



Alwyn Infant School



Build Belonging

Show Kindness

Make Choices

Adventure

OUR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Issue No. 16 | 16th January 2026

A brilliant Music Week

It has been an incredibly successful music week! Thank you to all the parents who have come in to share their talents. We have also had visits from local musicians, teaching us about their instruments and letting us have a go.

We have had drumming workshops, wind instrument introductions, a brilliant recorder group and Ziggy's Music Group. We have loved it.

There are pictures on Facebook and Instagram.



Outdoor Play, PE and the Weather

Please be aware that our children go outside for playtimes, outdoor learning and PE in all weathers as long as it is safe to do so. Rainy days do not stop us.

Please support this by sending them in with a waterproof coat suitable for outdoor activity. On rainy days a spare pair of socks may be helpful too. We do try and keep them out of the puddles though!

Smartphone Free Childhood Update

TELL YOUR MP TO RAISE THE SOCIAL MEDIA AGE TO 16 - it takes 60 seconds

Keir Starmer said he's considering an Australia-style age limit on social media. That means this issue is live in Parliament right now - and parents' voices can shape what happens next.

MPs are deciding what to push for today. They need to know how much this matters to their constituents.

We've made it easy:

- A pre-written email
- Takes 60 seconds
- You can personalise it, or just send as-is

Email your MP now [using this link](#).

Anyone can send this - parents, carers, grandparents, aunts, uncles, young people.

This isn't party-political. It's about protecting children from addictive, algorithm-driven platforms - and making it easier for parents to hold the line together.

These moments don't come around often. Let's make it count.

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!

Reminder

If you would like to vote for our new federation parent governor, please pop into the school office and complete the ballot. Voting closes at the end of Monday. It is confidential and every vote matters.



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

Plus look at our [new school website!](#)

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

DEVELOPING CHILDREN'S EMPATHY



What is empathy?

- Empathy is the ability to emotionally understand what other people feel and see things from their point of view.
- Empathy allows you to build social connections with others. By understanding what people are thinking and feeling, you are able to respond appropriately in social situations.

Helping young children

- Ensure your children know their own emotions. Children from the age of 2 or 3 years may be able to start to recognise simple feelings and name them.
- Encourage your children to show concern when others are upset and offer some form of comfort. Model comforting others and talking about feelings.
- Facilitate lots of social interactions and support your child to build relationships.

























Helping older children

- Children in KS2 are much more likely to be able to understand more complex emotions such as having mixed feelings about something. Discuss these clashing emotions with them as well as people's motivations for acting in a certain way.
- Discuss fairness and justice to develop empathy for those who have been upset or wronged.

