



ALEC REED ACADEMY

PROUD TO LEARN



WELCOME

Alec Reed Academy Primary School is proud of its rich diversity. We work hard to enable all of our children to become leaders of learning and responsible local, national and global citizens.

Our central aim at ARA Primary is high quality learning for everyone, leading to exceptional standards of achievement across the whole curriculum.

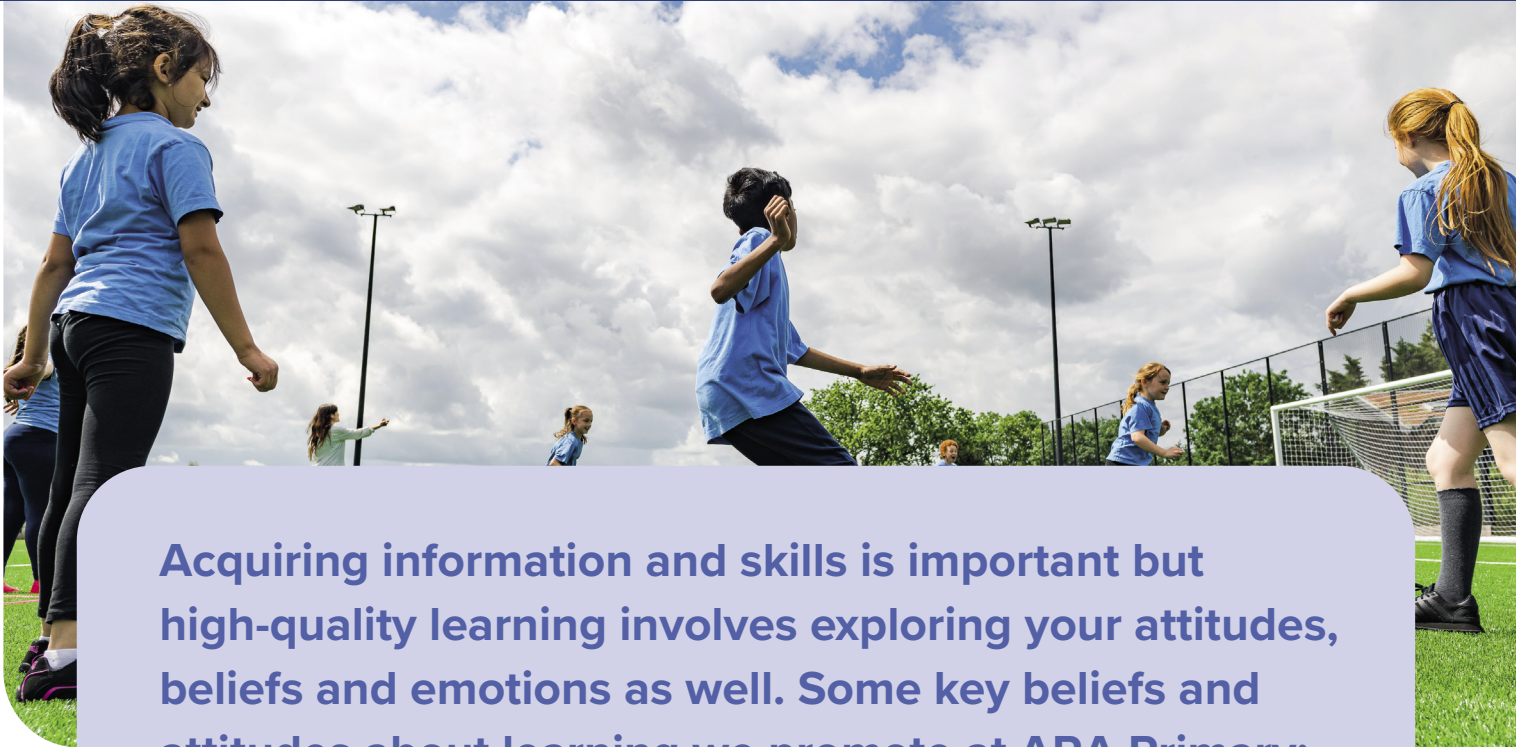
We believe all children should be taught kindness, care, consideration, co-operation, resilience, honesty, respect, hard work, perseverance, and openness.

We believe in the magic of childhood and our children are encouraged to enjoy and achieve as individuals, as part of a team and as a school. We believe in having a positive approach towards school life and children are supported to become highly motivated, hardworking, and confident.

School education provides the vital foundations of a child's life and therefore we recognise that regular attendance at school is crucial to ensure ongoing pupil progress and enjoyment of learning. At ARA Primary we believe that:

- Regular attendance and good punctuality are important for maximising achievement and obtaining the greatest benefit from education;
- Good relationships with children and their families are vital in encouraging regular attendance and punctuality;
- Children settle well and want to attend school when they feel valued and have a sense of belonging;
- Good habits of attendance and punctuality are key skills for adult life.





Acquiring information and skills is important but high-quality learning involves exploring your attitudes, beliefs and emotions as well. Some key beliefs and attitudes about learning we promote at ARA Primary:

THE BEST LEARNING IS ENJOYABLE AND CHALLENGING;

- Learning needs effort as well as ability;
- Effective learning needs persistence and resilience;
- Learners should be self-motivated;

We work hard on supporting children with Additional / Special Educational Needs and our school practice and policy is revised every year. Our aim is for all children to have access to all aspects of school life, as far as is reasonable and practical.

