

# SUNBEAMS NURSERY

# ST ALPHEGE CE INFANT SCHOOL

St Alphege  
Values



Love

Loved, Inspired, Shining

## Newsletter

Term 3 Week 1 | 06.01.23

### CONTACTING THE SCHOOL

**Executive Head:** Liz Thomas-Friend  
**Head of School:** Jacqui Spinks  
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**Chair of Governors:** Paula Trewin  
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**Mrs Spinks School Mobile:** 07535013075  
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If online payment details are required, please contact the school office.

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

#### Jan 2022

Mon 23<sup>rd</sup> - Year R Health Screening

Weds 25<sup>th</sup> - KIC Theatre

Thurs 26<sup>th</sup> - KIC Theatre

#### Feb 2022

Fri 10<sup>th</sup> - End of Term 3

Mon 20<sup>th</sup> - Start of Term 4

[Click here for our School & Nursery Term Dates](#)

### KEY EVENTS

#### Happy New Year!

It has been wonderful to welcome our children and families back to school after the Christmas break. We have loved hearing about all of the fun things they have experienced during your precious family time. We want to wish you all lots of joy for the coming year and are looking forward to another fun-packed term at school.

#### Parent Questionnaire

Thank you to those who have taken the time to complete the recent parent questionnaire. Your thoughts and feedback are very useful to us in evaluating our current practice, what is working well and looking at ways that we can shape things for the future. The responses have been overwhelmingly positive and we will circulate a summary of the responses in the coming weeks. If you have not yet completed the survey and would like to do so, we would very much appreciate your comments. It can be accessed on any device and should only take a few minutes to complete! Many thanks.

[Parent Survey](#)

#### Wellbeing Team

We are very aware that times are tough at the moment, with the costs of living rising and the challenges that we are all facing. We also know that life does not always run smoothly and that sometimes we encounter unexpected bumps along the way. Our wellbeing team remains here as a support for you all and is a wealth of knowledge and experience, whatever you may be facing and however big or small this may seem. This can be accessed in a variety of ways: calling the school office, email to [becky.strike@st-alphege.kent.sch.uk](mailto:becky.strike@st-alphege.kent.sch.uk) or just a

conversation with Mrs Spinks or Ms Strike on the school gates. We are also expanding our Wellbeing Team, by including Mrs Mead into the network of support. She is already working alongside a few families and will be involved in reaching out to families in the future. Mrs Mead is an outstanding Teaching Assistant, with a wealth of experience in working with other agencies to access appropriate support and we have no doubt that she will be a great asset to the team. She will continue her current role, supporting children in school, alongside taking on additional support work with families where needed. We are confident that Mrs Mead's involvement will mean that we are able to maintain our excellent community feel and enable more families to benefit from this support.

[Sunbeams Parents - Reception school places for September 2023](#)

[Year 2 Parents - Junior school places for September 2023](#)

Applications are made through Kent County Council at [www.kent.gov.uk/ola](http://www.kent.gov.uk/ola) and must be submitted by **MONDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2023.**

More information can be found at [www.kent.gov.uk](http://www.kent.gov.uk) If you have any questions or need support with the application process please speak to the school office.

## King Alphege Attendance Lion

### King Alphege Attendance Lion

King Alphege is awarded to the class with the highest percentage attendance each week.



King Alphege Attendance Lion  
W/E 16.12.22  
**Seagulls Class**

## Weekly Awards

### Whole School Awards

Our awards this year represent our School Development priorities: GROWTH. Each class will nominate a child to receive an award each week.



