



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 2021- 22

Key dates shared on our website -
ashwoodspencer.com

Fri 22nd October 2021

Wed 22nd December 2021

Thurs 23rd December 2021

Mon 28th February 2022

Fri 1st July 2022

One further inset day TBC

Message from the Principal, Mrs Paula Baines-Chambers:

I am incredibly proud to lead Ashwood and to have the privilege of seeing the wonderful learning that takes place across our school each day. Our journey over the past 3 years has been incredible! The teachers continue to work incredibly hard to plan engaging learning opportunities, which build on previous skills, allowing our children to make links and help the learning stick. There have been many magical DREAM moments which we have showcased on Twitter.

As mentioned previously, we are continually looking to improve Ashwood and create an environment that is the best it can be for our children. Over the summer we had some work completed - we have enhanced our outdoor provision with the creation of a reading garden, outdoor classrooms, wellbeing houses, new bike shelter, a performing arts stage and a multi-sport area. Within school we have created an inclusion library to reflect our community.

I understand that you may have concerns around Covid-19, however, I would like to reassure you that we are continuing to take measures to keep everyone as safe as possible whilst in school, adhering to the guidance from the government.

I wish you all a restful and safe half term.

Mrs Baines-Chambers

Thank you for helping to support 'World Mental Health Day'. We were pleased to have raised £110:45



Upcoming events:

Week beginning 15th November; we will be participating in the National Anti-bullying week and it has the theme 'One Kind Word'. The week will begin with 'odd sock day'. Further information will be shared after half term.

Thursday 16th December, Years 1-6 will be visiting the Pantomime at Derby Arena. Further details will be shared nearer the time.

School uniform:

- 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 for summer
- Black or grey trouser shorts

PE Kits:

- White T Shirt
- Blue or black shorts
- Black pumps and **trainers for outdoor PE**
- Sweater for **outdoor PE**
- Navy or black track suit bottoms for **outdoor PE**

Nursery Autumn 1

This term we welcomed our new children into nursery, they have settled so well and are beginning to form some new friendships. We have enjoyed our topic 'Marvellous me,' and created pictures of ourselves, our families/homes and people who help us.

Next term we will be learning about different celebrations and why and how these are celebrated (bonfire night, birthdays, Christmas) We will be learning new vocabulary by listening to lots of stories, and singing new songs and rhymes. We will be taking on different roles in our role play area including a birthday party and a Christmas workshop!

FS2:

Autumn 1 has gone very fast for us in EYFS. We have all settled in to school life really well and made lots of new friends. We have enjoyed talking about ourselves, families and homes. In literacy we have focussed on stories that have repeated phrases, we have particularly enjoyed 'A Squash and A Squeeze' and 'Funnybones.' In Maths we have been learning lots of new vocabulary surrounding size, measures and quantities.

Next term we cannot wait to start learning about different celebrations and traditions around the world. We will have lots of opportunity to re-tell familiar stories through story maps. We will also begin to learn about whole numbers 1 – 5. We have lots of new songs to learn alongside continuing to practise our writing skills.

Year 1:

What a fabulous start to Year 1! The children have settled in beautifully and have shown great attitudes towards their learning. We have immersed ourselves in the class text 'Grandad's Island'. Through this as writers, we have retold the story using nouns and adjectives and have produced super sentences. As readers we are learning how to decode and blend words to help with reading skills in our phonic sessions.

As scientists we have studied parts of human and animal bodies and learnt the needs of survival. As artists we followed the style of Henri Rousseau, thinking about various brushstrokes and colour mixing primary/secondary colours to create different animals from Grandad's Island. As historians we have studied our own and local area history and even had a minibus tour of the area!

As mathematicians we are mastering numbers to 10 and learnt different methods to partition a number which will help us with our number bonds. As spiritual people we have learnt about belonging particularly within the Christian faith. As computer programmers we have learnt about basic technology, how to stay safe online and began to explore purple mash.

Next half term there will be many excited experiences to come, Christmas will come early though a mysterious green creature might not be very happy about it...



Year 2:

We are so proud of how Year 2 have risen to the challenge and coped with the many changes they have encountered throughout this half term. We have worked incredibly hard on building our independence, stamina, and organisational skills throughout the half term. The mental health and well-being of the children is at the heart of our learning so our ultimate DREAM at the start of this half term, was for the children to be happy and settled in their new learning environment. Our Jigsaw curriculum has supported their transition back into school and it is so lovely to see children coming into school and leaving school with a beaming smile.

In English this term, we have been using a brand-new structure to plan and write our own setting description and narrative. The children have thoroughly enjoyed 'The Way Home for Wolf' and have enjoyed being immersed in their learning experiences.

