



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:

Friday 12th July 2024

Message from the Principal, Mrs Paula Baines-Chambers:

During this term we have continued to have lots of new pupils join our school; we are nearly full in all years. If you have a child that is due to start Foundation Stage 2 in September, please make sure you have applied for a school place.

Last week, we enjoyed celebrating British Science Week. The week was filled with exciting enrichment opportunities, including our after-school event which proved extremely popular!

We were delighted to build relationships and work in partnership with a senior lecturer in Biomedical Science from Nottingham Trent University, engineers from Toyota and BT, fellow colleagues from Derby Moor Spencer, a former navy officer (now an expert in cyber security), and a Consultant Oncoplastic Breast Surgeon.

This was a great example of 'working together to believe and achieve!'

We continue to invest in our learning environments, ensuring they are the best for our pupils. Over Easter and the Summer holidays, the classrooms will all be getting a fresh coat of paint.

Wishing all our families a lovely Easter break,

Mrs Baines-Chambers

Uniform:

Thank you for working with us to make sure all Ashwood pupils attend school in the correct school uniform, including PE kits. If, for whatever reason you are not able to, please let us know as we are happy to lend uniform. Please can I also remind you, pupils should not be wearing make-up!

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:

Congratulations to Mrs Sian, Mrs Theobald, Mrs Benjamin-Edwards and Mrs Parrell who have recently received a 'long-service' award, having worked at this school for over 25 years!

Sports across school:

This half-term, we have had lots going on in our PE lessons, from balloons in FS to footballs in Year 2! In KS2, we have seen problem solving strategies be applied to multiple invasion games such as football and basketball, as well as games for understanding.

Next half-term, we can look forward to beginning our summer sports. For example, KS2 will be looking at striking and fielding games such as cricket, while some KS1 classes will be delving into racket sports.

We have had multiple extra-curricular activities run this half term, including a Y2 Skipping Festival and our Y5/6 boys and girls football teams have taken part in multiple league and cup games, as well as the occasional friendly! Looking forward to next half term; keep your eyes out for a Y1 Dance Festival, Swimming Galas, Olympic festivals and many more.

Nursery Spring 2

Our DREAMers have had an amazing half term. We have enjoyed finding out about different animals and their habitats including our pets, nocturnal animals, those in the jungle and animals we might find in the zoo. We have immersed ourselves in small world play, sang new songs and read and acted out a range of stories, our favourites being The Tiger who came to tea and Dear Zoo.

As Mathematicians we have explored measures and compared height/length, mass and capacity. We've continued using the number blocks for counting and sung lots of number rhymes to enhance our learning. As artists we have painted some amazing pictures of animals thinking about different techniques, detail and colour. As readers we have been looking at a range of books to learn new vocabulary to use in our play. During outdoor learning we have enjoyed lots of activities, and used our developing fine/gross motor skills by kicking/throwing a ball, confidently using the climbing equipment, exploring and mixing in the mud kitchen and balancing on the bikes and scooters.

We have finished this half term learning about Easter. Next half term we will be finding out how things grow and planting our own beans to grow beanstalks.

FS2 Spring 2

Our FS2 DREAMers have had an "out of this world" half term!

We have loved learning about the different planets in our solar system, singing songs, labelling the key features of the planets and even creating a Space Fact file to help teach others. We then explored what it takes to visit Space, completing our Astronaut Training and building rockets, with some help from our parents and carers. In Phonics, we have revisited our Phase 3 sounds to help us become more confident in reading these in words and using them within our writing. As Mathematicians, we have developed our knowledge of numbers to 10, explored what it means to combine numbers to make a bigger number and started to write our maths knowledge onto paper!

During our new 'Wonderful Wednesday' sessions, we have loved learning how to make a sandwich by following instructions, understanding our 5 senses during forest schools, and learning how to keep ourselves safe during our life skills session. We have also been busy planting pumpkin and courgette seeds in our allotment, and we cannot wait to see their growth over the next few months.

