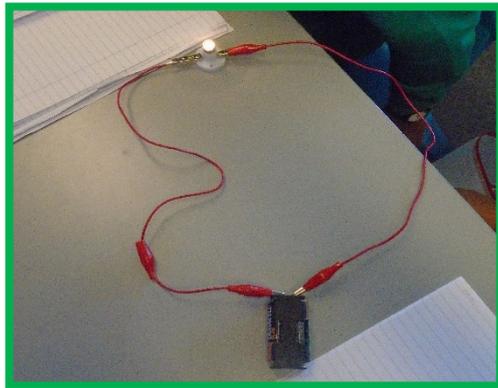




Alexandra
Primary School

Aspire, Perform, Succeed

Alexandra Primary School Year 4 Welcome Booklet



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, Maths and Science are the core strands of the national curriculum. English and Maths 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 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. We want children to develop a love of words and language and to read for pleasure so that reading becomes a lifelong habit that has a positive impact on their self-esteem and future life chances.

Each day, children will have the opportunity to read and discuss a range of high-quality texts to develop their comprehension of a wide range of genres and text types. There are eight 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 the children to practise the above strategies so that they become confident in using them independently.

The children will have access to the school library and will be able to borrow books that are of interest to them to read at home. In addition, they can borrow a banded book from their year group to help practice their reading skills at home.

How can you help?

- Please try to spend 10 to 15 minutes daily (at least 3 times per week) listening to your child read.
- Read to your child regularly, let them listen to the story and model good reading practices. Discuss any vocabulary that may be new to them.

- Discuss the story, characters and settings of the book they are reading to help them understand the text and ask their opinions.
- Your child will bring home their pupil planner every day. Please ensure that you check that they are reading daily and sign it in the space provided.

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 pupil planner on the relevant diary page. Alternatively, you are welcome to email us - please see the school website for details.

Writing:



Children write and explore a wide variety of writing for different purposes and audiences through Talk for Writing. They read and write Poetry, Non-fiction and Fiction throughout the year. Children write a 'cold' task where they write an example of a text using what they already know. This allows teachers to assess what children need to know so that children progress. Teachers spend time in lessons reading the text with the children and discussing an understanding of the text.

Children analyse the particular features of the text to inspire them to create their own examples. At the end of each unit of work, children will show what they have learnt through a piece of writing, which is called the 'Hot' task. This will enable both children and teachers to see how much the children have learnt.

Children will also write in other subjects making cross-curricular links as part of our creative curriculum. At Alexandra, we encourage the children to take care and pride in the presentation of their handwriting and written work. We also focus on developing the children's ability to edit and improve their work through: using a wide range of **vocabulary** and finding opportunities to extend their vocabulary; using **advanced conjunctions** to link sentences together and create cohesion; and encouraging the use of **advanced punctuation** for effect. The children 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.

Speaking and Listening

Speaking and listening activities are paramount in the children's learning. This allows them opportunities to share their own views and opinions and in turn listen to others. It helps children to develop their confidence, understanding and vocabulary. The Talk for Writing approach uses speaking and listening to enable children to internalise and rehearse vocabulary before they write, which means that the children are more confident and also allows their writing to be of a significantly higher quality.

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 endeavour 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. We use dictation to check the children are

able to spell these words so that children use them in context rather than learning them for test purposes only.

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, decimals, and percentages),*
- *Measurement,*
- *Geometry (Properties of shape, position and direction)*
- *Statistics (Data Handling).*

Maths weaves together a multitude of knowledge, skills and procedures. We want to support children to become fluent in number so that children can:

- Solve equations quickly, accurately and more efficiently
- Improve their understanding of reasoning so that children can justify the choices they make when approaching a problem
- Improve their ability to be problem solvers; able to tackle multi step problems by applying their knowledge, skills and understanding in solving increasingly sophisticated problems; an important life skill for children's future lives and careers.

Your support by helping your child to learn all their times tables and related division facts up to 12 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 taught 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.

The use of school learning platforms such as: Times Tables Rockstars and Doodle will encourage children to practice their skills further.

