



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 11th July 2025

Message from the Principal, Mrs Paula Baines-Chambers:

Firstly, I'd like to share how extremely proud I am of our Year 6 pupils and the attitude that they have shown during their SATs tests; they have been a credit to our school! I have also been proud of the commitment and determination to succeed and be the best that they can by attending breakfast and after school tuition. I have no doubt that this attitude will continue as the children transition to their secondary schools.

As we are approaching the Summer, just a reminder that holidays during term-time are not authorised and may incur a fine, this includes returning late in September (pupils return on Monday 8th September). Our attendance still remains below our target and the national, sitting at 93.6%. Our persistent absence (PA) remains too high, and higher than the national - our PA is 18.9%.

Our next parents evenings are on July 14th and 15th. We would love to see as many of you as possible at these meetings, where your child is also invited to attend, as their annual report will be shared by your child and their class teacher. I feel privileged to read the reports for all Ashwood pupils - it is so lovely, as the reports showcase what a DREAMer your child has been during the academic year! You will be able to sign-up for the meeting next half term.

Wishing all our families a lovely half term break, making lots of memories,

Mrs Baines-Chambers

Our inset days for next academic year are:

Thursday 4th September 2025

Friday 5th September 2025

Monday 5th January 2026

Friday 13th February 2026

Friday 10th July 2026

Important dates:

- 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)

Sports across school:

This half term has been full of energy and teamwork across all year groups! Year 2, 4 and 6 have been focusing on rounders and cricket, developing key skills like striking, fielding and teamwork. Meanwhile, the rest of the school has been learning volleyball, working on communication, coordination, and movement on the court.

We've also had some fantastic opportunities to attend DCCT team-building events, where pupils worked together on challenges and had lots of fun developing their leadership and collaboration skills.

Looking ahead to next half term, the big event on the horizon is Sports Day! In PE, we'll be turning our attention to athletics, practising running, jumping and throwing to help us perform our best and represent our houses with pride.

The house points leaderboard is incredibly close, so every lesson, effort and achievement counts! Keep pushing to become a PE Superstar and earn those valuable house tokens. Sports Day is a huge opportunity to score points before the final results are announced.

Don't forget — the winning house will earn free family passes to Moorways Water Park! Let's give it everything we've got!

Nursery Summer 1

This half term may have been incredibly short, but the children have still managed to enjoy lots of new learning. As DREAMers we have thoroughly enjoyed immersing ourselves into our topic On the Farm. We have looked at the different animals who live there, the names of the baby animals, and where they might sleep. We decided the farmer has a very busy job!

To develop our oral literacy skills we have been singing lots of new rhymes including: Five little ducks, Old McDonald had a farm and Little Bo Peep. Our favourite stories were The Little Red, The Pig in the Pond and Who is on the Farm Spot? To really enrich this topic, we are going to be visiting a real farm soon so we can meet some of the animals we have learned about.

As mathematicians we have been exploring Positional language, we read the story Rosie's Walk and thought about the different ways she travelled around the farm. To enhance our learning further we have a favourite song called Where's the Monkey? We love to join in with our puppets and act out the different positions the monkey hides in (on, in, under, behind, next to, between).

Next half term we will be learning about things we can plant and grow, including our own cress and beanstalks. We will also be having a graduation teddy bears picnic to celebrate the end of the nursery year.

FS2 Summer 1

Our FS2 DREAMers have had yet another great half term!

We started our learning by finding vegetables that had been captured by the green, Evil Pea! The children were so determined to find the Evil Pea that they created their own Wanted Posters and stuck them around school! The children of Ashwood joined in to look for the Evil Pea, and thanks to the Year 6's, he was caught!

Our core text 'Tad' supported the children to understand a frog's life cycle. They were able to write the process of change from a tadpole just born, to a tadpole with long and strong legs! Keep an eye out for frogspawn in your local ponds! During Wonderful Wednesday, we have enjoyed planting some of our own seeds to grow at home and learnt how to look after them by watering them and giving them sunlight! Please keep us updated with how they grow, it would be lovely to share this with the whole class! We are now reading our core text 'Superworm' where the children are using their imagination to come up with different uses for him, including a fairground ride, charger and a necklace!

Next half term, we are going to develop our exploration into the Great Outdoors. We will learn about our environment and how we can become Eco-warriors by picking up litter and warning others of its dangers. We will be learning about Antarctica and compare the climate there, to England. We are also going to be learning all about the different countries in our world and how we can travel to these places. We will spend some time reflecting on our first year in school and think ahead to our new start in Year 1. We will spend some time in our new classes! Such a lot of fun and exploration to fit in before the end of the year - we can't wait!

Year 1 Summer 1

Wow, we have crammed so much learning and fun into such a short half term!

