



Welcome to Year 3 at Almond Hill Junior School.

'Aiming High in All We Do'

We aim for our children to feel happy, motivated, confident, safe and listened to.





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Our School



Dear Parents,

As Head Teacher of Almond Hill Junior School, I extend a warm welcome to you and your child.

We work very closely with Letchmore Infant School to start our transition process. This year things are a little bit different because school has been closed to most children. Even though we have not been able to come and meet your children in their classrooms, we have been speaking to the Year two teachers to try and learn as much as possible about them and we are really looking forward to welcoming them properly as Year 3 in September.

As part of our transition programme we are acting on feedback from parents who have experienced their child moving from KS1 to KS2 and have put together some practical tips and information in this booklet. We hope this will help you.

You can find more information in the transition folder on our school website.

We want you and your child to feel welcome and settle into our community very quickly. I look forward to a close association with you and your child.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs J Lovelock
Head Teacher

Meet the Staff:

The Year 3 Teaching Team



*Hello new Year 3 children! My name is **Miss Simmons**. I have been teaching at Almond Hill for many years now in years 3, 5 and 6, and am very excited this year to be back in Year 3 and move from teaching the oldest children in the school to teaching the youngest again! My favourite subjects are reading (because I love stories) and science (because I enjoy asking questions and investigating). I really enjoy being creative and can't wait to get some of your great work up and onto a fab classroom display! I am so excited to meet you and know we are going to have a fantastic year together, see you all soon 3S ☺*

*Hello, I am **Miss Coulter** and I have been teaching at Almond Hill for many years where I have taught in both Year 3 and Year 4. I will be teaching in Year 3 this year (3C) and I am excited to get stuck into the topics we have planned. We can't wait to meet you all and start our first topic, which is based around 'Journeys', and watch you start your own journey at our school. When I am not in school, my interests include reading and, my biggest hobby, playing netball! I play twice a week for a local club and also run the Year 5 and 6 mixed netball team at Almond Hill.*



*Hi Year 3 (and especially 3K!), my name is **Mrs Bond**. I have been teaching in Year 4 at Almond Hill for the last 2 years. Prior to that I worked in a Year 2 class for two years so I know what getting ready for junior school is like. At the moment I am teaching in Year 6 but I am really excited to come to Year 3 and help to settle you all into a new school. My favourite subjects are English (because I love reading and writing stories), PE (because I love to keep moving) and DT and Art (because I love designing and making). I can't wait to get to know you all and to start our new adventure together!*

The Year 3 Support Staff Team

We have lots of members of staff who are here to help you in year 3. Our teaching support staff include...

Mrs Lamacraft



Mrs Hewitt



Mrs Pearce



Mrs Hall



Mrs Bell

The Pastoral Team



Hi, I'm Mrs Burgess and my job is to make sure children at Almond Hill feel safe and happy. I also work with Miya – our school dog! I'm really looking forward to meeting you 😊

My name is Mrs Welham and I work all over the school. You may see me in the classroom helping children, outside at playtime and lunchtime – talking to any children who may be upset or working with a small group of children.



Hello, I'm Mrs Bell. I help support children across the whole school. At lunchtime you can usually find me in the playground or in the friendship room and I am happy to chat if you have any worries.

The Office Team

The office is open from 8.30am to 3.30pm. Messages may be left on the school answer phone when the office is closed.



Hello, I'm Mrs Cawthorn and I am the school business manager. I can usually be found in my office which is opposite our main school office. My job is to buy everything we need in school to help you learn and keep safe. In my spare time I like to keep fit – particularly by riding my bike!

Hello, I'm Mrs Patterson and I work in the school office. I am the person who organises all the school trips, visitors and after school clubs. I can't wait to meet you all when you join our school in September.



My name is Miss Standley, I am the school receptionist and work in the office. I welcome visitors to the school and answer phone calls and emails. You might see me come into your classroom with messages for your teachers. I may help you with first aid or call home if you have forgotten to bring your lunch! When I am not in school I like to read and find new places to explore with my family.

Hello, I am Mrs Jones and I work in the office. I do lots of different things, including the newsletter and the website but you may see me in your classroom setting up the IRIS cameras! I am looking forward to seeing lots of new faces this September!



