



Alwyn Infant School



Build Belonging

Show Kindness

Make Choices

Adventure

OUR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Issue No. 21 | 27th February 2026

What a fabulous first week back!

The children have loved taking part in many different activities during art week. From visitors to help inspire us to our classroom adults sharing their skills. The children have loved learning new art techniques and have produced some great work, including 'character potatoes'. What a fantastic way to start a new term, plus we have actually had some sunshine and less rain!

Visiting Local Artist

A local artist came to work with all of our children. Our Year 1 and Reception classes worked on giant paper to create town maps and wildflowers. They looked at shape, space and position as well as how to work together as a team. Year 2 worked on block printing based on flowers and growing, which linked so well with their science topic. All the children loved talking to and questioning an 'artist' and learning from her.



Potato Book Characters

Thank you to everyone who attended our 'Potato Gallery' on Wednesday. There were so many wonderful comments and we all loved guessing the characters. For those of you who couldn't make it, we will share a presentation of them all in the next couple of weeks. Here is a little tease of some of the creations ...



Look out for photos on our Alwyn facebook page or Instagram.

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!

30 day Reading Challenge

This challenges and encourages children to read a wider range of books and genres. Your child should have brought home a poster with 30 reading challenges. They complete a different reading challenge each day for 30 days. To keep track of their achievements, they colour the book spine once completed.

When the challenge is finished, children should bring in their completed poster to show their teacher. All children with completed posters will go into the Golden Book.



Special Parent Talk Help to Keep your Child Safe Online



2nd March, 2.30-3.10pm, in the school hall

Our children live in the 'Internet Age'. They love to use technology and play the latest games. However, it is not always easy for parents and carers to understand what they are doing and how we can help to do the right things to keep them out of danger.

Alwyn will be having a Special Internet Safety Day on Monday 2nd March. The children will learn about going on line and how to keep safe.



It is important that parents/carers are also involved so they are able to help their children when they are at home. **We would like to invite you to a special talk.**

The talk is being given by Paul Hay, who is a specialist in Internet Safety.

He will talk about:

- **How young people use the internet.**
- **Show how children use programs such as Minecraft, Roblox, Instagram, SnapChat and Tik Tok**
- **Describe how information young people post can be misused by people who are not their friends.**
- **Explain what you, as parents/carers, can do to help keep them safe.**



Above all, it will give you as parents and carers the confidence to help your child get the most benefit and enjoyment from the internet while keeping safe.

Topics will be discussed in language we as parents/carers understand. No technical or computer knowledge is required or expected.



You are welcome to bring a friend or an adult family member with you.



30

DAY

READING

Read to your teddy or pet



CHALLENGE

*Read
in your
pyjamas*



- Read under the covers or duvet with a torch
- Read a book with a horse in it
- Read outside
- Read as fast as possible
- Read a book to someone else
- Read some poetry
- Read in the car
- Tell someone about a book in 5 words or less
- Ask someone to read to you
- Write a different ending for a story
- Reread your favourite book
- Read a book with a girl as the main character
- Then read a book with a boy as the main character
- Choose a book and design a new book cover for it
- Read the first book in a series
- Think of a new title for a book and explain why
- Read a book by an author who begins with D, J, M or R

- Read a book that is your favourite colour
- Read a fact book (non-fiction)
- Read some instructions and follow them
- Read a book someone else chooses for you
- Read out loud using silly voices
- Read in a whisper voice (whisper read)
- Ask others what their favourite book is
- Read whilst balancing on one foot
- Read whilst eating a snack
- Make a book mark and use it when reading
- Read a comic book or magazine

Colour in the book covers as you complete each challenge.

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.



What is the definition of bullying?

Bullying is the use of force, coercion, hurtful teasing, comments, or threats, in order to abuse, aggressively dominate, or intimidate one or more others. The behaviour is on purpose, repeated and habitual.

What can you do to help?

There are lots of things that you can do to support your child against bullying. These include

- talking to your child about bullies and bullying so they are not afraid to speak to you if something happens and you have a shared understanding of what bullying is.
- monitoring social media and phone use to ensure internet and messaging use is safe.
- build your child's self-esteem and self-respect so that the impact of bullying behaviour is lessened.
- stay calm if your child speaks about something that is happening to them, then support your child to report it in the correct way.









