



Alwyn Infant School



Build Belonging

Show Kindness

Make Choices

Adventure

OUR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Issue No. 19 | 6th February 2026

Thank you for all the positive messages we have received regarding the change to our morning gate times and the quicker drop off routine. We are glad a more flexible approach seems to be helping.

Children's Safety Surveys

We have recently completed a survey with all our children to understand how safe they feel during the school day. It was highly positive, with the vast majority of children feeling safe in school and demonstrated a strong trust in school adults to keep them safe and help them. It did highlight some confusion around the term, bullying, and how it is different from mean moments or unkindness between peers. We will work on addressing this through our PSHE and Behaviour Curriculum, assemblies and regular chats with the children.

We would appreciate your support in this by discussing the difference with your children. Bullying is repeated behaviours over time intended to hurt someone, often with an imbalance of power. Here is a [link to the Anti-Bullying Alliance](#) for more information.



Book Week Next Week

We are really excited to end this term with our annual book week when we focus on the joy of reading and books. We are having an author visit for Years 1 and 2 and an illustrator visit for Reception. It's going to be brilliant! Please visit the book fair after school and remember to bring your £1 token which can be found in your child's book bag. There is also a half term challenge involving potatoes.

Keeping Our Playgrounds a Positive Space in Alwyn and Courthouse for Parents and Children

We want to ensure that drop-off and pick-up times are a positive experience for everyone. The playground is an extension of our classrooms, and we strive to model the same values of kindness, politeness, respect and safety that we teach our children.

To help maintain a supportive environment, we ask all adults to observe and model the following conduct while on the school site:

- Please use respectful language and a calm tone when speaking with staff, other parents, and children.
- Avoid discussing specific children's behaviours, timetable/school adjustments or sensitive matters in open public areas where children or other families can overhear.
- For the safety of everyone, please refrain from any aggressive physical gestures.
- Do not use your camera to photograph or video without permission.

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.

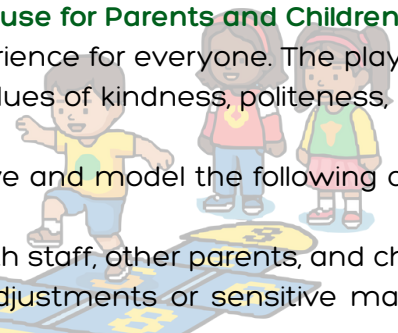
Please talk about the menu choices with your child as we are unable to change it on the day.

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



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 SCHOOL IS

doing a whole school project

on
MANNERS

Manners are an important part of learning social etiquette. This week everyone at school is working together to try to embed manners in their everyday lives. The table shows you the manners school are focusing on. Praise your child for using these manners and talk about why they are important. Thank you for your support!



Basic Manners	Table manners	School manners
Say please and thank you	Chew with your mouth closed	Knock at doors and wait to be invited in
Answer people who are talking to you	Use your knife and fork	Do not interrupt others when they are speaking
Cover your mouth when you cough, sneeze or yawn	Don't lean across other's food	Say excuse me if you bump into anyone

 The Responsible Behaviour Curriculum 

BLUE ZONE	GREEN ZONE	YELLOW ZONE	RED ZONE
 sad	 happy	 frustrated	 angry
 tired	 calm	 worried	 terrified
 sick	 feeling ok	 silly	 yelling
 bored	 ready to learn	 excited	 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.

BOOK WEEK IS COMING, 9th - 13th February

Theme: Reading for Pleasure

'If you can encourage your child to read for pleasure, they will really reap the benefits. It might not seem like a particularly important task, but actually, research shows that reading for pleasure can be directly linked to children's success throughout their time at school and even into adulthood.

Reading for pleasure opens up new worlds for children. It gives them the opportunity to use their imagination to explore new ideas, visit new places and meet new characters. Interestingly, reading for pleasure also improves children's well-being and empathy. It helps them to understand their own identity and gives them an insight into the world and the views of others.' (Taken from [Oxford Owl Website](#))

Our week begins with a visit from **Simon Murray**, author and illustrator of the Icky Doo Dah series. He will deliver a literacy and illustration workshop for year 1 and 2. There will be an opportunity to buy a personalised, signed copy of Icky Do Dah.

