

Welcome to  
Alec Reed Academy  
Nursery





Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you for choosing to send your child to Alec Reed Academy Nursery.

We regard it as a privilege and a great responsibility that you have entrusted your child to us.

In our Nursery environment your child will be involved in a variety of well-planned experiences designed to foster a range of skills. The learning opportunities we offer will be enriched by the support and guidance of our dedicated Nursery team.

Your child will have many opportunities to collaborate and share with other children, engage in conversations with peers and adults, listen to stories, and enjoy outdoor learning. All the time they will be growing and learning.

Above all else, we want your child to be happy and to enjoy this year in the warm and secure environment created by our caring and experienced team.

We are excited to start this journey with you and your child!

*The Nursery Team*

## About our Nursery

There are three classes in our Nursery:



Ducklings



Cubs



Lambs

The class teacher is Mrs Young. The class your child will be in will depend on the session they attend:

Morning session times: 8.15AM-11.15AM

Afternoon session times: 12.00PM-3.00PM

### **Mission Statement**

At ARA, we believe in the importance of supporting children in developing their communication and language skills from an early age. Children need to feel confident in expressing their opinions and feelings. We strive to help our pupils develop strong social skills so they can make friends, play alongside their peers, solve problems, express themselves, and seek help from adults when needed.

We see nursery education as a valuable and important experience that extends and complements the love and care children receive at home. Maintaining a close partnership between parents and our staff is crucial for the benefit of your child.

Our goal is to provide a safe, secure, interesting, and challenging environment that encourages your child to become an increasingly independent, self-confident, and happy individual.

## **Frequently asked questions by parents/carers**

### **Is my child just going to be playing all day?**

You might find that when you ask your child what they did at Nursery, they may just say “Play”. But young children learn best through play. Staff will support learning by observing play, interacting with the children, and extending their interests through questions, suggestions and adding new resources. The majority of learning will be child-led rather than adult-led.

### **Do they go outside even when it is cold?**

We believe there is no such thing as bad weather, only bad clothing! Please ensure your child has appropriate clothing for the weather. Outdoor learning is an important part of Nursery provision. Your child will have access to the garden and will be taking regular visits to the academy fields. Outdoor learning has many benefits for children. It can improve their physical and mental health, gross and fine motor skills, resilience, problem-solving skills, risk assessing, collaborative working, communication skills and instil a love of nature.



### **My child gets really unsettled leaving me, what should I do if they are distressed when I drop them off?**

Some children will run off into Nursery without a backward glance, but some may be a bit hesitant – as may you! This is very common. Our staff will advise you to say bye, tell them you will come back later and then leave (waiting around may only upset your child more). Often your child is upset because of leaving you, not because of coming into nursery. Often, they settle very quickly, and our Nursery staff will be there to support both you and your child. If your child is really unsettled, we may ask you to wait in the reception area.

## Uniform

Nursery children are expected to wear the full Alec Reed Academy Uniform, which can be purchased online in our school Uniform Shop. Young children need to wear clothing that enables them to go to the toilet easily and independently. Names should be put inside all your child's uniform. This includes coats, jumpers, tracksuit bottoms, trousers, skirts/dresses.

-Academy Polo Shirt *Sky Blue with Logo*

-Academy Sweatshirt or Cardigan *Navy Blue with Logo*

-Navy jogging bottoms *No Logos*

-Sensible Black Velcro shoes/trainers

-Wellington boots *These need to be labelled and left at the Nursery*

## **Toileting accidents & Medical welfare**

As much as we want our children to be independent for their toileting needs, we understand toileting accidents will happen. Please can you ensure that your child has a spare set of clothes (to be left at school) that we can change them into if/when required.

Accidents happen... If your child has a medical accident at school such as a bumped head or grazed knee, they will be treated by a first aider. Any accident will be logged on Medical Tracker and you will be informed via email. Where applicable, staff will speak with their parents/carers at the end of the day. If we deem them not able to stay at school, we will ring you to come and collect them. Children can suddenly become ill so it is important that we know we can contact you or another adult relative/friend at all times. Please ensure that the school is kept up to date with your contact details.

## Parent Online Access



### **Tapestry**

At ARA we use an online learning journal App to record your child's learning, called Tapestry. Once you sign the permission form, you will receive a personal log in for your child through the email you provide to the school. We ask that you fill in the child's 'about me' page before they start. Once they start Nursery, you will be able to see photos and videos of your child's learning at Nursery. You will also be able to upload any work that they have done at home that you would like their teachers to see.



