

Reception Overview for Parents 2014-15



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 an theme, connecting skills in literacy, numeracy, science and computing, where relevant. 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 new opportunities or national initiatives.

Core skills: In Reception our core skills are based on the early years curriculum. There are seven areas of learning: personal and social development; physical development; communication and language; literacy; mathematic; understanding of 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
Numeracy	Literacy	Numeracy	Literacy	Reading
Phonics / Ivrit <i>Split then swap</i>	Phonics / Ivrit <i>Split then swap</i>	Phonics / Ivrit <i>Split then swap</i>	Phonics / Ivrit <i>Split then swap</i>	Personal, social and emotional development
<i>Lunch</i>	<i>Lunch</i>	<i>Lunch</i>	<i>Lunch</i>	<i>Lunch</i>
P.E. / Fine motor skills work. <i>Split then swap</i>	Topic	P.E. / Jewish Studies <i>Split then swap</i>	Topic	Topic
ICT	Assembly	Reading	Reading	Kabbalat Shabbat

Reading books

Reading books are normally changed at the beginning of the week, but please ensure that your child brings their reading book into school every day, as we hear children read on different days. Library books will be changed on a Friday, when available from Barnet school library service.

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.
- Taking your child to visit exciting places of learning, such as the science museum or the natural history museum 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 20p. 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 are doing writing at home, it is important to for them to use capital letters, finger space, full stops and to check writing makes sense.

Curriculum themes for Reception

September-October: Homes

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 we built a temporary home. We will also begin to understand and recite the prayers we use every day at Alma.

November-December: Our World

The main theme for this part of the year is our world, looking at maps and stories from other cultures. Our learning will explore the biblical story of creation, along with creation stories from other cultures. 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 create their own vehicle out of clay and mix their own colour to decorate. 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.

January-February: Growing

We will look at what plants need to grow. In order to do this we will conduct an experiment to see what temperature cress grows best in. We will also taste different fruits and vegetables and grow a variety of herbs. 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).

March-April: Journeys

This term we will explore the idea of going on a journey. We will look at the story of Abraham and we will think about the famous explorer Christopher Columbus. Furthermore, we will look at the traditional tales where the characters go on a journey. Such as Red Riding Hood, Hansel and Gretel 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.

April-May: Animals

This term we will explore the idea of animals in the jungle and life cycles. We will have our own class caterpillars 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. As our person of interest we will look at the life of David Attenborough. 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.

June-July: Space

This term we will explore the topic of Space. We will think about what we see beyond the sky and what it might be like to live on another planet. We will create our own puppet aliens out of material and our own paper-mâché planets. Our Jewish learning this term explores the importance of the night sky in Jewish traditions and stories.