

Early Years at Alton Infant School



Our Vision

The Importance of Reception Year

The Reception year is a vital stepping stone in a child's educational journey. Rather than just being a waiting room for "real school," it is recognized as a distinct, valuable stage of learning that bridges the gap between home life and formal education.



Welcoming Your Child to School

Starting school is a massive and exciting milestone for both children and their families! Creating a secure, welcoming, and joyful environment is the top priority for making that first big step a positive one.

Nurturing Successful and Confident Learners

Building a strong foundation in the early years is all about unlocking a child's natural potential. When children feel supported and inspired, they develop the resilience and enthusiasm needed to thrive academically and personally.

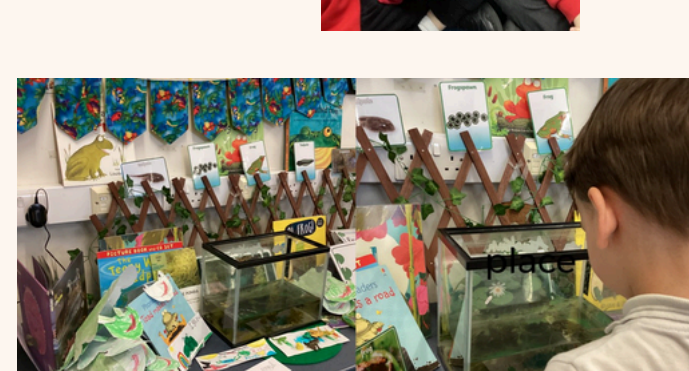
Our Curriculum

Our curriculum places play and active exploration at the heart of a child's early education. By turning natural curiosity into meaningful experiences, children develop vital academic, social, and emotional skills in a fun and engaging environment.

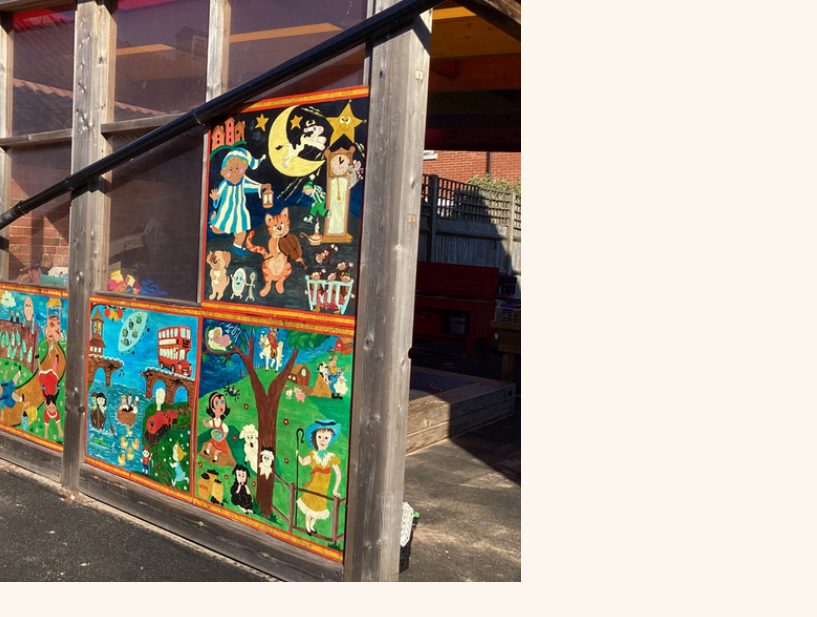
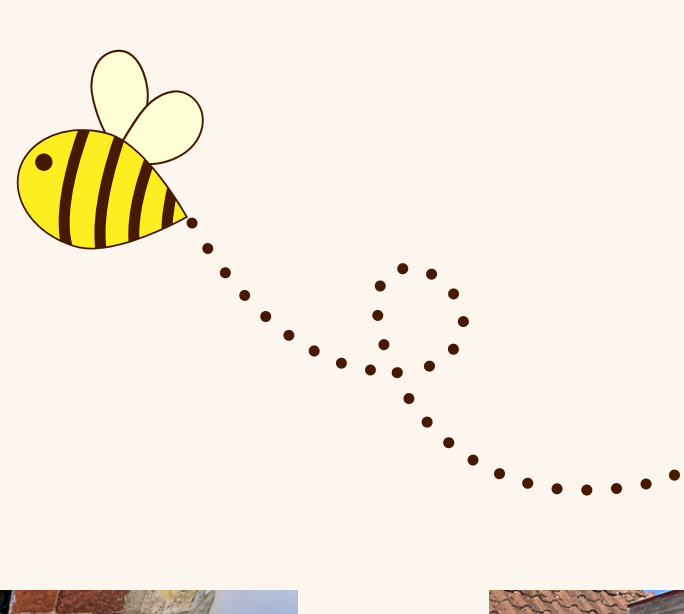
The children have the opportunity to actively explore their surroundings through self-initiated activities, carefully planned structured activities and stimulating learning experiences. The Reception team includes 2 highly qualified and experienced teachers who work closely with a

dedicated team of teaching assistants.

