



# The Aylesbury Vale Academy

RESPECT | ASPIRATION | RESILIENCE

## Phase Newsletter September 2024

### Welcome to the Autumn term!

**Welcome** to the first Reception Newsletter of the new year, we hope you find the information useful. The team is looking forward to the coming half term. We have lots of exciting learning opportunities planned and this is always an enjoyable time as we share the children's first weeks at school. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any queries.

### What are we learning about?

During the first few weeks we will be focussing on getting to know each child. We greatly value your insights as parents and we appreciated speaking with you at the 1:1 meetings. If you did not manage to make the meeting, we will send home a form for you to complete and bring back. We spend a great deal of time in these first weeks helping children to settle into school and learn some of the skills, rules and routines that they will require over the coming year.

The team are also beginning to work with the children to complete a number of assessments to establish where each child needs to begin their learning journey. Please be assured that the children are unlikely to be aware that assessments are taking place as most assessment in Reception is carried out by skilfully observing children in their play and through fun play-based activities.

Please bring in a family photo for us to display and share as a talking point for the children.

### The Reception Baseline Assessment

During the first few weeks we will also be completing the Reception Baseline Assessment (RBA) which is a statutory assessment from September 2021 onwards. It provides a snapshot of where pupils are when they arrive at school. The RBA is a short, interactive and practical assessment of your child's skills when they begin school. It is statutory for **all** schools from September 2021. We have included more information in the attached leaflet... Information for parents: Reception baseline assessment. You can also find information at...

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/reception-baseline-assessment-information-for-parents>

### Please label EVERYTHING!

We make every effort in school to care for your child's clothing. Children are encouraged to wear aprons and we will change children who get very wet or have an accident. Unfortunately, items of clothing do get forgotten, left outside or put on the wrong peg or book-bag. Please help us to help your child. If all clothing and personal items such as bags, water bottles and shoes are labelled we have a very good success rate of reuniting them with their owners. Sadly, items that are not named have in the past proved very difficult or impossible to track down.

## A Church of England Academy

Paradise Orchard • Berryfields • Aylesbury • Buckinghamshire • HP18 0WS

01296 428551(Secondary) • 01296 674263 (Primary) • enquiries@theacademy.me • www.theacademy.me

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## Spare clothes for accidents

We are sensitive to the fact that all children have toilet accidents from time to time and it is helpful if all children have a change of clothes and a spare set of underwear in a bag that stays in school so we can change them into their own clothes if necessary.

## Illness

Please phone to let our attendance team know if your child will not be in school due to illness. The team is also happy to answer your questions and confirm how long your child should be kept at home to prevent infection spreading to other children and staff.

## Water bottles

Children have a snack (fruit/vegetable) each day. Children are also encouraged to keep hydrated throughout the day, so a **named** water bottle can be brought in and placed near the sink in the mornings. Children will have free access to this as required. Could we also remind you that the water bottle should contain **water** and ideally no other liquid such as juice.

## Outdoor clothing

We use the outside learning environment on a daily basis (whatever the weather!) **Please** can you ensure that your child comes to school suitably dressed. Your child needs **sensible shoes** and a **coat daily**. Even if the weather looks fine at 8.30am in the morning, it does change so quickly, and children are outside not only for learning but also at lunch times whenever possible. Once the winter weather begins, please supply **named** gloves, hat, scarf, and wellie boots. (Children will also need their school shoes to change into if wearing their wellie boots to school).

## PE

In Reception, we will begin participating in PE lessons after the first few weeks however your child will not require PE kit until after Christmas.

## Staying safe

Please could we remind parents to remain vigilant when coming to drop off or collect children. Please speak with your child about the busy road outside school and for safety reasons we ask parents not to allow children to play unsupervised on the school grounds.

## Water bottles

We encourage children to bring in a water bottle to have in the classroom. These should be named and should just contain water not juice/ squash.

## NO Nuts or Sesame

Please be aware that we are a nut free school. This means NO NUTS, SESAME OR NUT/SESAME PRODUCTS should be brought into school. We have staff and children in the school who will need hospital attention if they come into contact with nuts, sesame or nut/sesame products such as peanut butter, chocolate spread, hummus etc. We really appreciate your help in keeping everybody safe.

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Finally, we recommend reading the weekly newsletter from Mrs Baughan, our Primary Headteacher, which contains useful information and updates about what is happening in school.

We really look forward to working with you to make your child's reception year a happy and memorable time.

If you have any questions or concerns, please email the school office and these will be forwarded to the class teacher or myself.

**Mrs Clark**  
**EYFS Phase Leader**

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