Staff

Head Teacher	Mrs J Lovelock
Deputy Head Teacher	Mrs E Fordham
Assistant Head Teachers	Mrs H Joannou Miss V Simmons
SENCO (Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator)	Mrs S Birchall
School Business Manager	Mrs D Cawthorn

Teaching staff			
Year 3	Miss V Simmons	Miss L Coulter	Mrs K Bond
Year 4	Mrs R Lyons	Mrs B Campbell	Miss L Hayllar
Year 5	Mrs H Joannou/Mrs J Geer	Miss L Andrews	Miss R Porter
Year 6	Mrs K Cleaves	Mrs G Osborne	Miss J Stewart
Support Staff			
Achievement Mentors		Mrs. S Start, Mrs. J Hukin	
Pastoral Teaching Lead		Mrs. G Burgess	
Pastoral Teaching Support		Mrs R Bell, Mrs S Welham	
Cover Supervisors		Mrs. M Finch, Mrs. S Lamacraft, Mrs. J Pridmore	
Class Teaching Assistants		Mrs. R Bell, Mrs S McLellan, Mrs A Hodgkinson, Mrs H Salam Khan, Mrs S Barker, Mrs F Pearce, Mrs L Hall, Mrs S Welham, Mrs C Hewitt	
Learning Support Assistants		Mrs K Johnson, Mrs Salam Khan, Mrs S Wilkinson,	
Administrative Staff			
Finance Assistant		Mrs A Patterson	
School Secretary		Mrs M Jones	
Receptionist		Miss K Standley	
Caretaker			
Mr. L Browne			
Midday Supervisory Assistants			
Mrs Choudhury, Mrs Cramer, Mrs Salam Khan, Mrs Wilkinson, Mrs Miles, Mrs Johnson, Mrs Clark, Mrs Roberts, Mrs Rahman			
Cook			
Miss. O'Neill			

The Governing Body

As Chair of Governors at Almond Hill I would like to welcome you all to the school. Governors take an active role in the working of the school and we make visits during the school year to see the children and work with staff. We are committed to the continued development of our school and welcome your views.

We are always looking for anyone who may be interested in becoming a governor and I would be happy to speak to any of you who may be interested.

The governing body comprises appointed, elected and co-opted governors. Governors delegate responsibility for day to running of the school to the Head Teacher.

Mr. A Boakes

Chair of Governors

Head Teacher	Mrs. J Lovelock
Associates	Mrs. D Cawthorn (Staff) Mrs. S Dobbs
Parent	Mrs. H Smith Mr. K Darlington
Co-opted	Mr. A Boakes (Chair) Mrs. H Nash Mrs. D Bradwell Vacancy
Staff	Mrs. E Fordham Mrs. M Finch
LEA	Mr. R Kelly (Vice Chair)

We currently have vacancies on our governing body. If you are interested in finding out more about this role, please contact Mrs. Lovelock

We want to ensure your child feels safe at Almond Hill.

Our school is committed to the safety of all pupils and staff and safety and safeguarding is our highest priority. All of our children have the right to be safe and happy at school and it is our aim to make them feel that way every day, when they come to school.

All adults working in school are subject to DBS clearance and appointments follow the school's safer recruitment policy. All staff receive regular safeguarding training and 'safeguarding' is on the agenda for all staff meetings. Keeping children safe is at the heart of what we do every day and we aim to be vigilant and pro-active to ensure our children feel secure and our practice is effective. The governing body has appointed a governor to regularly monitor all of the school's safeguarding procedures. Copies of safeguarding policies can be found in the 'Policies' section of the website.

Mrs. Lovelock is the Designated Teacher for Child Protection. In her absence, Mrs. Fordham and Mrs. Birchall deputise in this role. We will be happy to discuss any questions or concerns parents/carers may have about our child protection policy and practice. The appointed governor for child protection is Mrs. Finch and the school safeguarding governor is Mr. Boakes.

If there are concerns about a child's welfare, we may need to share information and work in partnership with other agencies. We will ensure that any concerns about a child are discussed with parents/carers first, unless we have reason to believe that such a move would be contrary to the child's welfare.

At Almond Hill, we actively support action to counter radicalism and extremism through the government's Prevent strategy.

Mrs. J Lovelock



Designated Senior Person

Mrs. E Fordham



Designated Senior Person (Deputy)

Mrs. S Birchall



Designated Senior Person (Deputy)

How can you as parents/carers help us be effective with safeguarding?