We aim to establish a smooth and happy transition into school life and to build strong foundations for future learning.



Gallery



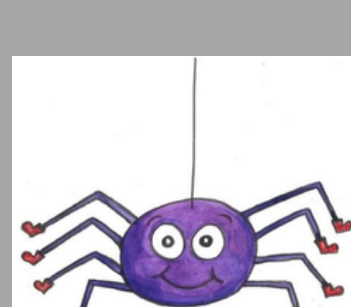
At Alton Infant School, learning is brought to life through special learning characters. These characters act as friendly guides, helping children understand and develop the key traits they need to become successful, confident learners.



Concentrating caterpillar



Considerate hedgehog



Reflective ladybird

Brave Spider

Resilient Tortoise

Curious cat

Our Curriculum Goals



We would love to see all children achieve these wonderful skills as part of our learning roadmap by the end of their Reception year!

Intent

EYFS at Alton Infant School has our young pupils at its heart. Four main points are central to its aim – first hand experiences, knowledge of the world, oracy and well-being. Through their first-hand learning experiences, the early years children of Alton Infant School aspire to be: curious, confident, concentration, resilient, brave, and considerate. We provide our children with a curriculum that is designed to be flexible, engaging and exciting so that their unique needs, passions and interests are fully embraced. Every child is recognised as a unique individual and we celebrate and welcome differences in our school community.

We intend to:

- Broaden minds and children's outlook on life.
- Provide experiences of awe and wonder.
- Consider our cohorts backgrounds and experiences.
- Develop knowledge and understanding of the school community, Alton community and the wider world.
- Support ALL our families in partnership.
- To be the best they can be.

Implementation

Staff in the EYFS work vigorously to create a nurturing environment that fosters personal, social and emotional development and communication and language skills, whilst also promoting a love of learning through our appealing topic based curriculum. We work hard to ensure that every child feels safe and can thrive. Our strong focus on speech and language development allows children to access the EYFS curriculum and, in turn, make excellent progress towards reaching the good level of development at the end of their Reception year. Each half term, EYFS staff introduce a new theme to provide inspiration for learning, whilst providing the flexibility for children to follow some of their own interests during discovery time. Children become 'absorbed' into their learning via well-planned imaginative and creative experiences. These experiences engage and motivate the children to explore knowledge and new ideas. The outcomes are celebrated through assemblies, classroom celebrations such as 'Characteristic boards, WOW tree, rainbow, class/team points and as part of individual learning journeys. Children learn through a balance of child initiated and adult directed activities.

Our learning environments, alongside interactions with our skilled practitioners, are carefully planned and resourced to allow children the opportunities to:

- Develop their communication and language skills.
- Build positive relationships with adults and peers.
- Develop confidence, independence, and resilience.
- Develop their gross and fine motor skills.
- Learn through active play and exploration.
- Enjoy learning and have fun.

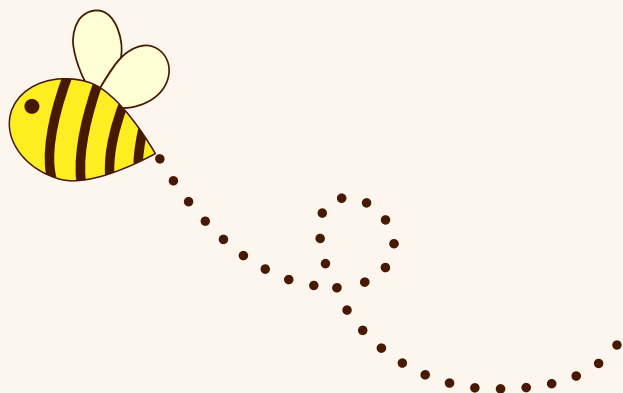
- Gain the basic skills, knowledge and understanding required to become confident school-ready learners.

In order to account for the individual needs of our children, we implement the curriculum in a purposeful and meaningful way. This is done through high quality teaching of knowledge, skills and vocabulary, which span across the range of areas within the early year's curriculum. We are therefore able to ensure that all children are engaged in becoming creative, resilient, independent and aspirational learners.