We have done so many exciting activities in Creative Curriculum this half term, we don't know where to start! Our enquiry question this half term has been, 'Would you rather live in the city or the countryside?' In geography, we have developed map skills and compared life in the city to life in the countryside by exploring physical and human features. We have used our scientific enquiry skills to investigate habitats and more specifically the habitats woodlice prefer. We went on a bug hunt around school and found out that many minibeasts live here at Ashwood!

As mathematicians, we have recapped our numbers to 100, learnt how to find 10 more and less, learnt how to add and subtract a one-digit number from a 2-digit number and we are even beginning to use the column method.

Next half term, our topic enquiry question is "Who were the first people to arrive in Britain?". We will explore the Stone Age and the different eras. We will find out what the first humans used to eat, explore cave art, test materials to create a shelter and use a special technique called Batik. We can't wait to share these memories with you next half term.

We have also worked incredibly hard this term with recapping our phonic knowledge from Year 1 which will enable children to undertake their Phonics test next half term.

Thank you for your support so far this year. For children to continue to be successful this year, it is essential that you listen to your child 5 times a week, encourage your child to practice their spellings and make sure they are prepared with their water bottles and PE kits.

Year 3:

This half term, Year 3 have been extremely busy and thoroughly enjoyed our 'trip' to Italy. As geographers, we explored the world by flying to Italy, locating Europe and Italy on a map of the world and delving into the Mediterranean Sea. We took a closer look at some of the foods, landmarks, mountains, rivers, lakes and cities of Italy and went on a sight-seeing tour of Bologna in Emilia Romagna. As writers, we started the year with a setting description of a Tuscan vineyard, using expanded noun phrases and adverbials. After that, we wrote a pizza recipe to take home to our families, using adverbials of time, imperative verbs and beautiful descriptions. As designers, we designed, made and evaluated tasty pizzas and as artists, we used collage to create animal masterpieces and to recreate a famous painting, the Mona Lisa by Leonardo Da Vinci! As spiritual people, we explored what it means to believe in God and explained our own beliefs. As computer programmers, we learnt how to reply and compose emails. As linguists, we learnt basic French greetings and sayings and as Mathematicians, we studied place value and used these skills in column addition and subtraction. As scientists, we explored the human diet, skeleton and muscles, while also seeing why some animals are vertebrates and invertebrates!

Next half term, we are very excited to stay in Italy but travel back in time thousands of years ago to the time of the Romans!

Year 4:

We have had a great start to Year 4 this term and it has been wonderful to be back working together as a school community. All three classes have settled in well and are rising to the challenges of Year 4. There have been many magical moments in this half-term that the children have enjoyed. From our trip to Warwick Castle to our incredible writing about a troublesome train journey. We have shown our DREAM expectations within everything we have done. We are extra proud of the extra-curriculum opportunities our children have had including the achievements of the Football team where some of the Year 4 boys have helped lead the school team to victory. Tying all our learning together was our core text, Highland Flacon Thief, which the children have enjoyed trying to solve the mystery of, "Who dunnit?".

Next half-term, we have plenty more magical moments for the children to enjoy including: scientific exploration of the states; visiting the Pantomime; and some exciting visitors for us to learn from; all whilst pondering why Louis Sachar asks, "Why is there a boy in the girls' bathroom?"

Year 5:

Year 5 have enjoyed the start of the new school year learning all about Space. We were fortunate enough to have a trip to the National Space Centre in Leicester where we took part in a work shop to learn all about the phases of the Moon, watch a short movie in the planetarium and see all of the gadgets and rockets that have been to outer space. We've been using a new method to support our writing and have enjoyed writing a transmission from Mars.

Next half term, our class text will be 'The Diver's Daughter' by Patrice Lawrence which will support us with our learning about the Tudors in History. At the end of term, we'll hold a Tudor banquet where the children will be able to come to school dressed up in Tudor clothing. They will cook a Tudor meal and learn a traditional Tudor dance to perform to the other Year 5 classes.

Year 6:

In Year 6, we have enjoyed reading our class text 'The Explorer', which inspired us to write our own survival stories, based in different biomes. In Geography, we used 'Now Press Play' to investigate the impact of deforestation on the environment and the tribes who live in the Amazon Rainforest.

Studying speeches and watching videos of Greta Thunberg and her fellow student protestors has inspired us to write our own speeches, urging others to recycle and live more sustainably. In Science, we enjoyed our trip to Carsington Water, where we experienced pond dipping and then brought our ideas back to class to create classification grids and branching databases in Computing.

In Autumn 2, we are looking forward to our new class text, 'Pig Heart Boy' and linking this in Science to our study of the heart. We are also hoping to invite parents to a Tea and Quiz night and showcase our learning about enterprise in Texas.