



ALWYN NEWSLETTER

Issue No. 2 | October 2021

Whole School Messages

Parent Council Meeting

Thank you to everyone who attended the first Alwyn and Courthouse Parent Council and to those of you who couldn't attend but completed the questionnaire. It was lovely to have such positive feedback and know that our school values of kindness and belonging are evident in everything we do and contribute to what makes us special.

As a result of the feedback, we will move to a weekly newsletter after half term, instead of monthly, and begin to include some key questions based on the week's learning that you could use to prompt chats about learning at home. Hopefully this will help you to know more about what goes on in school and how you can help.

Harvest Festival 18th-22nd October

During the last week of this term, the children will be learning all about Harvest and being thankful for the things we have. Year 1 and Year 2 will learn and perform some songs, poems and Harvest thoughts to share with each other. Due to COVID we will not be inviting parents into school to watch the performances, however some children may need help learning the songs and lines at home.

From Monday 18th until Thursday 21st October we will be collecting non-perishable food items for Food Share Maidenhead. This is a local charity that collects and distributes donations for families, children during the school holidays and the homeless. All donations can be dropped off at the school office. Please do give generously, if you can.

For more information and a list of items to donate, you could look at their website, www.foodshare.charity/food-donations

Social media <https://www.facebook.com/AlwynInfant/>

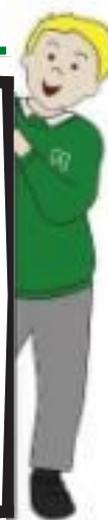
Remember to look at our Facebook page. It will be updated with posts about things the children have done and to celebrate our school values. Look out for the Alwyn logo and playground train to check that you are on our official page. Remember to follow, like and share!



The Alwyn Aims

These are the rules we all try to follow:

- Keep your hands and feet to yourself
- Look and listen
- Be careful and kind
- Always do your best



Punctuality

Please remember our morning start times. It is very important that children arrive in school ready for the start of the school day. It can be disruptive to children emotionally and educationally if they come into a classroom when the lesson has already started and there is not enough time in the day to catch up on missed learning; a lot of learning can take place in 10 minutes! If there is a special circumstance where you know you will be late, please let the office know.

All persistent lateness will be followed up!



School Applications

If you have a child with a birthday between 1st September 2017 and 31st August 2018, it will soon be time for you to make an application for a place in Reception.

If your child is currently in Year 2, you will also need to make an application for their Junior school place. Schools are currently offering tours so you can make an informed choice. The application portal will be open between 11th November and 15th January and it is extremely important that you complete the form during this time. If you log onto RBWM.gov.uk and look in the Schools and Education section, you will find all the information you need.

KEY DATES!

6th, 14th & 21st October
Zoom sessions for
reception parents at
4pm

18th- 21st October
Food Share donations
for Harvest

25th-29th October
Half term

1st November
INSET DAY

4th November
Flu vaccine

8th & 10th November
Parents Consultations

9th November
Individual photographs

12th November
Spots & stripes for
Children in Need

15th-19th November
Mums in School Week &
Anti-bullying Week

15th November
Odd Socks Day

10th December
Christmas Jumper Day

Parents Consultations

On the 8th and 10th November we will be holding our virtual parents consultations. You can book a 9 minute appointment to discuss how your child is settling into their new class and share any information that you think we should know. Appointments will be available between 3.40 and 6.20 on those days. Please be aware that the electronic system will automatically terminate the call after the allocated time. Details of how to book the appointment will be sent out at a later time so look out for the email.

Mums into School Week for Year 1 and 2 15th-19th November

This is a great week that the children and staff in Year 1 and 2 absolutely love. The children get to share their classroom and learning for a part of the morning with their Mum. The sign up sheets for one of our morning slots will be displayed outside the classroom door after half term. We will have to limit the number of visiting Mums to five a day due to health and safety reasons.

On their chosen day, Mums can take part in a fun, classroom based session so they get a really good idea of what their child does in school. They will join the class straight after the morning drop off time and stay with their class until 10.15am. After the session, if they like, the Mums can come into the hall for a cup of tea or coffee or go home for a well earned rest from all the learning!

Reception Parents Bitesize Sessions - Phonics

Thank you to all our parents that attended the Phonics Bitesize session. I hope you found it interesting and helpful.

Phonics is taught every day in all the classes across the school and is how we teach reading and spelling. Each week the children revise and learn the sounds used to make words and how to recognise the letters that make those sounds. Each sound is linked to a picture prompt that helps them to remember.

Reading and spelling are made up of letter(s) that are code for sounds (phonics). In order to read confidently, the children need to be explicitly taught this code and become confident in its use.

The reception classes this week have been learning the letters **s a t p** and the sounds associated with them when reading. In order to support this learning you could start asking your child to listen to words with these sounds in them (at, sat, pat, tap, taps) and see if they can say where the sound is; the beginning, the end or within the word.

The next virtual bitesize session for reception parents is on 14th October at 4pm where we will revise the sounds and how we use the worksheets to practise handwriting.

We also have a bitesize session on 21st October to introduce the teaching of number and maths in reception.



Reception and Year 1 Phonics Support at Home

To support their phonics learning, our Reception and Year 1 children will start to bring home a phonics folder with worksheets that will help to identify the sounds of the Alphabetic Code. It will include handwriting, reading and writing activities so you can support this crucial learning at home. Please go through the sheet with your child as part of their reading routine and then pop it back in their book bag so it can come back and forth from school and home.