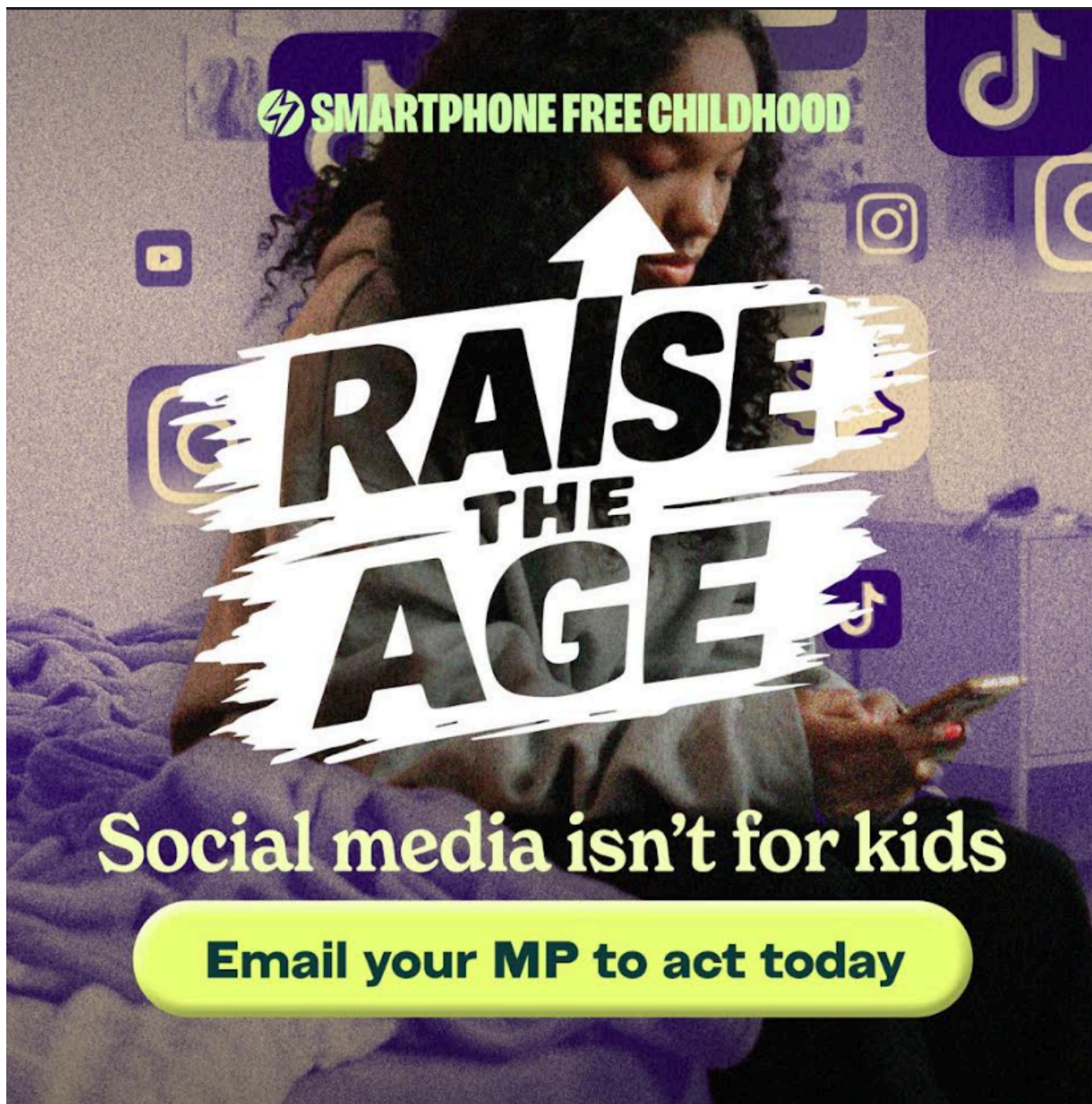


The Responsible Behaviour Curriculum



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.



MPs need to know how much this matters to their constituents.

[Use this link](#) for a pre-written email.

It takes 60 seconds

You can personalise it, or just send as-is



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?

This week in Reception, we have been learning the letter sounds 'w' as in web and 'x' as in fox. The children are continuing to make good progress with their blending and we have learnt the helpful 'he, she, we and little'. In Maths we have been ordering numbers 1-5 and writing the numerals. The children have been excited to learn about different instruments and have enjoyed engaging in 'Ziggy's music workshop' learning about Polar animals. They went on a musical journey and learnt many songs and played percussion instruments. We would like to say a BIG THANK YOU to Eddie's dad who came in to show and play his electric guitar. This was a real highlight for the children!

Ask me a word that begins with 'w'.

Ask me a word that ends in 'x'.

Ask me what I enjoyed most this week in Music week.

Ask me where penguins come from.

Ask me to write numbers 1-5.

Next week we are learning the sounds 'y' as in yo-yo and 'z' as in zip. In Maths we will be learning about capacity and making different ways of making 5. In handwriting we will be forming the letters 'u' and 't'. Please do encourage your child to practise writing their name and forming the letters carefully. Enjoy your weekend!

What have Year 1 been learning this week?

What a busy, musical week it's been in Year One! The children have watched and listened to a variety of different musicians. They have found out about a range of instruments and been able to ask the musicians questions about their skills - including how to play an enormous recorder! They've also been able to join in some musical workshops themselves, including drums and boomwhackers. In English, we have started a new unit of work based on The Gingerbread Man and the children have loved reciting the story! In maths, we have been working on knowing 'one more' and 'one less' than a number as well as estimating on a number line. In History, the children have been finding out more about the old Alwyn School and then developing ball skills in P.E.

Ask me to tell you about my favourite musical instrument.

Ask me to tell you what is one more than twelve.

Ask me to tell you what is one less than seventeen.

Ask me to tell you something I have found out about the old Alwyn School.

Ask me to tell you who I can talk to if I feel worried.

Next week the children will continue to develop their understanding of place value in Maths and begin learning about plants in Science.

KEY DATES!

School Year 2025-2026

Spring Term 3

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?

This week, the children in Year 2 enjoyed a fantastic variety of special activities and assemblies for music week. In maths, they have continued to develop their understanding of money and have practised adding notes and coins together. In English, they started their new focus text 'Zeraffa Giraffa' and the children have enjoyed learning it off by heart with actions. In science, the children have discussed the suitability of metal objects and explained why.

Ask me to add a £10 note, a £2 coin, a 20p coin and a 2p coin together.

Ask me to retell the story of Zeraffa Giraffa with the actions.

Ask me what these words mean: acacia, Pasha, felucca, pivot, amulet, porcupine.

Ask me to tell you the properties of metal.

Ask me to tell you why metal is a suitable material for a fork.

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

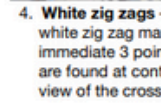
1. **School Keep Clear markings** – DO NOT STOP on the yellow zig zags, not even for one second. The markings are placed outside school entrances to keep a clear space for pedestrians to cross the road without obstruction.



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





Girls

Want to Get Active & Have Fun?

Come and Play Cricket

at **Boyne Hill CC**

"ALL ABILITIES WELCOME"
Just come along on a Friday night.
No kit or equipment required.

BAR & BBQ FRIDAY NIGHTS





All Ages from Under 4 (Reception) up to U15 (Year 10)

Girls Training

Fridays U8-U9 6.00pm-7.00pm (Softball)
U10-U15 6.00pm-7.00pm (Softball & Hardball)
Saturdays U4-U7 All Stars 9.30am-10.30am (Softball)

Contact
Jack Spencer Jones
jackspercnerjones@yahoo.co.uk 07595463584

 @BoyneHill CC  Boyne Hill CC  boynehillcc1890

Address: BoynGrove, HighwayRoad, Maidenhead, Berkshire, SL6 5AE

ROYAL BERKSHIRE FIRE AUTHORITY



Council Tax Funding Consultation

Have Your Say

Royal Berkshire Fire Authority is consulting on your Fire Service's funding for the next year.

Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service provides protection, prevention and response services to the people of Berkshire. To maintain the current level of service, the Fire Authority is proposing a £5 increase for 2026/27, based on a Band D precept, to £91.31.

Read more

The consultation closes at **9am on Monday, 2 February 2026**. If you require assistance with accessing the information in a different format or language, please **contact us**:



 rbfrs.co.uk/haveyoursay  **Newsham Court, Pincents Kiln, Calcot, Reading, Berkshire, RG31 7SD**

 precepting@rbfrs.co.uk

 **0118 945 2888**

 RoyalBerkFRS  RBFRSOfficial  RoyalBerkshireFire
 Royal Berkshire Fire & Rescue Service www.rbfy.co.uk