



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 2022-2023:

Friday 7th July 2023

Message from the Principal, Mrs. Baines-Chambers:

This half term has been another wonderful half term at Ashwood, with lots of great learning opportunities taking place across school.

Ashwood continues to grow, it has been great to welcome so many new families to our school community and watch new friendships form.

It was a pleasure to watch our school choir perform alongside other Derby Trust primary schools across at Brackensdale; they did Ashwood proud. Thank you to all the staff involved who made this happen.

Another big thank you to everyone who supported our second annual 'Spencer Super Stars' day, we managed to raise £136.92 for the charity. It was a privilege to watch 'Ashwood's Got Talent' and witness the amazing talent that we have in our school, from singers to gymnasts to musicians. Well done to everyone who was brave enough to perform! Following this success and enjoyment, we are looking to make this an annual event.

A reminder of a couple more national assessments - Year 1 phonics screening check; week beginning 12th June and Year 4 multiplication check; fortnight beginning 12th June.

I wish you all a lovely half term break, make beautiful memories and enjoy the sunshine.

Mrs Baines-Chambers

Staffing update:

Miss McCulloch has been appointed Principal at Highfields Spencer Academy, we are extremely pleased for her and would like to thank her for the commitment and dedication which she has shown to Ashwood over the past three years. Miss McCulloch played a key role in our improvement journey, leading to us being judged good at our last inspection. Miss McCulloch takes up her new post on June 5th. I am sure you will join us in wishing her all the best in her new school.

Following a competitive interview process, Miss Bates has been appointed and will join Mrs Smith, Mrs Baines and Mr Millward as Vice Principals of Ashwood.

Mini Police:

During this half term in Mini Police, the children were very lucky to have a volunteer from the RNLI come in to speak to them. The children learnt all about who the RNLI are and the crucial work they do to keep us safe. During this session, the children learnt about water safety, the dangers of cold-water shock and what to do if they found themselves in danger in the water. The children received a water safety certificate as a reward for their understanding. Alongside this, the children have learnt all about rural crime and its impact on the countryside. The children used this knowledge and understanding and related this to their local community by visiting Osmaston Park to identify similar crimes around them.

Nursery Summer 1

Team Creative have had a fantastic half term with lots of new learning around our topic growing and changes. We started with the text *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* and as artists painted and collaged pictures. We learnt new rhymes to sing daily and lots of new vocabulary. The most exciting part was observing our own caterpillars change into chrysalides and hopefully soon into butterflies!

As readers we enjoyed listening to and acting out the stories *Jaspers Beanstalk* and *Jack and The Beanstalk*, we even planted and grew our own beans, some of them grew very tall! We had to remember to water and care for them daily.

As Mathematicians we have been learning positional language and exploring shapes, we looked at 2D shapes before moving onto 3D, we discovered which we could stack and roll and talked about their properties.

Next half term we were looking forward to our topic about animals and their habitats, hopefully we will visit a farm to really enhance our new learning. We will also be saying goodbye to our leavers with a teddy bears graduation picnic.

FS2 Summer 1

Our FS2 DREAMers have had yet another great half term! We've started to explore our new topic 'The Amazing Outdoors'. We have enjoyed trying some new fruits and vegetables - the reactions to the beetroot were very hit and miss! - we then planted some of our own seeds to grow at home. Next, we moved onto something that is very close to a lot of the children's hearts...WORMS! These little creatures have fascinated the children in our outdoor area for a while now, so we decided it was time to learn more about them. We learnt how to care for them, created them new habitats, compared their sizes and filled up our new in-class wormery. We have then looked into how we can make our environment a better place. The children have loved being Eco-warriors, picking up litter and warning others of its dangers. The children have also joined in the nationwide celebrations for the King's coronation and have had visits from some very special people in our 'Derbyshire DREAMers story time' sessions.

Next half term, we are going to continue our exploration into the Great Outdoors. We will learn about some other minibeasts we may find in our outdoor area, welcome some new crawling class pets, 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, then finish the year with an exciting trip to the farm. Such a lot of fun and exploration to fit in before the end of the year - we can't wait!

