

Reception Overview for Parents

2018-19



Introduction: This overview is to help parents to understand what the children will be learning each half term. Our curriculum is built on exciting ideas: each half term we will be immersing ourselves in a theme, connecting skills in all areas of the Early Years Foundation Stage. We also begin to introduce the lives of interesting people who have a connection to the ideas we are exploring. As our curriculum is dynamic, during the term we may change some of details below, in response to children’s interests, new opportunities or national initiatives.

Core skills: In Reception our core skills are based on the Early Years Foundation Stage. There are seven areas of learning: Personal, Social and Emotional Development; Physical Development; Communication and Language; Literacy; Mathematics; Understanding the World; Expressive Arts and Design. Within each of these seven areas are the characteristics of effective learning, the skills that encourage engagement, motivation and thinking within the early years curriculum. Children in Reception mainly learn in small groups while the others are working child initiated learning or teacher prompted activities.

Reception Timetable: This is a summary timetable, showing the normal organisation of learning in Reception. The timetable is flexible and is subject to change during the year.

Mon	Tues	Weds	Thursday	Friday
Phonics / Ivrit <i>Split then swap</i>	Phonics / Ivrit <i>Split then swap</i>	Phonics / Ivrit <i>Split then swap</i>	JS Topic/ Ivrit <i>Split then swap</i>	Writing
Reading	PE	Writing	Numeracy	Topic
<i>Lunch</i>	<i>Lunch</i>	<i>Lunch</i>	<i>Lunch</i>	<i>Numeracy</i>
Numeracy	Writing	Library	Phonics split and	Circle time
Topic	Topic	Assembly	Reading	Kabbalat Shabbat

Reading books

Reading books are normally changed at the end of the week, but please ensure that your child brings their reading book and reading log into school **every day**, as we hear children read on different days. Library books will be changed on a Wednesday.

Supporting your child’s learning in Reception:

- In Reception a key way to support your child’s learning is by reading with them regularly. This can include reading to them, as well as encouraging them to read to you – this **doesn’t** have to be just books!
- Taking your child to visit exciting places of learning, such as museums, other learning spaces and parks can give them an opportunity to share their learning with you.
- You can help their emerging maths skills to develop by practising counting and recognising the number up to 20, looking for 2D and 3D shapes in the environment at home, as well as practicing adding and subtracting using a variety of coins up to £2. You can also encourage them to write simple number sentences for addition and subtraction.
- In order to help them with their developing writing skills, you can encourage your child/ren to write their own name, help them to form their lower case letters correctly, and practice writing and reading c-v-c (e.g. pet, dog, mud) and c-v-cc words (e.g. walk, push and hand). If they draw a picture encourage them to label it, with a c-v-c/ c-v-c-c word. If they are doing writing at home, it is important for them to use capital letters, finger space, full stops and to check their writing makes sense. Please don’t worry about spelling as your child will be using their phonic knowledge i.e. instead of flowers, they might spell it ‘fluwrs’.
- In Reception we use an online journal called Tapestry to record observations on your children. You will be given a log in and we encourage you to upload any home learning or special events.

Curriculum themes for Reception

Each term we will responds to children's interests and needs so these topics will change slightly.

<p>September-October: Homes</p> <p>As their first theme in Reception at Alma, we will look at different types of homes in our environment and create 3d models of different homes. In addition we will look at homes animals like to live in and create a data chart to show where animals live. Our Jewish learning will be exploring the festival of Sukkot, a time many Jewish people build a temporary home. We will also begin to understanding and recite the prayers we use every day at Alma.</p>	<p>November-December: Our World</p> <p>The main theme for this part of the year is our world, looking at maps and stories from other cultures. Also learning about and celebrating the different festivals of light. We will be inviting in any parents/ grandparents/ Au Pairs to come and talk to us about their countries and cultures. In Jewish Learning we will explore the biblical story of creation, along with creation stories from other cultures. In addition, we will focus on the festival of Hanukkah, exploring the theme of light and dark, learning songs, creating decorations and discovering the story of the Maccabees.</p>
<p>January-February: Planting and Growing</p> <p>We will look at what plants need to grow. In order to do this we will conduct an experiment to see what temperament cress grows best in. We will also taste different fruits and vegetables and grow a variety of herbs and flowers. Additionally, we will look at food packaging to see where food comes from in the world. Jewish learning will be closely linked to our topic this term and the festival of Tu B'shvat and why trees are important to us. Children will learn the difference between fruit and vegetables in order to recognise why we say two different brahot (blessings).</p>	<p>March-April: Journeys</p> <p>This term we will explore the idea of going on a journey. How we will get there, what will we need and working on developing our problem skills. We also focus for part of this term on the topic of transport, looking at different types of vehicles. We will learn that some modes of transport travel in the air, on the ground and on water. Children will get the opportunity to talk to a travel agent and role play being at a travel agents to book a holiday. Furthermore, we will look at the traditional tales where the characters go on a journey. Such as Red Riding Hood, Hansel and Grettel and Snow White. Jewish learning will be focusing on Pesakh (Passover). We will learn all about the story of Pesakh and think about the journey the Jewish people took to flee the pharaoh. We will also learn the story of Purim and create our own musical shakers.</p>
<p>April-May: Animals</p> <p>This term we will explore the idea of animals in the world and life cycles. We will have our own class caterpillars and chicks and make observations on how they change and grow. We will create our own animals out of clay and think about the different textures we can create for their fur and skin. Our Jewish learning this term will explore the story of Noah and the Ark and we will begin to learn about our responsibility to care for animals.</p>	<p>June-July: Children's choice</p> <p>This term we will explore our own theme that the children will choose. The lessons for this term will be based around the theme the children have chosen. Children will have the opportunity to develop their understanding of the world, creativity, writing and mathematical skills. The topic will be shared with you through our weekly newsmail.</p>

In addition to our normal curriculum, during this year, children will be learning about the lives of 'interesting people', with a particular focus on 'Diversity and Tolerance'. We will be exploring a variety of religions, faiths, tribes and cultures, as well as helping children to develop the skill of 'makhlohet – respectful disagreement', through our curriculum, school trips, visitors and research projects.