



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 2024-2025:

Friday 14th February

Friday 2nd May

Friday 11th July

Message from the Principal, Mrs Paula Baines-Chambers:

I have been so pleased to have welcomed lots of new families into our Ashwood community, we now have over 670 pupils attending our school which is so lovely! We are extremely lucky to have such a diverse school, where we learn about, share and celebrate our different cultures - we have over 40 languages spoken in school and some extremely skilled pupils who speak multiple languages!

Thank you for continuing to support our events; our children loved the Valentines disco and hands-on STEM afterschool event; we have lots of budding scientists at Ashwood!

I wish you all a lovely Easter break and hope you have many magical moments!

Paula Baines-Chambers

Principal

Term Dates 2024-2025:

Spring term

Monday 24 February 2025 to Friday 4 April 2025

Summer term

Tuesday 22 April 2025 to Friday 23 May 2025

Monday 2 June 2025 to Thursday 24 July 2025

Important dates 2024-2025:

- KS2 SATs Monday 12th -Thursday 15th May 2025
(Year 6)
- Phonics screening check week commencing 9th June 2025 (Year 1 and Year 2)
- Multiplication tables check within the 2-week period from Monday 2nd June 2025 (Year 4)

We would like to say a big thank you and goodbye to Mrs Leak!

Thank you for your commitment and the dedication that you have given to Ashwood; we are going to miss you and wish you all the best!

Mrs McPherson will join Ms Eade in teaching Team Joy.

This term has been an exciting one in P.E., with children thoroughly enjoying their football, tennis, and netball units. It has been amazing to see the progress they have made, developing their skills, teamwork, and confidence along the way.

We are incredibly proud of our Year 5 students, who have represented the school brilliantly in a variety of extracurricular events, including netball, grass track cycling, and the biggest girls' football event ever! Meanwhile, our Year 3 and 4 pupils had a fantastic time competing in their tag rugby tournament, showing great enthusiasm and sportsmanship.

Looking ahead to next term, we are excited to introduce Year 2, 4, and 6 to striking and fielding skills, while Year 1 and 3 will be exploring net and wall games. Year 5 will continue to build on their football skills, and we can't wait to see their progress.

Well done to all our pupils for their hard work this term – we look forward to another fantastic term of sport ahead!

Nursery Spring 2

This half term we welcomed some new children into nursery, and they have made a great start, our older children have enjoyed helping them to settle and teach them the nursery expectations which has been lovely to see.

As DREAMers we have thoroughly enjoyed immersing ourselves into SPACE! We have loved the story 'Whatever Next,' and used this to imagine what it might be like travelling to the moon. Our role play area was changed into a Space Station so we could explore and use new vocabulary in our imaginative play. We made 3D rockets, a collage of Planet Earth, created star constellations and painted pictures of the moon. We learnt new rhymes about the planets and danced like we were walking in space. As scientists we made our own moon sand by mixing flour and oil, then used this to create craters. We experimented further by adding bicarbonate of soda, rolling into rocks and freezing them, before squirting vinegar from a pipette to watch them fizz, we were all in awe!

As mathematicians we have continued to explore a range of number and counting games. We are becoming more confident at recognising, counting and ordering numbers to five, as well as quickly subitizing within three. We have also developed a deeper understanding of measures by comparing length, weight and capacity, the warmer weather has given us lots of opportunities to explore this outdoors through large block play, sand and water.

Next half term we will be 'Down on The Farm,' thinking about what a traditional working farm looks like and who might live there.

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 and labelling the key features of the planets. We were introduced to 'Gail the Snail' who was an ambitious achiever and went to space! The children loved writing their own positive affirmations to help them believe that they can achieve their dreams! We then explored what it takes to visit Space, completing our Astronaut Training and building rockets, with great 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! The children have loved learning about equal numbers and doubles too!

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.

Next half term, we will begin exploring the great outdoors! Our core texts will be Supertato, Tad and Superworm, which are all great texts! 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 during our Wonderful Wednesday sessions!

