



OUR SCHOOL NEWS

Issue No. 22 | 1st March 2024

What an exciting week!

As part of our learning on animals, lifecycles and seasons, we have experienced a great deal of excitement with the hatching of our chicks!

On Tuesday, ten eggs were delivered to school. We set up an incubator to keep them warm and safe and waited. Actually we didn't have to wait for long as five of the chicks hatched overnight. They were exhausted but chirping happily and scrabbling around the remaining eggs on Wednesday.



The children were amazed to see how wet and scrawny the chicks looked. Luckily, the children also saw how quickly the chicks dried out and fluffed up beautifully. Once they were ready they were taken out of the incubator and placed in the brooder box. We now have 10 very healthy chicks noisily chirping away in the school.



Medications and Creams

Please be aware that we cannot accept any medicines or creams in school unless they have been prescribed by a doctor. If your child has a prescribed medication, please bring it into school in its original container with the prescription label. You will also need to complete a medication form detailing the dosage and timings.

Medications and creams should not be left in the children's book bags.

Dance Festival DVD/USB Orders

The recording of the dance festival at Braywick is available. It costs £12.00 for DVD, or £16.00 for USB stick and all orders received before 9th MARCH will receive FREE DELIVERY, as these will be delivered to Alwyn to distribute in one go.

Orders received after this time will be charged an additional £2.50 postal and admin fee. To order [click here](#) and scroll to bottom of page and you will see the link for either day.

The Alwyn Aims

These are the rules we all try to follow:

- Use kind hands, feet and words
- Say how we feel
- Look and listen
- Always do our best



Remember to Order Lunches

The deadline for ordering lunches is 8am on the day.

Please review the menu with your child to check they know what has been chosen for them each day and that they like it. Choose peas or beans, if asked.

Lunches for infant age children are fully funded so parents do not pay for them. If your child does not have a packed lunch or ordered a school lunch, they will be given a jacket potato with baked beans.

Road safety

We have received a few reports of cars mounting the pavement during drop off and collection times. This is incredibly dangerous as some of our children and their younger siblings are very small and not always visible. Please drive slowly and careful around the school site. We all want to keep our children safe!



Look out for more school news on our [Alwyn facebook page](#).

Alwyn's Internet Safety Day- Monday 26th February

We were pleased to have Paul Hay back in Alwyn to lead our internet safety day. As we are living in a world where everything seems to be connected to the internet or a device in some way, it is important for parents/carers and staff to feel confident and informed with staying safe and making good choices online and on their devices.

Paul led an assembly for the children in Year 1 and 2 and the children watched a cartoon to highlight that people are not always who they say are. The cartoon is one of a series created by the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Agency (CEOP) aimed at ages 4-5 years. All three cartoons can be found here.

Paul introduced the children to the 4 Top Tips and visited all the classes across the school to talk to them about staying safe.

In Little Alwyn, he read an amazing book called 'The Adventures of Smartie the Penguin' about using a tablet safely and they sang the penguin song.

Working With Our Families

We also held a session for parents/carers that was very well attended and we hope that all our families continue to talk about online safety and the 4 Top Tips at home.

Paul Hay, our Internet Safety consultant, is also happy for parents to contact him (paul.hay@pclstraining.com) with any questions they may have or you can visit his website for further advice.

The National Online Safety (NOS) has some useful information for parents and handy 'Top Guides' which are one page guidance sheets on the the latest apps used by children. You can access this by following them on facebook or X (twitter) or you can create an account by choosing 'login', not become a member.

30 Day Reading Challenge

On Thursday, we launched our 30 day challenge event that was very popular last year. The children should have come home with a poster suggesting different reading activities to complete. They should aim to do one activity a day and colour it in to keep track of their achievements. At the end of the 30 days, they should bring it back into school to share with their class and celebrate their achievements.

World Book Day- 7th March

To celebrate World Book Day, the children and staff can come into school dressed as a book character. It would be wonderful, if they could say who the character is and the book they are from. There is no need to buy anything special for this day as it could be exciting to put together a home-made costume with your child from things you already have, which is great for the environment as it promotes the idea of reusing items. Happy Reading!

Half Term Book Challenge

A massive well done to all the children who took part in the creative book challenge. We had a huge variety of models, pictures and box art. The talent across the school is outstanding and this was a good opportunity to link reading books, art and creative fun! The children have loved looking at each others' work and guessing the book title.

Thank you to those of you who popped in after school to celebrate their work.





We are incredibly lucky to have a brilliant PTA who run some super events for our community and raise money for the schools. In Alwyn, the PTA events fund the rabbits as an ongoing cost and have also provided us with some wonderful playground posters to support the curriculum, as well as our reading shed which is well used at playtimes.