- Letting us know if you have an issue or concern that you have noticed regarding safety or the welfare of your child or our pupils.
- Supporting regular punctual attendance and informing the office before 9.00am if your child is going to be absent.
- Providing us with two emergency contact details and informing us of any changes.
- Informing us of any medical/dietary changes for your child.
- Attending Parent Forums so we can hear your views.
- Making sure where possible you walk, scoot or bike to school rather than drive – this helps to reduce congestion, supports clean air and encourages fitness.
- Using the pedestrian entrances appropriately so you avoid crossing the drop off zone.
- Using the 'drop off zone' as requested.
- Not arriving or sending your child before 8.45am – the playground is not supervised at this time.
- Letting us know if you are delayed and coming into the school main entrance to sign your child out when you arrive to collect them.
- If you are late for any reason bringing your child into school yourself and signing them in.
- Not using mobile phones on school site and monitoring use of technology at home. Our website has lots of useful information on e-safety.
- Always have an in date asthma inhaler or EpiPen in school if they are required, please inform the office of any medical needs.

Be alert to online safety for your child – our website has guidance and links for parents to help you keep your child safe

'Aiming High in All We Do'

We aim for our children to feel happy, motivated, confident, safe and listened to.

We want to work in partnership with you to support our aims.

School Aims

The Almond Hill community have agreed to promote the following aims:

- To stay physically and emotionally healthy
- To keep ourselves safe and use common sense
- To learn to interact socially within different groups and cultures and communicate effectively including respecting everybody's views
- To be literate and numerate and able to apply those skills to solve problems
- To learn about the world and make cross-curricular links and to see the bigger picture
- To take pride in personal appearance and presentation of work
- To develop their capability to use a range of technology for lifelong learning
- To recognise and developing creative skills
- To appreciate that society needs rules and achieving self-discipline

The Almond Hill community believes good learning should include the following learning behaviours. These symbols will become visible throughout the children's learning experiences.

 Enjoy learning	 Be curious	 Ready to learn
 Working together	 Have a go	 Aim High

We aim to provide an excellent education for all pupils whilst working in partnership with other local schools to provide continuity in learning and pastoral care, and with parents and carers to help them support their child's education.

Monthly Values

In our everyday school life, we discuss, and try to model values to support our aims and the values of life that support respect for each other and care of our community. We look at different values each month and consider what these mean and how we can show them in our actions and behaviours. You can find which value we are currently considering on our school website. The value for September is reliability.



We want to have good communication links with carers/parents.

How does the school keep in touch with parents?

Miss Standley, Mrs Patterson, and Mrs Jones are your first point of contact at our school office. The office is open from 8.30am to 3.30pm. Messages may be left on the school answer phone when the office is closed.

In addition to a range of information that is published on our school website, the school publishes a weekly newsletter on Wednesdays – please look out for this as it contains lots of information. This along with other information and letters are published on the school website as well as being sent home with the children. The school also has a Twitter feed which is linked to the school website. As well as using **School Gateway** for school dinners, this is also a key method for us to send communication to you via email and text.

We aim to keep our parents fully informed of curriculum developments and events. Letters will be issued with details of specific events and these will also be published on the school website for reference www.almondhill.herts.sch.uk. If you wish to contact the school you can by phone 01438 233660 or by e-mail to admin@almondhill.herts.sch.uk

We are currently developing our capacity for remote learning through Microsoft Teams and will send you more information on this in September.

There may be occasions when we need to contact you urgently. It is very important that the office has details of how you may be contacted during the day and an emergency contact number. As well as filling in your admissions and parental consent forms please ensure that any change in circumstances i.e. home address, email address or medical/dietary needs are updated by filling in a change of details form at our office.

PLEASE NOTE: If you have any queries or questions over summer you can email year3@almondhill.herts.sch.uk using your child's class (3S, 3C or 3K) in the subject bar. Teachers will access these emails and respond in the last week of the holidays before returning to school.

We want you to be on time.

In September it is expected that all children will return to school under current guidelines. The school is currently completing plans and will publish information about adjustments and staggered start times for September as soon as possible.

Under the Education Act, a pupil is required to attend regularly at the school where he/she is a registered pupil. Regular attendance and prompt punctuality supports pupil progress and at Almond Hill we strongly promote this expectation. The school is obliged by law to differentiate between authorised and unauthorised absence. A letter or telephone message from a parent does not in itself authorise absence. Only if the school is satisfied as to the validity of the explanation offered by the letter or message, will the absence be authorised.

Punctuality is very important throughout life. Work starts at 8.55 am, so please ensure your child arrives by 8.50 am. Just think if your child was late by only 10 minutes each week they would lose an hour of their schooling every week!

We want you to be here every day.

