



Alwyn Infant School



Build Belonging

Show Kindness

Make Choices

Adventure

OUR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Issue No. 15 | 9th January 2026

Happy New Year!

We hope you all had a lovely two week break, full of family fun. The children are all looking very happy to be back in their classrooms and they have enjoyed sharing their holiday news. Much of the talk has been based around the idea of starting a new calendar year as an opportunity for new starts and setting an achievable goal- a New Year's Resolution.

Have a look at our [Instagram](#) or [Facebook](#) pages for some fun in the snow pictures.

Staffing Updates

We are really pleased to welcome back Mrs Novelle from maternity leave. She is the class teacher for Pine Class and has made a brilliant start. Ms Pena has also started the role of Federation SENDCo.

As a positive move to work closer with Courthouse, Mrs Ridley is going to take over as the Federation Music Lead and Mrs Hull is going to lead PE across the federation. We are all looking forward to some cross school events in the future, starting with music week next week.

School Attendance and Punctuality Phone Calls

We monitor school attendance very closely in line with local and government rules.

If your child's attendance is below 90%, we will contact you over the next few weeks to discuss the reasons and see if we can offer any support or guidance.

We accept that illnesses cannot be helped and if your child is not well enough for school then the call will just clarify illness so please do not worry if you receive a phone call as it is part of our usual school procedure.

Is my child well enough for school?

The increase in colds and illnesses may cause you to feel less confident with knowing if your child is well enough for school. It is fine to send your child to school with mild respiratory illnesses. This would include general cold symptoms: a minor cough, runny nose or sore throat. However, children should not be sent to school if they have a temperature of 38°C or above. We would encourage you to visit the NHS ['Is my child too ill for school?'](#) for further information

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
- Look after our things
- Always do our best

Remember to order lunches!

All hot dinners must be pre-ordered in by 8am on the day.

If your child does not have a packed lunch or ordered a school lunch, they will be given a jacket potato with baked beans.

Please talk about the menu choices with your child as we are unable to change it on the day.

School lunches for infant age children are fully funded so parents do not pay for them. They are yummy!

School Applications for Year 3 or Reception in September 2026 must be completed and submitted by Thursday 15th January. If you need any help with the application process, contact the school office. You will then be informed of the school offer on 16th April 2026. Further information can be [found here](#).



Look out for more school news on our Alwyn facebook page or Instagram.

Responsible Behaviour Curriculum in Alwyn and Courthouse

Our vision is to develop well rounded, confident and responsible children who aspire to achieve their full potential. We want our children to do their best in all aspects of school life - work, play, friendships and behaviour, and to take pride in all they do. We want them to develop respect and a sense of responsibility for themselves, each other, property, the wider community and the environment. To support this aim, we follow a behaviour curriculum that is explicitly taught and also weaves throughout the whole of school life.

Each week, the classes explore a different theme. They have a Monday 'check-in' circle time to introduce it and set a goal to work towards throughout the week. On Tuesday, the Year 1 and 2 assembly is time to think about the whole school approach to the theme. They celebrate their successes with a Friday 'check-out' circle time in their class.


To support this learning, there is a weekly leaflet for parents (below) to introduce the theme and sometimes gives ideas on how to help.


THIS WEEK'S TOPIC IS

RESPONSIBILITY FOR OUR ACTIONS

Your child's choices

- As a parent you have tried your best to teach your child about emotions and how to regulate them, you have been a great role model in showing how to solve conflict, you have assisted your child in sharing and cooperation and you have supported school and their rules, but your child has still made some poor choices. This is okay, it happens! Your role now is to teach them about taking responsibility for those choices.






Your feelings in your child's choices

It is easy for parents to think that their child's choices are their fault, but as a parent if you are getting things right with your parenting only 50% of the time then you are doing a good job. Research has shown that 'good enough' parenting happens if you make the right decisions and model the right things at least 50% of the time. Sometimes children will still make poor choices! They are human!







What can you do?