We are currently raising money to improve our playground environment with toys and activities as well as work with design companies to create a brand new library for our children. It is very exciting!

You are automatically part of the PTA as an Alwyn parent/carer. You can support the events by buying tickets, attending events or you could help with the organising and setting up. Further information can be found [on the website](#).



Book Blitz on Saturday 9 and Sunday 10 March. We are asking you to clear the shelves of the books your children have read and are happy to pass on for someone else to enjoy by popping them in a box outside your house. [Sign up and find out more here](#).

This is not a fundraising event, just a nice community thing to do and is not limited to just our schools to get involved.



Easter Egg Raffle - Draw Wednesday 27 March.

Tickets are now on sale for our Easter egg raffle where at least one child in every class will win a chocolate egg. There is also a BIG egg/hamper for a child in each school to win. Prizes will be given out on the last day of term. 20p per ticket (£1 minimum spend) <https://www.alwyncourthousepta.com/easter>

PTA Class Reps.

We are looking for a rep for each class within Alwyn and Courthouse to be the PTA connection to classes and support us getting messages to class groups and getting volunteers.

Don't worry you wouldn't be expected to be officially on the PTA and come to all our meetings (unless you want to of course) but you would be a hugely appreciated member of the team.

It won't take up much of your time; we need one person per class; [sign up here](#)



Match funding

We have some amazing parents who, through their work, have added to the funds we raise via Match funding; where their company match the amount raised on the event/stall they have helped run.

We have had support from Microsoft, Barclays and Heathrow. Does your company match fund? <https://www.alwyncourthousepta.com/matchfunding>



Ideas for Learning Chats

What have Reception been learning?

There was much excitement this week with the delivery and hatching of the chicks! We've taken this opportunity to enjoy learning about simple life cycles and looking around for other signs of Spring.

Ask me to sound out the words 'buzz' and 'quack'.

Ask me to tell you about the eggs we have at school.

Ask me to tell you some of the signs of Spring.

Ask me how many jumps I can do while you time a minute.

Next week we will be learning 'ch' and 'sh' in phonics and thinking about 9 and 10 in Maths

What have Year 1 been learning this week, Mrs Alston?

We have continued to write our non-fiction book about rabbits and have focused on writing clear sentences with capital letters, full stops and word spaces. In Maths, we have been learning about numbers up to 50. We focused on what herbivores and omnivores are and connected this to our non-fiction rabbit writing. In phonics, we started yellow sounds and have learnt about different ways of spelling the ai sound: ai as in aim, ay as in tray, eigh as in eight, ey as in grey, a-e as in cake, a as in table, ae as in sundae and ae as in break. Look out for all these different spellings when you're reading.

Ask me what type of animal a rabbit is (omnivore, herbivore or carnivore).

Ask me if I can combine these numbers without needing to count: 20 and 9, 30 and 4.

Ask me to partition these numbers into tens and ones: 38, 42, 17.

Ask me what a city is.

Ask me what a town is.

Ask me what a village is.

Next week we are going to be learning about length and height!

What have Year 2 been learning this week?

Year 2 had an exciting week starting two new topics in Geography and Science. In Science we looked at the parts of plants, similarities between plants using magnifying glasses and learnt that some plants are edible but some are not. In Geography we moved on from the UK to learning about the seven continents.

We are all very excited about our trip next Tuesday to The Lookout Centre.

Ask me to name the 7 continents

Ask me which is the biggest landmass and which is the smallest landmass.

Ask me to name some edible plants

Ask me to name which parts of an edible plant we can eat

Ask me to tell you 3 facts about chicks

Ask me to tell you what a heading is

Ask me to tell you what units we use to measure height and length

Ask me to name 3 things I would measure with a meter stick

Next week we will be learning about the 5 oceans of the world.

KEY DATES!

1st March St. David's Day

5th March

Yr 2 Trip to the Look Out Centre
PTA Clothes Collection

7th March

World Book Day- dress as a book character

9th-10th March PTA Book Blitz

10th March Ramadan Starts

12th & 14th March

Parents'/Carers' consultations

15th March

Red Nose Day- non uniform for £1

17th March St. Patrick's Day

18th-22nd March

Grown ups in School, 2pm-
3.15pm

26th March

Yr 1 trip to Odds Farm

28th March

Last day of Term

29th March-12th April

School closed for Easter holidays

29th March Good Friday- Bank Holiday

31st March Easter Sunday

1st April Easter Monday -Bank Holiday

15th April - INSET day

16th April - Children return to school

Congratulations!