**Great Reading**

Albert – Seagulls Class



**Risk Taking and Resilience**

Charlotte – Pearls Class



**Outstanding Curriculum**

Tyler – Puffins Class



**Wonderful Writing**

Francis – Shells Class



**Thriving Community**

Billie-Jo – Pebbles Class



**Happiness, Wellbeing and Wonder**

Jed – Oysters Class

## Weekly Year Group Recap

### Sunbeams

#### From Mrs Keeble & Mrs Humphreys

We have loved welcoming back our Sunbeams after the Christmas break and hearing about all the wonderful things they got up to. We have welcomed several new Sunbeams this week and all are settling in beautifully! We have been re-establishing routines and expectations this week. On Tuesday Mrs Memmott sang some rhyming songs and the children had to work together in pairs, using their listening skills to respond appropriately to the directions in the song. We have been recalling what exciting events took place over Christmas and making marks to represent the things we could remember to help us develop our mark making skills. We look forward to welcoming some more new members to our Sunbeams community over the next couple of weeks and getting to know them and their families.

### Year 1

#### From Mrs Jones & Mrs O'Malley

Happy New Year everyone! It was wonderful to welcome Year 1 back after the Christmas holidays. The children started the week in a positive mood, excited for our new termly topic 'Is it hot or is it cold?' Our focus text for this week and next week is 'Poles Apart' by Jeanne Willis and Jarvis, and we started with some Geography input, learning facts about the Arctic and Antarctica. Next week, we start the story, in which a family of penguins decide to go for a picnic but get very, very lost and end up on the North Pole! Can a friendly polar bear help them get home again, via a number of hot and cold countries? Let's find out next week...

In Maths, we have introduced place value and counting through the teen numbers with a variety of resources and strategies, including ten frames, tens and ones cards, Dienes cubes and counters. The children are grasping that the digit '1' in 11,12,13,14 and so on actually represents '10', and have challenged themselves by using more than one method to show this.

Our Art focus for this term is colour, from primary to secondary, and tints, tones and shades. We will be looking at the artist Kandinsky, and his use of shape and colour to express himself. The children had a practice of mixing their own secondary colours using the three primaries, and practised this in their Rainbow challenge time.

In Science, we will study the variable weather that we experience in winter, and started our work by thinking about wind strength and direction. We had a very blustery, exciting and fun outdoor lesson, making giant bubbles and watching the direction that the wind took them. Miss Standen made a giant bubble with a giant wand that got as far as Whitstable Juniors playground! Why not enjoy a blustery walk along the beach this weekend (wrap up well!) and see if you notice any difference in the waves?

One change to share with you – our PE lessons will now take place on **Monday** and **Tuesday** afternoons. Please ensure your child has leggings or joggers and a sweatshirt as well as their t-shirt and shorts, as we will have one lesson outdoors whenever possible.

### Year R

#### From Mrs Arnott & Mr Mead

Reception have had a lovely first week back at school. It has been wonderful to hear all of their lovely stories from their Christmas holidays. We have started our new theme for the term – Transport. Unfortunately, our trip on the bus was postponed but we had a lovely time walking around Whitstable looking for different types of transport. We spotted trains, cars, trucks, bikes, boats and even saw some planes in the sky. We look forward to hopefully going on the bus in the next few weeks. The children worked hard in English to recount their trip and write down what they did. We are so impressed with their handwriting skills. In phonics we have started phase 3 and have been looking at the digraphs and trigraphs – ai, ee, igh and oa. This week in maths Reception have been recalling adding facts 1-5 and learning about number bonds. The children have been getting creative in helping build our new transport inspired role play areas. We can't wait to get stuck in to our new learning. Well done for coming back so well Reception!

### Year 2

#### From Mrs Swindells & Mrs O'Keeffe

What an incredible first week of Term 3 we have had! This week we have started thinking about our Term 3 learning question 'What happened before I was born?' where we are leaning specifically about the events of WW2. The children have loved reading Flossie Albright's War Diary and have used this to inspire them to begin their own WW2 diaries which they will continue to write in and illustrate throughout this term. In Maths we recapped addition and subtraction strategies and will apply these to solve reasoning and word problems next week.

Next week we will also be learning about our new focus artist Andy Warhol and beginning to explore different types of printing methods. In Science we will begin to explore different materials and will think about their properties and uses. In PE we will be learning how to balance in different ways and we will also be continuing to improve our hockey skills. Please can all children have suitable PE uniform for both inside and outside sport. Thank you. Have a lovely weekend!