



# DREAM

Determined risk takers who want to succeed  
Resilient and respectful learners  
Expressive communicators  
Ambitious achievers, unafraid of mistakes  
Magic happens when you dream

Remaining Inset days

2018-2019

Friday 26th October 2018

Friday 21st December 2018

Monday 25th Feb 2019

## Message from the Principal, Mrs Paula Baines-Chambers:

Unfortunately I wasn't here at the start of the term due to my daughter undergoing open heart surgery; thank you for all the well wishes that I have received. Upon my return, I was proud to see such a lovely start to the academic year; there have been some wonderful learning opportunities created around the class book thanks to the creativity and hard work of the staff.

I am pleased to confirm that the date for the school to academise is now 1st November. The pupils already wear their Ashwood uniform with pride and look extremely smart in it too! We are continuing to embed our DREAM expectations in terms of behaviour and behaviours for learning #DREAMers

## School uniform:

The school uniform is available to purchase from **Uniform Direct** on Babington Lane and also available to purchase on line.

- 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

## Parents Evening:

We have our parents evening on **Tuesday 23rd and Wednesday 24th for years 1 to 6** and **Tuesday 23rd and Thursday 25th for Foundation Stage** pupils. Please make time to come along to find out about the progress your child has been making. It is really important for your child that we all work in partnership with each other to ensure that your child has the best support in their education. During these evenings there will be a chance to find out about after school clubs that will be on offer after half term, sample 'tuck' available and information about Pupil Premium and how this funding is used to support Ashwood pupils. I would appreciate it if you could spend 5 minutes of your time providing us with some feedback by completing a 'Parent view' questionnaire. Your feedback is important to us and helps form part of our school development plan.

### **Staffing changes:**

We have a few staff updates: Mrs Cliffe will be retiring from her position as Teaching Assistant, and Ms Sneap left school a couple of weeks ago. We would like to thank them both for the commitment that they have given to the school over the past years and wish them both all the best.

We welcome Mrs Mayer who is joining Ashwood as a Family Support Lead. I know she is looking forward to meeting families, and setting up regular coffee mornings and a 'stay and play' toddler group.

We also welcome Mrs Koruni who will be joining us as a Teaching Assistant in Year 2.

### **Class Dojo:**

If you haven't already signed up, please see your child's class teacher for the log-in information. Class Dojo is a great way to communicate with parents - you can see how many Dojos your child has received linked to our DREAM expectations. It also allows you to message the class teacher.

### **Safety:**

Just a reminder that pupils shouldn't be arriving to breakfast club before 8:00am.

Also, parents are responsible for supervising their child until 8:45am as teaching staff are in meetings.

### **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. Requests for holidays during term time will not be authorised.

### **Harvest:**

Our Harvest Festival will be held on Thursday 25th October for the pupils and this year we are donating items to the Padley Centre. The Padley Centre provides services for deprived and vulnerable people in Derby, helping them to cope in difficult circumstances and rebuild their lives. We would be grateful if you could send donations of tins and packets into school next week.

### **FS1:**

Wow, what a wonderful first half term for FS1. All the children have settled in well and are exploring the new learning areas we have developed. The children are progressing well in their exploration learning and have enjoyed learning new nursery rhymes and reading stories about 'Bugs' and 'Bears'. We have even made 'Bears Porridge' which most of the children enjoyed, especially with 'Bumble Bee Honey'!

Next term we will be continuing learning the set objectives given out last term but our theme will be on travelling and what they might see. FS1 will be reading the story, 'The Train Ride' by June Crebbin and I will give out information on how you can support your child with our new knowledge organiser before the end of term.

A big thank you to all our new and last term parents for their participation and interest in our new nursery. Remember I am always available for a chat so we can make sure your child is having the best start to their school experience.

A Polite reminder; children have lovely new coats at nursery but often very similar so please write your child's name on all their things which will help immensely.

## Foundation Stage 2:

Our Foundation Stage 2 children have made a fantastic start to the new academic year! They have settled in well and are becoming more confident in our routines. Our book, *First Day at Bug School*, has been very popular and we hope you have enjoyed reading it too. The children have been learning about minibeasts through a range of activities and exploration with hands on experiences. It has been great to see the engagement and progress the children have made as we follow their interests to enhance their learning.

The children have also been enthusiastic when learning a new sound every day during Read, Write Inc., and searching for objects that begin with that particular sound. The messy sound tuff spots have been particularly popular e.g. p p porridge. We are pleased to let you know that many of our children are now starting to use these sounds to blend to make words, which is fantastic to see! Thank you to the parents who attended the Read Write Inc. sessions. We hope you found them useful.

In Maths we have been learning to recognise and count out a number of objects and recognise digits. We have been on a number hunt around school, counted and ordered autumn resources and accessed mathematics in all areas of our environment, indoors and outdoors.

A big thank you to all the parents who sent in wellies to wear in all kinds of weather. If you haven't done so already, could you please provide a pair for your child to keep in school?

Next term we will be reading the story of *Whatever Next* by Jill Murphy. We will be looking to the skies, planning journeys and getting excited about all of the upcoming festivals.



## Year 1:

We've had a brilliant start to Year 1 at Ashwood Spencer Academy! We have enjoyed reading 'The Lighthouse Keeper's Lunch' and learning all about lighthouses. We made sandwiches and wrote instructions telling people how to make them. To help the villagers we made a seagull scaring machine and wrote a letter to tell them how to use it. We have been working hard on using our Masters Magnifiers and used the yellow magnifier to summarise the story.

