



# Alwyn Infant School



Build Belonging

Show Kindness

Make Choices

## OUR SCHOOL NEWS

Issue No. 18 | 24th January 2025

### What has been happening?

#### Sporting Competition

Well done to Pine class for representing our school in a Pillo Polo tournament at Furze Platt Senior School.



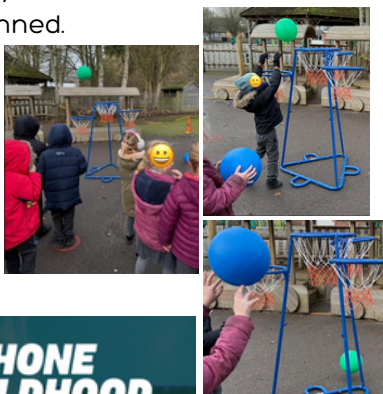
The children had the opportunity to learn some of the skills needed for the game and then put them into practice as they competed against each other and another local school.



They were supported by fabulous young people from the senior school, some of who were our ex-pupils, Mr Baker and the sports partnership. It was a fabulous opportunity for our children and we look forward to other events that may be planned.

#### Playtime Fun

The children are loving the new hoops in the playground during playtimes. Not only are they developing sporty skills and engagement but also their cooperation, sharing and compromise skills. Plus it is lots of fun!



Thank you to those who attended our Smart Phone Free Childhood event! Your presence and participation made it a great success. We appreciate your support in promoting a healthier lifestyle for our children. You can look at the information shared [here](#).

If you feel that you want to sign the parent pact please visit the [Smart Phone Free Childhood's page here](#) and select either Alwyn or Courthouse school and sign up. Share this within your child's class WhatsApp groups and keep the conversation going.

There is a link to Tanya Goodin's (guest speaker and digital detox expert) [website here](#). You will find useful resources, podcast links and books Tanya has produced on the subject.

We would also really appreciate the feedback from those who attended and following the feedback we will seek to run another event in the near future and we encourage more to attend. [Smart Phone Free Childhood - Feedback](#)

### 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
- Always do our best



#### Remember to Order Lunches

All hot dinners must be pre-ordered in advance. The deadline for ordering lunches is 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 with your child and that they are happy with their lunch choice 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!

#### School Attendance and Punctuality Phone Calls

We monitor school attendance very closely in line with local and government rules.

If your child's attendance is below 90%, we will contact you over the next few weeks to discuss the reasons and see if we can offer any support or guidance. We accept that illnesses cannot be helped and if your child is not well enough for school then the call will just clarify illness so **please do not worry if you receive a phone call as it is part of our usual school procedure.**

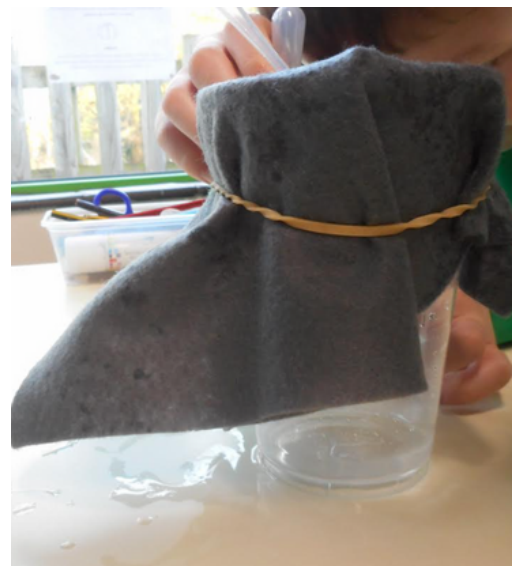


Look out for more school news on our [Alwyn facebook page](#) or new [Instagram account @alwyninfantschool](#). If you haven't already, give us a like and a follow.



## Science in Year 2

The children in Year 2 have been carrying out experiments on waterproof materials. They tested felt, foil, cling film and nylon to find out the best material for an umbrella. Which one do you think they chose?



