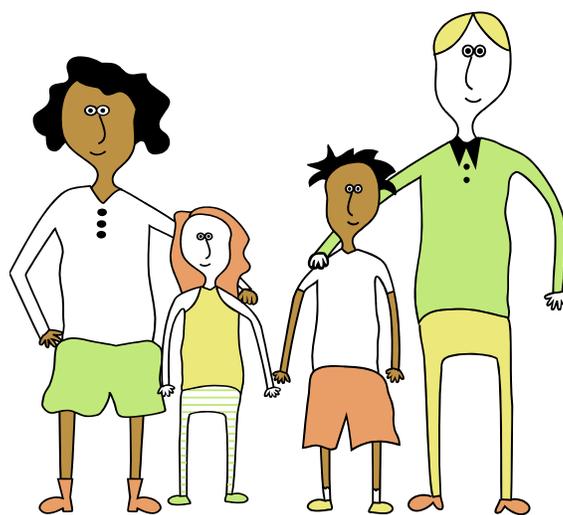


The a-b-c of
Starting
at
Aloeric



Information for parents

Welcome to Aloeric

...we're looking forward to getting to know your child, and to many happy times in his/her first and future years at Aloeric. This first year is a time of great change for your child, but it is also a time of change for you, as you both settle in to new routines and experiences. We hope this booklet will help with all this, in giving you information about the everyday routines and what to expect over the year.



Names and numbers...

the (job share) teachers in Bumblebee class are Ms Nina Jeffries and Mrs Lucie Chichon; Ms Jeffries is also Assistant Headteacher.
the (job share) teachers in Ladybird Class are Mrs Rebecca Edwards and Mrs Ruth Gould; the Headteacher is Mr Matthew Nightingale; the joint Assistant Headteacher & SENCo is Mrs Debbie O'Mahony
the office staff are Mrs Helen Price, Miss Clare Weston, Mrs Annie Tucker and Mrs Carole Elliott;
the school number is 01225 702563



The school day

Mornings...

... children in the reception classes go straight into their classrooms through the side reception door from 8.45 a.m. Please do come into the classroom with the children and choose a book together, saying goodbye in the main classroom so that the children can go on their own into the quiet room for registration at 8.55 a.m. Over the school year this will change: first we will ask you to say goodbye at the classroom door so that the children go into the classroom on their own!



Lunchtimes...

... children who are attending half-days for the first term are picked up from their classroom at 11.50 a.m.

Afternoons...

... children in the reception classes are picked up from their classrooms at 3.00 p.m...



is for the **Aloeric Dozen** - 12 books we suggest you share with your children over the summer. We use these books in school in the first term, and sharing them together over the summer will give your child's

learning a great boost! Please tell us about any **allergies** that your children have, and the required treatment: we will draw up a care plan to manage this in school. As there are some children in school with nut allergies, we also ask that you do not put any nuts or nut products in the lunchboxes. We do not provide **after-school** care at Aloeric, but children can be picked up from school by local after-school clubs - please talk to us if you'd like to find out more.

B is for bedtime stories - birthdays - and books. We love **birthdays** and like to celebrate them in school but please don't send party invitations or birthday sweets into class - it's a lovely thought but can cause tears and unintended upset for those who can't come! We also love **books** - you are welcome, indeed wildly encouraged, to borrow books from the classroom and the infant library to share with your children. We have **bedtime stories** every term - children (and parents) come in pjs and bring teddies! We also offer a **breakfast club** from 8.00am - if you are interested, details can be got at the office.





is for **coughs and colds and other little illnesses** - which can spread very easily in school, so please do keep the children home when they're poorly, and for 48 hours after their last being

sick or visiting the toilet. It's helpful to ring the school office to let us know they won't be in. If the children need medicine in school, it will need to be left at the school office and you will need to sign a consent form.

At **Christmas** we have a Christmas party, and the reception classes and years 1 and 2 put on a performance of the Nativity - it's usually in the second to last week before the end of term, and parents are invited - letters telling you about it will be sent at the beginning of December. It's also for **Celebration**

Assembly - from the January term you will be invited to join the children when they are presented with

certificates for extra special achievements.

