



Alexandra
Primary School

Aspire, Perform, Succeed

Alexandra Primary School

Year 4 Welcome Pack



Aspire, Perform, Succeed

Our Vision:

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

The Curriculum:

At Alexandra Primary School, 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.

We offer a broad, balanced and creative curriculum. We encourage the children to participate in all educational experiences and regularly review the curriculum with the children to ensure it is exciting, motivating and engaging.

English and Maths are the core strands of the national curriculum and are taught daily, while the rest of the curriculum is taught throughout the week.

English



Being literate is a life skill and it is vitally important that all children are allowed to develop the necessary skills to become successful learners in this area. We encourage the pupils to develop their speaking and listening skills throughout the curriculum as well as providing opportunities for drama and role play.

Reading:

At Alexandra we believe that the application of effective reading skills underpins learning in all areas of the curriculum and so it is important that all children develop the tools needed to read for meaning. Each day children will have the opportunity to read and discuss texts to develop their comprehension of a wide range of genres and text types. There are 8 key strategies that the children can use to develop their understanding of what they read. During our English and Reading lessons, we will teach the children these core strategies.

These strategies are:

- context
- questioning and predicting
- visualisation
- identification of key words and phrases
- identifying an understanding breakdown
- applying key strategies to repair the breakdown
- inference and deduction
- summarising the text

Additionally, each class will have a class novel. This will allow for the children to practice the above strategies so that they become confident to use them independently.

The children will have access to the school library and be able to borrow books to read at home.

How can you help?

- Please try (at least 3 times per week) to spend 10 to 15 minutes, listening to your child read. Kindly sign their reading journal after they have finished.
- Discuss the story, characters and settings of the book they are reading to help them understand the text and ask their opinions.
- Ensure your child has their reading journal in school every day.
- Encourage children to complete a reading activity in their Reading Logs, once a week.

Any comments you may have about your child's reading, or any issues that you would like to communicate to us, may be recorded in your child's reading journal on the relevant diary page. Alternatively, you are welcome to speak to your child's class teacher at the end of the day.

Writing:

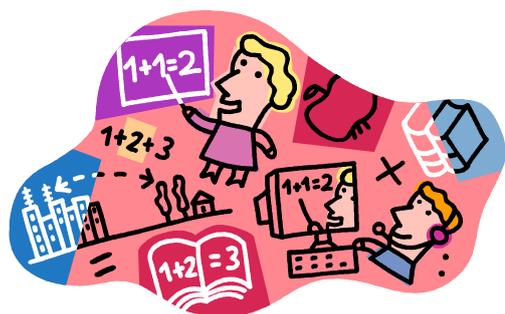


The children will write and explore a wide variety of writing for different purposes and audiences. They will write both non-fiction and fiction throughout the year. We also write in other subjects making cross-curricular links as part of our work on the creative curriculum. At Alexandra we encourage the children to take increasing care and pride in the presentation of their handwriting and written work. We will also focus on developing your child's ability to edit and improve their work using a wide range of **vocabulary** and finding opportunities for children to extend their vocabulary; using **conjunctions** to link sentences together and create cohesion; and encourage them to use **advanced punctuation** for effect. The children will have grammar or punctuation practice during the week along with learning new, more complex grammatical structures that they can use and apply in their writing. It is important that children develop their understanding of the terminology involved in grammar and punctuation to ensure they apply their knowledge every day in their work.

Spelling:

Every child will have a list of words to learn sent home at the end of each week. These words will follow a wide range of spelling patterns and may also include topic based vocabulary or commonly misspelled words. We endeavor to allow the children to understand the spelling pattern of these words during the week in class. This means that they will retain the spelling of the words a lot better as they have seen them and used them in their work. Children will be tested on these spellings and their use of these words in their written work will be acknowledged and beneficial to their writing development.

Maths



At Alexandra Primary School, our curriculum for Mathematics aims to ensure that all pupils have a secure or deeper understanding in the following three strands, fluency, mathematical reasoning and problem solving.

Maths lessons focus on the following areas:

- Number (place value, addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, fractions and decimals),
- Measurement,
- Geometry (Properties of shape, position and direction)
- Statistics (Data Handling).

Your support by helping your child to learn all their times tables and related division facts up to 12x is vital in advancing their knowledge. They will also be focusing on acquiring a quick recall of number facts and how they will apply these to the other strands of the Maths curriculum. These will also be worked on and tested in class so that the children become fluent and confident in the fundamentals of mathematics, through varied and repeated practice. This develops their understanding and the ability to recall and apply knowledge rapidly and accurately. In our Maths curriculum there is also a strong emphasis placed on mental and written calculation of whole numbers. Therefore, additional of mental and written arithmetic teaching will be taking place outside the maths lessons to reinforce these concepts during morning work and during the soft start to the day.