In our Maths curriculum there is also a strong emphasis placed on mental and written calculation of whole numbers, decimals and fractions. Therefore, additional 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 difficulty, 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.

At the end of the year, Year 4 children will take part in a Multiplication Tables Check. We ask that you support your child to learn their times tables up to 12 x 12 and the related division facts. This will greatly support their fluency in all areas of mathematics.

Science:

Two hours of Science is taught per week; here the children will be given the opportunity to experience practical experiments as well as being taught to plan and carry out fair tests as well as analysing results and drawing conclusions.



Music:

Children will take part in weekly music lessons. They will develop the following skills through their Music lessons: Singing, Listening, Composition, Reading notation and Performance.

Children will learn about a variety of musical genres, styles and instruments. They will also make music using rhythm, voice and percussion instruments.

Topics:

Our topic theme throughout the Autumn Term will be 'The Frozen Kingdom.' 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.



PE / Games:

Children in Year 4 will receive one indoor session of PE and one outdoor session of P.E. over the course of the week, including swimming. Please look on the school website to find out on which days they have P.E. lessons. If unsure, please email your child's class teacher.



Children should wear their P.E. kit to and from school on P.E. days. P.E. kit consists of the green APS Logo t-shirt or plain white t-shirt, plain black shorts, leggings or tracksuit bottoms and a pair of trainers. Further information regarding the kit needed for swimming will be sent home.

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

PSHE:

As well as the knowledge and skills required for the PSHE curriculum, we use PSHE to underpin our school values, build character and teach children the importance of respect and compassion. Spiritual Moral Social and Cultural education (SMSC) is linked throughout our curriculum, which reflects the context of the school community and beyond.

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 'Soft start.'

Children can come into their classrooms from 8:40am every morning and then complete a thinking skill, a short piece of writing or a Maths activity prior to registration at 8:55am. Children also have the opportunity to look at their work in their books and respond to any marking comments that staff have asked them to review. Class teachers are in the classrooms from this time.

Weekly Overviews

On Tuesday of each week, the Weekly Overview will be published on the school website and Google Classroom. On the website, these can be found by clicking on the 'Learning' tab and then the appropriate Year Group on the left-hand side of the page. The weekly overview will set out the planned learning across all subjects for each year group that week. As the week progresses, class teachers may feel that children need to spend more time than they had originally planned for to enable them to grasp concepts securely, so these weekly overviews may change as required.

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 tasks will be published within the Weekly Overviews each week and should be completed online by the following Monday. Children are welcome to complete their homework before the deadline. If there are any problems or difficulties understanding the work, please do encourage your child to ask us, or please email year4@alexandra.hounslow.sch.uk for any queries.



We expect each child read each day and to take a reading book home to read. Children have planners to record what they have read.

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.

At Alexandra Primary, Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), based on standards set out in the curriculum, are used in assessments. Children are assessed 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.

Writing will be teacher assessed at the end of each unit of work based on the standards for the year group. We may also assess some topic work alongside these pieces.

Trips and Visitors:

At Alexandra Primary School, children are encouraged to take part in a wide variety of trips or workshops both inside and outside school to enrich the curriculum that they are learning in school. Information will be sent to you about the school trip closer to the date of the trip via a letter and permission slip requests.

Communication:

If you have any concerns or queries, please raise them with your child's class teacher or a member of the year group team in the first instance via email communication. We have an open door policy and we welcome any feedback and general enquiries you may have. However, please be mindful that staff need to welcome and dismiss children safely so you may have to make an appointment to see the class teacher or if it is convenient, to email. If you wish to raise any concerns or queries with SLT in school, then please do so via the school office and we will be happy to assist you.

Our school office would really appreciate it if you update your records regularly and let us know as soon as there are any changes to mobile phone numbers, change of address, any change in your child's medical needs and information about who can collect your child at the end of the school day. This is important that we have accurate records should we need to contact you.



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.

The Year 4 team
Ms. Hynes, Miss. Smith and Mrs. Edwards