



Reception termly information sheet

Welcome to the Autumn Term

We hope you and your child have enjoyed their first weeks at our school. There is a lot of new information for you to remember, so we hope you find this letter useful to refer to from time to time.

In Reception, we mostly teach the children through play, using their own interests as a vehicle for their learning. Our priority for the first term is settling the children in, helping them to understand the routines and boundaries of being in a new school. This is also referred to as the prime areas of learning. These areas are Communication and Language, Physical Development and Personal, Social and Emotional Development. The children must be secure within each of the prime areas before they can begin to consolidate new learning within the specific areas, which are Literacy, Maths, Understanding the World and Expressive Arts and Design.

Communication and Language:

- Children will be read to frequently and we will be engaging them actively in stories, non-fiction, rhymes and poems, and then providing them with extensive opportunities to use and embed new words in a range of contexts.
- Through conversation, storytelling and role play, children will share their ideas with support and modelling from adults.
- Children will become comfortable using a rich range of vocabulary and language structures.

Physical Development:

- By creating games and providing opportunities for play both indoors and outdoors, children will develop their core strength, stability, balance, spatial awareness, co-ordination and agility.
- Gross motor skills provide the foundation for developing healthy bodies and social and emotional well-being.
- Fine motor control and precision helps with hand-eye co-ordination which is later linked to early literacy. Repeated and varied opportunities to explore and play with small world activities, puzzles, arts and crafts and the practice of using small tools, with feedback and support from adults, will allow children to develop proficiency, control and confidence.

Personal, Emotional and Social Development:

- Children will be supported to manage their emotions, develop a positive sense of self, set themselves simple goals, have confidence in their own abilities, persist and wait for what they want and direct attention as necessary.
- Through adult modelling and guidance, they will learn how to look after their bodies, including healthy eating, and manage personal needs independently.
- Through supported interaction with other children, they learn how to make good friendships, co-operate and resolve conflicts peaceably.

Teaching phonics and beginning to read

At Alban City School we follow a phonics programme called Essential Letters and Sounds. This programme will support your children in making quick progress to become fluent and confident readers. To best support us in teaching your child how to read we ask that you read the decodable text provided by the school 4 times across the week. Spending 10 minutes a day reading with your child will hugely support them in their journey to becoming an independent reader. This is especially important as they begin to learn that the sounds within our language can be spelt in different ways. Once you have read the book with your child at least four times, please write and date a comment into their yellow reading record. We will check each record every day and books will be changed if needed. We will not change the book unless you have made a comment.

It is a key part of learning to read, that children re-read words and sentences that they can decode (sound out) until they are fluent (read with ease and precision). By reading texts several times children have the greatest opportunity to achieve this fluency. The texts sent home are carefully matched to the teaching taking place in school. Your child will be practising what they have been taught in school with you at home. We will only ask children to read books independently when they can decode these by themselves. Any books that are not yet decodable for the children will be a sharing book. These books are there for you to read with your child, helping to instil a love of reading from the very beginning of their reading journey. These could be read together with your child reading the words they are able to decode or could be read to your child.

Our reading books are organised into sets of sounds that link to our phonics scheme. We will move children onto the next level once they have been taught the necessary phonics skills to be able to decode the words.

We will be holding a parent information meeting on **Thursday 24th September at 9am** in the theatre to explain more about how we teach phonics and reading, and how you can help at home. We hope you can attend and you find it useful.

Other information

PE will be on a Friday for both classes. Please bring in named PE kits and leave them on the children's pegs. Children will also be given plenty of opportunity for physical play in the Reception Outdoor area and in the main playground during their lunchtime play.

On Thursday afternoon Lime class will be taught by Mrs Wonnacott and Apple class will be taught by Mrs Farrugia while Mrs Cooper and Mrs Dumont have their planning time (known as PPA time which stands for Planning, Preparation and Assessment) away from the class.

In Reception we cover different class topics each half term. We will be starting the year with the topic 'All about me' and 'People who help us'. After half term we will then move onto 'Traditional tales' and 'Christmas'.

In the front of the reading records, you will find your child's My Login QR Code which has the link to their Numbots and Google Classroom account. Please join the Google Classroom as it may be needed in the future such as in the event of a school closure, or to share information with you. Numbots is an online maths resource which children can use at home to practise their number skills.

We will be using our school library once a week (on a Monday for both classes) to borrow a book to take home and share. Please make sure these are returned to school the following week so that your child can choose a new one.

Music is taught once a week by Ms Dore. This term the children will be learning rhyming songs and call-and-response songs. We will be exploring the basics of pitch, rhythm, pulse, tempo and dynamics through fun rhyming songs and songs with actions.

