



Alwyn Infant School



Build Belonging

Show Kindness

Make Choices

Adventure

OUR SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Issue No. 26 | 17th April 2026

Welcome Back to a Fantastic Summer Term!

Welcome back to school after what we hope was a restful and wonderful Easter holiday!

The summer term is always a brilliant time of year. As the weather improves and the days get warmer, we are so excited to spend much more time learning, playing, and exploring outside.

A Poetic Start to the Term

We have already kicked things off with a fantastic start during our Poetry Week!

Year 1 enjoyed incredible creative workshops with published author Simon Mole.

Year 2 had the pleasure of working with author Coral Rumble.

Both sessions were a wonderful opportunity for the children to flex their imaginations, explore their creativity, and have incredible fun building words and sentences.

Looking Ahead: Dates and Events

There is a lot going on this term to look forward to! We have exciting IT workshops sponsored by Three, various school trips planned, and our upcoming Walk to School Week.

Our Year 1 children, along with some of our Year 2s, will be taking part in the Phonics Screening Check in June. To help you support your child at home, parents/carers are invited to attend an information session on **18th May**.

The first half of the term will finish with a "No Pens Day." This is a chance to put the pencils away and focus entirely on our speaking and listening skills. It is always great fun, and all children will be asked to prepare a short talk to present to their classmates. Please look out for further details on this soon!

General School Reminders

To help the term run smoothly, please keep the following everyday reminders in mind:

- Please ensure your child arrives on time for school each day. Being prompt is vital as it supports their learning and builds excellent school habits for the future.
- A polite reminder that holiday absence requests during term time will not be authorised. Unauthorised absences can result in fixed penalty notices being issued to each parent. Please see the information poster included in this newsletter for further details.
- As the weather is warming up, summer uniform may now be worn! However, please ensure that all shoes are safe and suitable for school activities.
- Children need to bring a water bottle to school every day to stay hydrated, filled with water only.
- As part of their core homework, we expect children to read to an adult every day. Please remember to log this in their reading record so we can celebrate their progress!

We are all looking forward to a fabulous summer term.

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 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 photos on our Alwyn facebook page or Instagram.




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
SUPPORTING SCHOOL




What does the research say?

Research consistently shows that when parents and schools work together, the benefits are profound - students have higher grades, stronger wellbeing, and greater resilience. This does not mean that you have to agree with everything school says or does, it means that you have to be equal partners.

What could partnership with school look like?


School will offer opportunities for you to work with them to understand your child's learning, these opportunities mean a lot to your child and you should aim to attend a few through out the year. Sometimes these opportunities are difficult to attend because of work, speak to people at your school if you have a good idea to support working parents to attend events - but remember that school staff are paid for set hours, just as you are, and so evening or late events ask staff to work for free, this isn't always possible as staff have their own childcare responsibilities. School wants to work with you - please understand their limitations too.









What if you have a concern?

Your concerns and worries about your child's education or relationships are valid and can be emotionally charged. The way you feel about school can influence how your child feels if you allow them to see or hear your annoyance or upset and this can lead to school refusal or anxiety. Speak to school about your concerns, try to come to an agreement and let your child see that you are working together.

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 'ee' and 'igh' and revising the helpful words 'like' and 'so'. During Booktime the children have been finding out about poetry and listening to poems by Michael Rosen. In Maths they have been focusing on numbers to 20 and organising groups of objects. Each class has been given some caterpillars to look after and watch develop. We will be learning about how they change into butterflies over the next few weeks. The children were excited to start 'Dough disco' this week which we will be doing daily in order to strengthen their fine motor control, which will develop their handwriting skills.

Ask me a word that has the 'ee' and 'igh' sound in.

Ask me to tell you about our caterpillars and how they may change.

Ask me to tell you 3 words that rhyme with cat.

Ask me to tell you the number names in order to 20.

Ask me to tell you something you would find in a village, town and city.

Next week the children will be learning the sounds 'oa' and 'oo' (as in cook). They will be learning the helpful words 'put' and 'when'. We will be reading the book Handa's Surprise and finding out about different types of fruit and African animals. We will be exploring and tasting some different types of fruit. Please let your class teacher know if you do not wish your child to taste any of the fruits. We hope you have a lovely weekend!

PE day is on Tuesday (no PE kit needed).

What have Year 1 been learning this week?

What a wonderful first week back it has been! It has been lovely to welcome the children back to school, to hear their news and to see their positive attitude towards learning. This week in Year 1 has been all about plants. The children have used their observation skills to look closely at different plants. They have looked for similarities and differences, named the different parts of a plant, made beautiful paintings of plants, even imagined being a plant and have written a poem about it! In groups the children have planted sunflower seeds and are now waiting for signs of growth from those and from our tomato plants. There was more poetry, rhythm and rhyming fun when the poet and author Simon Mole came to visit each class. He had us all joining in with his hilarious poems about bugs and dinosaurs. He showed us how we could create our own dinosaur from any object and make up all sorts of 'facts' about it, we just used our imagination! In addition to all that excitement, we also have caterpillars in each class and are watching them grow and grow and grow!

Ask me about the dinosaur I drew when Simon Mole visited.

Ask me how many caterpillars are in my class.

Ask me to tell you how to play Rock, Paper, Anything.

Ask me to arrange some things into equal groups.