In Phonics, we will start to build our confidence in reading longer words, using the "chunking" method to break the word into smaller parts. We will continue to build on our writing skills and refine our handwriting! We will continue to secure our knowledge of numbers and their bonds to 10 and start to recognise the patterns when counting to 20 and beyond!

Year 1 Spring 2

WOW - our Year 1 children are incredible. You have once again showed us what 'DREAMers' you truly are throughout this wonderful half term! We have immersed ourselves in the class text 'The Enormous Turnip'. Through this as writers, we have innovated and written amazing 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 50 and counting in multiples of 10.

As scientists, we have learnt about common plants and trees, their basic structure and how they grow.

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 pastels. 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 glorious British weather and our seasons!

Year 2 Spring 2

Year 2 have had a wonderful half term in the lead up to Easter. They have worked exceptionally hard this term and have showed our dream expectations in and out each day. The children have been super busy in our English lessons. They have written not one but two pieces of writing! A fabulous recount of our amazing trip to the Birmingham Botanical Gardens last term and a beautifully published biography of Marie Curie's life. Our young mathematicians have been exploring some more multiplication and division before working extremely hard to understand fractions, they even cut up some bread into halves and quarters (and they got to eat it!). Furthermore, our historians have been learning all about significant people in history from the Derby legend Florence Nightingale to Tim Peak the amazing astronaut. The children even chose their own significant person and dressed up to re-tell their stories. And also, our own aspiring scientists have been conducting their own science experiment growing sunflowers. We are so proud of them all and can't wait for next term!

Next term the children will be learning all about how their life would be different if they lived in Pakistan and they will look at a new significant person called Malala Yousafzai.

Year 3 Spring 2

This half term in Writing, year 3 have collaborated with the Eco club to write a leaflet on reducing waste around school. We have researched recycling, composting and reducing food waste and have come up with creative ways to apply these in school.

As mathematicians, we applied our knowledge of the 2, 5, 10, 3, 4 and 8 times tables and deepened our understanding of commutativity, whereby in addition and multiplication you can swap around the numbers and still get the same area. This helped us to generate fact families using inverse subtraction and division. Fractions has been the focus for maths this term, whereby we learnt about unit, non-unit fractions, compared fractions, have begun to understand equivalent fractions and have solved addition and subtraction problems. Want to have some fun with your child at home with 'food fractions'? Using foods with regular shapes, ask your child questions like, 'if I cut the cake into 8 equal pieces what will each piece be?' Fractions of amounts could involve food or objects for example, 'we have 12 pens in the packet. There are 4 of us. What fraction of the pens can we each have? How many pens would that be?' Sign up to one of our clubs using the Gateway app. We have spaces in the Times Tables Rock Stars and the LBQ independent learning club.

The spring half-term has been wonderfully hands on for our Year 3's. They have created junk models in English, which has tied in nicely to their core text in reading 'Guardians of the Planet', a book they have all found super interesting, so don't be surprised if the children are offering advice on how to save energy in your homes! As well as this, the children have participated in a rail project as part of British Science week. Again, this was a brilliant opportunity to recycle old shoe boxes and create a moving locomotive, which they all enjoyed test driving. In science, we have explored forces and impacts using marbles on different rough and smooth surfaces to create friction. In Geography, we have created sketch maps of our local area and designed our very own sustainable settlement. The children are looking forward to visiting the nearby, rural settlement of Bakewell, during their upcoming trip. Whilst in art, we transformed into the artist Lowry and produced artwork inspired by his matchstick men pieces. Well done Year 3, you have worked super hard this term! Looking ahead to next term, we will continue our journey along our timeline and discover what happened in Britannia next.

Year 4 Spring 2

This term has been packed with exciting learning opportunities within Year 4! In maths, we have been exploring fractions and decimals, while in English, we have been writing persuasive letters to Willy Wonka, convincing him to let us visit his factory. Our creative curriculum has taken us back in time to learn about the Ancient Maya, their civilization, and the origins of chocolate. In art, we created collagraphs to print Maya masks, and in computing, we developed our photo editing skills. In French, we have been learning classroom vocabulary, and in music, we continue to enjoy playing the Pbuzz. RE lessons have focused on Jesus and PE has been all about netball. We have also been fortunate to take part in Forest School sessions on Thursdays, as well as exciting trips to St Bartholomew's Church and Cadbury World! Next term, we will be focusing on exciting topics across our subjects, including the Amazon rainforest, global sustainability, habitats, textiles, Eid, relationships, cricket, and music.