IMPACT

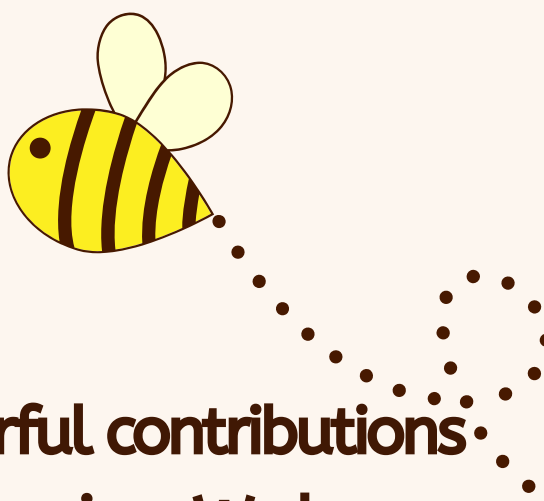


To be best they can be!

The engagement of the children in Early Years at Alton Infant School will equip them with the foundation of knowledge and skills necessary to access the Key Stage One curriculum. For example, children leaving Year R will have a secure understanding of foundational mathematical and scientific concepts alongside well established early reading skills. These skills are established through daily phonics, storytelling sessions, and individual reading practice. This range of high quality input uses a wealth of “rich” texts to inspire a love of reading. Children will have developed the self-esteem and resilience required to be successful learners beyond their time at Alton Infant School, communicating their wants and needs, and using appropriate independence skills to support their learning and life skills.



Parent partnership



Working Together in Partnership

At Alton Infant School, we truly value the wonderful contributions that parents and carers make to their child’s learning. We love taking every opportunity to work in close collaboration with families to ensure every child thrives!



Community Partnership



- 'WOW' Leaves: Parents are invited to fill out 'WOW' leaves to celebrate their child's ongoing successes and special moments from home.
- Class Dojo Platform: We use Class Dojo for daily correspondence, keeping parents completely up to date with current learning and classroom activities. Families can also add their own observations and celebrations from home, helping us gain a wider, wonderful view of each child. Weekly photo collages and individual portfolio updates are shared here too!
- Sharing Progress: We hold formal parents' consultations during the Autumn and Spring terms, followed by a detailed report sent home in the Summer term.
- Weekly Reading Journeys: Children take home weekly reading books along with a reading record book, and we kindly ask parents and carers to write in it every time they share a story together.
- Unicef Bear: Each weekend, our special 'Unicef bear' goes home with a child, giving them and their families a fun way to explore and choose rights from the UN Convention together!

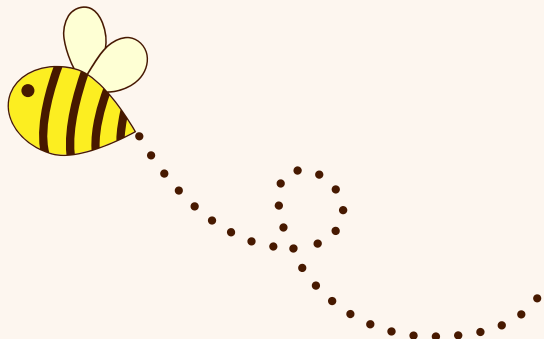
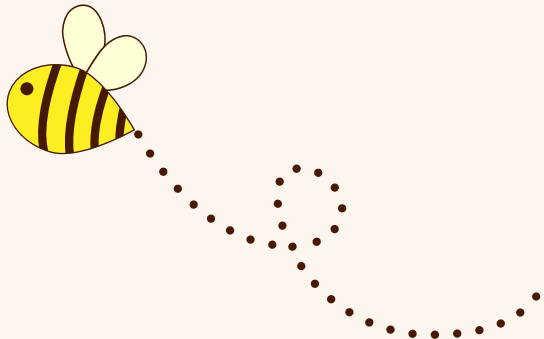


Community Partnership



Community Links and Trips

- Learning doesn't stop at the classroom door! Throughout the year, we love connecting with our wider community:
- Special Visitors: We invite local members of the community into school to help bring our topics to life.
- Exciting Local Trips: We arrange fun educational visits to places like the local library, the train station, the market, the local supermarket, and the church.
- Note: By building this strong bridge between home, school, and the community, we create a supportive, welcoming network that helps every child feel confident and secure.



Please look at our curriculum map for more detailed information.