



# Alwyn Infant School



Build Belonging

Show Kindness

Make Choices

Adventure

## OUR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Issue No. 17 | 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2026

### Parent Update on the New OFSTED Inspection Framework

As you may have seen on the news or social media, there have been significant changes to the way OFSTED inspections are carried out and reported. Instead of one overall judgement, schools will be given a range of different judgements across various areas of the school, such as Attendance, Quality of Education, Behaviour, and Personal Development.

It is important to note that the new grading system is not directly comparable to the previous judgements and reports. Under this new rigorous framework, achieving an "Expected Standard" is far more challenging and means the school is doing everything it should be doing. It is broadly equivalent to a "high Good" in the old grading structure.

For a clearer overview of these changes, please watch this [short video guide](#) for parents.

### 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!

### Parent Governor Election Results

Following the count of votes on 20/01/2026, we are pleased to

announce that

**Dr Siobhan Tarbuck**

**has been re-elected to the Governing Body.**

**Thank you to the candidates and everyone who voted.**



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

### IMPULSE CONTROL




**What are impulses?**


Impulses are instinctive urges that arise quickly and often unconsciously, driven by our emotions and immediate desires. They can range from simple choices like reaching for comfort food to more significant decisions that impact our relationships, work, and well-being.

Impulse control is an important part of managing your own behaviour and keeping safe.

### Early Years and KS1

This week in school, your child in EYFS or Key Stage 1 has been talking about using 'Stop and Think'. Short commands can be useful if you feel your child is doing something that could be dangerous. 'Think' reminds children to take a step back from their behaviour and check themselves whether it could be dangerous. The aim is to support children to become independent in stopping their impulsive behaviours by frequently stopping and thinking.













**KS2**

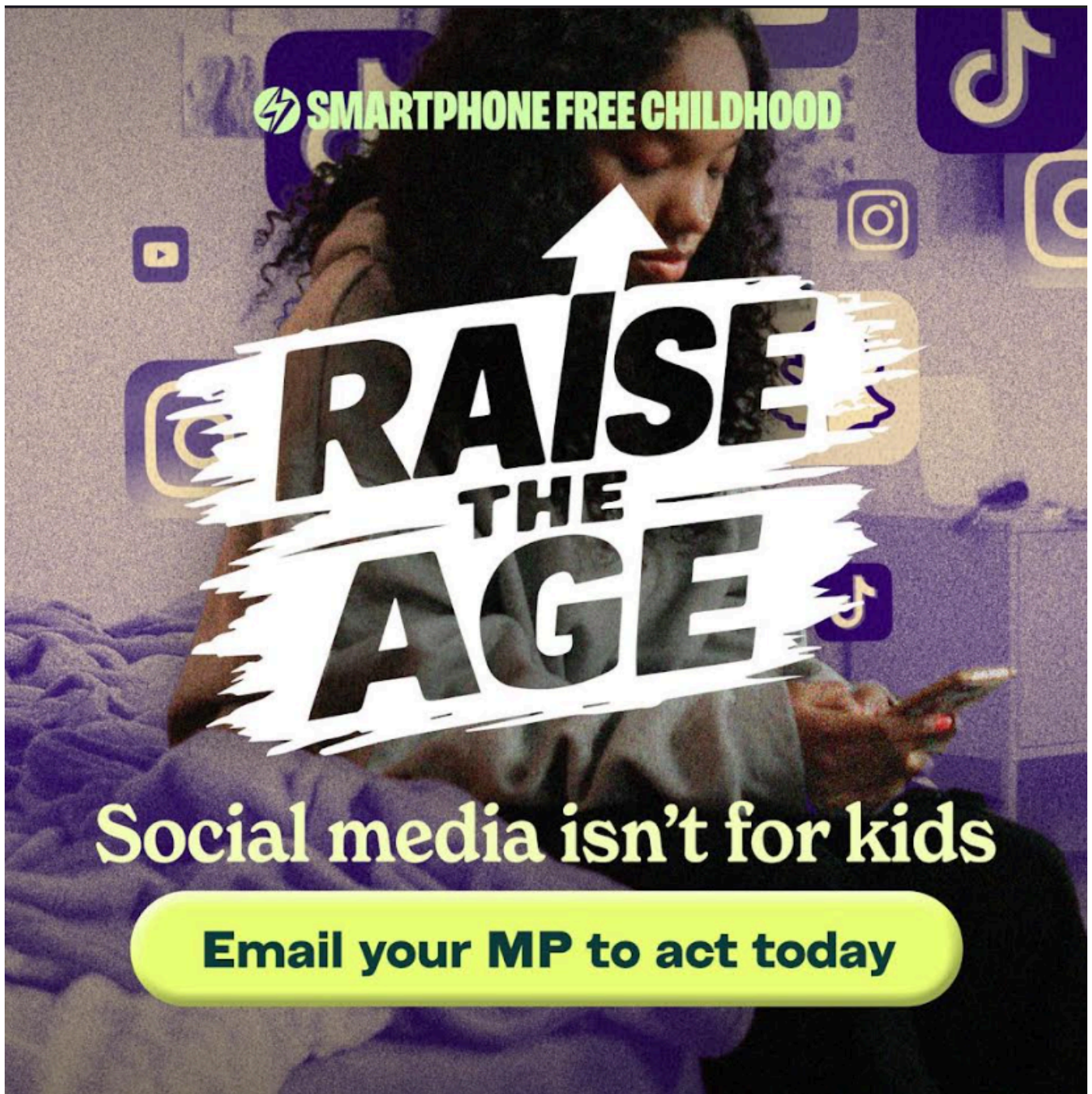
Children in KS2 have been discussing their own methods of practising impulse control. Just being aware of the fact that we do things impulsively can help children to understand their own behaviours. The aim is for children to understand that triggers can happen that mean they act impulsively, knowing these triggers helps children to control these impulses.