## A few photos from the Pillo Polo Competition



## Driving, Parking and Vehicles in Mulberry Walk

Please think about our neighbours and school community, especially as one of our school values is kindness. Drive and park carefully and considerately on the roads surrounding the school at all times.

The road gets very busy at drop off and collection times. To help with this, we have an unofficial one way system that keep cars moving safely. Please reduce your speed and drive slowly around the one-way system. This is crucial as there are very young children walking along the pavements who may not be seen easily while driving, especially in these grey days.

We have good relationships with our neighbours but that can only be maintained with your help. Please do not block their driveways when parking and remain polite if they ask you to move. Any area with block paving is for the residents of the road and not for school parking or access.

Please do not park on the bends of the road or directly opposite another car as this can stop the flow of traffic and make it difficult for other drivers to pass.

Do not mount the curb as our children and their siblings are very little and not always easy to see.

### To ease congestion, please explore other options:

- If you are able to walk or cycle to school this would help.
- Consider parking further away, such as by Courthouse Junior School, where there are more roads to park along safely and they tend to be less congested.
- A short walk can make a significant difference in reducing traffic and ensuring safety and you can access Alwyn by walking through Courthouse as the gate opening times are the same.

Recently we've had a few reports of members of our school community driving along the pavement, on the bend, at speed resulting in near misses as well as some aggressive behaviours when they have been reminded of our parking etiquette.

Aggressive driving and behaviours put us all at risk and should be reported by calling 101.

# School Day

Year Group	Reception	Year 1	Year 2
Start	8.45am	8.50am	8.50am
Lunch	11.45pm - 12.45pm	12pm - 1pm	12.20pm - 1.20pm
Finish	3.15pm	3.20pm	3.20pm
→	→	→	→

## The School Gates

The Alwyn and Courthouse gates open at 8.40am until 8.55am and 3.10pm until 3.35pm

The opening times allow movement between our two schools and provide different points of access which should help with traffic and parking in our area.

The gate opening times are different from the time your child is required to be in school.

## The Importance of Being on Time

**Reception children need to be in school at 8.45am.**

**Year 1 and 2 children need to be in school at 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.

# Penalty Notice Changes

With the introduction of the new National Framework for Penalty Notices on 19 August 2024 there are significant changes in the way that Penalty Notices are to be issued and an increase in the charges associated with them. These are nationwide changes implemented for consistency across all Local Authorities.

Term Time Leave is only allowed in exceptional circumstances communicated in advance with evidence provided as soon as possible to the Headteacher.

## First Offence

For 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 of the first offence. The second 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.
- 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

## DfE Blog for Parents

<https://educationhub.blog.gov.uk/2024/02/29/fines-for-parents-for-taking-children-out-of-school-what-you-need-to-know/>



## 10 sessions in 10 weeks

Penalty Notices will be considered for any 10 sessions of unauthorised absence in 10 weeks. **5 Consecutive days** of term time leave can trigger a Penalty Notice

[Link](#) to the attendance page on the Alwyn website.



Providing Children's Services for the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead

## Attendance Ladder

How close is your child to reaching the top?



For every day your child is absent from school, over 6 hours of instructional time is lost.

# KEY DATES!

## School Year 2024-2025

### Spring Term 3 2024-2025

3rd February  
Mental Health Week and  
Kindness Workshop for Yr 1&2

4th February  
Dog Safety Assembly and  
Reception Workshops

10th-14th February  
Book Week visiting authors,  
poets, illustrators

Book Fair after school, where  
book tokens can be used if  
received in time

13th February  
Year 2 Church Visit for RE learning

17th-21st February  
HALF TERM - SCHOOL CLOSED

Half Term Reading Challenge:  
decorate a paper plate to  
represent a book of their choice.

