

SUNBEAMS NURSERY

# ST ALPHEGE CE INFANT SCHOOL

St Alphege  
Values



Koinonia

Loved, Inspired, Shining

## Newsletter

Term 3 Week 1 | 09.01.2026

### CONTACTING THE SCHOOL

**Executive Head:** Liz Thomas-Friend  
**Head of School:** Jacqui Spinks  
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**If online payment details are required, please contact the school office.**

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

#### January 2026

Mon 12<sup>th</sup> – Phonics & Reading Parent Workshop  
Thurs 15<sup>th</sup> – Speech and Language Information Parent Workshop Year R  
Weds 28<sup>th</sup> – Kic Theatre  
Thurs 29<sup>th</sup> – Kic Theatre

#### February 2026

Mon 2<sup>nd</sup> – Writing Parent Workshop  
Weds 11<sup>th</sup> – Sharing the Learning Year R, 1 & 2  
Fri 13<sup>th</sup> – End of Term 4

#### March 2026

Thurs 5<sup>th</sup> – World Book Day  
Mon 23<sup>rd</sup> – Parent Consultations  
Weds 25<sup>th</sup> – Parent Consultations

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

### 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.



### Phonics and Reading Parent Workshop - Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2026

We are holding a phonics and reading parent workshop with Mrs Cohen (the subject leader) on Monday 12th January at 9.15am in the school hall. There is no need to book a place. There will also be opportunities to ask any questions you may have. A summary will be provided for those that are unable to attend.

### Whole School Collective Worship at Church

All parents and carers are warmly invited to attend the following school church services at St Alphege Church:

**Monday 12 January at 2.45pm**

**Monday 9th February at 2.45pm**

We will return to school afterwards and you can collect your child from school at 3.15pm as usual.



The Church will be open from 2pm if any parents and their little ones would like to pop down earlier for tea/coffee and a space to chat and play.

[Sunbeams Parents - Reception school places for September 2026](#)

[Year 2 Parents - Junior school places for September 2026](#)

Applications are made through Kent County Council at [www.kent.gov.uk/ola](http://www.kent.gov.uk/ola) and must be submitted by **THURSDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2026**.

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.

### [Speech and Language Information Workshop for parents of children in Year R](#)

On **Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> of January**, we will be joined by our designated Speech and Language Therapist, Lara Dalton and Hannah Dando, our Speech and Language Teaching Assistant. This will take place in the hall, **between 9 and 10am**. Lara and Hannah will be on hand to explain the new Balanced System approach and answer any general questions you may have relating to speech and language development/provision, in the school setting. They will also be able to give advice and strategies on how you can support your child's speech and language development at home and listen to any concerns you may have. Looking forward to seeing you there. P.S. There will be tea, coffee and biscuits!

## Community

### [Blueprint Arts – Holiday Club](#)



**WHO ARE WE?** 

We're a Kent-based community arts not for profit who believe in the power of the arts to transform people and places. The majority of our work is with communities in Gravesham & Dartford, but as our Artistic Director has recently moved to Faversham, we have decided to trial our highly successful holiday clubs here.

We've been running holiday clubs for 5 years, and what makes our sessions so brilliant is that they are always run by artists (fully trained and DBS checked) so children always go home with great crafts and having learned something new.

Our sessions are mostly visual arts based, with a few theatre games thrown in too. If you've got any questions, please email us - [ella@blueprintarts.co.uk](mailto:ella@blueprintarts.co.uk)



**Details:** The Holiday Club is for 4–11 year olds, at St Mary of Charity Primary School in Faversham. This will run on February 16th, 17th and 18th from 10am-4pm (9am-5pm with wraparound care).

## 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 19.12.25  
Pearls Class –97.3%

## Weekly Awards

### Whole School Awards

Our awards this year represent our School Development priorities: POLAR and our school value of Simcha (Shared Joy). Each class nominate one child to celebrate their achievements each week and their names will be added to the weekly newsletter.



**Powerful Writing**  
Lucas – Shells Class



**Outstanding Creativity**  
Delphine – Seagulls Class



**Legendary Maths**  
Beatrice – Oysters Class



**Amazing Curriculum**  
Truly – Pearls Class



**Retrieval of Learning**  
George – Pebbles Class



**Simcha (Shared Joy)**  
Anu – Puffins Class

## Weekly Year Group Recap

### Sunbeams

#### Mrs Humphreys

We have enjoyed welcoming back our Sunbeams after the Christmas break and hearing about the exciting things they all got up to! We have been sharing our experiences of Christmas and have begun to mark make in response, which we will continue to do next week. We have also welcomed several new Sunbeams to our community which has been lovely. We have been teaching them our routines which they are joining in with splendidly. We have been learning a new poem called 'I can build a snowman' for our Poetry Basket in anticipation of snow – of which there has been none this week! We have been using our sense of touch to explore different textures and are beginning to build our vocabulary to describe what we can feel.

