



Alwyn Infant School



Build Belonging

Show Kindness

Make Good Choices

OUR SCHOOL NEWS

Issue No. 21 | 23rd February 2024

What a busy art and DT week!

This week the children have been exploring their creativity by immersing themselves in art, design and technology.

Pine class (Year 2) have worked on some amazing observational drawings. This is also a great link with science.



The whole of Year 2 have also practised their sewing skills and made some truly fabulous egg cosies. They had to plan their design, prepare and cut the felt, stitch them together and then decorate. They are amazing!



Threading needles and sorting out tangles is super tricky and takes a lot of resilience and perseverance.

Year One art week

Year 1 children loved Art and DT this week. We worked on making a pop up card. Look out for it in weeks to come! We then spent time looking at spirals in nature. We really enjoyed all the different spiral images, from snails to spirals on sunflowers! We then made our own spiral artwork using pastels or paint and even made a spiral animal. We really enjoyed watching step by step drawing tutorials to draw our own dragons and aliens. What fun!

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.

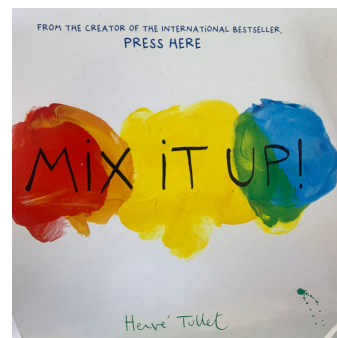
Lunches for infant age children are fully funded so parents do not pay for them. If your child does not have a packed lunch or ordered a school lunch, they will be given a jacket potato with baked beans.



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

Reception art week

Our children in Little Alwyn used the book *Mix It Up* by Herve Tullet as inspiration for exploring colour mixing. There was lots of painting and art activities going on all week



Alwyn's Internet Safety Day- Monday 26th February

We are pleased to have Paul Hay back in school to lead our internet safety day. As we are 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 in the ways to keep our children safe online and on their devices.

Paul will lead an assembly for the children in Year 1 and 2. He will then visit all the classes across the school to talk to them about staying safe.

Parent/carer talk

We would also like to invite our parents/carers to an information session at 2.15pm where he will share key messages and answer any questions or worries you may have. We hope you can all attend so we can work together to keep our children safe online.



Behaviour in the Toilets

We have been talking to the children about hygiene and behaviour in the school toilets. The main messages being to go to the toilet, use a small amount of toilet paper that is then put in the toilet bowl and flush. It is then important to wash our hands and turn the taps off.

It is a space we all share and need to help to leave in a clean state ready for the next person. They have been told that if there is a problem they must tell a grown up.

To support us, please talk to your child about the toilet routine and practise tearing off the toilet paper in small amounts.

The children have been making a fabulous effort with their toilet behaviour which is great. The toilets have been left in a better state, so much so that we had a frog visiting the Year 1 loos!

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.

If you would like to come and see the children's work, pop into the school hall, at the end of the day, on Friday 1st March.

There is still time to take part as long as all the work is in school before 1st March.





We are incredibly lucky to have a brilliant PTA who run some super events for our community and to raise money for the schools.

In Alwyn, the PTA events fund the rabbits as 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, coming to the 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>



Online Learning Platforms

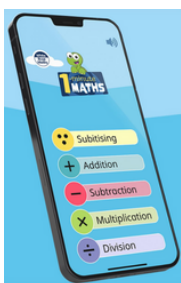


[CBeebies Little Learners app](#) launched this week.

CBeebies Little Learners is a learning app from CBeebies and BBC Bitesize, that puts the fun into learning!

Aimed at 2-4 year-olds, the app is free to download with no adverts or in-app purchases and children can play independently and offline, wherever they are.

It's packed with free CBeebies and BBC Bitesize games and videos featuring CBeebies characters, and all the activities are based on the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) curriculum.



1-minute Maths

The White Rose 1-minute maths app helps children build greater number confidence and fluency. It's all about targeted practice in engaging, one-minute chunks! It is free to download from Google Play and the Apple App Store.



Purple Mash

Children in Year 1 and 2 have access to Purple Mash, a whole world of fun and exciting learning opportunities in one safe online space.

It includes learning tools and content, designed for children aged 3 to 11 in the classroom and at home. Purple Mash supports learning through its resources, games and creative tools, tailored to the school curriculum; everything from core subjects such as maths, reading, writing and phonics, to all the other topics learnt in school.

The log-in details can be found in their reading record.

Numbots for Maths

[Numbots](#) supports the understanding of number bonds and helps addition and subtraction skills. These are the essential building blocks for maths concepts and lots of repetition of key facts can support fluency and speed. The children in Years 1 and 2 have individual logins and can build their own robots and collect rewards as they learn.

NumBots can be played on a browser (play.numbots.com) or via the app, which is free to download on Amazon, Android and Apple devices.