Next half term, we will begin exploring the great outdoors! We will be looking at the life cycles of some of our insects and animals, as well as beginning to understand how plants grow. We will be spending lots of time in our allotment area, planting flowers and beginning to grow some vegetables, with the help of Mr Purdy and his gardening knowledge!

Year 1 Spring 2

Another fantastic half term where year 1 have shown us what 'DREAMers' they are! We have immersed ourselves in the class text 'Tree - Seasons Come Seasons Go'. Through this as writers, we have written a non-chronological report about the Arctic. As readers, we revisited and reviewed phonemes and graphemes, which is helping our spelling. As mathematicians, we have mastered numbers to 50 and counting in multiples of 10. As scientists, we have learnt about the different seasons. As geographers, we have learnt about the weather and how this affects us. As artists, we have explored printing and how to create artwork using a range of objects to print with. As spiritual people, we have learnt about what it means to belong to a faith community. As computer programmers, we have become digital writers.

Next half term we will be learning all about the gruesome events of The Great Fire of London.

Year 2 Spring 2

In Spring 2, Year 2 have been focusing on people who changed the world in History. We learnt about Mary Seacole and Florence Nightingale, Rosa Parks, Cathy Freeman and Tim Peake. We used our knowledge about Mary Seacole and Florence Nightingale to write biographies about them. Our Art linked to our learning about Cathy Freeman; we loved learning about how Aboriginal people in Australia create beautiful artwork from natural materials and how they use these to pass on stories about the world. In Computing, we learnt how to make tally charts and turn them into pictograms using an IT programme and in Music, we continued to learn about pitch, tempo, rhythm, texture and the sounds that different instruments make, including our own voices. For DT, we designed, made and evaluated moving pictures to show Tim Peake's rocket jetting off into space. We enjoyed learning about multiplying, dividing and fractions in Maths - now we know whether a pizza is divided fairly into halves or quarters! In RE, we learnt about lots of different celebrations and enjoyed playing a Hanukkah game called Dreidel. Finally, in PE, we developed our ball skills but we loved going to the Skipping Festival with the sports coaches.

Next half term, we will learn about Pakistan including comparing Derby to the birthplace of a significant person who was born there, Malala Yousafzai. We will be answering our topic enquiry question: Would your life be the same if you lived in Pakistan?

Year 3 Spring 2

This half term in English we have been learning the skills we need to write an effective leaflet about reducing waste at home and at school. Then, we researched different ways to reduce waste using our reading book, 'Guardians of the Planet'. Our final leaflets explain creative ways for us to reduce waste which we can apply to our homes and schools. What excellent Eco-warriors Year 3 are!

Maths has been full of fraction fun this term! We have been looking at a range of food including pizza, explaining that if you divide it into equal slices, each slice represents a fraction of the whole pizza. We now know the difference between a unit and non-unit fraction and have been learning how to add, subtract fractions and use a fraction wall to find equivalent fractions.

In the DREAM curriculum we have been learning all about sustainability! From settlements in Geography, looking at how we can make settlements more sustainable to lights in science finding out the best sources of light we can use! We also have learnt the names of fruits in French and how to say which ones we like. Lastly, we have explored how to draw using line, tone and texture and creating an art piece inspired by L.S Lowry!

Year 4 Spring 2

Year 4 have loved Spring 2! We have explored rainforests and climates around the globe. We particularly enjoyed comparing our own deciduous forests to tropical rainforests and learning about each layer. As artists, we have used different techniques such as pinching, rolling and joining to create tiles inspired by rainforests. In our science lessons, we've been exploring different animals and how to classify them using keys. Did you know humans are classified as a vertebrate because we have a backbone? We have started to read 'Jungle Drop' and are enjoying the character development of Fibber and Fox. We cannot wait to see how it ends! In computing, we have been using photo editing software to edit images and have developed our skills each week. We now know how to crop, rotate, recolour, clone and even combine images. As Mathematicians, we have built on our knowledge of fractions and have continued practicing our times table knowledge in our number sense lessons. Next term, we will be reading 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory', this will inspire our writing and feed into our DREAM Curriculum lessons where we will become chocolatiers in Design and Technology. In History we will be exploring the Mayans. In Maths, we will continue practising our quick recall of times tables and expand our knowledge of decimals and time.