Putting things into perspective

Put things into perspective - one off incidents and fallings out with friends are not bullying and should be dealt with differently. Labelling everything as bullying is not helpful to children who are trying to navigate friendships and fall outs. However, targeted and intentional acts overtime should be raised with school as bullying.

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.

CATERLINK'S

BIG FOODIE WALL ART PICTURE



EATE VIBRANT FOOD ART PICTURES FOR OUR WALLS!

FANTASTIC PRIZES!

FOR THE PUPIL WINS:



£20 BOOK VOUCHER!

FOR THE WINNING SCHOOL:



OR



A completed, VIBRANT FOOD ART PICTURE (e.g. A mural) FOR YOUR SCHOOL WALL or £200.

Winning artwork featured in primary marketing!

HOW TO ENTER:



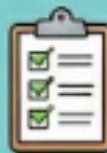
POST:

Caterlink Competition,
Hop House,
Lower Green Road,
Pembury, Kent,
TN2 4HS



EMAIL:

info@caterlinkltd.co.uk



DETAILS:

IMPORTANT: Keep original artwork. Include Pupil Name, Age & School (on back/filename) plus full School Name, Address & Contact!

DEADLINE: 5pm, 31st March 2026.
WINNERS NOTIFIED: End of May 2026.

WE CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOUR AMAZING IDEAS!

What have Reception been learning this week?

This week in Reception we have been learning the phonic sounds 'th' and 'ng' and the helpful words 'they, all and her'. In Maths the children have been sequencing numbers, counting aloud numbers up to 30 and looking at the numbers 6-8 as 5 and a bit. We have been creating lots of art this week for Art Week, including blossom tree printing, watercolour daffodil still lifes and oil pastel tulips. The children have been sequencing the story of Jack and the Beanstalk and starting to write words linked to the story.

Ask me a word beginning with 'th'.

Ask me a word ending in 'ng'.

Ask me to show you the numbers 6,7 and 8 with my fingers.

Ask me to count aloud to 30.

Ask me how to make the colours pink, green and orange.

Next week the children will be continuing to look at Jack and the Beanstalk and innovate their own version of it. They will learn the phonic sounds 'dge' (j) as in bridge and 've' as in glove. They will learn the helpful words 'are' and 'my'. In Maths we will start to look at 3D shapes and compare numbers and order amounts. In Science we will start to look at planting seeds and beans and looking for signs of Spring. Please can I remind you that children do not need to bring in toys or things from home unless we specifically ask for it. Have a super weekend.

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

What have Year 1 been learning this week?

We have had another action-packed week filled with creativity, local history, and fantastic learning! It has been art week and we were thrilled to welcome guest artist Amanda Schenk, who worked with the children to create a super 'Our Town Map' using a variety of different paints. In English, the children put their wonderful imaginations to the test! They completed an independent piece of writing based on their very own "runaway food" stories. In maths, we have been working hard on our numbers, focusing on counting in multiples of 10 all the way up to 100. We also practised counting forwards and backwards up to 50. In science, we explored the animal kingdom and learned all about the diets of different animals, discovering what makes them carnivores or herbivores. In history, the children took a fascinating look at our local history by comparing the old Alwyn School with the new Alwyn School, discussing what has changed over the years. In R.E. we had a lovely, thoughtful discussion about community. We learned about how Jesus' friends were part of a community and talked about what it means to feel connected to the people around us.

Ask me to re-tell you my runaway food story.

Ask me to count in multiples of 10 up to 100.

Ask me to name some animals that are carnivores.

Ask me to name some animals that are herbivores.

Ask me to tell you how the classrooms in the old Alwyn school looked like.

Next week is a very exciting week as we are to Odds Farm!

PE days are now Tuesdays and Thursdays.

KEY DATES!

School Year 2025-2026

Spring Term 4

2nd March

Internet Safety Day

Parent/carer talk at 2.30pm

4th March

Year 1 Trip: Odds Farm Park

5th March

World Book Day- dress as a book character or a book reader (own clothes or clean PJs)

10th & 12th March

Parent/carer consultations

11th March

Year 2 Trip: Look Out Centre

16th-20th March

Grown ups into school afternoon

20th March

Non-uniform (wear something red) for a donation to Comic Relief

23rd March

Drama Workshops

24th March

Reception Health Checks

27th March

Easter Bonnet Parade
Last day of term.