On Tuesday, Reception will participate in a workshop with local artist, Amanda Schenk centred around Jack and the Beanstalk.

Other exciting activities throughout the week include; inviting our Alwyn families into school to read a book to their class, buddy reading with a different year group, visiting the school library and book fair to spend quiet time with a cushion and a book and DEAR time, where everyone, including adults, 'Drop Everything And Read'.

We will be ending our week of reading with a 'Guess Who is Reading' quiz in our class.

As part of our celebrations we have the Travelling Book Fair. The Fair will be open after school, every day, in the hall during Book Week. Your child will have a chance to visit the Book Fair during the day with their class. They will be able to look at the books but they may only be purchased after school.

Every book sold helps to earn free books for Alwyn. Remember to bring your £1 book token to save £1 off your total spend.

HALF TERM CHALLENGE

To continue our reading theme over the holidays, we would like the children to create a character from a favourite book using a potato as their base. They can use anything they wish to decorate their potato, the more inventive the better! They could use paint, fabric, lollipop sticks, etc. We can't wait to see what ideas they come up with. When you bring your potato character in, we will be creating a display to see the range of characters we have created! Have a look at the pictures below for some ideas.



Please bring your child's character potato into school on Monday 23rd, Tuesday 24th or Wednesday 25th February. Include a label with the name of the character, title of the book and your child's name and class.

You are invited to view the characters after school on Wednesday 25th February.

COFFEE MORNING



A Community Morning for
Parents & Carers of
Children with SEND at
Alwyn Infants and
Courthouse Juniors

Raising a child with additional needs has unique rewards and challenges. You don't have to navigate them alone. Join us for a relaxed, informal morning to meet other parents who 'get it.' This is a safe space to build friendships, share your experiences, and offer ideas to support one another.

Theme:

★ Special Feature This Month ★

Educational Psychologist: Emotion & Impulse Control

Where and when:

25th Feb 26

9AM

Alwyn Infant School

Main Hall

Coffee, biscuits, and a warm welcome await you.

What have Reception been learning this week?

In Reception this week the children have been learning the sounds 'ch' and 'sh'. We have been looking at different habitats and comparing them. The children have been using the language more and fewer than to compare amounts and comparing the lengths of different objects then measuring them with cubes. In RE, the children have been finding out about the Chinese new year and have listened to the story of the great race.

Ask me to tell you a word starting with 'ch'

Ask me to write you a word with the 'sh' sound in e.g. ship, shop or shed.

Ask me to tell you about a hot or cold desert.

Ask me to tell you about an animal that lives in a rainforest.

Ask me to find an amount of objects (e.g. pasta pieces) more than 6 or fewer than 8.

Next week we are very excited as it is Book Week. We have an artist coming into school on Tuesday morning to work with the children in a book making workshop where the children will make their own 'Jack and the beanstalk' zigzag book. We are looking forward to the parent helpers coming in to read a story to us and of course visiting the book fair!

We will also be assessing how the children are getting on with the phonic sounds we have taught so far and blending words containing these sounds. We hope you have a wonderful weekend.

PE day is now on Tuesdays (no PE kit needed).

What have Year 1 been learning this week?

Year One have had an exciting week. We have enjoyed following our DT design to bake our own gingerbread. We practised following instructions to make the gingerbread and have had lots of opportunities to use imperative/bossy verbs such as roll, bake and cut when speaking through our instructions. We also had a visit from Mrs Gaddes. She is our History expert as she worked for many years in Old Alwyn and New Alwyn. It was lovely being able to ask her lots of questions about old Alwyn and to hear her answers. In Science, we learnt about amphibians and that these are animals that can live both on land and in water. We have been subtracting in maths and have learnt a new maths word: difference.

Ask me to tell you what I liked about the gingerbread that I baked.

Ask me to tell you some of our gingerbread making instructions.

Ask me what is special about the feet of amphibians.

Ask me to name an amphibian.

