French linguists, we have been learning all instruments. As computer programmers we learnt how to touch type.

Next term, we are taking a break from travelling back in time and are going to become guardians of the planets!



Year 4 Spring 1

In Spring Term 1, Year 4 have been investigating and exploring the Ancient Greeks. Within English we have written a Narrative story on the Greek Legend: Theseus and the Minotaur. We have then created our very own monster and became the hero in our own story. Next, we have been discovering the biography of Nikola Tesla. Then we have written a biography about a Greek legend. In Mathematics, we have explored the different concepts and word-problems surrounding multiplications. Then we have investigated perimeter and the concepts of measuring length. Within History, we have been investigating the different eras within Ancient Greece, the Persian wars and archaeological evidence. Furthermore, in Art we have been identifying the different clay pots from the Greek eras such as Archaic and Classic period. In Design and Technology, we have put our engineering skills to the test with designing and making different pulleys that could lift a pillar to build the Parthenon. We have used our Year 3 knowledge of the Romans to decode and speak about life in Rome, in French. In Music, we have explored the different elements that make a performance and how music improves our world. Finally, in Computing we learning how to use spreadsheets to budget, create tables and use formula wizard. Next term, we will be investigating the Amazon rainforest, living creatures, and sustainable textiles.

Year 5 Spring 1

In Year 5 this term our Global Theme has been centred around Global Awareness and Sustainability. This theme has been threaded across many subjects and given our children a greater understanding of some of the key actions we need to take to protect our planet. In English we have been writing a persuasive speech about the need to buy fair-trade products and the reasons why. In D&T we baked banana bread (with some really tasty end products), researching our recipes and only using fair-trade products.

In our mini-police sessions we have learnt about the dangers of knife crime and even had the drone team in to demonstrate drones in action!! We also had the opportunity to meet the High Sherriff who reinforced the importance of dreams and aspirations, and how we need to work hard in school to achieve these.

Our continuing trips to Moorways have also shown how far our children have progressed with their swimming and some have now ventured into the deep end.

Year 6 Spring 1

Our Year 6 DREAMers have thoroughly enjoyed their WW1 topic this term and have produced some incredible pieces of work. As historians, we've learnt about The Great War through studying primary and secondary sources and used them to pose historical enquiry questions. We've been fascinated by the advancements of wartime technology and written diary entries about a day in the life of a WW1 child. In art, we've studied Giacomo Balla's work and used it as inspiration for our own sketching projects. We used his techniques of depicting movement to help us sketch a war-time soldier or horse - they're brilliant! We've LOVED reading War Horse. We've finished the term studying war poetry and created our own from the viewpoint of Joey, the main character in our class novel.

Learning about WW1 has put us in good stead for next term as we are learning about WW2! We will be visiting Beaumont Hall on a school trip to immerse ourselves in the life of a child during the war and enrich us with real-life experiences. We can't wait to get started!

Team Friendship Spring 1

Team Friendship have enjoyed learning about 'Farmer Duck' and the adventures on a farm. We have heard lots of "how goes the work?" and "quacks" in reply! This term's theme has supported all our children but especially our non-verbal interactions as they have enjoyed finding out about the different farm animals and their noises and things they do on a farm. Hope you enjoyed reading this story together at home.

We have been busy exploring food, especially food from a farm. Scrambled eggs, milkshake, cheese on toast and odd look at a pomegranate! All explored and consumed. This has linked to our numeracy focus, counting, less or more and looking to see if it looks the same or different to our recipe pictures!

In Team Friendship we use the 'Little Wandle' phonics scheme. We have followed the SEND scheme route, where we learn the sounds and use in our learning within our environment. Some children are developing their letter recognition and can say the sounds they recognise. All our children are developing their listening skills and recognising different sounds in the environment. Songs and rhymes are an important tool to support opportunities for our children to communicate - verbal, signing or gestures in our total communication approach.

Next term, Spring 2, we will be looking up to the sky! Team Friendship will be exploring how the sky changes with the weather and what is beyond the clouds.

The story "What Ever Next", will allow us to investigate weather conditions and is it safe to explore what 'space' is all about. 'Up up and away'!

Take care enjoy half term, Mrs Sims, Mrs Swannick, Mrs Ross.

Team Courage Spring 1

This half term the children have been learning about where our food comes from. We have read our class book *Where does our food come from?* This has supported our learning of writing and reading a set of instructions. The children have been enjoyed learning about the journey of food and how recipes are followed/made. The children have learnt about how to make biscuits and why you would follow a recipe in order. The children have learnt about how to describe food and how important it is to use precise language in their writing. In Maths, Team Courage have learnt how to use money to make certain amounts and how to make amounts using the smallest amounts of coins/notes. We have been using experiences to apply our learning in the classroom. We have been using part-whole models and number lines to support our understanding. We also almost finished our Multiplication and division unit. The children have been learning their 2, 5, 10 times tables. We have been using arrays and pictorial representation to support our understanding. We will be finishing this topic in Spring 2 and then start to learn about length and height. In Forest schools/nurture the children have been developing their balance and co-ordination skills. We have been using the parachutes, making biscuits, mug cakes and designing our own Forest school.