Year 5 Spring 2

This half term, Year 5 students have been immersed in a wide array of enriching learning experiences. They delved into the history of slavery, exploring its impact on society and reflecting on its lasting repercussions. Additionally, they have begun their topic on forces, which will lead into next half term, and were very lucky to go to the Magna Science Centre to support their Science learning. Year 5 have also participated in the Leaders Award competition, showcasing their creativity and persuasive writing skills as they designed innovative inventions aimed at addressing real-world challenges. Furthermore, Year 5 were honoured to welcome esteemed visitors for British Science Week, including a surgeon and a cybersecurity expert, who shared valuable insights and inspired them into new careers. They have continued their participation in the Mini Police programme and had the opportunity to actively contribute to community safety by monitoring drivers' speeds with speed guns and advocating for responsible driving habits.

We are already looking forward to our learning next half term, as we will be learning about mountains in Geography and continuing our Forces learning in Science with lots of active lessons to help us to consolidate our learning. Additionally, we will be continuing our mini-police sessions and swimming on a Wednesday.

Year 6 Spring 2

What an incredible half term it has been for our Year 6 students! We've embarked on an exciting journey delving into the fascinating world of the human circulatory system, sparking curiosity and discovery. From crafting interactive heart models to channelling our inner artists with sculptures inspired by George Seagal, our children have showcased their creativity and dedication. Furthermore, they've honed their writing skills by crafting detailed non-chronological reports about the heart and engaging in thoughtful discussions through balanced arguments about Xenotransplantation. We're bursting with pride witnessing the remarkable progress our children have made, especially as they diligently tackled practice SATs papers, demonstrating their growing confidence and capabilities. It's been heart-warming to see our students lending a helping hand at the Science Fair, embodying the spirit of collaboration and community. We were also honoured to welcome inspiring guests, including an oncoplastic surgeon and a cybersecurity engineer, who shared their invaluable insights and experiences with our eager learners. And let's not forget our school football team's outstanding 12-0 win, highlighting the importance of teamwork, perseverance, and sportsmanship. As we look forward to the next half term, we're excited to explore our explosive volcanoes topic and continue nurturing our students' writing and mathematical skills in preparation for their SATs. We encourage parents to continue supporting your child's learning at home, even just a few questions a day can keep the learning remembered. Children will have some activities on their LBQ independent study to aid in this. Thank you for your ongoing support in our journey to ignite a lifelong love for learning in our Year 6 children.

Team Friendship Spring 2

Team Friendship has delved into the fascinating world of plants in Spring 2. Through hands-on experiences, our young learners have immersed themselves in the art of growing and planting, fostering a deeper understanding of nature. From tiny seeds, they have nurtured the growth of cress and grass, tending to their needs with daily watering and care. Designing gardens has allowed us to communicate our likes and dislikes for an outside space. Beyond this, we have been engaging in fine motor tasks like cutting, sticking, drawing, and assembling jigsaw puzzles has honed their dexterity and coordination. In mathematics, the exploration has been equally captivating, as the children have mastered counting up to 20 and have been discovering 3D shapes. We have enjoyed using our construction area, where we have been building castles, houses and many other buildings, developing our gross motor skills. Exploring the world through scent and taste has furthered our understanding of our senses. Through the use of BeeBots, we have developed our coding skills, embracing the technology in playful learning adventures.

Team Courage Spring 2

Team Courage have been so busy this term learning about the food we eat and where our food comes from. The children enjoyed discovering how food grows and were surprised to know how much food we grow in this country! From fields, farms and factories to our plates, we discovered information to keep us healthy. Of course, we need to try small treats now and again! So we looked carefully at food packaging and what they tell us about their contents. Did you know if you eat a very, very large amount of carrots you could turn orange!

This term, for maths, children have worked hard to develop their knowledge in multiplication. The children need to continue practising so we will send home homework for them to do at Easter.

Next term, we will be reading 'The Friendship Bench' by Wendy Meddour and looking at how we make friends and why friends are important to us.

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