



Alwyn Infant School



Build Belonging

Show Kindness

Make Choices

Adventure

OUR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Issue No. 18 | 30th January 2026

Key Changes to School Systems

In response to parent surveys, we have made a couple of changes to our morning routine.

Gates and Door Closures

Firstly, the classroom doors will open at the usual times (8.45/8.50am), but we have changed the time of the morning gate closure to 9am, allowing time to cross our playgrounds after drops offs.

We expect the children to be ready to enter the classroom when the doors open. After the classroom doors close (around 8.55ish), children will be marked as late in the register.

For safety reasons, it is important the classroom doors are not opened by a non-school adult. When this happens it puts our children at risk. If the door is closed, you will need to go to the office and sign your child in as late.

Morning Classroom Waiting/Hand over

Adults are expected to wait with their children in the mornings and hand them over to the school adult at the classroom door. A quick chat (30 seconds) with the teacher during this time is fine, if you need longer please make an appointment or send an email to the class email address. If an adult is taking longer, feel free to go around them, give the teacher a quick wave and pop the child through the door. This will help the parents that have more than one classroom to go to or have to whizz off to work. Also, please do not stand in the building walkways. Hopefully, in line with our value of kindness, this will help.

Update on the New OFSTED Inspection Framework

There have been significant changes to the way OFSTED inspections are carried out and reported. Schools will be given a range of different judgements across key areas of the school. The new grading system is not directly comparable to past 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.

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!

New School Website

We are really excited to have a fabulous [new website](#).

If you haven't had a look at it, please do.

We would welcome any feedback.



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

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

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 9.00am 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.

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
SELF RESPECT

The self-respect journey

Self-respect means to know you have worth and is one of the most important factors that prevent us from being in abusive relationships or putting ourselves in unsafe positions. In Year 5 and 6, we discuss self-respect and ask children to choose self-respect targets from this flow diagram. As a parent, you can talk to your children about self-respect at any age, use the flow diagram to help you have a discussion that you feel is pertinent to your child.

I feel that I should get respect from myself and others

I apologise genuinely and quickly if I hurt someone

I don't mind making mistakes. I just want to learn from them

I know my own strengths and weaknesses


I don't make myself feel better by being mean to others

I can give respect to others and know how to show respect


I want to grow and challenge myself to always be better





















Its nice when I get compliments, but I don't need them to feel good about myself

I know I can earn more respect if I create/learn/share something with others



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.

What have Reception been learning this week?

This week in Reception the children have been learning the sounds 'zz' and 'qu'. During Booktime, the children have been exploring the book 'Ice bear' and learning facts about polar bears. We have labelled and described polar bears using adjectives e.g. soft fur, wet nose and sharp claws. In our Maths lessons, we have been learning about length and will continue to compare lengths next week. We have also been using our 'flashy fingers' to show ways of making 5, 6 and 7. In Science, we have learnt about floating and sinking and have made boats using the junk modelling materials.

Ask me a word that ends in 'zz'.

Ask me a word that starts with 'qu'.

Ask me to show you ways to make 6 or 7.

Ask me to tell you a fact about polar bears.

Ask me to tell you an object that floats and an object that will sink.

Next week the children will be learning the phonic sounds 'ch' as in chick and 'sh' as in ship. The children will be learning the helpful words 'you' and 'was'. We will be learning about different habitats e.g. deserts and rainforests and comparing them to where we live and the animals and types of plants around us. If you can look at pictures, maps or atlases to show different places or go for a walk and look at our environments that would be very helpful. We hope you have a fantastic weekend.

What have Year 1 been learning this week?

This week we have been continuing to write our own Gingerbread man stories. The children had great ideas for their stories. In maths, we have been adding two digits together using a range of concrete resources. In science, we've looked at the birds and fish animal group and discussed the characteristics that helps to identify if an animal is a fish or a bird. In history, we came up with questions about the old Alwyn school, to ask a special visitor next week. In DT we talked about making gingerbread men and designed what we'd like them to look like when we bake next week.

Ask me how I can add 12 and 3 together.

Ask me to name parts of a bird.