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.

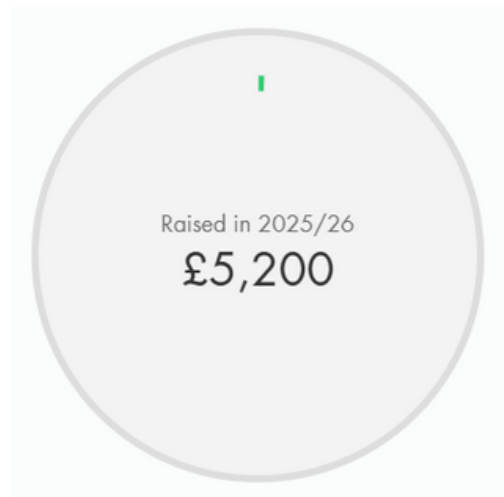
It takes 60 seconds

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



The PTA works tirelessly to boost fundraising efforts and the dedication from the school community truly shines. Through a vibrant mix of events like lively Discos, festive Christmas and Summer Fairs, competitive Quiz Nights, and creative colouring competitions, we've managed to not only raise substantial funds but also bring our community closer together. The money raised through the PTA is spent by Alwyn and Courthouse on all sorts of things that enhance school life at Alwyn and Courthouse schools.

## 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>

## What have Reception been learning this week?

This week in Reception the children have been learning the sounds 'y' and 'z'. In Maths they have been exploring capacity and had great fun pouring, measuring and comparing rice, pasta, lentils and water. They have been using the language full, nearly full, half full, nearly empty and empty. During Booktime the children have been plotting and retelling the story of Jonty Gentoo and have even had a go at innovating it to create their own versions of the story.