Year 1 Summer 1

What an exciting half term! Once again, the children have shown us what fantastic 'DREAMers' they are! Our class text **Vlad and the Great Fire of London** helped us to learn about what happened during the **Great Fire of London**. We also learnt all about Samuel Pepys and as **writers**, we wrote a biography about him. As **readers**, we revisited and reviewed phonemes and graphemes, which is helping our spelling. As **mathematicians**, we have focused on arrays, sharing equally and halves and quarters. As **historians**, we have learnt about a significant event, the Great Fire of London and how it changed London. As **artists**, we loved making and painting clay models of King Charles III and as **designers** we enjoyed working in groups to make models of half-timbered houses. As **spiritual** people, we have learnt about sacred places. As **computer programmers**, we have learnt how to write algorithms to programme and control machines.

Next half term we will be learning all about coastlines and comparing locations. To enhance our learning, we will have trips to the beach at Cleethorpes and a Buddhist Centre.

Year 2 Summer 1

This term, we have been learning all about Pakistan's culture, religion and food. We have been finding differences and similarities about Islamabad and London, comparing their physical and human features. We explored our key text about Malala Yousafzai, learnt all about her life and how she was so brave and resilient to stand up for children's rights. We have learnt about human rights by discussing what rights we have in this country compared to the rest of the world. This worked well with our Jigsaw piece this term, 'relationships', where we discussed what healthy relationships look like. In D&T, we designed, tasted and made our own chapatis. As artists this term, we experimented with different techniques of making a collage of Pakistan. We used twisting, cutting and folding to make different shapes. As musicians, we looked at how music makes us feel and wants us to get up and dance. In Maths, we mastered time and pictograms, which we also used for computing. We recorded our data on the iPad's such as favourite colour, hair colour and eye colour.

Year 3 Summer 1

This half term, Year 5 have been learning about the Anglo-Saxons! We have explored how Britain developed and the different Anglo-Saxon kingdoms. We have debated the kings of Anglo-Saxon Britain whilst discussing how they arrived and settled in Britain. This has also been examined in our art and DT lessons where we used our sewing skills to create an Anglo-Saxon purse. We used these in our Anglo-Saxon feast where we ate the food we made. In RE we have continued to explore Christianity how it is celebrated. In French, we have been learning to order ice-creams and have had an experience of ordering their favourite flavour of ice-cream. In music we have been using the violins and practicing our rhythm keeping.

Year 4 Summer 1

This term our Topic book has been Charlie and The Chocolate Factory, which we have studied in English writing our own Narrative and putting ourselves within the protagonist's place. We have also adapted our knowledge of the key text to write a poem about all the main characters and their experiences at the factory, demonstrating our ability to write similes, metaphors, alliteration and rhyme. This links to our Global Theme of Enterprise which we explore in our experience day of creating our own brand of chocolate and as a group pitched their concept to Dragons Den. We learnt about experienced entrepreneurs, such as The Mayans, exploring who they were and how they used trade as their enterprise. In Art and Design and Technology, we used our experience and ideas from our experience day to independently design, create and evaluate our own chocolate bar, using printing, cooking and market research. Within Science, we have been looking at how sounds are made, how they travel and change over a distance. We have also looked at the pitch of sounds and how it can be represented, using key words such as amplitude and peak. In Maths, we have utilised our fractions knowledge to explore decimals for the first time, solidifying our knowledge of tenths and hundredths within the place value columns.

Year 5 Summer 1

This half-term, Year 5 have enjoyed learning about mountain ranges and geographical features of them, which has linked well with our class text, 'When The Mountains Roared'. To explore mountains further, we analysed the effects the climate and areas could have on tourism. Our writing this half term has revolved around nature and conservationists, such as Jane Goodall. We have used a variety of English skills to write our very own biographies and non-chronological reports. Within Science, the children have explored living things and their life cycles. More specifically, we focused on sexual and asexual reproduction and thoroughly enjoyed our active lessons! As the year progresses, we have continued to develop our independence within the water. Our swimming skills have advanced, as well as our confidence in keeping safe around open waters. Finally, in Computing we have been learning to create vector drawing using Google Draw. Within these lessons, we have managed to copy, paste, flip, rotate, resize, fill and adapt border shades, sizes and patterns. Overall, it has been a knowledge-filled half term and we are excited for what is to come next!