### Spring Term 4 2024-2025

24th February  
Children back to school

24th-28th February  
Art/DT Week

4th March  
Year 1 Trip to Odds Farm

6th March  
World Book Day- dress up as  
something book related

## What have Reception been learning this week?

This week in Reception we have been retelling the story of Jonty Gentoo and making our own story maps. We have been looking at the difference between the Arctic and the Antarctic and will look forward to finding out facts about polar bears next week. We have been busy making mixed media Northern Lights pictures as part of our Wonderful Winter topic.

**Ask me to sound out the words yes and zip**

**Ask me to show you different ways of making 5 with my fingers**

**Ask me about some things that float or sink**

**Ask me about some things that could be unsafe at home and outside and how we can keep safe**

Next week Reception will be learning the digraphs zz and qu for phonics. In Maths we will be looking at the composition of 6 and 7



## What have Year 1 been learning this week?

This week we have had lots of fun planting bean seeds. We look forward to observing their growth over time.

We have also looked at the parts of a flowering plant and labelled them.

We have been comparing numbers to 20 using the words greater than, less than and equal to and have planned our own Lost and Found stories.

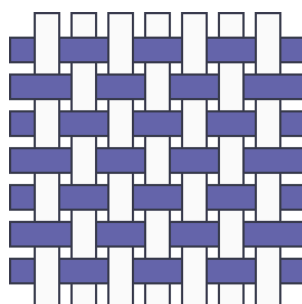
**Ask me to name the parts of a flowering plant.**

**Ask me to predict what my bean will look like next week.**

**Ask me to compare 12 and 20.**

**Ask me to retell my story.**

Next week we will be weaving with fabric. We can't wait!



## What have Year 2 been learning this week?

This week we have started a new story in English - Fantastic Mr Fox. We have enjoyed orally learning the story with accompanying actions. We have learnt some amazing new vocabulary such as capture and scuttled. In maths, we are continuing to learn about money and we have spotted key words to look out for when solving word problems. In Science, we have investigated and explored different materials that would be suitable for an umbrella; they had to be strong, light and waterproof. We had great fun testing whether a material was waterproof with pipettes, beakers and water!

**Ask me how many different ways I can make £1.**

**Ask me how much change I would have if I spent 13p with my 50p pocket money.**

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

**Ask me the meaning of 'abundance'.**

**Ask me how Brunel contributed to railways.**

**Ask me which material is best for an umbrella and why (hint: properties!)**

On Tuesday 21st January Pine class took part in a Pillo Polo tournament at Furze Platt Senior School. Pillo Polo is a hybrid of hockey using a foam stick and footballs. The children participated firstly in games practising the skills required for the game. Then after a well deserved break they played short matches in teams of 4. Pine class represented Alwyn brilliantly and had a fantastic time. Well done to all.

Thanks go to Mr Baker and Emma Fitzgerald for their organisation and to the senior school student volunteers.

Next week we will be starting a new Science topic about plants. Why don't you have a look at the plants around your home?

## Congratulations!

Children are enjoying Golden Book Assembly in Year 1 and 2.

In Little Alwyn, they love to have their special stickers and certificate.

A huge '**well done**' to all the children who were in the Golden Book for their achievements this week. **We are very proud of you!**

## KEY DATES!

### School Year 2024-2025

#### Spring Term 4 2024-2025 cont...

11th & 13th March  
Parents'/carers Evening

17th-21st March  
Grown Ups into School  
Afternoons

21st March  
Comic Relief/Red Nose Day

24th-28th March  
NSPCC Safety Week

25th March  
Year 2 Trip to The LookOut

4th April  
End of term, 1.30pm finish

7th April - 21st April  
EASTER HOLIDAYS  
SCHOOL CLOSED

18th April - Good Friday  
21st April - Easter Monday

#### Summer Term 5, 2024-2025

22nd April  
INSET Day (no children in school)

23rd April  
Children back to school



# Our Fabulous Parent Teacher Association

Remember as a member of the school community, you are automatically part of the Parent and Teacher Association (PTA).