As scientists, we have learned all about the four seasons; we know the order they come in, the typical weather in each season and what happens to the wildlife. Alongside this, as geographers, we have explored lots about the weather, which has included making our own weather forecasts and learning the points on a compass! Through this as writers, we have written amazing non-chronological reports all about the seasons and seasonal changes. As readers, we are very busy getting ready for the Phonics Screening Check next half term – we are doing so well at remembering our phonemes! As mathematicians, we have learned to count in 2s, 5s and 10s by making equal groups, as well as learning all about what half and quarter are. As spiritual people, we have learned about what it means to belong and the different sacred places for different religions. In computing, we have continued our learning using the laptops to write digitally and are now all super at changing the colour and font of our writing! In PE, we have really enjoyed working as a team to play volleyball.

Next half term we will be learning all about a coastal environment, Cleethorpes, and we are so looking forward to the beach!

Year 2 Summer 1

The start of summer term has been as amazing as expected for Year 2. Despite the occasional heat and fluctuating weather, Year 2 have shown constant determination and resilience, resulting in a beautiful half term of learning. Our young mathematicians figured out the intricacies of position, direction and movement. They tackled the challenge of 'left' and 'right' and made us so proud, though I still wouldn't ask them for directions to Morrisons. After, we engaged with the concept of time and explored the analogue clock, this topic really made Year 2 tick as they used their ambitious attitudes to explore the concept and gain a far deeper understanding. In English, we explored fiction narrative again, combining our Geography topic of Pakistan to write a beautiful piece on Malala's Magic Pencil. The children imagined what they would draw with a magic pencil, ranging from more good people to make the world a better place, to a new Lamborghini to make the car faster. To end this term, we will explore poetry to give Michael Rosen a run for his money. For our creative curriculum units, we have been exploring the beauty and wonder of Pakistan, examining its physical features, landmarks, comparisons to England and human features. We are now focusing on DT, where we will be making wraps and exploring a variety of cooking techniques. Hopefully this will give you a sous chef in the kitchen!

Key dates:

Egyptian Dress Up Day: 9th June

Year 2 Derby Museum Trip: 18th and 25th June

DREAM Assembly: 21st July

Year 3 Summer 1

To begin the summer term in maths, Year 3 explored the topics of money and time. The unit commenced with a focus on understanding the value and use of coins and notes, supported using manipulatives to reinforce key concepts. Pupils then progressed to applying their knowledge by adding and subtracting amounts and learning about calculating change. Given the short nature of the term, year 3 moved on promptly to learning about time, where they engaged in a creative activity by designing their own clocks using Roman numerals. At Year 3, we recognise that time and money can be challenging concepts, but the pupils approached each lesson with determination and enthusiasm, demonstrating excellent progress and resilience throughout.

In DREAM curriculum and afternoon learning we have learnt LOTS this half term. We have moved on from the Roman's in History to the Anglo-Saxon's and how they invaded Britain and the impact they had on modern day Britain. We have learnt about where the tribes settled, created our own Anglo-Saxon settlement, created a BIG timeline of Anglo-Saxon events and even had an experience day where we have dressed up as Anglo-Saxon's to try their food and play their games. This linked to our reading book, *The King who Threw Away his Throne*, a tale of a King losing his throne to the Saxon's and how his servant saved himself and the king. In D&T we have gone Digital, designing a wearable accessory to wear in the dark and programming a microbit to light up to meet our design criteria. In French, we have learnt about ice-cream flavours so we can order our own – delicious. RE has taught us all about Christianity – important Christian celebrations, objects and their place of worship.

Dough disco has been a popular addition to warm up our muscles in readiness for our handwriting sessions and children are keen to share the spelling patterns we are focussing on whilst reading and writing. Our English lessons this term, started with a treasure hunt! As readers we followed the clues and solved the mystery questions to reveal a star. We decided to keep the star and named it. As authors we used drama and oral retelling to write our very own narrative to accompany a picture book. Year 3 showcased their talent by taking on different roles and acting out scenarios to reflect the images linked to each aspect of the narrative, the beginning build up, problem, resolution and ending. It was great to see Year 3 using skills such as, expanded noun phrases, precise verbs and a range of punctuation. In addition to these skills, we used non-human objects to describe the mood, wrote speech and similes. We are looking forward to reading each other's narratives and celebrating our achievements.

Year 4 Summer 1

This half term, Year 4 have been working hard to deepen their understanding of decimals in maths and have explored how to write clear instructions and engaging leaflets in English. In science, we've been learning about living things and their habitats, which linked brilliantly to our geography topic on rainforests. In DT, we've been developing our sewing skills through cross stitch, and in computing we've enjoyed experimenting with photo editing. Our French lessons took us "Au Salon de Thé", where we practised speaking in role, and in PSHE, we explored the importance of healthy relationships. We also learned about how different festivals are celebrated around the world. It's been a creative and exciting term of learning!