Children are enjoying Golden Book Assembly in Year 1 and 2. In Little Alwyn, they love to have their special sticker.

A huge **'well done'** to all the children who were in the Golden Book for their achievements this week. **We are very proud of you!**

Community Pages



7 DAYS OF FOCUS WOMEN & GIRLS WEEK
SATURDAY 2ND MARCH - FRIDAY 8TH MARCH 2024

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP
Leisure Focus and Maidenhead United FC Community Trust

Book your free session by scanning the QR code

LEISURE FOCUS COMMUNITY TRUST

To celebrate Women & Girls Week next week, Leisure Focus & Maidenhead Utd Community Trust are opening their doors to provide 7 DAYS OF FOCUS: Women & Girls Week (2nd March - 8th March) - a variety of FREE sporting and physical activity sessions aimed at women & girls.

The aim of the week is to encourage women and girls to take part in physical activity on a weekly basis, giving local residents the opportunity to try something new. There are activities for girls and women aged 4 - 40+

[Click here](#) or [here](#) for the brochure for more information.

JOIN US AT YORK ROAD DURING WOMEN & GIRLS WEEK!



Maidenhead United Women host Southampton FC Women at York Road.

Sunday 3rd March 2024
2pm kick-off

£5 adults, £2 concessions, £1 match programme
CASH ONLY ON THE DAY
Maidenhead United Gold Members go FREE

Simply turn up, pay at the gate, and get behind your Magpies!

Those who have entered our World Book Day competition go FREE with a paying adult

UNITED AS ONE



FREE SEND INFORMATION SESSIONS

with the Information, Advice & Support (IAS) Service

Preparing for adulthood with the PFA team

22nd February 9.30-11.30am

If your child or young person has an EHCP, what is the process for preparing for adulthood, what can you expect, what is the timeline, what is parental responsibility? what is LA responsibility, when do plans cease?

Reflections on Emotionally Related School Avoidance (ERSA) with Educational Psychology service

29th february 9.30-11.30am

A session with the ERSA Educational Psychologists as an informal session to talk about ERSA and an opportunity to ask questions.

Drop in Coffee morning - Farewell to Christine Doyle, IAS Adviser who is retiring

14th March 9.30-11.30am

IAS Adviser Christine Doyle is retiring. Please come along to celebrate Christines' extensive career within the SEND sector and have a cup of tea with us and other parents. No need to book - just turn up.

CAMHS Learning Disability Team

18th April 9.30-11.30am

Come and learn about the CAMHS Learning Disability team, what do they do? How can they help? What services can they offer?

Book your free place via : www.ias-rbwm.info/events

All sessions take place at Friends House, 14 West Street, Maidenhead SL6 1RL



Virtual Coffee Morning - Autism and the family

Friday 1st March 10am to 11.15am

Join our online informal discussion to cover the following areas:

- Balancing needs of siblings, parents and the autistic child
- Routines and rituals affecting others at home
- Advocating for your child and managing other family members

25 spaces available!

Celebrate your success with other parents/carers, share your experience and gain support during our coffee morning

Sign Up Today!

Available for families who reside in or have a registered GP in East Berkshire with a child who is Autistic/ADHD (suspected/pathway/diagnosed)

To book your place contact GEMS:

Gems.4Health@nhs.net 0800 999 1342



GEMS
Autism & ADHD Support Service
East Berkshire

Bear cubs

Ages 5 to 10

First and third Friday of the month - 4pm to 5pm

January 5th - Design your own superhero - Online
January 19th - Bingo - Bracknell - St Margaret Citherow RC Primary School
February 2nd - Crafting - Slough
February 16th - Big on Bouncing - Slough
March 1st - Sports Day - Maidenhead - Woodlands Park Primary School
March 15th - Easter Biscuit Decorating - Heathfield School - Ascot

*Please note activities may be subject to change

Registration: Criteria:
0800 999 1342 0800 999 1342 or visit www.gems4health.co.uk

As a parent/carer you may feel that your child would benefit by joining a social session.

Sessions encourage Participation, Confidence and Fun!

For more information, please contact the GEMS team on: gems.4health@nhs.net or 0800 999 1342. You can also [click here to book a place](#).

Please note that bookings will close when sessions are fully booked / day before a session

Fun activities providing an opportunity to make friends in an understanding environment and a chance to develop social skills and self esteem. We provide a mixture of online sessions and sessions held in the local community

Activities are held on 1st & 3rd Friday of every month.

Please note for the Big on Bouncing Event

on Friday 16th February there is a small charge.