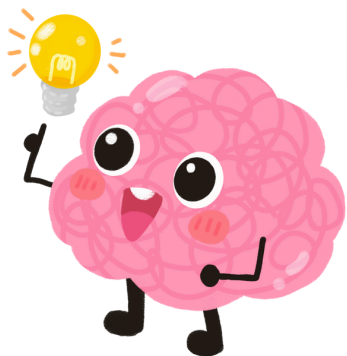
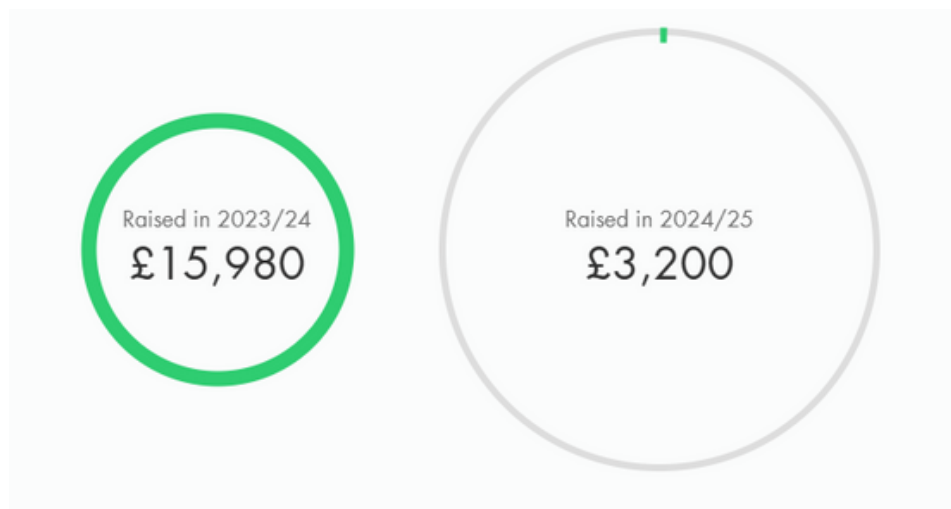
They run brilliant events throughout the year but need your help. Please get in touch with them if you wish to take part or have some great ideas to share.

## Funded by the PTA

The PTA has been working 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. In 2023/24 Alwyn installed a brand new library which the children are absolutely loving.

At Courthouse the sports field was regenerated, and the PTA have contributed to OPAL, the children are particularly fond of the mud kitchens!



**We would like to know what you think!**  
**Please fill in this form to share ideas for future events.**

**Thank you**

**STIKINS®**  
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Order Now  
Leo Carpenter  
34

**Give as you Live®**  
Donate as you shop. Over 4,000 stores to shop from.  
Find out more

# Hooray, Our Book Week is Coming!

## 10th - 14th February 2025



### **Travelling Book Fair**

Come to the book sale in the school hall at 3.30pm from Monday 10th February until Friday 14th February. Pop in any day or every day to browse and buy from a great range of age appropriate reading books.

We are trying to be cashless so all purchases can be made on the day via the payment system and you can use your book token. A percentage of the sales goes towards the purchase of new books for our school too!

### **Author Visits and Workshops**

Year 1 will work with Simon Mole on a Rap Zoo workshop on Tuesday 11th February.

Coral Rumble will work with our Year 2s on adventure poems on Wednesday 12th February.

Local artist, Amanda Schenk, will work in Reception on Thursday 13th February to investigate and create book art.

### **Half term challenge (17th-23rd February)**

The children will come home with a paper plate on the last day of term and their challenge is to decorate it any way they like based on a book of their choice. They should do this during the holidays and bring it back to school on Monday 24th February. Their work will be celebrated and displayed in school!

