



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:

Wednesday 4th September 2024
Friday 25th October
Friday 14th February
Friday 2nd May
Friday 11th July

Message from the Principal, Mrs Paula Baines-Chambers:

Wow, another year has quickly gone again and what a journey it has been! Some highlights from this year that stand out for me are maintaining the IQM Inclusive School Award with Centre of Excellence. Our Eco-Committee were successful in meeting the requirements for the Eco-Schools Green Flag Award, we were awarded the Gold Status School Mental Health Award by Carnegie Centre of Excellence for Mental Health in Schools, following our reaccreditation and also, we achieved Gold in the School Games Mark; this is a government-led awards scheme to reward schools for their commitment to the development of competition across their school and into the community.

Ashwood certainly is a place for our pupils to DREAM and be aspirational and I am extremely proud of them! It has been a pleasure to have welcomed so many new pupils into our inclusive school community, with over 182 joining us throughout the year.

We have an inset day on Wednesday 4th September, the pupils first day will be **Thursday 5th September**.

Wishing you all a lovely summer of fun, making memories!

Mrs Baines-Chambers

Term Dates 2024-2025:

Autumn term

Wednesday 4 September 2024 to Friday 25 October 2024
Monday 4 November 2024 to Friday 20 December 2024

Spring term

Monday 6 January 2025 to Friday 14 February 2025
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

Uniform expectations:

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 and black or grey trouser shorts for summer.

If your child has outgrown their uniform or are moving on to secondary school, we welcome uniform donations.

Please use the summer holidays to purchase the correct school uniform. If your child is entitled to free-school meals, you should have been issued a uniform voucher to support with purchasing the correct uniform.

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**)

Goodbye and hello:

We would like to say a big thank you to the following staff who are leaving Ashwood at the end of this term, we are grateful for all your hard work. Mrs Clamp, Miss Umney and Mr Edwards who are moving to another Spencer Trust School. We also say goodbye to Miss Kausar, Miss Bassnett, and Mr Smith - we wish you all the best in your new schools. We are pleased to welcome Mrs Marsh, Miss Merrey, Mr Allen, Miss Brocklebank, Miss Taylor, Miss Ratcliff and Mrs Swain.

Nursery Summer 2

Team Creative have had an amazing year, and we can't quite believe how quick it has gone! This is the last half term for most of our children as next term they start full time school. Most have attended their transition days and spent time with their new teachers.

This term has been extremely busy in nursery with lots of learning around our transport topic. We've enjoyed lots of new stories, our favourites were, The Train Ride, Mr Gumpy's Outing and The Naughty Bus. Our role play area was changed into a train station so we could use our imagination and travel on make believe journeys. As artists we made paper airplanes to fly, boats out of recycled materials to float, and dipped cars in paint to make patterns with the wheels.

Although the weather hasn't been the great, we've still made the most of some water play during outdoor learning with bubbles, foam and whisks. Team Creative have continued enjoying the large wooden climbing frames and are now riding the bikes at great speed!

We enjoyed joining in with the school celebrations for the Euros and thinking about our selected country Ireland. We made Irish Soda bread (which was delicious) and participated in some Irish Dancing to the song, The Irish Rover.

We will finish this half term with a teddy bears picnic as we say goodbye to those leaving us. Next half term we will be welcoming some new families into Team Creative and sharing our topic of People Who help us.

FS2 Summer 2

Wow, wow, wow! We cannot believe the year is almost over!

For our children, the journey within their first year of school has helped them to become independent, resilient and ambitious achievers! They have learnt how to read and write confidently, as well as securing their number knowledge and using it in practice. They have made special friendships with new children and learnt how to be helpful and understanding of others feeling. Most importantly, the progress that each child has made within their time in Reception is something that has made all of us SO proud. Looking back over the year, here are a few things that have made the Reception 23/24 cohort a year to remember! Our Sparkle and Shine Christmas performance, the trip to visit Santa at The National Forest Adventure Farm, forest school time spent making dens, learning the planet song, growing our own vegetables, the visit to Bluebells Dairy Farm and watching how ice cream is made, and finally our last DREAM assembly where the children got to sing 'A Million Dreams' to their grown-ups!