Next half term, we'll be exploring poems and narrative writing in English, and learning all about money in maths. Our science focus will be on electricity and building electrical circuits in DT, while in geography we'll be following the journey of rivers. In computing, we'll continue our programming unit, and in PSHE we'll be learning about families and changes to our bodies. We'll also be learning about the importance of Ramadan. Another brilliant half term awaits!

Year 5 Summer 1

This half term, we have explored all about space and time zones around the world. In English we have written a narrative based on the novel *The War of the Worlds*. In Maths we have discovered the relationships between decimals, fractions and percentages as well as area and perimeter. In science we have gained an understanding of the rotation of the Earth and the orbiting of the planets around the Sun. During our geography lessons, we have learnt about the Meridians dividing the Earth and how the rotation of the Earth effects the time zones and day and night. In French, we have been looking at clothing, focusing on identifying and naming.

Next half term, we are looking at a new period of history, the Stuarts, where we will be studying in detail the Gunpowder Plot. Our book next half term is *Black Powder*, which we will be focusing on in our reading lessons, and the themes of which we will use as a basis for our balanced argument on whether we should abolish the monarchy.

Year 6 Summer 1

Wow—what an incredible half term it's been for Year 6! The children have shown outstanding attitude, **resilience**, and commitment, and we are thrilled to say they have now completed their SATs. We couldn't be prouder of how they approached the tests—with focus, maturity, and a real sense of **determination**. Alongside preparing for SATs, pupils have been working hard to earn their engagement marks through Breakfast Club and Tutoring, and we're excited to celebrate these efforts next half term. Pupils who have earned 14 or more marks will be invited to our 'Activity Fest', those with 21 or more can enjoy the fun-filled 'Game Show Event', and those reaching an amazing 55 marks or more will be treated to a special meal and cinema night.

In the classroom, we've continued to build our maths and reading skills, and in Geography we've explored natural disasters—learning about volcanoes and tectonic plates through hands-on activities like testing jelly structures during simulated earthquakes and using biscuits to model plate movement. In Art, pupils studied mosaic artist Isaiah Zagar and created their own vibrant collages inspired by his work.

With one final half term to go, we're looking forward to a memorable end to primary school. The upcoming weeks include Sports Morning, where pupils can showcase their skills and team spirit, as well as our final Parent's Evening—a chance to reflect on achievements and discuss the journey ahead. We'll also be supporting children through their secondary school transition days, an exciting but sometimes emotional time. Please don't hesitate to get in touch if your child has any worries—we are here to help them feel confident and supported. And of course, we'll be ending the year in style with our Leavers' Assembly, the much-anticipated Year 6 Prom, and a fantastic end-of-year trip—more details coming soon.

It's a very special time, and we can't wait to make every Magical moment count.

Team Friendship Summer 1

This half term Team Friendship have been finding out about different types of transport. We enjoyed reading the story 'We all go travelling by' and using different actions and voice sounds for each type of transport.

We have enjoyed playing with different small world scenes, featuring a range of vehicles, particularly the diggers with cereal. We have made race tracks for the cars and liked seeing whose car would get to the bottom without falling off.

We have been singing the nursery rhyme 'The Wheels on the Bus' and using a communication board to say which verse we are singing next. As part of our art activities, we used boxes to create our own junk modelling buses, we were all proud of our creations.

Team Friendship have started their weekly sensory cooking sessions, tasting new things and practising using a knife to spread jam onto bread to make a sandwich. We also made a fruit salad and used a knife to chop some of our fruits.

Next half term, we will be finding out about the seaside and exploring what we might find there. We will learn key Makaton signs for some seaside items and taking part in lots of sand and water activities.

Team Courage Summer 1

Team Courage have enjoyed learning about different vehicles and what we use them for and why. The children have shown excellent knowledge and could understand why a vehicle was used, especially learning about canal boats. Did you know, canal boats were used to transport goods all around the country! We have also discovered old and new vehicles and discussed which we prefer.

Team Courage is excited about their trip to Castle Donnington Aeroplane Park, where we can explore and sit inside different aeroplanes. We will be making our own planes and testing that they do fly!

After half term, Team Courage will be finding out about the seaside. We will be discovering what happens at the seaside and using our senses to explore the smell, touch, hear and to see the seaside! I'm sure we will taste some chips and a nice ice-cream as well!

ECO club:

The Eco-Committee continue to work hard to keep the school clean with their weekly litter picks and help in the canteen to reduce food waste. They have been following up with each assigned class student to ensure we are continuing to use less energy by turning off the lights and SMART boards when not in use and rewarding the best class during Friday DREAM assemblies.

We have a Severn Trent whole school assembly about rivers coming up, and since it fits in nicely with their geography, Year 4 will also take part in a workshop on rivers.

Mr Billington and Mrs Parkin have been working hard towards our Climate Action plan and are implementing measures to make our school more sustainable in the future.

Attendance:

As you know, 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 report your child's absence from school by calling our main number 348356 and choosing option 1.