In order to get the best out of NumBots, we recommend that children play regularly for short bursts at a time, aiming for 3 minutes, five times a week. It is great fun!

Oxford Owl and Reading

Learning to read is essential for success in life. The more support and encouragement that you can offer your child, the more likely it is that they will make good progress.

At Alwyn, we are using the Floppy's Phonics teaching programme. It is a systematic approach to teaching the letters and sounds (the alphabetic code) that are needed to read and spell. To reinforce the learning in school, your child takes home a reading book to practise these sounds and build fluency. It is important to read these books more than once over a few days. **Please try to read with your child every day.**

As well as reading books, your child can access [Floppy's Phonics online](#). This resource can be used to access more books and the 'Floppy's Phonics extra practice zone'. Here you will be able to find the corresponding sound to match your child's worksheet and use the interactive online book. The children will be familiar with these from the classroom.

If you have any questions or difficulties, speak to your child's class teacher.

To help support online safety, attend our parent/carer session on 26th February at 2.15pm.

Ideas for Learning Chats

What have Reception been learning?

We have had great fun during Art Week learning about what happens when we mix colours. Our new phonics sounds are 'y' and 'z' and we've enjoyed reading **Dear Zoo** and thinking about describing the animals. We've read some non-fiction books about animals and started thinking about their habitats.

Ask me to sound out the words 'yes' and 'zig-zag'.

Ask me to tell you what a 'habitat' is.

Ask me to tell you what I have found out about mixing colours.

Ask me to find something at home that is longer than my foot.

Ask me to tell you 3 people who help to keep me safe.

Next week we will be learning 'zz' and 'qu' in phonics and continuing to think about length, height and time in maths. We will also start thinking about and noticing the signs of Spring.

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

This week in Year 1 we have been writing our own non-fiction book. The children learned lots of facts about rabbits and wrote about them in their very own book. In maths, Year 1 have been looking at subtraction and finding the difference between 2 digit and 1 digit numbers. In science, Year 1 looked at carnivores, herbivores and omnivores and in phonics they looked at alternative graphemes for the phonemes they already know. An excellent first week back Year 1, well done!

Ask me what difference means.

Ask me to tell you what 7-2 is.

Ask me to tell you what 6-1 is.

Ask me to tell you what 17-2 is using 7-2.

Ask me to tell you what 16-1 is using 6-1.

Ask me to tell you what a carnivore is.

Ask me to tell you what a herbivore is.

Ask me to tell you some facts about rabbits.

What have Year 2 been learning this week?

This week we have heard the story of the Tiger and the Jackal. We used our comprehension skills to predict the ending and to understand how the jackal was able to trick the tiger. We wrote a wanted poster for the tiger and used expanded noun phrases and conjunctions to describe his character and appearance. In maths, we have been learning the 10 times table, the 5 times table and related division facts. We also learnt that having a good knowledge of the 10 times table will help us with the 5 times table. As it is Art Week, we have been very creative sketching flowers and designing and making an egg cosy (although firstly, we had to explain what an egg cosy was as most children had no idea!)

Ask me to recall my 5 times table.

Ask me to share 30 into 5 groups.

Ask me what an egg cosy is and how I made mine.

Ask me for an expanded noun phrase to describe my tiger.

Ask me what is a feature of a non-fiction text.

Ask me the spelling rule to change 'berry' into a plural.

Next week, we are beginning our new geography topic looking at the world and more specifically continents.

KEY DATES!

26th February

Internet Safety Day

2.15pm Talk for parents/carers in the school hall

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

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!**



Virtual Coffee Morning - Autism and the family

Friday 1st March 10am to 11.15am

25 spaces available!

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

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**

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

The GEMS team are delighted to announce some new workshops for adults and children.

Have you or your child recently been diagnosed with Autism or ADHD ?

Would you like to understand more about what this means?

GEMs are running virtual workshops which will give participants an opportunity to share their experience and understand more about their diagnosis in a safe setting.

The sessions will run for up to 1 hour and 30 mins and have a maximum of 10 attendees.

The cost is £20 plus booking fee per session (This event is non refundable).

Sessions are running on the following dates:

Children ages 8-12 years with autism - Thursday 8th February, 4:15-5:45pm

Adults 18+ with autism - Thursday 15th February, 7-8:30pm

Adults 18+ with ADHD - Monday 4th March, 7-8:30pm

Children ages 8-12 with ADHD - Thursday 7th March, 4:15-5:45pm

To book your space please use the following link :

www.ticketsource.co.uk/gems4health-autismandadhdsupport



Bear cubs

Agnes 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 Cillierow 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: (Free for all participants) 0800 999 1342
Criteria: Children with or being referred to have ADHD or other autism related things in East Berkshire

For more information: Call 0800 999 1342 or visit www.gems4health.co.uk

on Friday 16th February there is a small charge.

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