### Year R

#### Mrs Keeble and Mrs Hopkins

We are so proud of how the children have settled back into school since our Christmas break. It really was a delight to see them again! They have settled back in quickly to our routines and are starting the new term with enthusiasm. Our overall learning question for this term is 'I wonder how it works?' – we will be following the children's interests regarding what things they would like to learn about. In music the children sang, moved and played games involving different modes of transport – listening out for loud/soft, fast/slow. In drawing club we read 'Mr Gumpy's Outing' and explored the vocabulary 'topple', 'accident', 'tease' and 'plunge.' In phonics we are moving on to learn more digraphs (e.g. 'ai' in 'rain' and 'ee' in 'feet') and in maths we have been learning number bonds to 5 (e.g. '5 can be made up of 2 and 3'). Our phonics book for this week was 'Rag Duck', which you can access at home through Big Cat Books. The children have thoroughly enjoyed the cold weather and ice play outside, finding ice in a range of places and working out how to get it to melt or break. In PE this term we will be focusing on Gymnastics and the children loved exploring balancing on different equipment in their first lesson this week.

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**Year 1**  
**Mrs O'Keeffe and Mr Mead**

What an absolute joy it has been to welcome our wonderful Year 1 back to school this week. We have enjoyed such an exciting and creative week back together which has been the perfect start to the new year! Our new theme this term is Innovation! We will be learning about significant inventors and inventions in our foundation subjects, before we design and make our inventions in DT lessons – lots of exciting lessons to look forward to this term! This week, we read the story 'What do you do with an idea?' by Kobi Yamada. We explored the concepts of this story in lots of imaginative ways, including making posters of how to care for our own cuddly toys, persevering through 'impossible challenges' and even designing our own inventions to solve tricky problems. In Maths, we began to explore ways to solve subtraction number sentences – squishing playdoh balls, jumping back on number lines, and using tens frames to identify known facts. Next week in Maths, we welcome back the talented Yanaelle Ritter, who is working with Year 1 children throughout the year to explore learning Maths through the form of Dance. The children retrieved their drawing skills in Art to create portraits of their friends and in Science, they began to learn about the human body, drawing round each other and labelling body parts they already knew. The children loved their first Gymnastic lesson in PE too, exploring how to use and move around the equipment safely. Throughout the term, they will be learning how to jump, roll and travel in different and challenging ways. Wishing all our families a lovely, bright and hopefully not too chilly weekend.

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**Year 2**  
**Mrs Martin and Mrs Cohen**

It has been so wonderful to see our Year 2 children in school after the Christmas break and our classrooms have felt full and happy! Our learning for this term will be based around 'Little hands, big change' where we will explore sustainability, climate change and how everybody can help. We started a new text in English – The Lorax and read part of the story each day. Throughout the week, we created the setting by making Truffula trees, bar-ba-loots and swomee-swans but along with the story, our setting was ruined and the trees were chopped down, pollution filled the air causing the swans to fly away and the animals leaving. We used this to gather vocabulary and think about how the story is teaching us about the importance of looking after our world. We ended the week by planting one single seed each and we are hoping it will grow! Next week we will write from The Lorax's perspective and include description about what happened to the setting. In Maths this week the children have been adding two, 2-digit numbers using column addition! They have been amazing and grasped the concept so quickly. Next week we will continue with column addition and carry over tens to find the answer. The children have done gymnastics in PE this week and explored the equipment safely. Next week, they will focus on how to balance using different body parts! They also recapped their hockey skills and dribbled a hockey ball with control. Next week we will be focusing on accurate passing. In Geography, the children explored the question 'What is the climate like in parts of the world?' They discussed the difference between climate and weather and thought about which parts of the world would be hot, cold, wet or mild. They then worked together to pick a place and pack a suitcase of clothes to suit the climate! Next week they will explore the question 'what is climate change and where is it happening?' we will discuss how climate change differs around the world and complete experiments to represent rising sea level and the greenhouse effect. Wishing all of our families a wonderful weekend.