- Praise and reward good choices! It works both ways.
- Ensure you follow through on any consequences that your child knew about before they made the poor choice.
- Support school in front of your child if their poor choices were made there. You may think that you are helping your child by protecting them from school consequences but what you are actually teaching them is that they don't have to be responsible for their poor choice.
- Talk about the incident when everyone is calm so that your child has alternative ways to deal with that situation if it occurs again.
- Put poor choices behind you and your child and move on - we all make them!



The Responsible Behaviour Curriculum



BLUE ZONE	GREEN ZONE	YELLOW ZONE	RED ZONE
 sad  tired	 happy  calm	 frustrated  worried	 angry  terrified
 sick  bored	 feeling ok  ready to learn	 silly  excited	 yelling  hitting
I can try...  stretch	I can try...  drink water	I can try...  deep breaths	I can try...  take a break

These zones of regulation are also a great way to help the children think about and identify their feelings, along with an idea to help manage them.



Our Fabulous Parent Teacher Association

Remember as a member of the school community, you are automatically part of the Parent and Teacher Association (PTA). They run brilliant events throughout the year but need your help. Please get in touch with them if you wish to take part or have some great ideas to share

**Ever wondered exactly where your Disco or
Christmas Fair money goes or how that new
playground equipment appeared?**

Now is your chance to find out—and brighten up a January night out while you're at it! We would like to invite you to the Alwyn and Courthouse Schools PTA Annual General Meeting & Quiz Night.

Wednesday, 21st January 2026

7:45 PM (15 minutes AGM and Quiz starts at 8pm)

Alwyn School Hall

A legendary quiz hosted by our resident Queen of the quiz!

Why come along?

See the Impact: Hear how the funds you helped raise have been put to work for our children this year and the plans for the future.

Have Your Say: Help us elect next year's committee. If you've ever thought about joining the team as a Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, or Member, we'd love to have you! (Drop us an email at alwynandcourthousepta@yahoo.co.uk to nominate yourself).

The Ultimate Quiz: Teams of up to 6, but don't worry if you're coming alone—we'll find you a winning team on the night!

The Essentials: The AGM is free to attend.

Quiz tickets are just **£3** per person, available to [buy here](#) or on the door.

Feel free to bring along your own drinks and snacks.

What have Reception been learning this week?

The children have been super excited this week after returning from their Christmas holidays. We have embraced the winter weather and were incredibly excited when it started to snow! Of course we made the most of this and the children wrapped up warm and played in the snow. This linked in beautifully with our new Wonderful Winter topic. In Phonics we have learnt the letter sound 'j' as in jug and 'v' as in van. In Maths we have been subitising numbers to 6 and using dice to play track games. During handwriting, we are learning the long legged giraffe letters starting with 'l'. In Book time, we have started a poetry unit on winter poems and writing our own acrostic poem using the word winter.

Ask me to tell you a word that starts with 'j' and 'v'.

Ask me to sound out the words juggle and velvet.

Ask me to tell you the number of dots shown on a dice when rolled.

Ask me about my new year's resolution.

Ask me to tell you a fact about polar bears.

Next week we have our 'Music week' where the children will be involved in music workshops and watch and learn about different instruments. The children will be learning the new sounds 'w' as in web and 'x' as in fox. We will be teaching them the helpful words 'we', 'he', 'she'. Please practise these at home with your child. In Maths we will be comparing and ordering the weights of kitchen objects e.g. tin of beans, bag of sugar etc. During science the children will be finding out about animals that hibernate. Enjoy your weekends!

What have Year 1 been learning this week?

What an exciting start to the new year and new term with the snow! The children enjoyed playing, touching and tasting the snow which helped their English poetry writing all about winter. In English the children wrote a stanza for a poem about what they'd be able to see, hear, feel and taste/smell during winter. In maths, we started exploring numbers from 10-20 and using counters, dienes and other manipulatives to represent numbers. In science, we started learning about mammals and the characteristics of mammals. In history, we started talking about the resources we have in our classrooms and later on in the term, we are going to compare them to the old Alwyn school.

Ask me to tell you something I'd be able to smell during winter.

Ask me to count up to 20.

Ask me to spot teen numbers when I'm out and about.

Ask me to name you a mammal that I can keep as a pet and one that is wild.

Ask me to tell you what a timeline is.