### **And more ...**

On 3rd March we will launch our 30 day challenge. The children will have a poster suggesting different reading activities to complete. They should aim to do one a day and colour it in to keep track of their achievements. At the end of the 30 days, they will bring it back into school to share with their class and celebrate their achievements.

### **Celebrate World Book Day**

Dress as a book character on Thursday 6th March. It would be wonderful, if they could say who the character is and the book they are from. There is no need to buy anything special for this day as it could be exciting to put together a home-made costume with your child from things you already have, which is great for the environment as it promotes the idea of reusing items.

**Happy Reading!**



# CYBER PROTECT WEBINARS



SOUTH EAST  
**ROCU**

REGIONAL  
ORGANISED  
CRIME UNIT

## The Digital Dilemma: Keeping Children Safe Online

January 23rd, 28th, 30th

February 3rd, 6th, 10th, 12th, 13th



**TICKETS ONLINE:**



Eventbrite: Police - South East Cyber

### FREE WEBINAR FOR PARENTS & CARERS

run by Police Cyber Protect teams

Hints and tips to secure your family  
online, covering cyber risks and scams in:

**Gaming**



**Social Media**



**Email**

### TO BOOK YOUR SPACE:

Click [here](#), scan the QR code  
or search online for "eventbrite police southeast cyber"



DON'T LET IT BE **GAME OVER**

**LEVEL UP**

**YOUR ONLINE SECURITY**



# SEND

## Coffee morning

### Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2025

Come and join us for a coffee, biscuits and a friendly chat about Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). We invite all parents from Alwyn Infant School and Courthouse Junior School to join us and discuss SEND in a non-judgemental environment.

This **Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2025 at 9 am**, we will welcome a representative from IAS to come and talk to us. IAS (Information Advice and Support) is a free, impartial service that provides reliable information and advice about SEND for children, young people and their parents/ carers. They will attend the coffee morning and aim to answer all your questions and concerns about SEND.

We look forward to seeing you all.

If you have any questions, please ask the school office.



**FREE  
4 WEEK  
TRIAL**

**BOOK  
HERE** 



# DODGEBALL CLUB

**FREE TRIAL STARTS  
WEDNESDAY 22ND JANUARY -  
WEDNESDAY 12TH FEBRUARY**



Be a part of the faster growing sport in schools!



## Why Join Dodgeball?

- ✓ Improves confidence,
  - ✓ resilience & focus
  - ✓ Inclusive environment with friendly coaches
- Skill Development

**AGE 5-11  
YEARS**

**YEAR 1 - 3  
5:15pm-  
6:15pm**

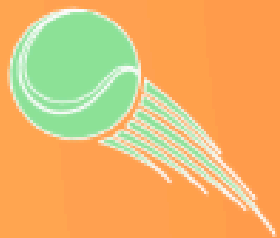
**YEAR 4 - 6  
6:20pm-  
7:20pm**

**4 WEEK FREE TRIAL**

**Usually £6.50 per session**

Scan the QR code or visit our website to book

**LIMITED SPACES AVAILABLE**



**📍 Alwyn Infant School,  
Maidenhead, SL6 6EU**

**For More Information  
go to [www.mnrcoaching.com](http://www.mnrcoaching.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.



# Bear cubs

## Ages 5 to 10

First and third Monday of the month - 4pm to 5pm

**6th January 2025** - Make a bookmark and read a story! - Online  
**20th January** - Talent Show- Bracknell  
**3rd February** - Big on Bouncing - Slough- Small Fee Applicable  
**17th February** - Disney Quiz - Online  
**3rd March** - Sensory Bus - Windsor  
**17th March** - Park Play - Maidenhead