Children home at 1.30pm

30th March - 10th April

Easter holidays

What have Year 2 been learning this week?

This week the children in Year Two have really embraced being back at school after the half term holidays. In maths this week, they started learning their timestables by practising counting and playing lots of maths games. In English, they started their new writing unit based on Fantastic Mr Fox. They will be working towards writing their own innovated version of the story by changing elements of the story. In Science, the children carried out an experiment to test if seeds can grow without light and without water. They made predictions based on what they learned about plants before half term. This week was art week and Year Two had a fantastic week of fun activities based on printing. They had a lovely workshop with Amanda Schenk and have also been working on a special art door installation for World Book Day next week.

Ask me to recite my two times tables in order.

Ask me what 'times' means.

Ask me what 16 divided by 2 is.

Ask me to explain why I can't do 7 divided by 2.

Ask me to retell the story of Fantastic Mr Fox with the actions.

Ask me what I think will happen to the seeds we have planted.

Ask me to name a type of printing method.

Next week, we will be learning all about animal habitats and the seven continents.

PE days: HOLLY: Monday & Friday

PINE: Wednesday & 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

Summer Term 5

13th April

All children back to school

13th-17th April

Poetry week & visiting authors

27th April

IT workshops with 3

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

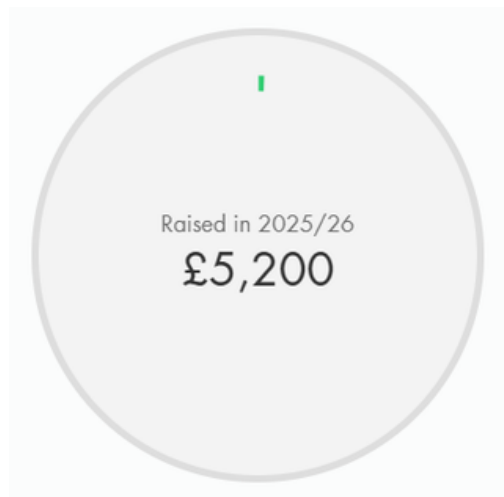
5th June

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>

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

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

GET MOVING WITH
MAIDENHEAD'S BIG READ

SATURDAY 7TH MARCH & SUNDAY 8TH MARCH
AT MAIDENHEAD LIBRARY

COME AND JOIN THE BOOKISH FUN! FROM 10 AM ONWARDS

FEATURING
MAIDENHEAD MAGPIES
ONCE UPON A BUS

**THE GREAT
BIG POETRY PARTY**
FEATURING SIMON MOLE

AUTHORS, ILLUSTRATORS, AMAZING
STORIES AND CRAFT ACTIVITIES
FREE FOR 3-13 YEAR OLDS

SCAN FOR FULL DETAILS




GEMS
Autism & ADHD Support Service
East Berkshire

Virtual Coffee Morning Eating and Movement

Friday 13th March - 10:00 - 11:00am

Join our online informal discussion.
What to expect?

**25 spaces
available!**

- Respectful and supportive discussion including:
 - What works for your family at meal times
 - What are your concern areas around eating
 - How do you support your child with eating
 - How you handle food centric activities and celebrations
 - Encouraging affirming movement
 - Eating out

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



TISKA
TRADITIONAL INTERNATIONAL
SHOTOKAN KARATE

A FUN & FRIENDLY COMMUNITY FOR CHILDREN,
ADULTS & FAMILIES WITH AMAZING BENEFITS:
**BUILD CONFIDENCE, RESILIENCE, GAIN FOCUS,
IMPROVE SELF DISCIPLINE WHILST
IMPROVING FITNESS & LEARNING SELF DEFENCE**

2 WEEK FREE TRIAL

LOCATED IN
Furze Platt Leisure Centre
Furze Platt Road
MAIDENHEAD

SESSIONS
Sunday 8th March 2026
2:15pm
then every Sunday thereafter

CONTACT US
SENSEI SEHMBI
07960699762
n_sehmbi@hotmail.co.uk
@tiskakarate_senseisehmbi
TISKA Karate Maidenhead

SCAN FOR OUR WEBSITE




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.

If your child arrives to school after these times, your child will receive an unauthorised late mark- this affects your child's attendance. The school gates are locked at 9am.

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	11.45am - 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.