

Reception Newsletter



Aldwyn Primary School - Every Child a Success

Autumn Term 1

Friday 4th September 2026
to
Friday 23rd October 2026

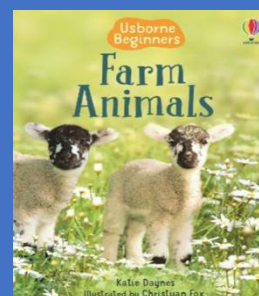
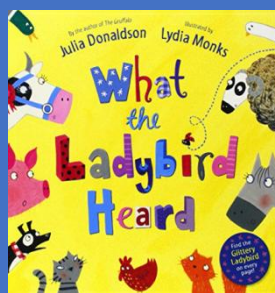
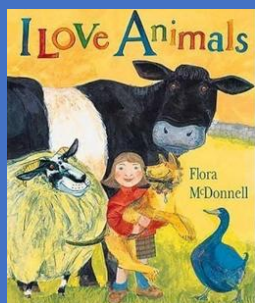
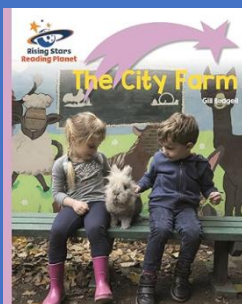
Theme – Down the Farm

Welcome to Reception at Aldwyn.

We are very excited to be back in school and we are ready to start our new year with your children. The first part of this half term we will be helping the children settle into their new class. They will be meeting new friends and getting used to their new routine. The children will join in different activities to talk about themselves and share information about who lives in their house. After this settling in period, we will begin our topic 'Down the Farm.' This topic is all about the farm environment and the different animals found at the farm. The various texts linked to this topic are designed to develop different early years skills and to make learning fun and engaging.

The topics and themes will change each half-term and we always aim to incorporate children's interests in our learning opportunities.

What will we read this half term?



Our main learning this term is based around the text 'What the Ladybird Heard' by Julia Donaldson; this will include learning about farm life and the different animals. In reception we have various story time sessions throughout the school day where we share many different stories together.

Please note that the EYFS curriculum map can be found on the school website. This contains the coverage and overview of learning for the year.

What will we learn this half term?

Communication and Language

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

We will be taking part in lots of practical activities to develop the children's speaking and listening skills in EYFS. We will be sharing lots of books and celebrating different text types promoting the love of reading and discussing stories. We will act out stories indoors and outdoors, with props and toys to support the children's understanding of the stories. We will be getting to know the children and having lots of circle time and social snack time to develop the children's speaking and listening skills. We will be encouraging independence and self-care, particularly around the importance of washing our hands and keeping our bodies healthy. This is an exciting time making new relationships with the adults and peers. We will help to build their confidence in the new environment and promote good classroom skills such as sharing and understanding the feelings of others.

English

This half term we will start the Read Write Inc phonics sessions working on the set one sounds. These sessions include recognising the letter sounds and building sounds together to make simple words. As we begin these sessions, we will be sending home sound cards so you can support your child with their phonics learning.



Every Monday your child will bring home a school library book of their choice. Please return this book to school each Monday ready to choose another book.

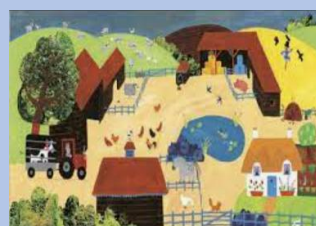
Maths

In Maths we will be working on our counting skills and will be singing lots of counting songs to help us with this. The children will gain a good understanding of the concepts of number such as more, less, addition, patterns and groups. To begin with, we work on smaller numbers and embed these concepts before moving on to bigger numbers. We will be developing the children's maths through the outdoors by creating patterns, collecting and counting objects and playing games with scores. We will be getting used to our new routines in EYFS and discussing the times of the day and developing time language.