We have a school target of 96% for attendance. We appreciate that children are ill sometimes, but all absence is rigorously monitored by senior leaders in the school. If your child's attendance drops to 96% or below within a half term you will be informed by letter. If absence below 96% persists you will be invited to discuss the absences with the Head teacher, Deputy or Assistant Heads.

If your child needs to be absent, please contact the school on the first day **before 9.00am**. If you do not contact the school, we will try to contact you by phone or text to ask the reason for absence. We will continue to try to contact you and this may involve a visit to your home by a senior member of staff.

If your child returns to school without a reason for absence, the school will send a letter asking for parents/carers to confirm the reason for absence, which should be returned to school the following day. If no reason for absence is received, the absence will be recorded on your child's record as an 'unauthorised absence'.

Absence from school will be authorised if it is for the following reasons: - • sickness; • unavoidable medical or dental appointments; • days of religious observance; • exceptional family circumstances, such as close family bereavement. Please see our attendance policy on our website for full details.

Holidays in Term Time

Along with all schools in Stevenage, Almond Hill Junior School does not authorise holidays in term time. If you take your child out of school during term time it will be recorded as an unauthorised absence. Over 10 days unauthorised absence across a year will attract a fixed penalty notice. Any application for holiday leave during term time must be made using an application form which must be submitted to the office. Details of Fixed Penalty Notices can be found in our Attendance policy on the website.

Children must not arrive at school before 8.45am. The school playground is not supervised before this time. Registers will be completed each day at 8.55am and 1.15pm. A child who arrives after the register has closed at 8.55am is deemed as being late and arrivals after this time without adequate explanation will be classed as an unauthorised absence.

Children arriving late must do so via the main entrance and sign in.

When not to send a child to school

Details of isolation and incubation periods for infectious and contagious diseases are available from the school office. If your child is well enough to attend school and you wish them to stay inside at playtime we appreciate you sending a letter or doctor's certificate.

Head lice are common among children and clean, tied back hair is not immune. It is important that parents carry out regular checks on their child for head lice. There is no need for children to stay off school if they have head lice.



Attendance – Pupil view

All the children at Almond Hill have been learning about attendance and why it is so important to have a high attendance at school. These are the reasons that the current Year Threes thought of for why it is so important to be in school every day:

- You get maximum learning time
- You get to spend time playing with your friends
- You get to take part in workshops, see visitors and go on school trips
- You'll get home learning on time so you get lots of time to do it
- Practising good attendance will help you when you get a job
 - You can be chosen to be a classroom monitor
 - You won't miss fun lessons and activities
- If you are off school, you will find it hard to catch up on missed learning
 - You might find learning hard and confusing if you're absent.



We want all children to eat healthy snacks and lunches.

Many of our children have school dinners or a school packed lunch. As a 'healthy school' we promote a balanced diet. We also encourage parents whose children have a packed lunch to consider nutritional balance. **If you are providing packed lunches for your child, they must not include any nut products.** If your child has any allergies, please inform us in writing as it will be necessary for parents to complete an online application for a special diet before they start to have school lunches. We are unable to provide a school meal until this has taken place. Parents are welcome to come and see the selection of meals provided and in the autumn term we invite you to have a school lunch with your child. School meals must be paid for in advance. We prefer payment to be made through the School Gateway App. We do not accept payment by cheque.

Free School Meals

In Junior school, school meals are not funded by the government, but your child may still be entitled to a free school meal.

It is easier than ever for families to apply for free school meals. Applicants do not usually need to provide paper proof of benefit and there have been significant improvements to the renewal process, so that all the checking goes on in the county council without the need to ask parents to renew. If you think you are entitled to free school meals then you can apply online at www.hertsdirect.org/freeschoolmeals.

How do I make payments?

The cost of a children's school dinner is £2.70. The school offers the facility for parents to make payments online using School Gateway. We strongly encourage parents to use this facility which reduces the need to send money into school. Please ensure you include an up to date email address on your admission forms to enable you to use School Gateway. The link to set up your account can be found on the school website.