Next week, we will be taking part in lots of exciting music workshops and activities as it is music week.

KEY DATES!

School Year 2025-2026

Spring Term 3

12th-16th January

Music Week

21st January

PTA AGM & Quiz Night

9th - 13th February

Book Week

Book Fair after school

16th - 20th February

Half Term Break &

Challenge

Enjoy the break

Spring Term 4

23rd February

Children return to School

23rd - 27th February

Art/DT Week

2nd March

Internet Safety Day

Parent/carer talk at 2.30pm

5th March

World Book Day

10th & 12th March

Parent/carer consultations

11th March

Year 2 Trip: Look Out Centre

16th-20th March

Grown ups into school
afternoon

What have Year 2 been learning this week?

We started off the year thinking about our New Year's resolutions and goals. We looked at other countries and how they celebrate the tradition of bringing in the New Year and we thought about our own goals for the year.

As mathematicians, we were learning about money. We recognised coins and notes, added them together to make amounts and compared amounts.

In English, we wrote an acrostic poem about winter. We were able to use our own experiences as we had fun in the snow on Tuesday.

Ask me to name the UK coins and notes in order of value

Ask me to tell you different ways to make 20p

Ask me to name a difference between plastic and glass

Ask me what transparent means

Ask me to explain what an acrostic poem is

Ask me to tell you a simile for ice, gloves and trees

Eg. An icicle is as sharp as a knife.

Next week in history, we are learning about Brunel and his achievements.



Congratulations!

A huge 'well done' to all the children who have been in the golden book, this week.

We are very proud of you!



KEY DATES!

School Year 2025-2026

Spring Term 4 cont.....

20th March
Non-uniform for Comic Relief

23rd March
Drama Workshops

27th March
Last day of term.
Children home at 1.30pm

30th March - 10th April
Easter holidays

Summer Term 5

13th April
All children back to school

4th May
Bank Holiday - School Closed

22nd May
Last day of term
Normal finish time

25th - 29th May
Half Term Break

Summer Term 6

1st June
INSET Day (2) - School Closed
for children.

2nd June
All children back to school

5th June
Class Photographs

IMPORTANT NOTICE



School Drop-Off and Pick-Up Safety

The Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead Council have had an increased number of complaints regarding traffic issues around the school pick up and drop off across our Borough schools.

Officers from our Transport and Road Safety teams have been out assessing and observing the issues and have reported two common factors at all our school sites;

1. poor driver behaviour
2. lack of pedestrian road safety skills.

During their visits to schools they have witnessed drivers stopping on the School Keep Clear Markings, letting children get out of the car onto the middle of the carriageway, parking on the pavement and blocking the footway for pedestrians, parking on double yellow lines, parking on white zigzags at a pedestrian crossing, rushing children across roads, crossing roads without paying attention, looking at their phone and not guiding their children.

All residents deserve a safe environment to pick up and drop off their child at school. If everyone takes personal responsibility for their behaviour around the school gates, a safe and secure environment is created.

How to create a safe environment for pick up and drop off at school

Road traffic laws are not optional they are legal requirements to keep all road users safe.

Drivers

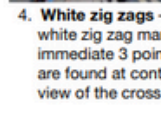
1. **School Keep Clear markings** – DO NOT STOP on the yellow zig zags, not even for one second. The markings are placed outside school entrances to keep a clear space for pedestrians to cross the road without obstruction.



2. **Letting children out of the car** – Do not let children out of the car onto the carriageway. This is extremely dangerous. Always ensure children alight onto the pavement and in a suitable space that does not block pavements, driveways or contravene the road traffic laws.



3. **Pavement parking** – Driving along pavements and obstructing the pavement is against the road traffic law. Parking on the pavement obstructs the only safe space that pedestrians can walk. Park with all 4 wheels on the road. If there is insufficient space on the road to park then you must move until you find an appropriate space.



4. **White zig zags** – It is against the road traffic law to stop on the white zig zag markings even for a second. Stopping here carries an immediate 3 points on your licence and a £100 fine. These markings are found at controlled crossing places to ensure clear unobstructed view of the crossing for the safety of pedestrians.