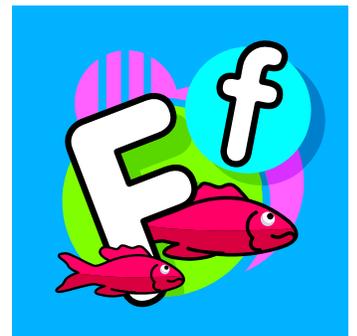


D is for **diary** - the Headteacher sends out a yearly and termly diary sheet to keep you updated on forthcoming events.



is for **EVENTS** and the Early Years Curriculum. The **Early Years Curriculum** is the basis of all our teaching over the reception year. The teachers plan together, so that both classes have the same learning experiences. We will give you good advance notice of **events** throughout the year - they are likely to include the following - new parents evening in October/November on helping your child learn; Parent's Evenings every term (2 as individual appointments, 4 as a general invitation into the class); FAPs Christmas Fair, Nativity show and Christmas parties in December; Family Fun Sports Day in June/July; school; FAPs Summer Fair in June/July; and trips throughout the year.

F is for **fruit**, **Foundation**, the **Foundation Stage Profile**, **first aid** and **FAPs**. The school aims to be a healthy school, and the children are given **fruit** for morning break - you do not need to send any other snack. The Reception classes are sometimes called **Foundation**, and the **Foundation Stage Profile** is



our ongoing record of the children's attainment, building on their learning at nursery and pre-school. Any bumps and accidents in school are treated in the **first-aid** room; everyday fallings-over etc will be looked after by whoever is on duty, and we also have trained first-aiders in school to look at any bigger bumps or accidents. We won't tell you about every single falling-over and scrape, but we will let you know about head injuries and bigger bumps. We have an active **FAPs** - Friends of Aloeric Primary School, who will welcome new members with open arms. They organise a number of events throughout the year and are a great support to the school.

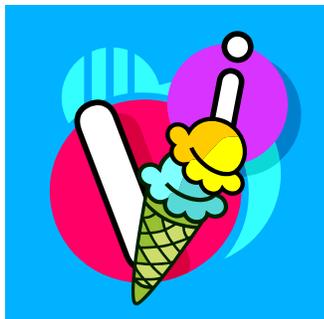


is for **games** - a great way to learn. Play together whenever you can, and do borrow from our store of maths games in the library.



H is for **the home-link book** - very useful and given to every child in the school, new every term. You can write down when you have shared

books at home, and also use it to send messages into the teacher, who can also send messages to you! It's also for **holidays, helpers** and supporting learning at **home**. Taking your child out of school during term time is classed as an unauthorised absence: missing out additional school time can make a big difference to learning and can mean missing out on new routines and settling in activities. We always welcome **helpers** into the classroom, whether it's for half-an-hour or a whole morning - please come and talk to us if you would like to help. In the first two terms we run an open evening and some afternoon workshops on **how to support your child's learning at home** - we will send a letter with the dates and full information nearer the time.



is for **independence** and **ICT**. **Independence** in learning begins with and is supported by independence in general - we try to encourage it at every turn - a child who is used to problem solving how to do up her own buttons has a head start and active approach to problem solving with numbers and ideas. Go on, encourage the independence at home - secure in the knowledge that carrying their own

lunchbox or finding their own clothes is also supporting their learning! **ICT** can support learning in so many ways: the children will have weekly sessions in the ICT suite, and will regularly use interactive activities in the classroom. At home, you might like to try www.coxhoe.durham.sch.uk and www.ictgames.com.

J is for **Jolly Phonics** - phonics is the first stage in learning to read and write, and is how we teach children to connect sounds with letters or groups of letters. We follow the Jolly Phonics scheme in school, and we hope you will practice with the children at home - they will teach you the particular action to make for each sound - it's great fun!



is for **kit** - PE Kit to be exact - t-shirt (an Aloeric one if you wish, but it doesn't have to be) - shorts, and daps, all clearly named and in a bag with the name on the outside. No aprons are needed for art as

we have lots.

L is for 'Letters and Sounds', lunches and learning journey. **Letters and Sounds** is the phonics scheme that follows on from Jolly Phonics, and is taught from reception to Year 2.



