

Alwyn Infant School

September 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

A very warm welcome to all our reception children and their families. We are very pleased with how well the children have settled into the daily routine. The curriculum we follow is the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), which is a play based curriculum, where the children learn from investigations and their own interests. Whilst talking to the adults and children around them they are testing their ideas and learning. We have focused activities every day which include phonics, English and maths. We also share many books, including wordless books.

PTA Coffee Morning It was good to see so many parents at our coffee morning today. We are very lucky to have an excellent parent teacher association (PTA), who raise money for our children and support parents. Please check out their web site for information about upcoming events. (www.alwyncourthousepta.com)



Tissues

We would be grateful if each family would donate a box of tissues to Reception. These donations generally last for the whole year and are much needed as the seasons change and we teach the children to 'catch it, and bin it'.

Phonics Workshop

We will shortly be starting daily phonics sessions, using a new phonics scheme. Each child will have a phonics folder that will be sent home for the children to practise their classroom learning with you. Please leave the phonics folder in the book bag, so that it can be used both in school and at home. A Phonics session is being held in the school hall on **28th September 2023 at 2.30pm**. This session will give you information on how you can help your child to learn to read.

Maths Workshop

There will also be a maths workshop on **Monday 2nd October at 2.30pm** in the school hall. Come and learn about what and how we teach mathematical concepts in reception.



Clothing

Please make sure all clothing is labelled clearly and your child knows where you have marked their clothing. We already have a number of new jumpers that are 'lost' because they are not named.

We would like each child to bring in a spare set of clothes, **including socks and underwear** in a named *plastic carrier bag*.

We play outside every day, so please make sure that your child brings a **COAT** to school and strictly **NO** jewellery, including earrings.

Please encourage your child to put on their coat and practise putting on gloves, shoes and socks at home. Although children may struggle and take time to do these tasks, 'practise makes perfect!'

Packed Lunch/Water bottles

Water bottles **MUST** be filled with water and clearly labelled.

Please do not put **sweets** in lunch boxes, as we encourage the children to eat healthily and strictly no nuts due to allergies.



Absence

We expect regular attendance. However if your child is absent please phone the office to let us know that your child will not be in and the reason why.

Head lice

This is always problematic in schools, but can be reduced if you are able to check your child's hair regularly.

Parent helpers

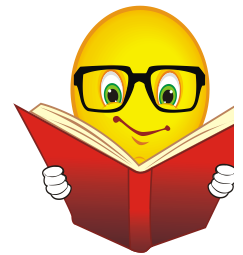
If you are available to help, please speak to a member of staff. Before helping it is necessary to carry out a mandatory police check on all volunteers in school and a simple application process also needs to be completed. Helping in school is an excellent opportunity to see what happens in your child's class and an extra pair of hands is always welcome!



Reading

We are playing many games around early reading and believe that a successful reader has a strong foundation in early literacy skills. Books with no words (lilac books) will be sent home twice a week on a Monday and a Thursday. Please enjoy these books with your child and talk about the characters, how they may be feeling and what is happening as well as focusing on word choices. Children should never feel pressured to 'read' a book, only encouraged to share and enjoy a book!

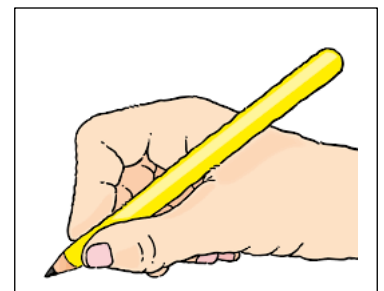
We do try to promote a love of reading across the school!



Handwriting

Please encourage your child to use a tripod grip when writing. We are using the ditty, two frogs on a log to encourage a correct pencil grip.

All children will be learning to write their name using the correct letter formation. If your child is interested in writing, please show them the correct letter formation and encourage them to start each letter from the correct place.



Junk Modelling

Please save all your old boxes (nothing too big), yoghurt pots and milk bottle tops which can be used to make models. We do junk modelling regularly so start bringing it to school, instead of putting in the recycling bin. We cannot use toilet rolls, milk bottles or medicine packaging.

Finally, we are able to recycle many items in reception; old mobile phones, keyboards, old laptops, buttons, craft items etc. If you have any items you think we may be able to use, please speak with a member of staff.

Thank you
Kind Regards
The Reception Team

Dates for the diary

PTA Events

Tuesday 26th September - clothes collection (bagged up please)

For a full list of what we can collect visit: <https://www.alwyncourthousepta.com>

Parent Workshop Phonics in Reception

26th September 2.30pm

Parent Workshop Maths in Reception

2nd October 2.30pm

Parent Consultative

10th and 12th October

Half Term Break

23rd to 27th October 2023

Inset day Monday 30th October

School starts on Tuesday 1st November.