Additionally, the children will be taught to reason mathematically by applying their mathematics to a variety of word problems with increasing difficult, including breaking down problems into simpler steps and persevering in seeking solutions. At this stage, the children will gain a grasp of using the most efficient written and mental methods of calculation. There is also an emphasis in developing pupils'

mathematical vocabulary and presenting a mathematical justification, argument or proof. This ensures that pupils build secure foundations by using discussion to probe and clear their misconceptions.

Science:



Science is taught once a week; here the children will be given the opportunity to experience practical experiments as well as being taught to plan and carry out a fair test as well as analysing results and drawing conclusions.

Music:

Children will take part in weekly music lessons. Our music lessons are led by the Hounslow Music team and the children will be learning how to play the violin.

Topics:

Our topic theme this year will be “Romans on the Rampage” in the Autumn Term. Please see our year group curriculum overview for more information about each subject.

Computing:

Lessons are taught using computers and Ipads in school where the children will be taught how to plan, create, develop and evaluate their own applications and programmes. We have a wide variety of differentiated software packages to enhance and aid all children’s learning throughout the school. Each class has access to a range of interactive devices that bring learning to life for the children and allow us access to the wider world to enhance learning.



PE / Games:

Class	4P	4H	4C
PE (Indoor)	Mondays	Wednesday	Thursday
PE Aut 1 (Outdoor)	Wednesdays	Tuesdays	Tuesday (Indoor)
PE Aut 2 Swimming	Fridays		



Each child needs his / her PE kit in school weekly. This should include a plain t-shirt and shorts plus trainers or plimsolls. In the winter we would ask the children to wear track suit bottoms and have a fleece for outside games.

It would be really helpful if you could please write your child’s name and class on all clothing as these can easily be mislaid.

Routines

Morning work:

At Alexandra Primary School, we are always seeking to develop learning and teaching to maximise the support available for children. With this in mind, we have an initiative called 'Morning task'.

Children come into their classrooms from 8:45am every morning and then complete a thinking skill, a short piece of writing or a Maths activity with registration from 8:55am.

PPA:

The Year 4 team will be having their Planning, Preparation and Assessment time (PPA) every Wednesday afternoon; during this time the children are taught by Mrs Pennington, Mrs Carey and Miss Carruthers

Homework:

This will consist of English and Maths work linked to lessons taught during the week along with a piece of topic or science on occasions. Homework will be sent home on a Friday to be returned back on a Wednesday. Children are welcome to bring in their homework before the deadline. Children may be kept in for part of the lunch hour on Wednesday to complete the work set if homework is not returned. If there are any problems or difficulties understanding the work, please do encourage your child to ask us. or please come in and talk to us yourselves. We are going to do a homework club on Tuesday lunchtime. We expect each child to bring their reading book and planner to school every day.



Planners are needed to record reading comments, as well as any important information and communication we may need to share with you.

Assessments:

At Alexandra Primary School assessment is used to identify how well children have understood our curriculum. Our aim is to enable each child to master the skills in reading, writing and maths so that children are prepared for responsibilities, opportunities and experiences in later life.



Gaps in learning are identified and filled so that children make their expected progress. Children will also be working at greater depth to master curriculum content. A range of assessment tools is used to support this.

As a result of this, Alexandra Primary is using Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) based on standards set out in the curriculum. School is assessing children against age related expectations using the KPIs for their year group. The following progress indicators based on evidence in books, engagement in lessons and formative assessment will be used:

- Working towards year group expectations (WTS): your child is currently developing age related end of year expectations, this may require additional support.
- Meeting year group expectations (EXP): your child is currently meeting age related end of year expectations.
- Exceeding year group expectations (GDS): your child is currently working at greater depth within related end of year expectations and has a strong understanding of the curriculum.

Trips and Visitors:

In Year 4 the children are encouraged to take part in a wide variety of trips or workshops in school to enrich the curriculum that they are learning in school. These will be published in the termly newsletter and additional information will be sent to you with permission slip requests when necessary.

We do know that at times parents have concerns / worries that you may wish to discuss with us. Please either speak to us at the end of the school day or make an appointment via the school office. The start of the school day is a crucial time for us and the children as we explain the programme for the day and begin teaching straight away.

Children who arrive late often find it difficult to catch up if they have missed this key time. Therefore, please ensure that your child is here for the 8.55am start.

Volunteers:

Having an extra pair of hands in school is always invaluable to us, so if you have any spare time during the week or special skills that we might make use of, please let us know as we would love to have you come and work with us or maybe there are some tasks you could do at home. Please let any of the Year 4 teachers know if you can help.

It is our belief that we should be working as a partnership and we hope that together we can make this school year rewarding, fulfilling and an enjoyable Year 4.

Thank you for your co-operation, The Year 4 team.