Year 5 Spring 2

This half term, we have learnt all about fair trade and trading routes around the world. In English we have written a persuasive vlog about the benefits of fair trade as well as writing a recount about the container ship crisis in the Suez Canal in 2021. In Maths we have learnt all about multiplying fractions as well as comparing and ordering decimals. Our DT topic has been mechanisms and we all now have a good understanding of what a cam mechanism is, how it works and how to build one. In science we have learnt about the human life cycle, from baby to old age and all the steps in between. We have started learning to play the ocarina in music lessons and can now play several well-known tunes. During our geography lessons, we have discovered the importance of global trade and where the UK imports and exports good from.

Next half term, we will be kicking off our space topic with a trip to the National Space Centre and then learning all about the planets in our solar system. We will apply this in geography to help us understand time zones. Our book next term is the War of the Worlds, based on the novel by H.G. Wells, this will be the basis of our own narrative.

Year 6 Spring 2

This half term we have been learning all about the circulatory system and how to have a healthy heart. We started the term with hands-on experience lessons, where we created a working model of the heart and a physical activity to demonstrate the circulatory system. Following this, the children were lucky enough to observe a live dissection of a heart, where they could see all the different parts that we were learning about in our science lessons. This gave them a foundational knowledge of the heart in order to write an explanation text about the circulatory system and how it helps our body to function. The children also used their scientific investigation skills to determine the impact of exercise on the heart rate. Furthermore, in our Jigsaw lessons, we discussed how to support our own emotional health and wellbeing, whilst supporting those around us with theirs.

We have also been working with Derby County Trust, who have delivered weekly 'Resilient Rammy' sessions, where pupils have reflected on the challenges ahead and how they can boost their emotional resilience.

Wearing pyjamas, or dressing as their favourite characters, the children celebrated World Book Day by taking part in a live online event. They met footballers and the authors of 'The Football School Encyclopaedia,' who facilitated a quiz and question and answer session.

Many children have attended our after-school tutoring and breakfast club, to support their progress and increase their confidence in anticipation of SATs in May. We appreciate all their hard work and commitment to their learning.

Next half term, we are looking forward to finding out about different Natural Disasters and their impact on people around the world. We will be reading a new text - Holes by Louis Sachar - and developing our knowledge of how to keep ourselves safe online on Internet Safety Day. In RE, we will be posing the question, 'Is it better to express your beliefs in arts and architecture, or in charity and generosity?' and we will be visiting Derby Cathedral as part of that study.

Children will be taking part in national SATs week Monday 12th May - Thursday 15th May, where they will have the opportunity to apply all the skills that they have learnt.

Team Friendship Spring 2

This half term Team Friendship have been finding out what happens next in a range of traditional tales. We enjoyed reading the story 'Jack and the Beanstalk' and finding out about the characters. We looked at beans and started to grow our own beanstalks. I wonder how tall they will grow now you have taken them home to plant. We have read the story 'The Three Billy Goats Gruff' and used a range of materials to build bridges for the goats to cross the river. Team Friendship used their computing skills to press the buttons on the Bee-Bot robots and developed their prior learning by trying to make the bee-bot travel along the bridge without falling off.

On Shrove Tuesday we tasted pancakes with a variety of different toppings to see which we would like best. This was very tasty. We have also been making cards for Mother's Day and Easter and learning about these celebrations.

Next half term, we will be finding out about different types of transport through a range of texts and rhymes. We will learn key Makaton signs for different types of transport alongside new vocabulary.

We hope you all have a good Easter holiday. From everyone in Team Friendship.

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 and may be fined.

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 1.

You will have noticed that we have a planned inset day on **Friday 2nd May**. The following Monday, **5th May** is a Bank Holiday, therefore this is an ideal opportunity to take a short mini-break that will not have an impact on your child's learning.