

# Welcome to Nursery at



# Alec Reed Academy

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## Nursery Staff

Tasha Coupland- Nursery Teacher

Kerrie Gostelow- Classworker

Suzan Nasiri- Classworker

## Communication and Language

At ARA we believe in the importance of supporting children to develop their communication and language skills from an early age. Children need to feel confident to express themselves, their opinions and feelings. We want our pupils to develop good social skills so that they can make friends, play alongside their peers, solve problems, express themselves and ask adults for help when necessary. We want to support them to become independent learners who can make their own choices.

You can support at home by modelling full sentences and introducing extended vocabulary. For example, instead of saying, "That is a big bus" you could say 'huge, massive, gigantic or enormous. Encourage your child to respond in full sentences as opposed to just one-word answers giving them time to respond as they will need to process the question and remember their day at school.

## **Reading**

At ARA we strive to ensure that our pupils develop a 'love for reading'. We encourage children to use the reading area in the nursery. Children can choose to read a story to our special reading buddies (teddies).

Please could you read at home every day and this can include being read to by parents and family members. We encourage pupils to have their own selection of books at home and to make use of local, public libraries in the neighbourhood.

## **Reading Records**

Each child will be given a reading record. As your child's reading book is changed weekly, during guided reading sessions, the class teacher will write in the title of the new book. Please can you sign the reading record every time you read with or to your child.

## **100 reads**

At the back of your child's reading record booklet there will be a 100 reads grid. Each time you read with your child ensure you sign that you have read, so that a member of staff can tick off the 100 reads grid. Once all the squares are filled in your child will receive a 100-read certificate in our weekly assemblies.

## **Rising Stars**

Rising Stars is an online reading website that the school has subscribed to. Your child will receive a username and password to access this online. The resources support your child on their journey to develop a 'love for reading' and we strongly recommend that you take full use of this invaluable resource.

A book will be assigned to your child each week and you can read it with them and you will be given comprehension styled questions to help ensure your child has understood what they have read and to see if they can describe the characters, setting and main events.

## Phonics

At ARA we currently follow the Read Write Inc. phonics programme. Phonemes are the sounds that individual letters make. Once children are confident with some of these we then move on to segmenting and blending which is the process whereby a child can break down the sounds in words and then put them back together to read the word.

We will do daily phonic sessions at school but you can also practise this at home using phonic websites listed below:

<https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/freeIndex.htm>

<http://www.ruthmiskin.com/en/parents/>

Your child will receive a Read Write Inc. sound mat to keep for use at home. Please refer to it when working with your child and practising the phonemes.

## **Mark Making**

Every child will start Nursery at a different stage of their mark making journey. Children need to build the muscles in their hands in order to correctly hold and manipulate a pencil. You can support at home by getting children to help you with baking, particularly making bread so that they can manipulate the dough. You can also use play dough, threading activities and anything that means they have to use small movements with their fingers.

In order to keep mark making activities exciting and fun for children it is important not to make it just about holding a pencil and writing in a book. Children enjoy writing at different levels so not always at a table, sometimes lying on their tummies on the floor. Change the size of the paper and materials you give



them to mark onto, change the tools you give them to write with e.g. giant pencils, highlighters, self- made paint brushes etc.

## The Stages of Emergent Writing

Drawing :  
children draw/scribble pictures



Random scribbling :  
children scribble and can say  
what their marks mean.



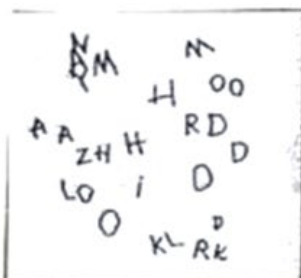
Controlled scribbling:  
Children scribble in rows across  
the page left to right and top to  
bottom and give meaning to lines of  
their writing.



Letter like forms :  
Children use unconventional  
letter forms and familiar  
symbols such as circles but  
Still give meaning to their  
writing.



Random letters :  
Children begin to use random letter  
shapes to convey meaning.



Patterned letters :  
Children begin to use strings  
of unrelated letters,  
sometimes the letters from  
their name appear.



## Maths

Children are exposed to numbers, shape, pattern and measure in the world around them. We want children to not only be able to count but to use their mathematical knowledge to solve real life problems and be practical mathematicians.

You can support your child at home by:

- Setting up the table for dinner (How many plates do we need? How many more forks do we need?)
- Counting how many blue cars you see whilst waiting at the bus stop
- Counting how many stairs you climb at the shop
- Helping to put socks into pairs
- Finding different shapes in the world around them

-Measuring how long they are using sticks or natural objects

## **Home learning**

Please read with your child every day and remember to fill in their reading record.

Every half term your child will receive a sheet that breaks down our topic over the different areas of learning. You are encouraged to work alongside your child to complete some of the activities listed.

We would like this to be an opportunity for you to share an interest in your child's learning rather than a 'chore' to be completed.

## **Proud Books**

We will be sending your child home with their own home learning journey called a 'Proud Book'. These are to be used for your child to stick in any work that they have done at home that they are particularly proud of. This could also be pictures of them doing something and can be used to stick in homework.

Please monitor your child when they use this book to ensure that it does not become a 'colouring book' for them. They can then come to school and show their friends what they have made.

## **Praise and Sanctions**

At ARA we expect good behaviour from our pupils at all times. Children receive 'class Dojos' for using good manners, helping at tidy up time, being a good friend and showing good listening to instructions.

We also have a reflection system where every child starts the day on 'Good Day' but then can move up to 'Great Day' or 'Brilliant Day' for positive behaviour as well as down to 'Warning', 'Time out' and 'Time out of class' for inappropriate behaviour.

## **Star of the week**

Each week in assembly the class teacher nominates a pupil to receive the star of the week certificate for something positive they have achieved.

## Reminders

- All names should be put inside your child's uniform. This includes coats, jumpers, t-shirts, trousers, skirts/dresses and PE Kits.
- You can bring PE kits in on Monday and keep them on the peg and take home every half term.
- Children receive fruit and milk every day
- Children can bring in their own water bottles but they need to be labelled with their names
- Children's attendance and punctuality is very important and this can have a huge impact of a child's progress through the year. If your child has vomited or had diarrhoea then they must stay off school for at least 48 hrs.
- It is useful if you can bring spare clothes (underwear, socks, t-shirt, bottoms) into school in case of any accidents
- Phone the school office if your child is not attending school and give the reason why.

- If you are running late at home time or you are planning for someone else to pick up your child please call the school office and let them know.
- Any medication that your child has been prescribed needs to be reported to the main office where you will be asked to fill in a form with the details.
- Make sure all contact details are kept up to date and that if you have any changes then please let the school office know straight away.