We will undertake to equip our children with excellent communication skills and a wealth of knowledge to shape the world around them to become happy, confident, articulate and productive members of society.

The staff work hard to provide a sequenced and progressive curriculum which is split into year groups where pupils access age-appropriate materials and experiences. Our curriculum is designed for our pupils considering their interests, gaps in learning or experiences

as well as providing opportunities to develop good learning behaviours and excellent communication skills and appreciation. Children need to be prepared for an ever-changing world.

THE SCHOOL WILL ENDEAVOUR TO:

Create an interesting and stimulating environment, which reflects our values, promotes a sense of community and an individual sense of self-worth.

Provide an effective, differentiated and supported curriculum which will enable all children, from the most able to those with additional / special educational needs, to make outstanding progress.

To enable our children to develop life skills, for an everchanging world by continually evolving the curriculum.

Promote social, cultural, moral, and spiritual development, preparing children to be responsible citizens who have a good understanding of British values.



Encourage partnership with families which foster positive links with the community.

Provide opportunities for children to develop independent enquiring minds and an enthusiasm for learning.

Promote an understanding of the responsibility to sustain the local and global environment.

Educational trips, visits and experiences reinforce as well as inspire pupils learning. They provide the opportunity to socialise on a different level and expose the pupils to worlds beyond their own.

The children learn the importance of communication, curiosity, engagement, challenge beyond what they already know as well as providing new insights into other peoples' passions and interests.

Educational trips provide an opportunity for total immersion in the natural environment and social setting. Pupils practise their social skills and critical thinking abilities outside of the controlled class setting.

We believe that pupils wellbeing is core to our work. A happy child achieves more.

Pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities are helped within the normal classroom environment in addition to being supported to work on individual programmes with additional trained staff. Our SEND team work closely with educational psychologists and other agencies who may support children where appropriate.

Staff from our SEND team are also happy to speak to you about general issues related to Special Educational Needs and Disabilities if after talking to the class teacher you feel that you would like some additional information.

Alec Reed Academy host a variety of clubs and extracurricular activities that pupils can get involved in. Letters will be sent home providing children with all of the options throughout the term.

HOME AND ONLINE LEARNING

Each year group across the school will set home learning for the children to complete outside of school. This will include reading, spellings, and mathematics practice.

We have also purchased for pupils a variety of online learning platforms that they can access from home. All username and password information will be sent home to you.

PREPARING FOR SCHOOL SOME TOP TIPS

Starting school is a milestone in the life of a child and often a time of stress and anxiety for parents. Parents can do much to reduce such anxiety – both for themselves and their child. This preparation can begin some months before the child starts and can be carried out gradually. It is an enormous change for a child to have to share a room with up to 30 other children. There is much that parents can do, however, to prepare children to cope with separation and socialisation and to help them get over their initial fears.

SOME THINGS TO TRY

- An initial visit to the school is a good idea. Meeting the staff can help. Show your child the school building, and the playground.
- Talk to your child about your own school days. Emphasise the opportunities for making friends and for getting involved in new activities. Approach this talk with a calm attitude and treat it as a normal development in the child's life.
- It is helpful if children can put on and take off coats and hang them up, use the toilet and flush it properly, wash their hands and tidy themselves.
- Help them to practise putting things in and out of their school bags.
- Teach them to use a tissue, share toys and take turns. Label all your children's clothes. Allow your children to do things independently, encourage confidence by having them dress themselves. Allow time for this in the morning.





**Praise their efforts at every opportunity.
Make things easy on yourselves.**

SOME THINGS TO TRY

- Shoes with a velcro fastener will enable him/her to change quickly and independently.
- Ask yourself whether or not your child can manage their clothes. Zips may be easier than buttons for example. Elasticated trousers can be easier than zips or buttons

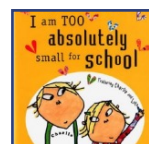
SOME THINGS TO AVOID

- It is natural to feel nervous about your child starting school but remember that your child can easily pick up on your emotions. Try to be relaxed and positive rather than showing your own nerves.

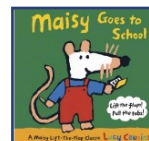
SOME STARTING SCHOOL BOOKS TO READ WITH YOUR CHILD



Starting School
by Janet and Allan Ahlberg



I am Too Absolutely Small for School
by Lauren Child



Maisy Goes to School
by Lucy Cousins



Going to School
by Anne Civardi and Stephen Cartwright

THE FIRST DAY AT ARA PRIMARY SCHOOL

It is important that you establish a good routine early. Check that all items – uniform, bag – are ready for the morning.

Give plenty of time in the morning for dressing, washing and eating a good breakfast. It is important that your child arrives at school before class starts as children can find it very intimidating to walk into a class already in progress. On the big day, if you are feeling upset, don't show it!

Leave your child with the teacher and tell them you will be back at the appropriate time to collect them. If your child is upset, trust the teacher. The teacher is very experienced and knows how to comfort an anxious child. Above all talk to us, your child will be happy and successful at school if there is a strong partnership between us.





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