In Creative Curriculum time we have learned all about the coastline, using the correct geographical terms to describe the coast. We also learned about Grace Darling and how she helped to save the survivors of the Forfarshire shipwreck.

In maths we have practised using and understanding numbers to 10 to ensure we have a great knowledge of place value and digits. The children have been brilliant at applying their knowledge when working on their addition skills and have begun to use their Mastery Masks to explain how they worked out the problem.

Next term we will be reading the story of 'The Grinch'.



## Year 2:

Year 2 have made a fantastic start to the year. It has been an eventful term with letters being delivered by the Big Bad Wolf from a very worried mother wolf! Year 2 responded immediately by writing their own letters to persuade the Big Bad Pig to behave.

As writers we wrote our very own innovated story of The Three Little Wolves and replaced the Big Bad Pig with another house destroying character. We have started to embed our new Letter Join font and have been challenging ourselves to achieve ten out of ten in our spelling test.

As mathematicians we ordered and compared numbers using the greater than, less than and equals sign. We recognised the place value of each digit in a two digit number and counted in steps of 2, 3 and 5.

As scientists we investigated materials in the environment and how they can be changed. As artists we designed and manipulated clay in different ways to make flowers.

Thank you to all the parents and carers that attended our "Meet and Greet" session. We are looking forward to starting the new term with our text 'The Nightmare Before Christmas'. Look out for details related to future events.



## Year 3:

Our creative curriculum focus has been the Stone Age times. We have enjoyed our book 'Mary Anning' about a famous palaeontologist that discovered an Ichthyosaur fossil (the remains of a dinosaur) and went on to discover other fossils. We have written in many genres, including: a diary; a newspaper report; a biography; an explanation and letter. We have used our SPaG learning to improve our written work, which has included: writing speech; homophones; inverted commas; past tense and present perfect. We have had fun exploring rocks during Science experiments and understood their properties.

Next half term our creative curriculum focus will be the railway and our book will be 'The Railway Children' written by E Nesbitt. We are looking forward to a trip on a train – look out for the letter.



## Year 4:

This term, Year 4 have been reading the book 'Escape from Pompeii' by Christina Bait. They have enjoyed finding out about the Romans as well as the furiously violent Mount Vesuvius that erupted in Pompeii. Did you know that over 2000 people died in that tragic event?

The children have been inspired to write a newspaper report as well as a narrative, following the last days of Pompeii. They have also created an information text by finding out interesting facts about what life was like as a Roman. Did you know the Romans used to flood the Colosseum to have a boat battle?

Year 4 had great fun recreating a Roman mosaic and having a battle with their own miniature catapults! This term, the children have had the opportunity to play either the violin or cello, which they are really excited about. The children can't wait to show off their musical skills to you!

Next term, Year 4 are looking forward to reading "Demon Dentist" by David Williams, studying the human body and teeth. We will be exploring the digestive system and recreating our own.



## Year 5:

This term Year 5 have been learning about the people, culture and history of Ancient Egypt, based around our book – The Time Travelling Cat and the Egyptian Goddess. The children have created some fantastic pieces of writing based around the themes in the book: a diary entry by Howard Carter, a recount of a journey through the sky to Egypt and their own ending to the story, using all the WOW words and vocabulary that they have learnt throughout the topic. They have also been developing their editing skills, giving them the opportunity to review the work that they have written and improve it using dictionaries, thesauruses and teacher-pupil feedback. In maths, we have been focussing on reading and writing numbers to 1,000,000, rounding and adding them together.

Next term, our learning will be based around our new book – ‘Black Powder’ – based at the time of the Gunpowder Plot in 17<sup>th</sup> Century London. The children will be investigating Crime and Punishment through time, including a visit to Nottingham Justice Museum to explore the courts, the jail and the prison cells!



## Year 6:

In year 6 children have been learning about the Vikings, who occupied the British Isles around 1,000 years ago. We have been learning about the different aspects of Viking life from their longships, excellent for springing surprise attacks on an enemy like at Lindisfarne in 793, to those Vikings who were peaceful, law-abiding citizens who came here to settle, farm the land and raise a family.

All of our work on the Vikings has been channelled through the book ‘Viking Boy’ by Tony Bradman which follows the epic quest of Gunnar, a young lad who aims to avenge the murder of his father after raiders burn down his home. The book has broadened children’s understanding of the Vikings and focused their minds on all aspects Viking; looking at the Viking creation story has been a real highlight with children embracing the beliefs surrounding the Norns (the women who control the destiny of all), the Gods Odin, Freyr and Thor (brought to life in the recent blockbuster movie) and the beauty of the towers of Valhalla in Asgard, Viking heaven.

Children have embraced their learning this half term and made an excellent start to year 6, understanding the expectations needed in writing, reading and maths; a big well done and keep up the hard work.

Next half term (Autumn 2) we will focus our creative curriculum around ‘Pig Heart Boy’, a novel written by Malorie Blackman.

It follows the story of thirteen-year-old Cameron Kelsey who is dying of heart disease, and time is running out for him to get a transplant. In desperation, his father approaches transgenic doctor Richard Bryce, who is trying to conduct research with pig hearts. To Cameron's mother's chagrin, Dr Bryce agrees to perform the operation on Cameron, although it has never been done before.

