Alexandra
Primary School
Aspire, Perform, Succeed

Welcome to Early Years at

Alexandra Primary School

Starting in Reception

2025/26

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.

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 Reception.

Our Expectations

Attendance

We expect children to attend Reception 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 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. If your child arrives after 8:55 they will be recorded as late. If your child is not collected on time at the end of the day, your child will go to aftercare and a charge will apply.

The School Day

Our doors open at 8:40am and close at 8:55am

At home time, the doors open at 3:30pm

Uniform

Children in the Reception 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. Please do not request a backpack as we do not have storage space. 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. 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:

- To eat lunch independently using a knife and fork
- Peeling a piece of fruit such as a banana or an orange
- Gaining an adult's attention by using words rather than crying or using physical gestures
- Putting on their coat independently
- To independently use the toilet and wash their hands using soap afterwards.

Early Years Curriculum

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

Area of Learning	Aspect
Prime Areas	
Personal, Social and Emotional Development	Self-regulation
	Managing self
	Building Relationships
Communication and Language	Listening, Attention and Understanding
	Speaking
Physical Development	Gross Motor Skills
	Fine Motor Skills
Specific Areas	
Literacy	Comprehension
	Word Reading
	Writing
Maths	Number
	Numerical Patterns
Understanding of the World	Past and Present
	People and Communities
	The Natural World
Expressive Arts and Design	Creating with materials
	Being Imaginative and Expressive

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.

Although we are sharing some of the 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.

Preparing your Child for Starting Reception

Toilet Training

We expect children to be toilet trained prior to starting Reception unless they have a medical condition. We would like children starting in our Reception to have good personal hygiene which includes being 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 4 and 5 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

The Early Years Foundation Stage outlines that children aged between 4 and 5 years should be working towards being able to know and talk about

- Good practices with regard to exercise, eating, sleeping and hygiene
- Good oral hygiene with regards to tooth brushing
- Being a safe pedestrian
- Good manners
- Having a sensible amount of screen time

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 and we encourage you to bring in a named water bottle so that your child can have easy independent access. Milk is available for your child each day, If you wish your child to have milk you can register and order free milk. Free milk is available to children under 5 years old. Once your child reaches 5 years old, you can then order and pay for daily milk. To sustain your child it is essential that they receive a nutritious breakfast before they come to school.

When it is a child's birthday we understand that some parents like to celebrate by giving cakes, sweets or a present. As a Healthy School we cannot accept this, but as a celebratory gesture we are happy to distribute a piece of fruit that you may wish to provide.

Your Child's Communication

All children are different and will have different levels of communication and language skills when beginning Reception. We also understand that your child may not speak much English. We have used guidelines from the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum to share some language expectations with you. Please use the next few months to help prepare your child. Encourage your child to:

- understand how to listen and why listening is important
- use sentences in everyday talk
- use social phrases such as "good morning" "how are you?" "please", "thank you"
- retell familiar stories
- use new vocabulary

If you feel that your child will not be able to fulfil these expectations by September please identify this with the class teacher.

English as an additional language

Our teaching lessons are visual and interactive to help develop language. There are some things you can do to support your child at home

- Support your child to learn some functional English phrases such as "help me please", "toilet", "yes please", "no thank you",
- Read stories at home in both languages and continue speaking in your mother tongue at home

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.

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 Reception more smoothly.

We expect your child to be able to play alongside other children without becoming physical towards them. Here are some guidelines from the Early Years Foundation Stage to give you an idea of your child's expected stage of development:

- Builds constructive and respectful relationships
- Express their feelings and consider the feelings of others
- To moderate their own feelings socially and emotionally
- To manage their own needs

If you feel that your child will not be able to fulfil these expectations by September please identify this to the class teacher. 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 Reception 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 Reception 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

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

More information can be found at the school website www.alexandra.hounslow.sch.uk

Learning through Play and Experiences

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:

Understanding feelings

Exploring

First hand experiences

Social skills

Small world and role play

Cooking

Phonics

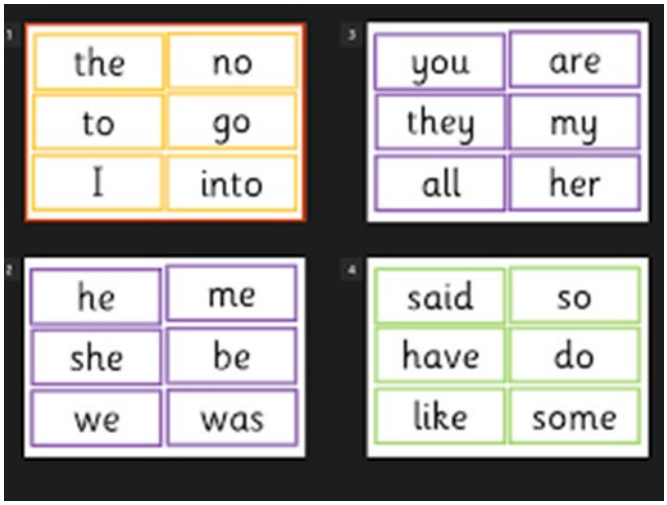
Phonics is taught daily and follows the pace and progression set out in our Alexandra Primary School Curriculum. More information can be found here: https://www.alexandra.hounslow.sch.uk/index.php/learning-phonics

