

The ALAMEDA READER

Pupil BOOK review

Summer Term 2026

Skandar and the Unicorn

by A.F. Steadman

Skandar and the Unicorn Thief is an exciting and action-packed adventure filled with magic, danger and unexpected twists. Skandar discovers a hidden world of fierce unicorns and must show bravery and determination as he faces challenges, makes new friends and uncovers powerful secrets.



Recommended by:
Monty W, 5L



National Year of **READING**

Against the backdrop of an incredible sporting summer, the National Year of Reading is uniting sporting legends, broadcasters, pundits and content creators to inspire the nation to fall in love with reading.

What's your favourite sport? **If you're into it, read into it!**



READ the facts

Shared engagement in routine activities key to nurturing early language – such as reading, chatting, and singing – has been declining over the past six years, with families nationwide facing mounting pressures. Yet today, 3 in 10 five-year-olds in the UK finish Reception without essential communication, language and literacy skills.

The National Literacy Trust, 2026

Meet our librarian: **MRS. MAYCOCK**

Hello, I'm Mrs M. I have been a school librarian for nearly 16 years and I am excited to be able to share my love of books and reading with the pupils at Alameda. Outside the library, I enjoy baking, being in my garden (not weeding, usually reading a book surrounded by my four cats!), riding rollercoasters and going to the theatre. I play the clarinet in a local concert band and am a volunteer with the Scouts.

I look forward to helping the students find books that spark their imagination, and to creating a cozy, welcoming space in the library.





Children are 40% more likely to enjoy reading if their parents or carers do (BookTrust, 2026). Why not try some of the free resources below to read at home together this summer?

FREE RESOURCES ALERT!



First News

Alameda has partnered with First News to keep your kids informed and entertained all summer with trusted and impartial news and games. Their news is aimed at 7 to 14-year-olds, but is accessible for all ages, and helps keep kids reading while improving their critical literacy and oracy skills.

Sign up for FREE to get your log-in for the First News app to get:

- The weekly newspaper and an archive of past issues
- Weekly news quiz to test knowledge in a fun way
- Daily news stories to read, listen to or watch
- Polls and interactive content
- Puzzles and games
- Discussion points for families

Use our school specific link here: First News – Alameda. Please contact Mrs Drewery or Miss Jennings if you can't get the link to work.

Words for Life

Words for Life is brought to you by the National Literacy Trust. They are a UK-based independent charity working with schools and communities to give disadvantaged children the literacy skills to succeed in life. They have some excellent resources – free to access – on their website:
<https://wordsforlife.org.uk/>



READING Challenge

Central Bedfordshire Council's Summer Reading Challenge: **Read to the Beat**

The Read To The Beat Summer Reading Challenge starts on **Saturday 11 July** and finishes on **Saturday 5 September**. You can register for the Summer Reading Challenge any time between these dates in all libraries during staffed hours, as well as on the mobile library.

It's completely free to take part, and you will receive everything you need to earn rewards for reading library books.

The more books you read, the more rewards you can collect!

6 books = certificate

12 books = bookmark

18 books = medal

Show us your rewards for achievement points when you return to school!

