



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 2023-2024:

Monday 26th February 2024

Friday 12th July 2024

Message from the Principal, Mrs Paula Baines-Chambers:

I can't believe we are nearly half way through this academic year; it is going far too quickly!

I continue to be impressed with our pupils attitude and love towards their learning, both in school and at home. Thank you for supporting your child with reading and accessing the various apps that we have available to use. I am privileged to be able to visit all classes, where the pupils confidently and competently share their knowledge of their learning. We are now in the third year of our curriculum and our pupils are able to discuss and make links to previous learning at Ashwood which is lovely to listen to.

We have recently held our Parents evenings. These are valuable meetings to attend as this gives you the opportunity to see your child's learning, celebrate successes and discuss next steps. We highly value working in partnership with you, so if for any reason you were not able to attend, please speak to your child's teacher to re-book an appointment.

I wish you all a lovely half-term break and look forward to welcoming you back on **Tuesday 27th February** (school is closed to pupils on Monday 26th February).

Mrs Baines-Chambers

Parking:

We please ask for consideration for pedestrians and for our local residents when parents in cars are dropping off their children. It has been very busy around the entrances to school with parents parking on the pavements and stopping in the no parking areas. We have also received reports from local residents regarding parents parking in front of and blocking driveways.

Important dates:

- KS2 SATs Monday 13th-Thursdays 16th May 2024 (Year 6)
- Phonics screening check week commencing 10th June 2024 (Year 1 and Year 2)
- Multiplication tables check within the 2-week period from Monday 3 June 2024 (Year 4)

Staff updates:

We are delighted to share that Mrs McPherson is expecting a baby! She will start her maternity leave after the Easter holidays.

Mrs Brown, who is new to Ashwood, will be teaching Team Kind until Mrs McPherson returns.

Code of Conduct:

Please can we remind you that there is a Parents' Code of Conduct which has been designed to help us develop positive working relationships. Unreasonable conduct in school will not be accepted, for example: demanding to see teaching staff without an appointment or refusing to leave the site when asked politely. All members of the school community have a right to expect that their school is a safe place in which to work and learn.

Nursery Spring 1

This half term we have enjoyed finding out what dinosaurs were and how they roamed the Earth. We have learnt lots of new vocabulary and looked at and labelled the different features. We found out which were carnivores (meat eaters) and which were herbivores (plant eaters). We have immersed ourselves fully in small world play and created lots of stories using our imagination. Our favourite dinosaur was definitely the T-Rex!

As Mathematicians we have continued to subitise within 3 and recognize numerals to 5. We have created the corresponding number blocks and sang lots of number rhymes.

As readers we have enjoyed a range of stories and non-fiction books, we are beginning to understand how print carries meaning and have lots of favourite stories that we enjoy listening to. In our phonics lessons we have been developing our awareness of initial sounds and counting and clapping the syllables in our name.

We have finished this half term learning about Chinese New Year, we found China on the globe and created our own dragons to use in our dancing. Next half term we will be finding out about different animals and their habitats, including pets, nocturnal animals and animals we find in a zoo.

FS2 Spring 1

What a half term our FS2 DREAMers have had! We have loved exploring some of our favourite traditional tales such as The Gingerbread Man, 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. sun-set.

Some highlights of Spring 1 have been learning all about National Story telling week, using maps to find hidden treasure and understanding how important our mental health is during 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. As Geographers, we have learnt about our immediate locality, direction, followed and created our own maps. 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. In computing we have programmed 'Bee bots' and used directional language.

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

Year 2 Spring 1

This half-term, Year 2 have loved learning about plants. They had a plant-tastic trip to Birmingham's Botanical Garden where they saw plants from all around the world. After this, they wrote an information text about plants which has showcased all of their amazing learning. The children also conducted a scientific experiment to understand what plants need to survive. In Maths, they have learned two new math symbols: multiply and divide. During their Geography learning, they have learned the names of the 7 continents and 5 oceans - try testing their knowledge, you should be met with two catchy songs they have loved to learn! During computing, the children have programmed floor robots and debugged some tricky algorithms. They also studied William Morris within art and created some Morris-inspired prints of their own. During music, the children began to use glockenspiels to play along with some songs. They have also enjoyed working as teams within their Jigsaw lessons to build on their collaboration skills.

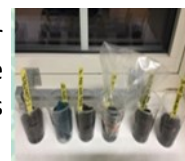
Next half-term, the children will be learning about some influential, significant people who changed the world then ending their half-term by answering, "How could I change the world?".

Year 3 Spring 1

In Maths this half term, Year 3 began by looking at multiplication and division. We have looked at the column method and part-whole models to help us work out multiplication questions and we used number lines and grouping to solve division problems. There was a focus this half term on answering worded questions. The children have reinforced their learning by practicing their timestables on TT Rockstars. Then, we moved on to measurement, celebrating NSPCC number day by measuring each other (and us teachers!) in m, cm and mm.