Ask me what part of a fish is used for breathing.

Ask me why some birds cannot fly.

Ask me to tell you a question about the old Alwyn school that I'd like to ask our visitor next week.

Next week, we're going to be baking gingerbread men.

PE days are now Tuesdays and Thursdays.

KEY DATES!

School Year 2025-2026

Spring Term 3

9th - 13th February

Book Week

Book Fair after school- you can use your voucher

13th February

Last day of term.

Normal finish time.

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 in Science, the children have been putting their knowledge about materials to the test by carrying out an investigation. They were thinking about what materials would be suitable and unsuitable for an umbrella. The super scientists experimented by using pipettes to drop water on different materials and observing how waterproof they were. In Maths, the children recapped their learning on equal and unequal groups in preparation for our new topic; multiplication and division. In PSHE, they discussed good and bad touches and revisited the PANTS rule.

Ask me what waterproof means.

Ask me what material is suitable and unsuitable for an umbrella.

Ask me how much change would I get if I bought a toy for 50p and I had a £2 coin.

Ask me to tell you the story I have written in English.

Ask me what the PANTS rule is.

Ask me who I can talk to if someone touches me and I don't like it.

Next week, we will be introducing multiplication and division and writing a persuasive letter to Miss Grierson to get a classroom pet.

PE days: HOLLY: Wednesday & Friday

PINE: Monday & Friday

SPRUCE: Wednesday & Friday

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 (wear something red) for a donation to 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



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

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.

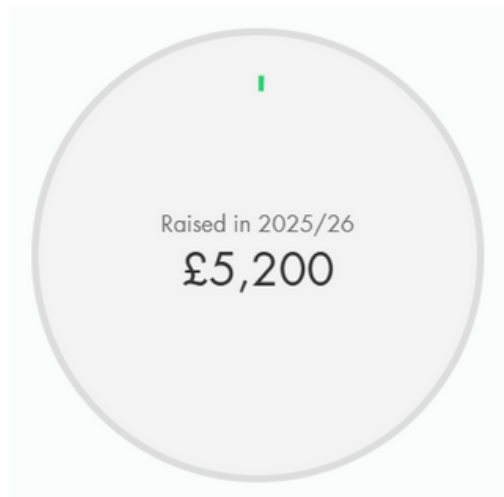
The school gates are locked at 8.55am. If your child arrives to school after this time, your child will receive an unauthorised late mark- this affects your child's attendance.

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



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>

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

Venues

Newbury: Wincombe School

Maidenhead: Alwyn Infant School

Reading: Calcot Junior School

Dates + Times

Monday 16th – Friday 20th February

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

WE ACCEPT CHILDCARE VOUCHERS!
For Holiday Camp Enquiries - Email admin@mnrcoaching.com 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

Venues

Newbury: Wincombe School

Maidenhead: Alwyn Infant School

Reading: Calcot Junior School

Dates + Times

Monday 16th – Friday 20th February

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

WE ACCEPT CHILDCARE VOUCHERS!
For Holiday Camp Enquiries - Email admin@mnrcoaching.com www.mnrcoaching.com

WISE OWLS HOLIDAY CLUB

@ COURTHOUSE JUNIOR SCHOOL, MAIDENHEAD

BOOK NOW

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
01628 620013
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

COACHING TEAM

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

Contact: sammie@in2touch.com

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
jackspercijones@yahoo.co.uk 07595463584

GOYALS

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



Virtual Coffee Morning Life events and changes

**Friday 6th 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

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.rbfra.co.uk

WINDSOR & MAIDENHEAD SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

President: Baroness Theresa May

Conductor **Joe Davies** Leader **Susie Henwood**

Saturday 14 March 2026 7:30pm
Baylis Theatre, Braywick Leisure Centre, Maidenhead SL6 1BN

GLINKA Overture: Ruslan and Ludmila
STRAUSS Horn Concerto No 1
MAHLER Symphony No 5



Horn Jessica Ortony

Tickets £15; student/child £5 from www.wmsso.org.uk

registered charity no. 1212732 www.wmsso.org.uk