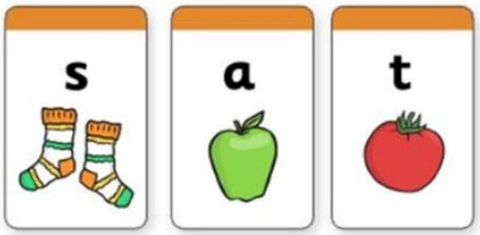
Phonics is a way of teaching children to read quickly and skilfully. They are taught how to:

- recognise the sounds that each individual letter makes;
- identify the sounds that different combinations of letters make - such as 'sh' or 'oo'; and
- blend these sounds together from left to right to make a word.

Children can then use this knowledge to 'de-code' new words that they hear or see. This is the first important step in learning to read. Children will bring a 'phonics folder' home which contains phoneme cards and common exception words for practising at home.

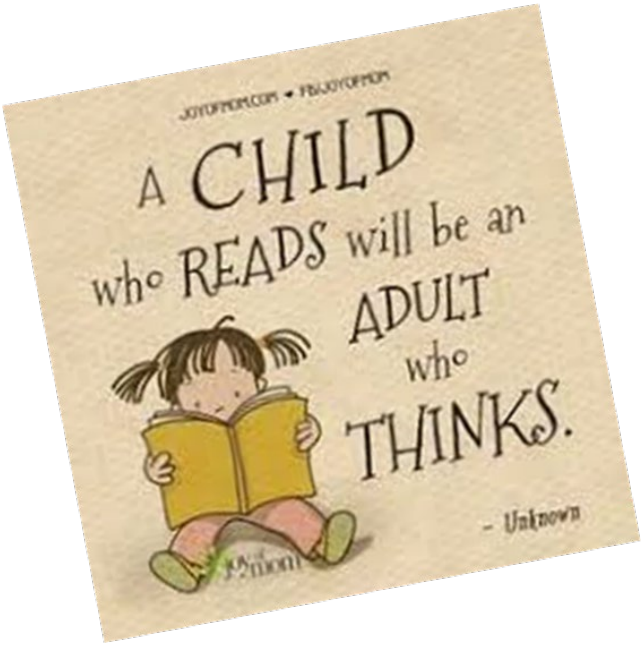
The children will bring reading books home that are matcged to their phonic knowledge.

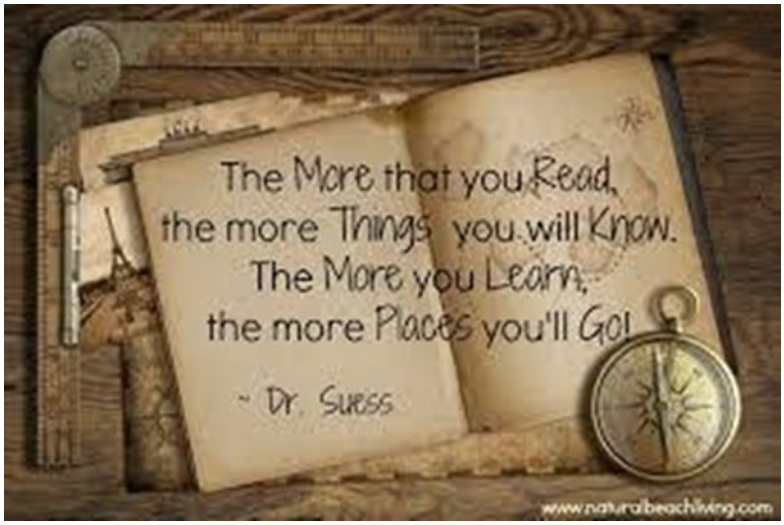




Reading is Fun

Your child will be given a library book for you to read to them each week and they will be given two reading books each week as well. These two books are for your child to read to you each week and are linked to their phonic ability. They will also be able to choose to read some books on line. There will be a reading communication book to enable us to share your child's progress.





Attendance Matters

...every school day counts!

Uniform

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 do not purchase a backpack). **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.

Please ensure your child's uniform is clearly labelled with your child's name.

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 register for your child to have a carton of milk, this is also free of charge to children under 5. You will receive a form before your child starts Reception. We ask you to provide a bottle of water, your child will have access to this throughout their time in Reception. Please clearly label your child's bottle with their name.

School Dinner

The children are offered a free nutritious school dinner

- A main option
- A halal option
- A vegetarian option
- An alternative option

Keeping you informed

- Weekly overview
- Curriculum overviews
- Website
- Text message notifications
- Open door policy
- Parent Teacher meetings
- Reception e-mail
- Regular newsletters
- Reading record book

We look forward to meeting you in person as soon as possible.

The Reception Team