Children have **hot school lunches** in the school hall or packed **lunches** in a classroom, supervised by a dinner lady. Lunches can be provided for children who are entitled to free school meals: please talk to Mrs Kelly in the office if you think you may qualify for this. We encourage healthy eating, and ask that the children do not have fizzy drinks. As nut allergies are increasingly common, we also ask that you do not put any nuts or nut products in the lunchboxes. The **learning journey** is a record of each child's learning in key milestones over their first year in school. It will include the "Starting School" booklets the children bring home after their induction day in July, and we hope that you will continue to contribute to it over the year.



is for **medicine**. If you want your child to be given a prescribed medicine in

school, please take it along to the office - you will also need to sign a form giving permission. We will not give any medicines without our specific written consent. If your child has to have a long term regular or allergy medication we will need to meet with you to discuss it and set up a health care plan in school.

N is for **news, newsletter and notice board**. The Headteacher sends fortnightly **newsletters** with information about school events and



news; there will also often be class letters telling you about specific things in your child's class. We also have a **notice board** outside the front of the school and outside the reception classrooms.



is for **outdoor play in our outdoor classroom** - an important and regular part of learning and not just when the sun is shining! So please do make sure your child always has a coat in school. It's also

for **open mornings** - when you are invited to come and spend time in the classroom with your children.

P is for **playing and Parent's Evenings**. **Play** is an important part

of teaching and learning in the reception year - you'd be surprised how much planning goes into it and how much

learning results from it! Children in the reception classes have separate morning and afternoon

playtimes in the first 2 terms, joining the infants in the infant playground for lunch playtimes, and for morning playtimes in the summer terms. **Parent's**

Evenings are held every term, but please don't wait till then to talk to us if you have a concern - we are always

happy to arrange a time to meet you throughout the year.:

while we will aim always to keep you updated on your child's progress throughout the year, you will

appreciate that there's just not time to talk to everybody every day! Rest assured, however, that we

will always talk to you if we have any concerns or problems in the progress, learning or behaviour of your

child, and work with you to address them.

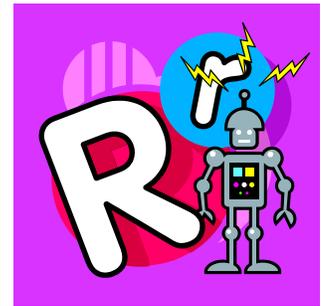




is for **questions** - we love them! They're a good sign of an enquiring mind and an enquiring mind is a growing mind. We don't mind them from parents either - if you don't ask us, we don't know what you want to know!

R is for **reading** - the more the better!

Reading to your child everyday is a lovely thing to do together and makes a significant support to their learning. You can choose books together in the classroom at the start of every day, and you are welcome to borrow books from the infant library after school. From term 2, the children will also bring books home to read to you: we will talk about how you can support this at the Open Evening in November. We will also be holding some open mornings throughout the year, when we hope you will come into school to read and share activities with your children. It's also for rewards and reports. We all flourish under praise, and we have a positive **rewards** strategy of stickers, merits (in merit cards) and positive celebrations in class. Written reports are issued at the end of the year, and you will have the chance to discuss them at the July Parent's Evening.





is for **special educational needs (SEN)**. Many children throughout their school life will have some **special educational need** where they will need extra and focussed support in learning, behaviour or social development. Strategies may include focussed support and strategies in class by the teacher and teaching assistant, support from our SEN teaching assistants or the Special Needs Co-ordinator (**SENCo**). We draw up an Individual Education Plan, which is discussed with you and regularly reviewed.

Talking with your children is a great support to their learning. Please also keep talking to us - we will keep you informed but do talk to us if you have any worries- after school is best as the time before school is generally taken up with preparing for the day ahead.



is for school **uniform**: white shirt school tie, school jumper or cardigan with black/grey trousers/skirt/pinafore in

winter, and a red school polo shirt with trousers/skirt, or red checked dress, in summer. These can all be ordered on line, and you will be given separate information about this.



is for **volunteers** - always welcome. Please let us know if you'd like to help in class.



is for **writing**. We encourage independent writing and give children every opportunity to write - do also support them in writing at home. At this stage, having a go and feeling confident about writing is vital, so resist the impulse to correct spelling or make it look nice! We teach joined handwriting from the start, and have included an alphabet and number handwriting sheet at the end of this booklet. We encourage children to drink **water** throughout the school day: it is available from taps and water fountains and all children are given a special bottle to drink water in school.



