

Our EYFS Curriculum is designed to meet the needs of the youngest children in our school in our Nursery (FS1) and Reception (FS2) classes.

Our curriculum is predominately play based, with the opportunity for guided and adult led activities where appropriate. Indoor and outdoor play is encouraged throughout the day in all weathers, with opportunities to develop knowledge and skills throughout each strand of learning. Our staff members provide key support to our children and families in the early stages of their school life, and are highly knowledgeable and experienced in early child development.

The Early Years Curriculum at St. Alban's

Religious Education is a key part of our Early Years curriculum, as we follow the 'Come and See' schemes of work. We learn about the life of Jesus, and think about why we are special to God. We will meet and spend some time with our Parish Priest Fr. David who will be there to support us as we grow in our love for God.

Our curriculum is based upon a book, which changes in response to the children's interests. These books are chosen to provide a broad and balanced knowledge base on which the children can continue to explore and find out new things. The books are not set, but are chosen considering the needs, experiences and interests of each child to facilitate an exciting and challenging learning environment.

Mathematics is taught through the visual aid of CBeebies 'Numberblocks'. The opportunity to see how numbers are made, and their relationships to each other leads to an increased recognition and understanding of value. We use activities from 'The White Rose Maths Hub' to further develop our understanding and challenge our thinking.

Parents and families are at the heart of our curriculum in the Early Years. We ensure that all of our families feel secure and welcomed into our school and parish community. Families are welcomed in for stay and play sessions, and staff are always on hand to provide support in any situation.

We also offer sessions for pre-nursery children and their parents to join us within our nursery setting. This allows our families to spend more time with us and to develop key relationships from early on.

At St. Alban's we follow the 'Letters and Sounds' approach to teaching early reading.

Early writing in our school is developed through a number of fundamental activities. A huge focus is placed on physical development both indoors and out, utilising the amazing spaces that our school grounds offer. We also use 'Dough Disco' and 'Squiggle as you Wiggle' to encourage pencil skills and letter formation. We use the rhymes from 'Read Write Inc' to help us to remember how to form our letters, and practice them in many different ways. We share stories daily and encourage children to talk about themselves and their experiences, giving them plenty of opportunities to write this down by initially making marks, drawing pictures and then writing single words and sentences.

In Nursery we have a 'Sound of the week', encouraging children to identify initial sounds, and in Reception class we work through the phonic phases to teach phoneme/grapheme correspondence. These teacher led sessions are underpinned by a rich learning environment, providing opportunities for listening, memory and recall games and consolidation of past learning which ensures that our children access a high quality early reading provision. We also offer parent workshops to share good practice and have a selection of home reading books, library books and story bags which are available to borrow.