Ask me to tell you the difference between 7 and 5

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

25th February, 9am

SEND Parent/carers coffee morning

23rd - 27th February

Art/DT Week

2nd March

Internet Safety Day

Parent/carers talk at 2.30pm

4th March

Year 1 Trip: Odds Farm Park

5th March

World Book Day

10th & 12th March

Parent/carers 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, year 2 have been working hard. As mathematicians, they have been recognising equal and unequal groups. They have had lots of practise using concrete resources to make groups and then written repeated addition and multiplication number sentences. In English, they were looking at the features of persuasive writing and next week, they will be writing a persuasive letter linked to the book Zeraffa Giraffa. As scientists, they enjoyed their new topic of plants and observed the plants closely using hand lenses which caused lots of excitement. They then sorted and grouped the plants in different ways, thinking about the leaf shape, smell, and other physical similarities.

Ask me to write the repeated additions as a multiplication sentence

$$4 + 4 + 4 + 4 = 16$$

$$3 + 3 + 3 + 3 + 3 + 3 = 18$$

$$5 + 5 + 5 = 15$$

$$2 + 2 + 2 + 2 + 2 + 2 + 2 = 14$$

$$4 + 4 + 4 + 4 + 4 = 20$$

Ask me to tell you what persuasive means.

Ask me to tell you how to start a letter.

Ask me what I observed when I viewed my plant with a hand lens.

Ask me how I grouped my plants.

Next week, we will be creating a collage in the style of Mondrian using secondary colours.

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
Easter Bonnet Parade
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

18th May
Y1 Phonics Screening Check
Information Session @ 2.30pm

22nd May
No Pens Day
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.

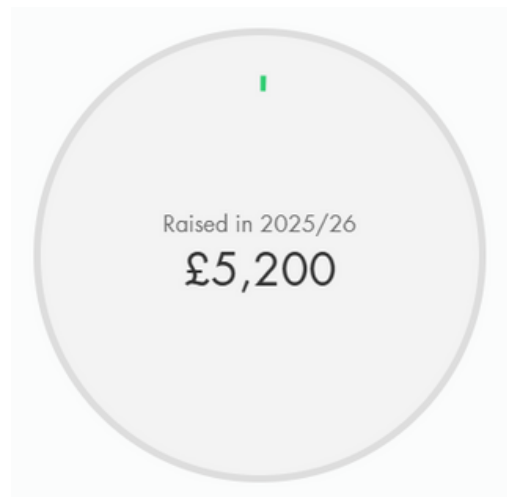
2nd June
All children back to school

5th June
Class Photographs



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

let them play! Football

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 16th – Friday 20th February

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

Venues

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

WE ACCEPT CHILDCARE VOUCHERS!

For Holiday Camp Enquiries - Email admin@mnrcoaching.com www.mnrcoaching.com

MNR COACHING

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MULTI-ACTIVITY CAMP



SCAN ME

Ofsted Registered

let them play!

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 16th – Friday 20th February

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

Venues

Newbury: Winchcombe School
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For Holiday Camp Enquiries - Email admin@mnrcoaching.com www.mnrcoaching.com

MNR COACHING

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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
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
www.juniortouchcup.com

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

COACHING TEAM

Contact: 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
@BoyneHill CC Boyne Hill CC boynehillcc1890
Address: Boyne Grove, Highway Road, Maidenhead, Berkshire, SL6 5AE

GOYALS

SIMON MOLE & GECKO PRESENT

THE GREAT BIG BUG SHOW

AS SEEN AT
Natural History Museum
FEATURED ON
BBC NEWS

"I ABSOLUTELY
TOO MUCH
LOVED IT!"
4 YEAR OLD
BUG EXPERT

INSPIRED BY A FIRST BOOK OF BUGS

Poet Simon Mole has visited Alwyn Infants many times and is a firm favourite with our keystage 1 children. After its premiere at the Natural History Museum, Simon will be performing his new show with musician Gecko at Norden Farm on Saturday 21st February.

The Great Big Bug Show is packed full of poems, raps and songs about all your favourite bugs (and some you haven't heard of yet!). Expect Minibeasts and Massive Beats. In this show, every tune is an earworm - even the ones about woodlice!

Tickets are available [here](#):

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

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 issued 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 Lunch Finish →	8.45am 11.45am - 12.45pm 3.15pm →	8.50am 12pm - 1pm 3.20pm →	8.50am 12.20pm - 1.20pm 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.