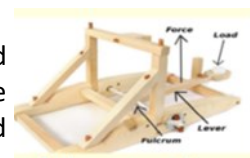
In English this half term, Year 3 began by looking at persuasive letter writing. The children wrote letters to their parents and Mrs Baines-Chambers to persuade them to let them have a pet dragon. Then, we moved on to season poem writing, looking at Autumn is here with the children finishing of the term writing a poem about Spring.

It has been an equally exciting term for our DREAM curriculum. As scientists we have built on our plants knowledge and set up our investigation to find out what a seed needs to germinate and thrive as a healthy plant. We discovered the parts of a flowering plant including the male and female parts that help plants to reproduce.



As musicians, we have been exploring rhythm, pitch, beat and have continued to play violins using a bow! As computer programmers we have been coding.

As historians we continued our journey with the ancient Romans only this time, they had invaded Britain! We discovered how significant the Celts and Romans were for people in the past and now. 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, adapting and evaluating our product.



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 sustainability.

Year 4 Spring 1

Year 4 have had an amazing start to the new year! We have explored Ancient Greece and have worked hard to create a visual timeline of important events. As designers, we have used different techniques such as dyeing, printing and sewing to upcycle a pillowcase and create our very own Ancient Greek Chiton. We loved how these turned out and enjoyed wearing them for our Ancient Greek day. In our art lessons, we've been exploring different techniques in creating pottery and have created some amazing pieces of pottery for our Ancient Greek exhibition. We have read 'Greek Myths and Legends' and used the myths to inspire our very own mythical narrative. We especially loved Theseus and the Minotaur. In computing, we have been programming using Lego to create shapes and patterns. As Mathematicians, we have built on our multiplication and division knowledge and started to times and divide 3-digit numbers by a 1-digit. Next term, we will be learning all about rainforests and different climates. We will use this knowledge to create a persuasive leaflet about deforestation. We will also be writing a narrative story based on a wordless picture book called 'Flood'. In Maths, we are going to build on our knowledge of fractions, we will be using our times-table knowledge to help us with this.

Year 5 Spring 1

This half-term, Year 5 have been exploring the global theme of global awareness and sustainability. In English, we examined plastic pollution. We then explored Fair Trade and wrote a persuasive pitch to highlight its benefits. After exploring the story of The Nowhere Emporium, we wrote a narrative piece based on the book. In Geography, we further discussed Fair Trade and used our knowledge to generate facts and statistics for our persuasive pitch. Our science lessons have allowed us to learn more about animals and humans. We have learnt about the changes humans and animals go through and how they grow. In Maths, we deepened our understanding of multiplication and division, by examining the bus stop method and column multiplication, whilst also beginning to further explore fractions.

Next half term, we will be learning about forces and the slave trade.

Year 6 Spring 1

We're delighted to share the exciting adventures Year 6 have embarked on this half term! From our captivating visit to the Sea Life Centre in Birmingham, where our Year 6 children have explored the wonders of marine life, to our creative endeavours in collagraph printing on hand-stitched drawstring bags, fostering artistic expression and craftsmanship. Additionally, we've delved into the intricacies of biomes, sparking some fantastic discussions about our impact on the climate and the importance of environmental stewardship. Looking ahead to Spring 2 half term, we're gearing up to dive into the fascinating world of the circulatory system, igniting curiosity and learning about the marvels of the human body. As a gentle reminder, our breakfast club and afterschool tutoring continues for Year 6: if your child has received an invitation but hasn't yet signed up, please secure their place via Class Dojo. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Team Friendship Spring 1

In Spring 1, we started our educational journey exploring the basics of dressing for different weather conditions. Our learners have explored appropriate clothing, from warm scarves and hats for chilly days to sunglasses and shorts for warmer weather. We have explored the moon's phases and the planets in our solar system. During our art lessons, we have crafted rockets, designed imaginary planets, and crafted moons of our own. We have learnt how to stamp, use water colours and model moons using clay. Additionally, we've introduced fundamental concepts of time, with students making their own watches, used rulers to measure height, and collaborating on the creation of a large clock. Our learners have been using purple mash to explore technology.

Team Courage Spring 1

In Team Courage we have been exploring beyond the clouds, up to space. We found out how the Earth moves and rotates, which is why we have different seasons and day and night. We were amazed how many facts we have discovered and how to order the information into our own space dictionaries.

This term, for maths, we have explored money and the value of each coin. The children found this challenging but really enjoyed their hard work as they paid for their own treats to enjoy.

Next term, we will be exploring how things grow and what they need to thrive. We will also be looking at different climates and how each country in the world grows different foods. We will also be looking at how beneficial growing your own food would be. Is it healthier for our bodies and is it cheaper to buy from the shops?

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
- 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 or jog bottoms
- Black pumps and **trainers for outdoor PE**
- Sweater for **outdoor PE**