Menu Week One

Week commencing: 18th November, 19th November, 20th November, 21st January, 22nd January, 23rd February, 24th March

Pupils' Choice

Monday

Salmon with Potato and Cornish Pudding

Bacon Pudding

Chilled Option: New Potatoes

Tuesday

Beefy Pasta Bolognese

Julian Potatoes with Cheese

Chilled Option: Baked Potato

Wednesday

Beefy Pasta Bolognese

Julian Potatoes with Cheese

Chilled Option: Baked Potato

Thursday

Chicken Curry with Rice

Spiced New Potatoes with Cheese

Chilled Option: New Potatoes

Friday

Chicken Curry with Rice

Spiced New Potatoes with Cheese

Chilled Option: New Potatoes

Menu Week Two

Week commencing: 18th November, 19th November, 20th November, 21st January, 22nd January, 23rd February, 24th March

Strong and Curried are always available in separate menu on the menu

Monday

Chicken Curry with Rice

Spiced New Potatoes with Cheese

Chilled Option: New Potatoes

Tuesday

Beefy Pasta Bolognese

Julian Potatoes with Cheese

Chilled Option: Baked Potato

Wednesday

Beefy Pasta Bolognese

Julian Potatoes with Cheese

Chilled Option: Baked Potato

Thursday

Chicken Curry with Rice

Spiced New Potatoes with Cheese

Chilled Option: New Potatoes

Friday

Chicken Curry with Rice

Spiced New Potatoes with Cheese

Chilled Option: New Potatoes

Menu Week Three

Week commencing: 18th November, 19th November, 20th November, 21st January, 22nd January, 23rd February, 24th March

Hotly baked wholemeal bread, seasonal vegetables and fresh salads are available daily

Monday

Chicken Curry with Rice

Spiced New Potatoes with Cheese

Chilled Option: New Potatoes

Tuesday

Beefy Pasta Bolognese

Julian Potatoes with Cheese

Chilled Option: Baked Potato

Wednesday

Beefy Pasta Bolognese

Julian Potatoes with Cheese

Chilled Option: Baked Potato

Thursday

Chicken Curry with Rice

Spiced New Potatoes with Cheese

Chilled Option: New Potatoes

Friday

Chicken Curry with Rice

Spiced New Potatoes with Cheese

Chilled Option: New Potatoes

WCS, Registered Office: Mumfords Wharves, Glasgow, City: West: 011 371 771 101 1

Please Note:

In the first half of the Autumn term, we will be offering a packed lunch option only. We will hopefully be reverting back to the school menu, offering a hot or cold choice after half term.



Snack Time

Unlike in Key Stage 1, children in Key Stage 2 are not provided with a snack. This means that parents/ carers will need to provide their child with a healthy snack for them to have during break time. The children eat their lunch at 12:00 so it is important that they have a healthy, nutritious snack to keep them going until lunch. **Because the school has a 'no nut' policy, please ensure your child's snack does not contain nuts.** Here are some snack ideas from the current year threes:

- Slices of apple
- A banana
- A handful of berries
- A box of raisins
- A fruit smoothie
- Some grapes
- Kiwi
- Cubes of melon
- Carrot sticks
- Cucumber sticks
- Slices of pepper
- A few tomatoes



We want children to arrive and leave school safely.

There will be nearly 300 children arriving and leaving our school every day. So, if you are able to walk, scoot, or bike that would be best. Children in the lower school must be accompanied whatever mode of transport you choose. They must wear a bike helmet when cycling to school, we do have a bike shed on site.

In the interests of the safety of all our children, **we expect you** to observe the parking restrictions when dropping off or collecting your child in a car. Please can you make your child aware that the raised area outside of the school is not a pedestrian crossing.

At the end of the day the school gate area is very busy. Year 3 and 4 wait at their classes to be collected. Class teachers in year 5 and 6 walk their children to parents waiting at the gate. If parents are delayed children must return to the office to wait to be collected. Children should NEVER wait on their own at the gate at the end of the day.

If you park in the 'drop off' zone at the end of the day it must be in one of the marked bays. You may not park on the access roadway around these spaces. Adults who park in one of the allocated parking spaces at the end of the day need to get out of their cars and walk to collect their child.

The 'drop off' area is for vehicle entrance/exit only **NOT** for pedestrian use.

I am sure like me; you wish to keep our children as safe as possible. I hope the guidelines are clear enough for all parents/carers to follow. If you have any queries or concerns about the use of the drop off, please contact me.

But if you do need to drive please see the following page for more information.



'DROP OFF' ZONE

Gate 'A' is for people coming to the school from the direction of Weston and Walkern Road. Adults and children must use the footpath provided and not cut across the 'Drop Off' vehicle access. You can access all classrooms via this route.