5. **Dangerous manoeuvres** – carrying out three point turns and reversing into spaces where children are trying to cross the road puts everyone in danger and creates frustrations for other road users.



6. **Double yellow lines** – double yellow lines are put along the carriageway to stop vehicles obstructing the road. Parking on the double yellow lines obstructs the flow of traffic and causes frustrations for other road users.



Pedestrians

1. **Road Safety Skills** – Using the basic Green Cross Code every time you cross the road and showing your child how to look for a safe place to cross the road and then crossing with good observations will keep you and your child safe. Being distracted by mobile phones or choosing unsafe places to cross the road puts yourself and your child in danger. It also teaches your child unsafe practices.
2. **Crossing places** – Finding the safest place to cross a road. Teaching your child where and how to cross the road is essential for their safety. Use crossing facilities where possible; zebra crossing, refuge islands, traffic light controlled crossings. Where no crossing point is available find a spot where you have an unobstructed view along the road and stay patient until there is a clear gap in the traffic before stepping onto the road. The School Keep Clear markings are in place to provide a clear space to cross into school.



By complying to the road traffic laws and the highway code, a safer, calmer environment is created for everyone.



THE GREEN CROSS CODE

Practise your Green Cross Code every day . . .



THINK . . find a safe place to cross.



STOP . . behind the kerb.



LOOK and LISTEN . . all around for traffic.



When it is safe, go straight across the road - do not run.

Penalty Notice Changes

Term Time Leave is only allowed in exceptional circumstances and must be agreed, in advance, by the Head of School. An Exceptional Leave form must be completed and the school may ask for further evidence to support the application.

First Offence

The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for unauthorised term time leave or irregular attendance the amount will be:

- £160 per parent, per child, paid within 28 days.
- Reduced to £80 per parent if paid within 21 days.



Please ensure you communicate all absences for your child to school.

Second Offence

Within 3 years, if a second Penalty Notice is issued for unauthorised term time leave or irregular attendance the amount will be

- £160 per parent, per child, paid within 28 days.
- No reduction for early payment.

Third Offence Onwards - Within 3 years of the first offence

The third time an offence is committed for unauthorised term time leave or irregular attendance a Penalty Notice will not be issued and the case will be presented straight to the magistrates court.

Fines can be around £2500 per parent, per child. Cases found to be guilty in the magistrate's court can show as a criminal record.

Notices to Improve

A Notice to Improve is a final opportunity for a parent to engage in support and improve before a penalty notice is issued. If the national threshold has been met and support is appropriate but offers of support have not been engaged with by the parent or guardian or have not worked, a Notice to Improve should usually be sent to give parents or guardians a final chance to engage in support.

A Notice to Improve does not need to be issued in cases where support is not appropriate and an authorised officer can choose not to issue one in any case, including cases where support is appropriate but they do not expect a Notice to Improve would have any behavioural impact (because the parent has already received one for a similar offence).

If sufficient improvement is not made following the service of a Notice to Improve, a penalty notice may be issued either during or at the end of the designated time period.

Don't forget.

Penalty Notices are issues Per Parent, Per Child.
For example 3 siblings absent would result in each parent receiving 3 fines. This could amount to £960

[Click this link to visit the school website for further information.](#)



10 sessions in 10 weeks

Penalty Notices will be considered for any 10 sessions (not days) of unauthorised absence in 10 weeks.

5 Consecutive days of term time leave can trigger a Penalty Notice

Punctuality

Children in Reception should be at the classroom door by 8.45am.

Children in Years 1 and 2 should be at their classroom door by 8.50am.

The school gates are locked at 8.55am. If your child arrives to school after this time, your child will receive an unauthorised late mark- this affects your child's attendance.

If arriving late, you must bring your child into the school office and sign them into school with a reason for the lateness.

School Day

Year Group	Reception	Year 1	Year 2
Start	8.45am	8.50am	8.50am
Lunch	11.45pm - 12.45pm	12pm - 1pm	12.20pm - 1.20pm
Finish	3.15pm	3.20pm	3.20pm
→	→	→	→

The School Gates

The Alwyn and Courthouse gates open at 8.40am until 8.55am and 3.10pm until 3.35pm

The opening times allow movement between our two schools and provide different points of access which should help with traffic and parking in our area.