Ask me about my flower poem.

Ask me to continue this counting pattern: 2, 4, 6..

PE days are Tuesdays and Thursdays.

KEY DATES!

School Year 2025-2026

Summer Term 5

27th April
IT workshops with 3

4th May
Bank Holiday - School
Closed

6th May
Year 1 Trip to Bekonscot

13th May
Year 2 Trip to Maidenhead
Mosque and picnic lunch

18th - 22nd May
Walk to School Week

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

18th - 22nd May
Walk to School Week

22nd May
No Pens Day
Last day of term
Normal finish time

25th - 29th May
Half Term Break

What have Year 2 been learning this week?

Welcome back to Year Two! The children have had a lovely first week back filled with lots of learning. In maths, they continued on with fractions and were learning about equivalent fractions. This week was poetry week, so in English the children wrote their own poems based on a lovely short film called 'The Lighthouse Keeper'. We also had a special poetry workshop on Wednesday, which the children absolutely loved! In Geography, the children explored atlases and globes to identify the continents and oceans of the world and were also introduced to the equator. In PSHE, the children talked all about resilience and doing their best. They discussed how learning something new can feel difficult at times, but with practice and patience they can get better at it.

Next week, the children will be learning a new text called Kassim and the Dragon and working towards writing their own story.

Ask me what fraction is equivalent to 2 quarters.

Ask me what I did at the poetry workshop.

Ask me to name the 7 continents and the 5 oceans.

Ask me what the learning line is.

PE days: HOLLY: Wednesday & Friday

PINE: Wednesday & Friday

SPRUCE: Monday & 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 6

1st June

INSET Day (2) - School Closed for children.

2nd June

All children back to school

5th June

Class Photographs

8th-12th June

Phonics Screening Check for Year 1

11th June

Farm visit to Little Alwyn

15th June

Yr2 Trip to Wellington Country Park

26th June, 9.15-11am

Sports morning with Grown Ups (Sports Day)

29th June

New parent meeting 6pm

3rd July

Reports being sent home

4th July

PTA Colour Run

8th July

Open School Event, 4-5pm

15th July, 9.30am

Year 2 Performance to their grown ups

17th July

Last day of term, 1.30pm finish



Alwyn and Courthouse invite you

FOCUS GROUP

DISCUSSION



Topic:

*School transitions
for children with
SEND*

Join us to share your valuable insight into how we can ensure smooth, positive and successful transitions for your child in new year groups or school.

Wednesday, 22nd April

At Courthouse

9:00am - 10:00am

Tea, coffee and biscuits
provided



**Let your
voice be
heard**

Why Participate?

- 1** Influence school strategy: Your first hand experiences are vital for shaping the schools' approach.
- 2** Advocate for your child's success's by defining what a 'smooth, positive and successful transition' looks like.
- 3** Gain support and build a stronger community: This focus group offers a supportive space to connect with other parents /carers facing similar challenges.

For more information, contact us at



01628 622 477



senco@alwyn.org.uk

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.

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 5 Sunday 28th April 2026
2.15pm
then every 5 Sunday thereafter

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SCAN FOR OUR WEBSITE

100 YEARS 1926 2026
UNIVERSITY OF READING

CENTRE for AUTISM WELLBEING HUB

Autistic Thriving at School and Beyond

As part of the University's centenary celebrations, we are hosting a free public hybrid (in person and online) event on the evening of 6 May on the theme of Autistic Thriving at School and Beyond.

Join us for an evening that brings together autistic children and young people, their families, students, professionals and researchers to explore what supports autistic children to flourish in education and everyday life.

The event will include talks from:

- Professor Elizabeth McCrum, Pro-Vice Chancellor (Education and Student Experience) at the University of Reading
- Dr Fiona Knott and Dr Jo Billington, Wellbeing Hub project leads
- Andy Smith, founder of Spectrum Gaming, and a passionate advocate for young people's voices in education.

For in person attendees, there will also be an opportunity to review a poster presentation of current autism research from academics and students in the School of Psychology and Clinical Language Sciences. Refreshments will be provided.

Wednesday 6 May
G10 lecture theatre,
Palmer Building,
Whiteknights Campus,
RG6 6EW

In person:
18:45–21:00

Online:
19:00–20:30 via
Microsoft Teams

For more details and to book your place, please visit our website.

2go!
Raring2go!

EASTER FUN PG 8
QUIZ & PUZZLES PGS 14 & 15
BARKBREAD PG 21

SPRING

MAGAZINE & WEBSITE THE GO-TO GUIDE FOR YOU AND YOUR CHILD

raring2go.co.uk

SPRING 2026

The Croft Clinic

Coffee Morning Event

Making Sense of Neurodiversity

Friday 5 June 2026 | 11:30am – 1:00pm

Wellness Suite, The Odney Club
Odney Lane, Maidenhead, Berkshire, SL6 9SR

Guest Speaker: Masie Cass
Founder of Diversity Does
ADHD Speaker & Neurodiversity Consultant

Join us for a relaxed and welcoming morning of coffee, connection, and conversation.

This insightful session will explore ADHD and autism through a compassionate, real-life lens—helping you better understand experiences beyond labels and build greater clarity & confidence.

Open to individuals, families, and those in local schools, whether already part of our clinic community or joining us for the first time.

[CLICK HERE](#)

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.