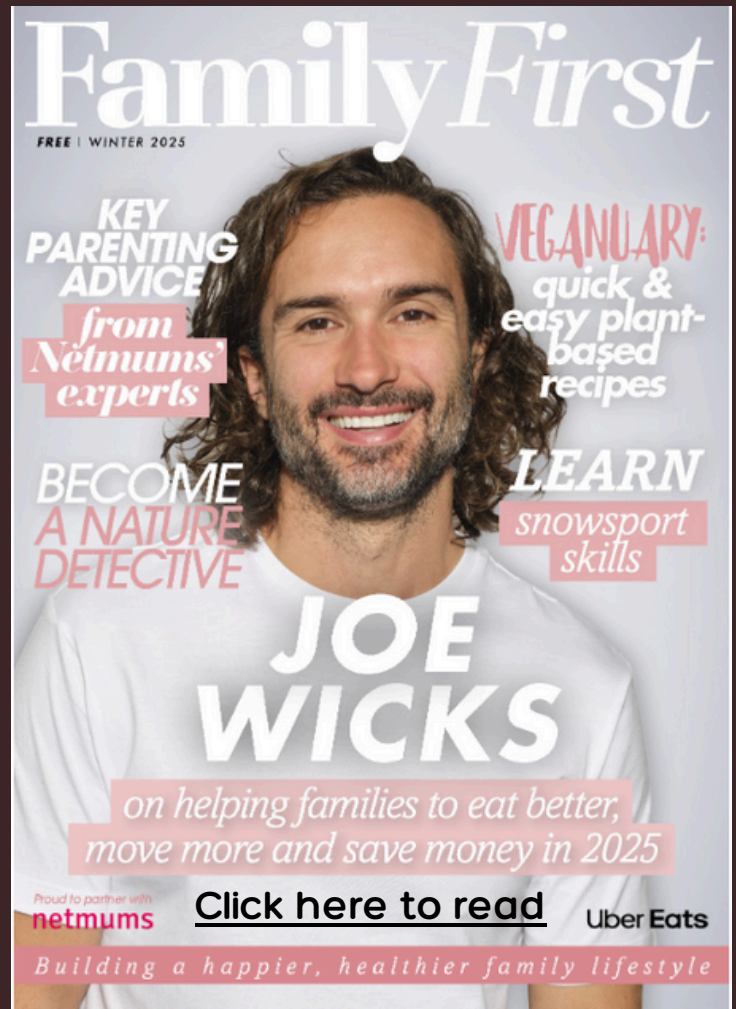
\*Please note activities may be subject to change

**Registration:** GEMS.4Health@nhs.net  
0800 999 1342

**Criteria:** Children with or likely to have ADHD and/or autism and living in East Berkshire



For more information: Call 0800 999 1342 or visit [www.Gems4Health.com](http://www.Gems4Health.com)



# Family First

FREE | WINTER 2025

**KEY PARENTING ADVICE** from **Netmums experts**

**VEGANUARY:** quick & easy plant-based recipes

**BECOME A NATURE DETECTIVE**


**LEARN** snowsport skills

## JOE WICKS

on helping families to eat better, move more and save money in 2025

Proud to partner with **netmums** [Click here to read](#) **Uber Eats**


Building a happier, healthier family lifestyle



# Boyn Grove Library

## Drop in children's chess club sessions

Saturdays  
1.30pm to 3pm



[www.rbwm.gov.uk](http://www.rbwm.gov.uk)

[@RBWM\\_Libraries](#) [RBWM Libraries](#) [RBWM\\_Libraries](#)

Saturday Rainbows with Girlguiding Maidenhead has space for your daughter Rainbows - a fun and exciting programme for girls aged four to seven. It is all about developing self-confidence, building friendships, learning new things and having fun.

Girls get their hands dirty with arts and crafts, get in touch with nature and play games - it's all about learning by doing. Rainbows follow a diverse and engaging programme and take part in lots of different activities with girls their own age. We run on a Saturday morning from 9:30 to 12:00, every three weeks in term time and look forward to hearing from you.

Find out more: [Rainbows \(4-7\)](#) | [Girlguiding](#)

Register now: [Register your daughter | Girlguiding](#)