The gate opening times are different from the time your child is required to be in school.

The Importance of Being on Time

Reception children need to be in school by 8.45am.

Year 1 and 2 children need to be in school by 8.50am.

The classroom doors will open at these times and close as soon as the last child in the line enters the classroom; this usually takes less than 3 minutes. Any child arriving after the classroom door is shut, will be marked as late. Knocking on the classroom door once it is closed is disruptive to the children as their teacher is having to keep opening the door instead of settling their class for the morning.

Please be on time every morning. It can be worrying for a child to enter a classroom late especially when their classmates are sat on the carpet ready to learn. All children should have come into school, put their belongings in the cloakroom, their book bag in their drawer and their water bottle in the tray and have been registered before 9am each morning.

Attendance Matters

Being in school every day is extremely important for all children in order to receive the best possible start to their learning. Your child's attendance is vital to a successful education, as this is the foundation for lifelong learning. Lessons are planned in sequences and if a child misses a part of this sequence, they are at a disadvantage when it comes to committing that learning to long term memory.

If your child is slightly under the weather, but well enough to come into school, send them in and mention it to the class teacher. They will keep an eye on your child and phone you if there are any concerns.

Reason for absence

Please let the office know the specific reason for your child's absence rather than feeling unwell or ill. This helps us monitor any small outbreaks of similar virus' and supports the recording of absence.

Medical Appointments

If you have a medical appointment during the school day, inform the school before the appointment and provide a GP/Hospital appointment card or letter.

Leave Requests

Holidays during term time will not be authorised. Any other exceptional circumstances will require supporting evidence that shows the child has to attend something that results in missed school days.

Fixed Penalty Notices (fines) may be triggered if your child misses 5 consecutive days of school or 10 sessions in 10 weeks. A session means a morning or afternoon, not a day.

Please ensure that you make all reasonable efforts to send your child into school.

Community Pages: What is happening in our local area?

Community Events Disclaimer: Please note that the events listed are organised by external parties and are not endorsed or recommended by Alwyn Infant School. We provide this information as a courtesy to our community. We advise families to exercise their own discretion and judgement when participating in any events or activities.



A New Skatepark for Maidenhead!

Support the Kidwells Park Skatepark Project
We're building a modern, inclusive and inspiring skatepark in Kidwells Park, Maidenhead.

- Community-led project backed by local residents, skaters, BMXers & councillors
- Designed by skaters / BMXers, for skaters / BMXers - in collaboration with experts
- Safe, exciting & accessible - a space to stay active, social & creative
- Let's bring new energy to the park and give young people a place to thrive!

HELP US MAKE IT HAPPEN!

We're raising funds now. Located in Kidwells Park, Maidenhead

Please visit the project website or scan the QR code for more information
<https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/kidwells-park-skatepark-project-maidenhead>

I'm supporting
**Kidwells Park Skatepark Project,
Maidenhead**



Scan the QR code to find out more



Crowdfunder.co.uk | Search: "Kidwells Park Skatepark Project"



WISE OWLS HOLIDAY CLUB

BOOK NOW

@ COURTHOUSE JUNIOR SCHOOL, MAIDENHEAD



February Half Term Holiday Club

Monday 16 – Friday 20 February 2026
8:30am – 5:30pm
Courthouse Junior School, SL6 5HE

Our Holiday Clubs keep children entertained, active, and happy all day long. Families choose us time and time again because of our fun-filled activities and our safe, relaxed environment, where children can enjoy time with friends and choose what activities they want to do.

- ♥ Children ages 3-14 years
- ♥ From just £39.50 per day* (only £4.38 per hour)
- ♥ Home cooked, healthy all day menu only £6.85
- ♥ Activities to suit all interests and abilities
- ♥ Every child has a pastoral care worker to ensure their wellbeing

"My favourite thing about holiday club is they give us lots of free time to do what we want."



BOOK ONLINE

wiseowlschildcare.co.uk
01628 620013
info@wiseowlschildcare.co.uk
Pay by childcare voucher or tax-free childcare