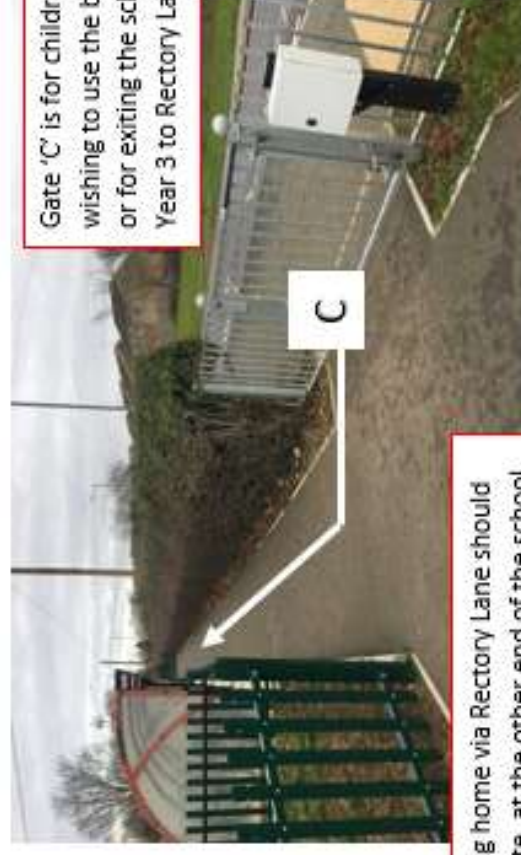
A

B

Gate 'B' is for cars using the 'Drop Off' access and must **NOT** be used by pedestrians. Parents/carers must park in the spaces provided and walk their child to their classroom. Children must not be in this area unaccompanied



Gate 'D' is to be used for access to the classrooms by adults and accompanying children using the 'Drop Off' zone.



Gate 'C' is for children wishing to use the bike shed or for exiting the school from Year 3 to Rectory Lane.

Any Year 5/6 child travelling home via Rectory Lane should exit via the playing field gate, at the other end of the school.

We want children to be ambassadors for our school and wear their named uniform smartly and take pride in their appearance.

We ask parents to support our expectations regarding school uniform. You can order uniform by following the link on our website. <https://myclothing.com/almond-hill-junior-school/7624.school>

For boys

Grey or black school shorts or trousers
White or red polo shirts
Plain red jumper/sweatshirt or
Red Almond Hill logo sweatshirt
Black school shoes or plain black trainers



For girls

Grey or black school shorts or trousers (**not fashion style or leggings**)
Grey or black school skirt/pinafore – knee length (not fashion style skirt)
White or red polo shirts
Plain red jumper/sweatshirt/cardigan
Red Almond Hill logo sweatshirt
Red checked dress
Black school shoes or plain black trainers



Pupils may wear boots to school in cold weather but need to change into school shoes in the classroom.

School PE kit

navy shorts and red tee-shirt/red Almond Hill logo tee shirt
plimsoles/plain black trainers
In cold weather children may bring a tracksuit top and jogging bottoms for outdoor PE

PE Kit is expected to be available in school **EVERY DAY** and as with school uniform **MUST BE NAMED**



The School Day



Please note - below is what a 'normal' school day looks like and what we are hoping to access. However, in view of current and ongoing circumstances, there may be a need to adapt our daily timetable as guidance for schools develops.

8:45 Class begins: Doors open for children to come in and start early morning work

8:55 Registers close

9:00- 9:15 Assembly (Expected to be held remotely, in classes)

9:15- 10:15 Lesson one

10:15- 10:30 Break time

10:30-11:30 Lesson two

11:30-12:00 Lesson three

12:00-1:00 Lunch time

1:00- 2:15 Lesson four

2:15- 3:15 Lesson five

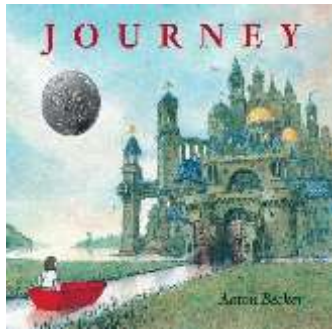
3:15 Home time

Coming into a new school setting, with new adults and unfamiliar surroundings can be overwhelming. Whilst we have lots of provision in place to support your child as they transition into Year 3, we would also recommend this is supported further at home by implementing and encouraging good, consistent routines for children. This includes appropriate bedtimes and get up times, regular hygiene routines, daily reading time, monitoring of time on electronic devices and encouragement to be independent. Home routines will support your child in a smooth transition and enable them to achieve optimum learning experiences.

Autumn Term Learning in Year 3

Unlike other years, this year some topics may be subject to change as we await guidance and finalisation of how we will address missed learning due to the ongoing circumstances. Below is a selection of learning that have previously be covered in the Autumn term.

