

ALVASTON INFANT & NURSERY SCHOOL
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Acting Headteacher: Miss Allen

Let's Get Reading!

Dear parents,

At Alvaston Infant and Nursery, we believe that reading empowers children to achieve success in every area of the curriculum and it is given the very highest priority. Reading allows children to be transported to new 'worlds', where they can discover and learn about the things which fascinate them. From a very young age, the benefits of reading are apparent as it encourages cognitive, emotional and social development whilst positively contributing to mental health and overall wellbeing. Every day in school, we see how reading excites and motivates our children to explore and be imaginative with their ideas and the language they use. Our provision centers around a strong reading ethos. Right across our curriculum, children are exposed to a broad range of literature which is carefully woven through all subjects as a cross-curricular approach. We encourage our children to develop a passion for reading and we hope that you will share this vision, too. Below are some ways in which we, as a school, aim to further develop our ethos of reading.

Reading Recovery Curriculum

Our children have missed a large chunk of their education recently and we believe in order to set them back on track, reading must be of the highest importance. In class, children will regularly be exposed to a carefully selected range of texts which complement the topics that the children are learning about. We also use books which cover a range of difficult issues that the children may encounter to help equip them with the tools they need to make sense of the world and prosper within it. The texts we use are rich in ambitious language and ideas with opportunities being imbedded to encourage the children to develop their speech and language skills through a range of drama activities. This allows the children to become increasingly familiar with the conventions of stories and other texts, which will be benefit both their reading and writing across the curriculum.

School Library

The newly refurbished school library provides an exciting and stimulating location for our children to further develop their love for reading, as they can independently follow their own interests through a large variety of fiction and non-fiction texts. All children in Reception, Year One and Year Two will have the opportunity to visit the school library fortnightly in accordance with health and safety regulations surrounding Covid-19. Here, the children will be able to select a book which they may take home to share with their family. When they have finished with their book, the children will be able to return this to school (where it will stay in isolation for three days) and then swap this for another book of their choice. Nursery children will be able to take 'story sacks' home with them.

Personalised Support

Class teachers are currently completing diagnostic assessments of the children's reading to understand their needs and plan in for ways to support them. Their assessments will identify an appropriate reading stage for their schoolbook which complements their word reading ability and their understanding of the text. As a result, you may notice that your child's reading stage has changed to support their emerging needs. These assessments will also allow teachers to plan for individualised support through 1:1 or small group support activities to boost the children's progress. Assessments will take place regularly throughout the school year so that we can adapt to the children's needs as they develop. This will also support the Government's upcoming Key Stage One assessments for the Phonics Screening Checks for both Year One and Two this year and for the end of year SATs for Year Two. If you have any further questions about this, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Bedtime Stories

Our teachers are excited to restart our bedtime story programme soon where we will be reading a range of our most cherished stories. These videos will be uploaded to both the school's website and YouTube. Miss Allen will be reading the first story on Friday!

Phonics

Year upon year, we have exceeded the national average number of children reaching the expected standard in Phonics. Achieving over 90% consistently for the past 4 years. Here at Alvaston Infant and Nursery School, we use 'Fresh Phonics,' you can find out more about Fresh Phonics via the website. <https://www.freshphonics.com/>

Ways you could support your child:

- Listen to your child read as regularly as possible, ideally each day. Let us know how they are finding their books by writing in their reading records. For our older children, they may also wish to write in their reading diaries themselves.
- Read to your child. Not only is it important for your child to read to you, it is also important for your child to listen to you read as they can become fully engrossed with stories beyond their word reading level, which will benefit their comprehension. Ask questions throughout to help support their development of this skill.
- Targets will be sent home regularly suggesting personalised ways in which you can support your child. These may include particular sounds in phonics or a certain reading skill, such as comprehension. These are often simple activities which make a huge difference to your child's education.

As always, we appreciate your continued support in this area and if you require any further support information, please contact your child's class teacher or myself, via Dojo and we will be more than happy to help.

Kind regards,
Mr Heesom
Year 2 Teacher and English Lead