Understanding the World

We will be learning about the farm environment and discussing the children's own experiences of seeing different animals. Linked to our English book we will make simple maps of the farm and maps of our classroom. We will be exploring our school surroundings on our welly walks and investigating lots of natural objects. We will be retelling our stories outdoors and using our natural environment to recreate our favourite stories. We will be learning to use our class computers and whiteboard safely and thinking about how ICT can help us to learn. We will be talking about the seasonal changes, learning about harvest and thinking about what happens during autumn time in our outside sessions.



Expressive Arts and Design

We will be doing lots of lovely creative activities such as painting and drawing our self-portraits, drawing our families and making 3D models. We will use different materials and media to create animal pictures. During carpet sessions we will be practicing our nursery rhymes and finding out the children's favourite songs and rhymes. Some music sessions are also supported by the Charanga scheme of work. During the term the outdoor music area will be developed encouraging the children to perform their brilliant dances, plays and musical talents. We will be encouraging and supporting the children's own creativity and providing the children with 2D and 3D materials to express their interests.

If you have any recycled materials that you wish to donate such as cereal boxes, cardboard tubes, etc. we would be very grateful.

Physical Development

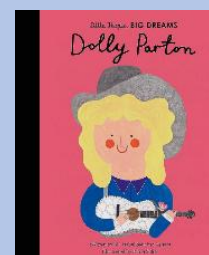
We will be working on the children's fine motor skills by doing activities such as dough disco, jigsaws, daily handwriting and developing our scissor skills. Throughout their time in Reception, children will be able to access their curriculum both inside and outside and the children will be able to access the outside as much as possible to use our fabulous outdoor area and to go on lots of environmental walks. Our children are always keen to play outside and explore our mud kitchen so they may come home from school a little dirty, this usually means they are having lots of fun. Please provide your child with a pair of wellies that can stay on their peg in school.

The children will participate in weekly PE sessions on a Friday afternoon with an experienced sports coach.

As the children settle into their new environment the children will be getting changed into their PE kits. Please can PE kits be brought into school so they can be left on their pegs ready for the Friday afternoon session. Many thanks.

Little People Big Dreams

Each half term we will share with the children a text from the 'Little People Big Dreams' range of books. Each year group throughout school will explore a different text. This half term the text for reception will be Dolly Parton. Listen out for the new songs they will be singing!



General Information

This half-term the focus will be supporting the children to settle into their new classroom and making new friends. We will be embedding our rules, routines and school ethos of promoting a love of learning. The reception doors open 8:45am and we are so proud of how mature and independent the children have been coming into school on their own. Thank you for your support during this transition period. We expect that some children may get upset over the coming weeks as they realise they have to come to school every day. They usually settle very quickly once the adults have left, also please be reassured that we will always telephone you if your child does not settle quickly.

Lunch time

The staff will be supporting the children during the early stages of lunchtimes to help them make choices and to understand the lunch time routines.

Reception age children receive a free school dinner and they are also provided with a piece of fruit and a small bottle of milk during snack time. You will not be required to provide any additional snacks. Your child will need to bring their water bottle filled with water each day. It is also vital that you let the staff know if your child has any allergies, intolerances, are vegetarian or have any special dietary requirements.

Baseline Assessments - During the first few weeks we will be carrying out some child friendly Baseline Assessment which help school to plan the next steps in learning for the children. They provide us with a snapshot of where the children are up to when they start school. Please be reassured that assessments are carried out in an informal, practical, fun way and the children will not know they are being assessed.

Tapestry – This program is used to communicate with parents. It is used to share exciting learning and fun activities taking place during the school day. You will soon receive an email so please activate this email requesting you to login and access your child's account.

Home School Book - As you are aware we send a Home School Book home each Friday. We ask that it is returned each Monday for your child to participate in the Speaking and Listening session. This is a time for the children to share events from home so a drawn picture, photograph or a few sentences are useful as a prompt to help with the discussion.

We are looking forward to the term ahead and if you have any further questions please do not hesitate to speak to your class teacher. Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards
The Reception Team