



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 us 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 Wednesday 25th September at 8:50am 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 Thursday afternoon for both classes. Please bring in 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 Wednesday afternoon Lime class will be taught by Mrs Wonnacott and Apple class will be taught by Mrs O'Sullivan while Miss Reynolds 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 'Nursery rhymes' and 'Traditional tales'.

In the front of the reading records, you will find your child's Google Classroom log in details and Numbots login.

We will be using our school library once a week (on a Monday) to borrow a book to take home and share. Please make sure these are returned to school the following Monday 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 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/class-pages/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?



	<input type="checkbox"/> How to Catch a Star Oliver Jeffers		<input type="checkbox"/> Puffin Peter Petr Horacek
	<input type="checkbox"/> The Tiger Who Came to Tea Judith Kerr		<input type="checkbox"/> A Great Big Cuddle Michael Rosen and Chris Riddell
	<input type="checkbox"/> Tad Benji Davies		<input type="checkbox"/> Rain Before Rainbows Smriti Halls and David Litchfield
	<input type="checkbox"/> One Springy Day Nick Butterworth		<input type="checkbox"/> Zog Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler
	<input type="checkbox"/> You Choose Pippa Goodhart and Nick Sharratt		<input type="checkbox"/> Fabulous Frankie Simon James Green and Garry Parsons
	<input type="checkbox"/> Super Duper You Sophy Henn		<input type="checkbox"/> The Lion Inside Rachel Bright and Jim Field
	<input type="checkbox"/> My Encyclopedia of Very Important Animals		<input type="checkbox"/> Oi Frog! Kes Gray and Jim Field
	<input type="checkbox"/> Never Teach a Stegosaurus to do Sums Rashmi Sirdeshpande and Diane Ewen		<input type="checkbox"/> Hello Friend! Rebecca Cobb
	<input type="checkbox"/> Pumpkin Soup Helen Cooper		<input type="checkbox"/> Wriggle and Roar! Julia Donaldson and Nick Sharratt
	<input type="checkbox"/> Kind Alison Green		<input type="checkbox"/> Meet the Oceans Caryl Hart and Bethan Woollvin
	<input type="checkbox"/> Ernest Shackleton Isabel Sanchez Vegara		<input type="checkbox"/> We Catch The Bus Katie Abey
	<input type="checkbox"/> Splash Claire Cashmore and Sharon Davey		<input type="checkbox"/> On the Way Home Jill Murphy
	<input type="checkbox"/> Supertato Sue Hendra		<input type="checkbox"/> My Mum is a Lioness Swapna Haddow and Dapo Adeola

50 Recommended Reads for ...

Reception

(ages 4-5)



	<input type="checkbox"/> Luna Loves Art Joseph Coelho and Fiona Lumbers		<input type="checkbox"/> The Great Explorer Chris Judge
	<input type="checkbox"/> Red Lorry, Yellow Lorry Michelle Robinson and Jez Tuya		<input type="checkbox"/> The Amazing Mrs Pepperpot Alf Proysen and Hilda Offen
	<input type="checkbox"/> Papa Penguin Lindsay Camp and Momoko Abe		<input type="checkbox"/> The Extraordinary Gardener Sam Boughton
	<input type="checkbox"/> The Colour Monster Anna Llenas		<input type="checkbox"/> Dogger Shirley Hughes
	<input type="checkbox"/> Octopus Shocktopus! Peter Bentley and Steven Lenton		<input type="checkbox"/> Fair Shares Pippa Goodhart and Anna Doherty
	<input type="checkbox"/> The Body Book		<input type="checkbox"/> Zim Zam Zoom! James Carter and Nicola Colton
	<input type="checkbox"/> Afraid of the Dark Sarah Shaffi, Isabel Otter and Lucy Farfort		<input type="checkbox"/> Astro Girl Ken Wilson-Max
	<input type="checkbox"/> Rabbit's Pancake Picnic Tegen Evans and Paula Bowles		<input type="checkbox"/> Pattan's Pumpkin Chitra Soundar and Frane Lessac
	<input type="checkbox"/> The Cat and the Rat and the Hat Em Lynas and Matt Hunt		<input type="checkbox"/> Marvellous Machines Jane Wilsher and Andres Lozano
	<input type="checkbox"/> Elmer David McKee		<input type="checkbox"/> Caterpillar Cake Matt Goodfellow and Krina Patel-Sage
	<input type="checkbox"/> William Bee's Wonderful World of Things That Go! William Bee		<input type="checkbox"/> My Must-Have Mum Maudie Smith and Jen Khatun
	<input type="checkbox"/> Blue monster Wants It All! Jeanne Willis and Jenni Desmond		<input type="checkbox"/> Britannica First Big Book of Why Sally Symes, Stephanie Warren Drimmer and Kate Slater

Find more booklists for primary schools at
booksfortopics.com



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