**ClassDojo**

### **Class Dojo**

At ARA we expect good behaviour from our pupils at all times. Children will receive 'class Dojos' for use of good manners, helping at tidy up time, being a good friend, and showing good listening to instructions. You will receive a personal log in for your child's Class Dojo account. We will also be using Class Dojo to communicate with you, and you will be able to message the class teacher.



### **Parent Pay**

Using a highly secure website, [www.parentpay.com](http://www.parentpay.com), with a unique user ID and password, parents/carers and staff are able to pay for uniform, trips, music lessons, revision books, and lots more using your credit and debit cards. This is a free service to parents/carers and staff and there are no additional charges for paying on the internet. Parents receive a letter containing their user ID and password as soon as a child is fully registered as a pupil or student at the Academy so that they are able to start using ParentPay immediately.

## Gentle reminders

- Children shall receive fruit and milk every day.
- Children to bring in their own water bottles and book bags (named).
- Please must bring in a pair of wellington boots to leave at nursery so your child can enjoy the outdoors in all weather.
- Children's attendance and punctuality is very important.
- It is essential you bring spare named clothes (underwear, socks, t-shirt, bottoms) into school in case of any accidents.
- Phone the school office 020 8841 4511 if your child is not attending school and give the reason why. *If your child has vomited or had diarrhoea, then they must stay off school for at least 48 hrs.*
- If you are running late at home time or planning for someone else to pick up your child, please call the school office.
- Staff need to be aware of your child's medical background, in particular any allergies (e.g. bee stings, dairy food), any dietary restrictions (e.g. vegetarian or Halal), and any medical conditions that are important for us to know (e.g. asthma or eczema).
- It is essential that you inform the school if you change your address or phone number.

## Messy Play

### I'm sorry I got messy today but..

I've been exploring the water and learning about emptying, filling and pouring. Sometimes I might spill a little bit - the muscles in my hands are still developing.

There was flour in our messy area today. I was so interested in how it would make clouds if I threw a little into the air.

I loved the texture of the playdough, but I rested my arm on a little bit as I reached across the table. I didn't realise it would stick to my sleeve!

I was learning about what happens if I mix two colours together.. It's messy work, but the green paint on my jumper comes from the blue and yellow that I mixed!

This mark is from a pen. I'm trying really hard to learn to hold the pen and make marks on the paper.



**Early  
Childhood  
and Family  
Service**

The mud kitchen is very dirty, but it's so much fun! Playing there helps me develop my imagination and explore my understanding of the world. I watched you cook at home and I wanted to try by myself.

Nursery involves lot of exploration. This can sometimes mean that your child will get a bit messy. Whilst we will do our best to protect your child's clothes or shoes, please bear in mind that children will get messy. Please do not bring your child into school with coats/shoes that you do not want to get messy.



## Preparing your child for Nursery

The following list of ideas will help build confidence in your child for starting Nursery:

- Let him/her play with water i.e. Water the garden, bath dolls, blow bubbles, sail boats, fill/empty plastic containers.
- Make play dough and let them make cakes, buns etc.
- Read books – join the library, you can borrow books for free!
- Sing nursery rhymes and songs that you were taught when you were young.
- Teach your child independence when using the toilet, pulling pants down and up, flushing the toilet and washing and drying hands properly.
- Encourage your child to complete a task, once started, i.e. a jigsaw. This helps to develop a sense of satisfaction in completing a job.
- Encourage your child to tidy up and to care for his/her own personal belongings.
- Encourage your child to dress and undress him/herself.
- Play with your child.
- Let your child help you around the house e.g. cleaning, setting the table, cooking.

Children love to copy what mum and dad do and by doing so they are learning new skills.

## Nursery Team



**Mrs Young**

Nursery Class Teacher



**Emma Smith**

Primary HLTA



**Olivia Vaincourt-Strallen**

Primary HLTA

## The Nursery Day

Each session follows a regular routine which provides children with a range of learning opportunities and experiences. The length and depth of the sessions below are adjusted to meet the needs of each individual child's age and stage of development.

**Group Times:** Literacy and numeracy activities with their learning group or key group. Children work together with children from their learning group or key group to share/tell a story, sing some songs and talk about their experiences from the session. Children spend time with their learning group in one of the nursery spaces (inside or outside) engaging in adult directed learning often focussed on project work, or updating profile books.

**Child Led play:** During this part of the day adults support children to make choices and access learning/play opportunities across the nursery space (inside and outside).

**Tidy up time:** All children are encouraged to help with tidy up time.

**Snack Time:** A small healthy snack is available to all children during the day.

As you can see, every session is busy!

Your child, particularly early on in the year, is likely to be tired after nursery, and eager to see you. You should drop off and collect your child on time as they will miss important parts of the day if you are late and often become anxious at the end of a session.



Notes