We are so proud of all the children in Reception, and we know that they will thrive in Year 1!

Year 1 Summer 2

WOW! How fast has this year gone?

The Year 1 children have impressed us with how they have matured and their love of learning this year! Our learning this half term has been focused around the book 'The Lighthouse Keeper's Picnic' - we innovated the story with our own exciting endings! We showed off our fantastic phonic skills as we had our Phonic Screening Test! In Maths, we have learnt about money and time - this is the first time we have touched on this, and we were very good! In the our creative lessons we have concentrated on Geography and learnt all about the coast. In Art, we have created beautiful coastal collages and finally in D&T we have created yummy, healthy fruit kebabs!

This year our magical moment was created by visiting Cleethorpes!

We wish you every success as your journey continues into year 2!

Year 2 Summer 2

Year 2 have had a fantastic summer term learning all about Ancient Egypt.

They have discovered some ancient artefacts and learned about the Ancient Egyptian way of life. In science, the children recapped learning about classification of animals and got hands on when Zoo Lab visited where the children got close to various animals and insects. In art, the children used clay and crafted their own canopic jars. In DT, the children designed and made their own Shadufs which the Ancient Egyptians used to transport water. We finally got to go to the countryside which was postponed from Autumn and the children loved this experience and compared it to the city in which they live. Year 2 were also very lucky this half-term to visit Moorways for a fun swim session! Finally, they finished the half-term off with Sports Day which they all competed well with and tried their very best.

We wish Year 2 the very best for Year 3 after a brilliant year.

Year 3 Summer 2

This half term, Year 3 covered a variety of Maths topics. We began the half term finishing off the topic of shape. We compared angles, are they acute, right angles or obtuse and broke 3D shapes down into their properties: how many vertices, faces and edges do they have? We enjoyed finding all these different shapes around the classroom. Then, Year 3 covered Mass and Capacity where we learnt to read and use scales for objects and liquids. Although at times we found this tricky, year 3 have been resilient learners using real life examples (such as measuring ingredients at home or the capacity of their water bottles at school) to help their learning. Finally, we finished the year with statistics; we have collected, read and interpreted data on bar charts, tally charts, two-way charts and pictograms. What a busy term we have had in Maths!

This half term, Year 3 have been looking at the story of Thor and Loki which links to our history focus of the Vikings. The children explored the Norse Gods learning all about the god of thunder and the god of mischief! We have explored a variety of skills such as fronted adverbials, expanded noun phrases and non-finite clauses. Then, the children created their own Norse God story based on a Norse God of their choice. We also spent time writing a recount of our trip to the National Stone centre looking back at the time spent there, such as the children engaging in activities such as gem penning. The children especially enjoyed using the skill onomatopoeia to describe their lunch time (Munch! Munch! Munch!).

As historians, we completed our timeline journey with the Vikings leaving their homeland to settle in Britania (Britain). We used our detective skills to look at a range of primary and secondary sources and even had a debate to decide whether the Vikings were just killers and thieves. We discovered that as well as raiders the Vikings were farmers, merchants, traders and skilled crafts people. As artists we looked at longships using our sketching techniques and created our own block print Viking designs to create a border. In RE we looked at the importance of prayer and reflection, our express lessons involved designing a room for prayer and reflection at an airport. As French linguists we have learnt and used ten verbs to describe what we are able to do.

We have had a wonderful year, making lots of magical moments and wish all the children the best in Year 4.

Year 4 Summer 2

Summer 2 has been the perfect end to such a great year! We have dived into our river topic in geography, learning all about the features and uses of a river and how to identify them. In art, we used our knowledge of rivers to create beautiful landscapes of a river, practicing our technique of painting with watercolours throughout the term. Learning about the digestive system in science has been especially interesting – especially the experiment of seeing how lots of different drinks can affect our teeth and learning about how long our digestive system actually is! We are experts at cleaning our teeth now! We have been reading 'River boy' and have enjoyed the mystery of finding out who he is (we won't spoil it for you). We have written beautiful poems about rivers and clouds which we have read out loud and enjoyed performing. We have practised writing a balanced argument about feeding wild animals in parks and applied our learning to an independent balanced argument about fishing in rivers. We have been creating our very own clicker games – one of our favourite units so far! We've loved playing the games the rest of our class have made and we are really proud of our coding. In French, we have learnt how to talk about our family members and consolidated our learning from previous years. As Mathematicians we have learnt all about shape. We know the difference between obtuse, acute and right angles and can categorise shapes based on their properties. We particularly enjoyed quizzing our friends and racing to identify the shapes being described. We have completed our Multiplication Checks and are so proud of our results, which reflect the effort and determination Year 4 have been putting into their timetables learning. Year 4 have had an amazing term and an even better year.