Year 6 Summer 1

Our Year 6 DREAMers have truly blown us away this term with their resilience and attitude towards learning. They have gone above and beyond to enable them to believe and achieve in their statutory assessments by focusing on their learning in the classroom even more and by attending additional tutoring sessions in breakfast club and after school. We are SO proud of them!

Outside of preparations for assessments, we had a busy term learning all about natural disasters and what makes them so powerful. As geographers, we have been investigating the movements of tectonic plates and how this can lead to various natural disasters. We investigated the affects these movements can have on the Earth using biscuits and jam to represent each process. We then studied and researched earthquake-proof buildings, before using cocktail sticks and marshmallows to create our own structures. These were tested on a surface of jelly... some withstood the test but others immediately crumbled! In writing, we have written two brilliant texts based on the effects of natural disasters on cities: one being an incredible suspense story and another being an explanation text.

Next term, we will be learning all about refugees as our topic and have some fantastic plans for creative projects! We will also be focusing on celebrating our time at Ashwood and how we can best prepare for secondary school. Keep your eyes peeled for exciting events!

Team Friendship Summer 1

Team Friendship have enjoyed learning about what lives in our gardens. We have discovered different life cycles such as a seed to a flower, caterpillar to a butterfly and a tadpole to a frog. Team Friendship also found a 'pond' and was so excited to learn what lives inside, above, and next to the pond.

The children are very pleased with our new safe outdoor area. They have enjoyed being outside, looking, listening, and interacting with all the other children in school. Our outdoor area has also given us the opportunity to grow different plants such as herbs, tomatoes, and strawberries. We can't wait to eat them!

After half term, Team Friendship will be finding out about boats. We will be discovering different types of boats and who travels by boat. I am sure we might discover some pirates, different animals travelling in twos and some very excited children.

Thank you for all your help and support this term from Team Friendship and Mrs Sims.

Team Courage Summer 1

In summer 1 Team Courage have been learning about writing poems and information texts. We have read our class book 'It's your world now', which has supported our learning of Singapore during. The children have enjoyed learning how to write a poem about the fireworks and created some amazing pieces of writing. We have been challenging the children to think about what other parts of the world are like and the cultures within them. The children have thought about prior knowledge and had to apply this in their poems by using their senses to describe nouns. Team Courage enjoyed the experience lessons when we thought about firework safety and facts about the Arctic for their independent writing. In Maths, we have been learning about fractions and time. Team Courage have learnt how to find halves, thirds and quarters of shapes, which is helping them with our time topic. We have been applying these methods in practical ways within lessons. In Forest schools/nurture the children have been learning how to use the nature around them to create items and pictures. We have learnt about children's personal space and boundaries.

Sports

The PE team would like to congratulate all children who took part in the multiple sports events that have happened so far including...

Year 1 students who took part in the Trolls Dance Festival. They showcased their impressive dance moves and brought lots of energy to the stage. In other news, 30 Year 6 students participated in an Army Team Building event, where they learned valuable teamwork and leadership skills. The Ashwood Arrows triumphed in the Spencer Academies Trust Boccia competition. Well done, team! Additionally, 15 Year 4 pupils enjoyed a day of fitness and fun in the "Fitness is Fun" program and 12 Year 2 pupils represented our school at Derby High School in a gymnastics competition. They displayed great talent and sportsmanship. Lastly, as part of the Megafest celebration, 30 Year 6 students marked the end of their SATS by participating in various games such as Ultimate Frisbee, Tri Golf, and even Quidditch!

As we look ahead to the summer term, there are more sports events to anticipate. Keep an eye out for our upcoming Sports Days on the 10th and 11th of July. Further details will be shared soon!

Attendance:

Please remember that it is your responsibility to ring school if your child is absent. You can leave a message on the attendance office answer phone or call and speak to a member of staff from 8am.

If your child is regularly late then they will miss valuable learning. Please ensure your child is on time as much as possible so that they have a great start to their day. Late arrival may also affect their attendance mark.

Our attendance team will follow-up all absences which may include a home visit.

If your child is unwell with a cold we would encourage you to send them into school rather than missing valuable learning. If necessary we will call you if we feel they need medication or are too unwell to stay in school.