



# ST ALPHEGE CE INFANT SCHOOL

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Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2021

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you all back to school to start another new and exciting year at St Alphege. Both Mrs Thomas-Friend and I have been so impressed by how well the children have come back to school and it has been so lovely to hear all of their news from the summer break. They have all settled into their new classes brilliantly and look so grown up in their new environments. Our new Reception children have had a wonderful start to their school journey and it has been lovely to properly welcome them into our St Alphege family. We have also received fantastic feedback about our children who have moved on to their junior schools this term and how ready and prepared they were for making that next step.

We appreciate the uncertainty that still lingers regarding the Covid-19 pandemic, but are confident that the measures we have in place will help to safeguard our school community. It was reassuring to have this verified by Public Health England and the Kent Health Protection Team this week. We very much hope to be able to welcome you back to school events this year, but will be guided by the current situation and will keep you all informed as the year progresses.

## School Development Plan

As you may be aware, each year the school writes a School Development Plan (SDP) highlighting key priorities to build on our existing strengths and continue to drive the school forward. These are identified following a review of the year and the current data that has been collected from each child. This year our School Plan will continue to prioritise the children’s wellbeing and support them to continue to catch up on any schooling they may have missed during the disruption caused throughout the pandemic. We are fully aware that our current Year 2 children have not yet had a “normal” year in school yet!

This academic year our School Plan will focus on many areas but the key ones that we would like both our children and their families to focus on again fall into an acronym. We hope that this will help our whole community to understand what it is that we are working on from September. This year we are focusing on **S.H.I.N.E**



- Spectacular Vocabulary
- Healthy Mind, Body and Spirit
- Inspiring Curriculum
- Nature and Outdoor Learning
- Exceptional English



St Alphege Values



Koinonia



Forgiveness



Trust



Kindness



Love



Joy

Artsmark  
Platinum Award  
Awarded by Arts  
Council England

**Spectacular Vocabulary:** We will be focussing on expanding our children's vocabulary and encouraging them to use new and adventurous words. We will be using our rich reading sessions to explore the meaning of new words and will be encouraging children to use rich vocabulary in their writing. Subject specific vocabulary will be a focus of our teaching across the curriculum and we will be encouraging our children to articulate their learning and to explain their thinking and reasoning when problem solving.

**Healthy Mind, Body and Spirit:** This was a priority that we implemented last academic year. It has been such a success, that we have decided to build upon the work that was implemented with regards to the health, wellbeing and spirituality of our whole school community. Opportunities have been planned into our curriculum to allow the children to explore their feelings and experience awe and wonder. Spirituality is not something we can see; it is something we feel inside ourselves. It is about awe and wonder, asking questions, inspiration and being aware of something 'bigger' outside of ourselves. Among other areas of the curriculum, we will be harnessing our expertise within outdoor learning, the arts, creativity and music to further enhance our spiritual development.

**Inspiring Curriculum:** We have continued to develop our curriculum offer to ensure that our children have access to a broad and balanced curriculum which inspires them and harnesses their interests, providing inspiration in all subjects. This year, we have further developed our curriculum approach to ensure any learning missed in previous year groups, does not impact on the children's skills development in each subject.

**Nature and Outdoor Learning:** We will be continuing to focus on outdoor learning, with opportunities for children to explore and connect with the natural world on a regular basis. Mr Thomas-Friend will continue to deliver Forest School sessions on a weekly basis in school. All year groups will also have an opportunity to visit Duncan Downs nature reserve and we have planned in other environmental visits to locations within the town. Last year, the TED team introduced loose parts play onto the playground. Mr Thomas-Friend will be working with all year groups to develop this further by creating opportunities for the children to develop their problem solving, communication, critical thinking and theoretical reasoning skills in fun and open-ended ways.

**Exceptional English:** This year, we have changed the way we teach phonics and reading in school. Further information will be provided to you all regarding this, including the best ways to support your child's reading and spelling at home. If you would like to find out a little more about our new approach, click on the following link which will take you to the parent information page of Little Wandle: <https://www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/resources/for-parents/>

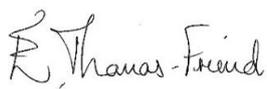
We have discussed these new priorities with our dedicated team of Governors who will be working alongside the leadership team to monitor our progress against each of these areas. Please do see our school website which holds details of all the members of our Governing body if you would like to contact them at any time.

Many thanks for your continued support.

Kind regards,



Jacqui Spinks



Liz Thomas-Friend