Thank you so much for all of your support, we have absolutely loved everything about this year and can't wait for another fantastic year in Year 5.

Year 5 Summer 2

This half term, Year 5 have been learning about living things and their habitats! Through our scientific skills, we have been discovering the different plants and animals, discovering how they adapt to different environments. We've used our researching skills to identify key facts and figures about different environments and adaptations. In history, Year 5 have been learning about the Stuarts. We found out all about the gun powder plot and the different rulers of England during this period. In English, we have been using our trip experience and science learning to write a biography about an environmentalist and a non-chronological report about a specific animal. In Maths, we began with negative numbers, identifying the value of below zero. We then moved on to units of measurement.

Good luck to the Year 5's going into Year 6 and we hope you have a brilliant year!

Year 6 Summer 2

We have had an extremely busy and eventful Summer half term in Year 6, from learning to ride a bike with confidence to building our own fairground ride prototypes and taking part in lots of sporting events.

Inspired by the true story of Omar Mohamed in the graphic novel 'When Stars Are Scattered,' which our Year 6s have loved reading together, we have written our own survival stories, describing the journeys and emotions experienced by refugees and asylum seekers. We have learned about different rhyming patterns and are currently writing our own poems about our lives over the years at Ashwood Spencer Academy, some of which will be performed at our Leavers Assembly. Year 6 mini-leaders have continued to provide games and activities for KS1 during lunchtimes, being super role models and responsible members of the Ashwood family for our younger pupils to look up to. We really appreciate all the time and energy that they have given.

Our curriculum has been further enhanced this term by visits to our Forest School area, where we have created art projects using natural materials and enjoyed learning out in the fresh air. Following the Year 6 transition visits to secondary school, we have spent time in our Jigsaw lessons considering our learning goals and achievements and are looking forward to our Leavers Prom and Assembly, where we will celebrate our time together and look forward to our adventures to come.

Team Friendship Summer 2

Team Friendship has had an amazing time learning about the seaside this term!

We've created so many memorable experiences together. The children have had fun playing with sand and water, listening to the sounds of seashells, and drawing all sorts of under-the-sea animals. We've also imagined the tasty foods we'd eat at the beach and made some creative crafts like ice cream cones and underwater paintings. The children in class have enjoyed reading stories such as 'The Rainbow Fish' and creating their own versions. They've been focused on developing skills with scissors and glue. Throughout these activities, we've been working on our fine motor skills, focusing on holding pens correctly and drawing within the lines. It's been a fantastic topic, and we can't wait to see everyone back at school in September!

Team Courage Summer 2

Team Courage have been busy this term and all generated from our trip to the zoo!

The hands-on experience and visiting the animals gave the children the excitement to learn more about them. We were amazed when we saw the tiger on top of the glass roof, and we could see the size of their paws! We researched all kinds of information, especially how we are affecting the world and animal's habitats.

Team Courage have worked very hard to help each other and be part of a team. Some children are moving to their senior schools or new classes in September. We are very proud of their achievements and look forward to hearing about their new adventures.

Team Courage staff.

Sports:

Wow! What a fantastic year of PE it is has been!

We are incredibly proud to announce that we have come third place in the Spencer Academies Trust School Sport Championship - well done to all of you who have contributed to this impressive achievement!

We would also like to congratulate the boys football team who have not only improved their performance as a team over the year, but also have ranked second place in the Derby Schools Football League!

From Team GB Athlete visits to Derby County Penalty Shootouts, we have had lots of inspiring experiences.

Sports Day 2024 saw lots of shiny medals awarded!

Looking ahead to next year we already have lots lined up for you and a big announcement for in-school competitions. Watch this space!

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