English: As highlighted by your new teachers – our first book and English unit will be based on 'Journey' by Aaron Becker.



We will also be exploring 'Charlie's Superhero Underpants'



PSHCE: Learning about change, differences and similarities. Different families, feelings and building relationships.

Computing:

This term we begin with basic computing skills and blogging. We also cover E-safety which is revisited every term and embedded in all our practice at Almond Hill

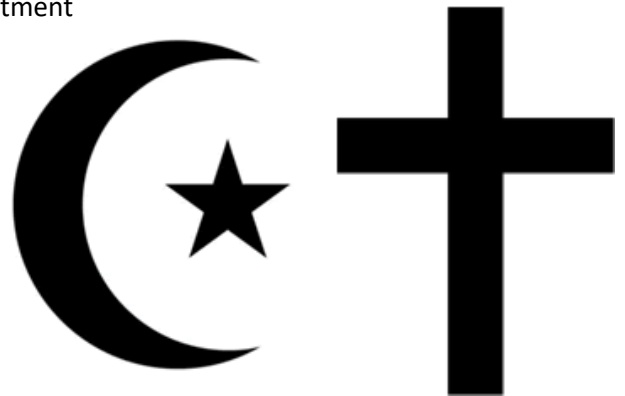
Maths: Getting to know the resources, making numbers, partitioning numbers, comparing numbers and measuring. We also introduce the children to our chosen problem solving strategy, 'RUCSAC'



Science: Animals including humans and forces and magnets



RE: Islam and Christianity, places of worship and commitment



PE: Key Skills, gymnastics, dance and netball



Keep a look out for on our school website for our year 3 monthly learning updates!

Homework

All year groups at Almond Hill Junior School are given home learning each week. Home learning is given out on a Thursday and is expected to be back in school on a Tuesday. If homework is not handed in there will be an expectation to complete during break or lunch time – this is to encourage independence and works towards our 'Ready to learn' learning behaviour. There is often a 'home learning club' available for children who would like time in school and adult support to compete.

Home learning is to be completed in the allocated orange home learning book. This book is the responsibility of the child as is expected to be kept presentable.

Homework will usually comprise of a spelling and reading activity (see below) plus sometimes another task dependent on current learning. We also have an expectation that times tables rehearsal will be embedded into your home routine. Children who are secure in times tables are best placed to problem solve and access maths learning across the curriculum. At Almond Hill, we use TT Rockstars. Your child will be given a log-in for this and you can log on at home and participate in different battles and challenges against school friends and even teachers! Children get to choose a 'rock name' and through their playing they can earn coins which they can spend in the online 'shop' where they can buy new outfits and accessories for their avatar.



We will work from the nationally recognised spelling list for Year 3 and 4. You will find this spelling list on the internet or if you are unsure you can request one from your child's teacher. There will also be a copy in your child's home learning books for reference.

Where a child may not be meeting the age-related spellings, we can support closing gaps through a range of strategies: targeted learning, small group spelling, specific adult support, phonics learning and differentiated activities based on child's point of access.



Reading plays a pivotal part in your child's learning experiences at Almond Hill. We recognise the undisputed positive impact that being a good reader and being exposed to a broad range of high-quality texts, can have on your child's learning and achievement.

We strive to ensure our teaching of reading supports our belief in the value of books. We have therefore devised a set of core reading principles that are implemented across the school. These are our values of reading and support both children and staff in assessing the quality of teaching and learning in reading. We believe that when these principles are met – great learning in reading is happening.



Almond Hill School Reading Principles



We know reading teaching and learning is good in
our school when...

For adults:	For children:
Children have extended opportunities for reading both independently, in pairs and in groups. Children are engaged in reading and get enjoyment from books.	"Read read read"
Children can use retrieval skills and answer 'find and retrieve' questions based on what they have read. Children have a literal understanding.	"Find it"
Children infer. They can use a combination of knowledge from what they have read and their own prior understanding to support their inferences. Children are able to link their ideas and find evidence from the text to support.	"Use the clues!"
There is opportunity to explore new vocabulary. Children are able to make suggestions for meaning. They can use what has been read and context of a text to make a judgement on vocabulary. They may go on to use in further learning	"Oooo that's new"
Children make links to other texts they have previously explored. This might be from both fiction and non-fiction books or from home or school. Children may find links between authors and their styles of writing. J	"I've seen this before!"
Teachers are enthusiastic and enjoy reading. Teachers use expression and engage the children in the reading process. Teachers model the reading process and embrace and encourage a love for reading amongst children. Teachers are passionate about books that children discuss.	"Our teacher loves reading!"
Children understand the purpose of their class reading river and refer to it when applicable. Children can discuss the journey of reading they have taken and recall the texts and learning linked to them.	"Reading Rivers Rule!"