**Ask me a word beginning with 'z'.**

**Ask me a word beginning with 'y'.**

**Ask me to tell you whether a container is full, half full or empty.**

**Ask me to tell you a fact about penguins.**

**Ask me to show you how to write 'long legged giraffe' letters (l, i, t and u)**

Next week the children will be learning the sounds 'zz' as in buzz and 'qu' as in queen. We will be starting to compare the lengths of different objects and to use the vocabulary long, short, longer and shorter to compare. You could practise this over the weekend by lining up a range of objects e.g. spoons, pencils, crayons etc and comparing their lengths. If you have any spare junk modelling at home e.g. clean yoghurt pots, plastic drinking straws, small boxes etc we will be making boats that hopefully will float! Have a lovely weekend.

**PE day is Tuesdays. The children do not have a PE kit.**

## What have Year 1 been learning this week?

Another busy week in Year 1. In English we have started to innovate The Gingerbread Man and are beginning to write our own slightly altered version of the story. In Maths we have been exploring teen numbers and using part/whole models to combine tens and ones and partition tens and ones. We are also getting quite good at writing teen numbers the right way round. In Science we planted some seeds in soil - different seeds to last year- and we will be observing their growth and talking about the parts of plants. We are looking at Jesus being a friend in RE and exploring what makes good friends and when Jesus showed friendship to others

**Ask me to read you some of the words from my phonic sheets.**

**Ask me to tell you if the odd numbers 7 and 9 can be made with 2 odd parts or 2 even parts.**

**Ask me to tell you if the whole is 17 what are the 2 parts**

**Ask me to tell you what the word 'past' means (as in past and present)**

**Ask me to tell you what makes a good friend.**

Next week the children will continue to write the story of the Gingerbread Man and begin to think about making our own! In maths, we are adding within 20.

**PE days are now Tuesdays and Thursdays.**

# KEY DATES!

School Year 2025-2026

## Spring Term 3

9<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> February

Book Week

Book Fair after school

16<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> February

Half Term Break &

Challenge

## Enjoy the break

## Spring Term 4

23<sup>rd</sup> February

Children return to School

23<sup>rd</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup> February

Art/DT Week

2<sup>nd</sup> March

Internet Safety Day

Parent/carer talk at 2.30pm

5<sup>th</sup> March

World Book Day

10<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> March

Parent/carer consultations

11<sup>th</sup> March

Year 2 Trip: Look Out Centre

16<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> March

Grown ups into school  
afternoon

## What have Year 2 been learning this week?

This week, year 2 have been learning about fabrics. As scientists, they have looked at different fabrics, natural and human made, and discussed the suitability of fabrics for clothing and sportswear. In english, they are very excited to write their own version of Zeraffa Geraffa. After learning the story of Zeraffa Geraffa with actions, they are now changing small parts of the story to create their own story. They have written the beginning of their story and next week they will write the middle and the end. In maths, they have been using coins and notes to work out money problems.

**Ask me to make these amounts using the fewest number of silver coins:**

**20p, 40p and 60p**

**Ask me to tell you the changes I have made to my story.**

**Ask me to tell you what 'pile it up' or 'the power of 3' means in english.**

**Ask me to tell you why cotton is a suitable fabric for a PE kit.**

Next week in science, we are planning a test to identify which material would be best for an umbrella.

**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 - 10<sup>th</sup> April  
Easter holidays

#### Summer Term 5

13th April  
All children back to school

4th May  
Bank Holiday - School Closed

22<sup>nd</sup> May  
Last day of term  
Normal finish time

25<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup> May  
Half Term Break

#### Summer Term 6

1<sup>st</sup> June  
INSET Day (2) - School Closed  
for children.

2<sup>nd</sup> June  
All children back to school

5th June  
Class Photographs

# 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.

## Half Term Holiday Camps

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.