Please don't forget to send in your child with a named pair of wellington boots and a waterproof coat so they can enjoy all activities outside regardless of weather.

Please also make sure that children's cardigans/jumpers, coats, book bags, bottles and any other items of clothing are named.

Below is a link to access our class blog on our school website which will be updated weekly with pictures from the week and information about what the children have been learning.

<https://albancityschool.org.uk/Reception-Apple-and-Lime/>

Please do not hesitate to speak to us at any time before and after school. We are looking forward to working with your child this term.

Best wishes,

The Reception Team



50 Recommended Reads for...

Reception (ages 4-5)

Which ones have you read?

Favourite Characters

- ☐  **Supertato**
Sue Hendra & Paul Linnet
- ☐  **Elmer**
David McKee
- ☐  **Zog**
Julia Donaldson & Axel Scheffler
- ☐  **Tiny McToot**
Barry Falls
- ☐  **The Colour Monster**
Anna Llenas
- ☐  **Oi Frog!**
Kes Gray & Jim Field

Funny Books

- ☐  **Hank Goes Honk**
Maudie Powell-Tuck & Duncan Beedie
- ☐  **Donut Touch**
Seb Davey & Alex Willmore
- ☐  **We Catch the Bus**
Katie Abey
- ☐  **The Full Stop That Got Away**
Laura Baker & Nathan Reed
- ☐  **Ten Fat Sausages**
Michelle Robinson & Tor Freeman

Gentle Adventures

- ☐  **Priya Mistry and the Paw Prints Puzzle**
Babita Sharma & Ali Pye
- ☐  **The Boy Who Sailed the World**
Julia Green & Alex Latimer
- ☐  **Jabari Tries**
Gaia Cornwall
- ☐  **The Boy and the Octopus**
Caryl Lewis & Carmen Saldana
- ☐  **Farah Loves Mangos**
Sarathak Sinha

Animal Stories

- ☐  **Augustus and His Smile**
Catherine Rayner
- ☐  **Mr Norton's New Hat**
Huw Lewis Jones & Corey Egbert
- ☐  **How Long is that Dog?**
John Bond
- ☐  **There's a Tiger on the Train**
Mariesa Dulak & Rebecca Cobb
- ☐  **Gigantic**
Rob Biddulph
- ☐  **Pumpkin Soup**
Helen Cooper

Classic Books

- ☐  **The Amazing Mrs Pepperpot**
Alf Proysen & Hilda Offen
- ☐  **Dogger**
Shirley Hughes
- ☐  **On the Way Home**
Jill Murphy
- ☐  **The Giant Jam Sandwich**
Janet Burroway & John Vernon Lord
- ☐  **You Choose**
Pippa Goodhart & Nick Sharratt

Stories about Community and Making a Difference

- ☐  **Luna Loves Gardening**
Joseph Coelho & Fiona Lumbers
- ☐  **Picopaco**
Mocculere & Mojca Novak
- ☐  **Clean Up!**
Nathan Bryon & Dapo Adeola
- ☐  **Papa's Butter Chicken**
Monica Saigal & Abeeha Tariq

Inclusive Stories

- ☐  **The Girl at the Front of the Class**
Onjali Q. Rauf & Pippa Curnick
- ☐  **Mama Car**
Lucy Catchpole & Karen George
- ☐  **Listening to the Quiet**
Cassie Silva & Frances Ives
- ☐  **Super Duper You**
Sophy Henn
- ☐  **Little Glow**
Katie Sahota & Harry Woodgate

Stories for Understanding the World

- ☐  **Martha Maps It Out**
Leigh Hodgkinson
- ☐  **Lulu Meets the Bees**
Anna McQuinn & Rosalind Beardshaw
- ☐  **The Rabbit, the Cloud and the Rainy Day**
Nicola O'Byrne
- ☐  **Tad**
Benji Davies

Illustrated Chapter Books

- ☐  **Princess Minna: The Enchanted Forest**
Kirsty Applebaum & Sahar Haghighi
- ☐  **Cat and Dumping: Home Sweet Home**
Nicola Kent
- ☐  **Bear and Bird**
Jarvis

First Graphic Novels

- ☐  **Meet the Mubbles**
Liz Pichon

Information Books

- ☐  **Wonder World: Earth**
Ben Lerwill & Xuan Le
- ☐  **First Big Book of Why**
Sally Symes, Stephanie Drimmer & Kate Slater
- ☐  **The Super Skeleton**
Dr Roopa Farooki & Viola Wang
- ☐  **A First Book of Dinosaurs**
Simon Mole & Matt Hunt
- ☐  **My Encyclopedia of Very Important Animals**
DK
- ☐  **Recycling Day**
Polly Faber & Klas Fahlen



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