



Alexandra
Primary School

Aspire, Perform, Succeed

Welcome to Early Years at Alexandra Primary School

Starting in Nursery

2024/25





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Our Vision:

Children at Alexandra have high aspirations to be able to perform and succeed at school and beyond

We encourage all children to:

Aspire to be successful learners who enjoy learning;

Perform as well as they can, make progress and achieve and become confident individuals who are able to live safe and fulfilling lives;

Succeed as responsible citizens who make a positive contribution to society.



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School Day

Bumblebees Nursery

8:45 – 11:45

Ladybirds Nursery

12:30 – 3:30



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Welcome to Alexandra Primary School. This information booklet has been designed to provide essential information about our school and to offer support as you prepare your child for starting in Nursery. You will also find guidance for completing the questionnaire.

Our Expectations

Attendance

We expect children to attend Nursery every day and arrive on time unless they are unwell. Young children need to come to school regularly as this enables them to understand routines, make friends and develop social skills which are absolutely vital for success in later years. It also provides them with greater opportunities to deepen their understanding of the world and develop concepts that build a firm foundation for learning.

Uniform

Children in the Nursery are expected to come to school dressed in school uniform. Sweatshirts, cardigans and school bags with the school name and logo will be available to buy from a local uniform shop called School Bells, 48 Bell Road, Hounslow, TW3 3PB. We promote the wearing of tracksuit bottoms so that children can be active and independent. More information on uniform can be found towards the back of this booklet.

Independence

It is important that your child can complete a number of everyday activities with limited adult support. Nursery staff will always be there to help and support your child but if the children are independent it will allow more time for teaching and learning.

Here are some ideas to encourage independence:

- peeling a piece of fruit,
- gaining an adult's attention by using words rather than crying or using physical gestures,
- putting on their coat independently,
- using the toilet.





Early Years Curriculum

The Early Years Foundation Stage is the statutory framework for 0-5 year olds, it sets the Early Years requirements including the educational programmes. Our Early Years curriculum is based on progression and skills throughout Nursery and Reception across the 7 areas of learning:

Prime areas of learning	Personal, Social and Emotional Development
	Communication and Language
	Physical Development
Specific areas of learning	Literacy
	Mathematics
	Understanding the World
	Expressive Arts and Design

Our curriculum aims to teach all children the skills and knowledge needed in order for them to meet the Early Learning Goals at the end of Reception. The 17 Early Learning Goals set out the typical development of children by the end of Reception year. Our curriculum is designed around carefully selected topics and books that build on the children's interests and offer lots of opportunities for first hand experiences. Much of the learning that takes place in Early Years is play-based. There will also be adult led activities to ensure children gain essential knowledge and skills.

Throughout your child's time with us we will share more aspects of our curriculum with you through half termly and weekly overviews as well as curriculum workshops and events.

As you continue through this information booklet we will share expectations that we have for children starting in Nursery. Although we are sharing these expectations that we have of your child, please do not be concerned if you feel that your child is not functioning within these levels, as all children develop at a different pace. It is our commitment to work closely with you and to provide appropriate learning opportunities that will enable all children to develop their personalities, talents and abilities irrespective of ethnicity, culture or religion, home language, family background, learning difficulties, disability or gender.



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Preparing your Child for Starting Nursery

Toilet Training

We expect children to be toilet trained prior to starting Nursery unless they have a medical condition. We would like children starting in our Nursery to be able to:

- know when they need to use the toilet;
- pull down their clothing and sit on the toilet independently (we have specially designed low toilets suitable for the height of 3 and 4 year olds)
- use tissue to wipe themselves clean after using the toilet,
- pull their clothes back up independently,
- pull the handle down to flush the toilet,
- wash their hands with soap and dry their hands using a hand dryer or towel.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding toilet training you can talk to your GP or health visitor. Huggies also have a useful 'How to' guide on their website.

<https://www.pottytraining.co.uk/6-steps/step-1-getting-ready/>

Healthy Practices

Three and four-year-old children should be working towards these health and self-care practices:

- to drink independently by holding a cup with both hands,
- to feed themselves competently with a spoon,
- to help with putting on their own clothing,
- to attend to toileting needs themselves,
- to eat a healthy range of foods and understand the need for a variety of food.

Other things to consider:

Does your child have a regular sleep pattern?

It is recommended that children sleep for 10 hours a night.

Does your child have a regular food routine?

Children will be given a piece of fruit or a vegetable (e.g. carrot) to eat by themselves at school. Water is always available for your child to drink. You can also choose to register for free milk for under 5's on a termly basis if you order it before the deadline. If your child comes to morning (Bumblebees) Nursery, they might need to get used to eating breakfast earlier than normal. If your child comes to afternoon (Ladybirds) Nursery, they may need to eat lunch earlier than usual.





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Your Child's Communication

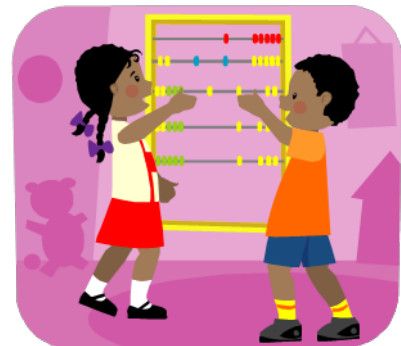
All children are different and will have different levels of communication and language skills when beginning Nursery. We also understand that your child may speak languages in addition to English. We have used guidance from Development Matters (curriculum guidance) to share some language expectations with you. Please use the next few months to help prepare your child. Encourage your child to:

- listen to others in a small group,
- listen to stories with some recall,
- understand single words used in context, e.g. 'cup', 'milk' etc.,
- understand and follow a simple instruction e.g. 'throw the ball',
- learn new words,
- copy familiar expressions, e.g. 'oh dear', 'all gone'.