**FOOTBALL CAMP**

SCAN ME

Ofsted Registered

**FEBRUARY HALF-TERM**

**Price + Offers**

- from £20 per day
- Sibling discount: 10% off
- Early Bird discount (15% off) Code: FHT15

**Age**

5 - 12 Years Old

**Dates + Times**

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> – Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February

Standard day: 9am-3pm  
Extended day: 9am-5pm

**Venues**

- Newbury: Winchcombe School
- Maidenhead: Alwyn Infant School
- Reading: Calcot Junior School

MNR COACHING

WE ACCEPT CHILDCARE VOUCHERS!  
For Holiday Camp Enquiries - Email [admin@mnrcoaching.com](mailto:admin@mnrcoaching.com) [www.mnrcoaching.com](http://www.mnrcoaching.com)



**MULTI-ACTIVITY CAMP**

SCAN ME

Ofsted Registered

**FEBRUARY HALF-TERM**

**Price + Offers**

- from £25 per day
- Sibling discount: 10% off
- Early Bird discount (15% off) Code: FHT15

**Age**

5 - 12 Years Old

**Dates + Times**

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> – Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February

Standard day: 9am-3pm  
Extended day: 9am-5pm

**Venues**

- Newbury: Winchcombe School
- Maidenhead: Alwyn Infant School
- Reading: Calcot Junior School

MNR COACHING

WE ACCEPT CHILDCARE VOUCHERS!  
For Holiday Camp Enquiries - Email [admin@mnrcoaching.com](mailto:admin@mnrcoaching.com) [www.mnrcoaching.com](http://www.mnrcoaching.com)



**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."*

Ofsted Registered Tigerily

**BOOK ONLINE**

[wiseowlschildcare.co.uk](http://wiseowlschildcare.co.uk)  
01628 620013  
[info@wiseowlschildcare.co.uk](mailto:info@wiseowlschildcare.co.uk)  
Pay by childcare voucher or tax-free childcare

wise owls childcare



TUE 17 & WED 18 FEB 2026  
09:30 - 15:00  
MAIDENHEAD RFC, BRAYWICK PARK, SL6 1BN

IN 2 TOUCH THAMES VALLEY

**TOUCH RUGBY DEVELOPMENT CAMP**

£35 for 1 day  
£60 for 2 days  
10% sibling discount

SAMMIE PHILLIPS  
England Athlete  
Ex National Squad Coach  
5 x Touch World Cups

PAUL FARRINGTON  
Ex England Athlete  
European & World Cups  
Regional Coach  
Junior Touch Cup  
[www.juniortouchcup.com](http://www.juniortouchcup.com)

Younger Groups: 5-11  
Older Groups: 12-17

COACHING TEAM

Contact: [sammie@in2touch.com](mailto:sammie@in2touch.com)

IN 2 TOUCH  
ENGLAND TOUCH

# 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.

## 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  
jackspencerjones@yahoo.co.uk 07595463584

**GOYALS**

@BoyneHillCC | Boyne Hill CC | boynehillcc1890  
Address: BoynGrove, HighwayRoad, Maidenhead, Berkshire, SL6 5AE



## Virtual Coffee Morning Life events and changes

**Friday 6<sup>th</sup> February**  
**10:00 - 11:00am**

**25 spaces  
available!**

Join our online informal discussion.  
**What to expect?**

A supportive coffee morning for parents/carers to discuss how they navigate big life events and transitions. From weddings and blending families, birthdays and proms, to school changes and deaths in the family and much more.

Please note this is not a workshop but support group for parent/carers and any medical advice should be sought from your medical practitioner.

**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/awaiting assessment/diagnosed)

**To book your place contact GEMS:**  
Gems.4Health@nhs.net | 0800 999 1342

## 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](https://rbfrs.co.uk/haveyoursay)

[precepting@rbfrs.co.uk](mailto:precepting@rbfrs.co.uk)

**0118 945 2888**

**Newsham Court,  
Pincents Kiln, Calcot,  
Reading, Berkshire,  
RG31 7SD**



[RoyalBerkFRS](#) [@RBFRSOfficial](#) [RoyalBerkshireFire](#)  
 Royal Berkshire Fire & Rescue Service [www.rbfrs.co.uk](http://www.rbfrs.co.uk)