Suggested texts for children to read and discuss,
both independently and in an adult guided group.
Y3 / Y4

Some recommended books you
might like to read over summer.
You can even email your new
teacher to let them know what
you've been reading.

I'll Take you to Mrs Cole - Nigel Gray
The Owl Who Was Afraid of the Dark – Jill
Tomlinson
The Hodgeheg - Dick King Smith
Flat Stanley - Jeff Brown
Lob – Linda Newbury
The Worst Witch – Jill Murphy
The Pirate Cruncher/The Pirates Next Door–
Jonny Duddle
Fantastic Mr Fox - Roald Dahl
Charlie Small - Charlie Small
Bill's New Frock – Anne Fine
Mr Badger series – Lee Hobbs
The Raft – Jim Lamarchet
The 100 dresses – Eleanor Estes
Dragons at Crumbling Castle – Terry Pratchet
Ottoline and the Yellow Cat – Chris Riddell
(series)
The Butterfly Lion - Michael Morpurgo
The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane – Kate
DiCamillo
East 'o the sun and west o' the moon – P J Lynch
Greek Myths – Marcia Williams
Cloud Tea Monkeys – Mal Peet
How To Train Your Dragon – Cressida Cowell
The Paperbag Prince – Colin Thompson
Stig of the Dump – Clive King
Grandpa's Indian Summer - Jamila Gavin
The Whales' Song – Dyan Sheldon

Encourage reading at home – both independently and with a family member daily. Your child's teacher can provide strategies and advice on how to support your child in reading (and exploring the different skills involved in the process of reading) at home.

If you would like any further support or advice related to reading,
please speak to your child's teacher or Miss Simmons -
(Reading co-ordinator)

Photos of our school



Main Reception

Drop Off Zone



Bike and scooter sheds



Cycling to school is not only fun and healthy for you but also helps the environment!



Here are some photos of the Year 3 classrooms from outside and inside.





At break and lunch
time you can play
basketball!

Games playground



Another playground



School field



Oak House (Year 3 and 4)

Acorn House (Year 5 and 6)



Quadrangle between Oak House and Acorn House

When it is warm,
home packed lunches
eat outside here.



This is where we have PE in the winter.

Hall

This is our brand-new dining area, where we eat our delicious school meals and sometimes where we have cake and ice cream sales!



IT room



This is our new IT room! It was built in May 2019 and we love using it.



Year 3 Summer task



Year 3 Teachers,
Almond Hill Junior School,
Stevenage,
Herts,
SG1 3RP



Dear Owls,

Unfortunately, we didn't get the chance to come and visit you in your Year 2 classes this year, like we usually would. We would really like the chance to get to know you a bit more. So, we would like all Year 2 children to complete a written task over the Summer - a letter to your new teacher! Your letter should be in your neatest handwriting (impress us!) and you can include pictures if you want to.

Your letter should include:

- Something interesting about you.
- What you like to do in school and at home.
- What you are planning to do in your summer holidays.
- Any questions you may have for your new teacher.
- Anything else you want your teacher to know.

You can:

- bring your letter in with you on the first day of school in September.
- post your letter to the school (Make sure your teachers name is included!)
- take a photo of your letter and email it to year3@almondhill.herts.sch.uk (make sure your new class name - 3S, 3C, or 3K - is in the subject bar)









We are really looking forward to reading your letters and finding out lots more about you.

Have a great Summer,

Miss Simmons, Miss Coulter, Mrs Bond



I am going to a new school!

	<p>I will go to bed early on school nights - sleep is important.</p>		<p>I get ready and put on my new uniform - it is important to be smart.</p>
	<p>I arrive at school and walk into my classroom. I feel butterflies in my tummy - but that is normal - everyone feels the same!</p>		<p>My new teacher tells us the rules of the class and school rules - rules keep everyone safe.</p>
	<p>We do some maths. I get some bits right and some bits I'm not sure on. That's okay. Mistakes can help us learn.</p>		<p>At dinner time I'm not sure what to do but there are adults I can ask, and they help me.</p>
	<p>It's home time already. The day went so quickly, and I had fun! I smile at my adult and tell them all about my day - they are proud of me</p>		<p>I know tomorrow will be even better. I go to bed early ready for another day.</p>