If you feel that your child will not be able to fulfil these expectations by September please identify this on the 'Language' section of the questionnaire.

If your child speaks little or no English here are some functional English phrases:

- "help me, please"
- "my turn"
- "yes, please"
- "no, thank you"
- "toilet"
- "where is my?"
- "stop"





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Your Child's Social Skills

Children who have had experiences of playing with peers and who have been away from their main carer for short periods of time will generally settle into Nursery more smoothly.

Here are some guidelines from the Development Matters

- to give you an idea of your child's expected stage of development:
- seek out other children to share experiences with,
- demonstrate friendly behaviour,
- show awareness that some actions can hurt others,
- co-operate with boundaries and routines.

If you feel that your child will not be able to fulfil these expectations by September please identify this on the 'Behaviour' section of the questionnaire. We will then be able to work with you to put procedures in place to support your child.

It is important that the expectations of a child's behaviour are the same at home and at school. We need to work together to develop a consistent approach. Before your child starts Nursery please consider the following:

Does your child cry or respond with a temper if you say, "no"?

- If you have answered "yes" you will want to consider working on reducing this over the summer.

When your child begins Nursery you may need to consider the amount of time that they spend watching television and playing on phones or computers. We suggest this should only happen for a short period of time, as children need to be active.

This website has lots of information about preparing your child for starting school:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/collections/starting-primary-school/1>



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Safeguarding and Child Protection

The welfare of our pupils is paramount. We have a duty of care to ensure the welfare and well-being of our children. We work with parents to support pupils and the family where we can. This may involve providing information about or to agencies that may be able to help, including support networks and Children's Services (Social Care).

Our Child Protection/Safeguarding policy sets out a code of safe practice that includes images of pupils and collection of pupils from school. All these practices and procedures enable us to have a high level of protection for our children.

Alexandra Primary school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all members of the school and its community to demonstrably share this commitment, promote our aims and model our values.



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Learning

Children learn best when they are able to display characteristics of effective learning. Playing and Exploring, Active Learning, and Creating and Thinking Critically support children's learning across all areas.

Characteristics of Effective Learning

Playing and Exploring

Children:

- investigate and experience things
- are willing to 'have a go'

Active Learning

Children:

- concentrate and keep on trying if they encounter difficulties
- enjoy achievements

Creating and Thinking Critically

Children:

- have and develop their own ideas
- make links between ideas
- develop strategies for doing things



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Learning Through Play

Children will learn through play. The Early Years Practitioners will create enabling environments so that your child can be supported through positive relationships and challenged to learn as they play. Here are a few examples:



First hand experiences



Understanding the world



Social skills



Baking – measuring, counting, following instructions



Exploring

Example - A child may appear to just be playing in the sand but through this experience they are learning about texture, changes (wet/dry), sharing and turn taking, capacity, measuring, estimating, persevering and team work.



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Uniform

We recommend that Nursery children wear leggings or jogging bottoms that are easy to pull up and down to support their independence.

Female

Girls should wear grey or black trousers, skirt or pinafore dress, with a white polo shirt and a school sweatshirt or cardigan. Shoes should be plain black with enclosed toes and no logos. Boots, sandals flip-flops or trainers are not permissible footwear for school. In cold or wet weather pupils should wear a sensible coat or waterproof jacket. Hair bands, socks, tights, hijabs and head scarves may only be plain black, green, grey or white. Small gold or silver studs can be worn to school but must be removed on PE days. No hooped earrings.

Male

Boys should wear grey or black trousers or shorts (in the summer term), with a white polo shirt and a school sweatshirt or cardigan. Shoes should be plain black with no apparent logos or symbols. Boots, sandals flip-flops or trainers are not permissible footwear for school. In cold or wet weather pupils should wear a sensible coat or waterproof jacket.

A local uniform shop sells all Alexandra items. Uniform is available to purchase from School Bells online at: <https://www.schoolbellsuniforms.co.uk/primary-schools/alexandra-primary-school.html>

Alternatively, you can visit the School Bells shop at 48 Bell Road, Hounslow, TW3 3PB.

We ask you to bring your child's book bag to school with them every day. **Please provide a spare set of clothes inside the bookbag.** If your child gets wet whilst playing with water or has a toileting accident, we will support them to change into their spare set of clothes.





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Snack Time

Every day the children sit down together for a snack time. A piece of fruit or a vegetable is provided for them free of charge. You can also register for your child to have a carton of milk, this is also free of charge. You will receive a form before your child starts in Nursery. We ask you to provide a bottle of water, your child will have access to this throughout their time at Nursery. Please clearly label your child's bottle.





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Keeping You Informed

- Weekly newsletter
- Website
- Nursery noticeboard
- Text message notifications
- Open door policy
- Parent Teacher meetings
- Further information about our policies, procedures and the curriculum to follow in September

We look forward to reading your questionnaires and meeting you in person in September.

Nursery Team