



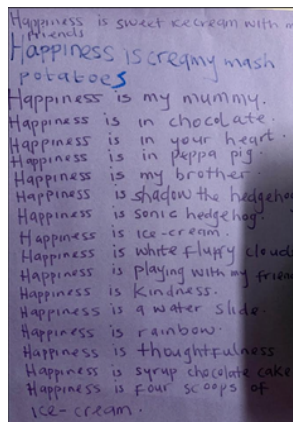
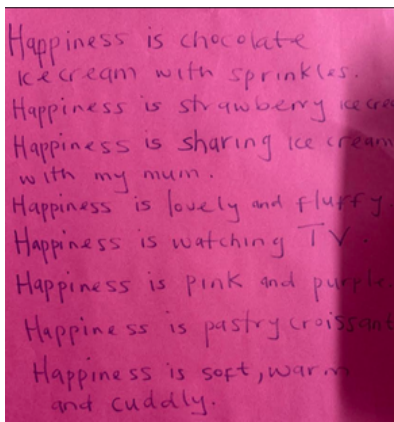
OUR SCHOOL NEWS

Issue No. 21 | 14th February 2025

What has been happening?

Rap Poetry with Simon Mole

Year 1 really enjoyed a Rap Workshop where they created their own class poems on what happiness means to each one of them. They enjoyed meeting the author Simon Mole and hearing him read his book 'I love my Bike.'



Workshop with Coral Rumble

This week Year 2 enjoyed a visit from Coral Rumble, a local author, who shared some lovely poems and stories from her books. The children were a great audience and were fully engaged as she performed her poetry. They enjoyed hearing various types of poems and her explanation of what inspired each one, from funny ones to sentimental ones. The children also had fun playing a rhyming game where they had to collect rhyming words in the quickest time.



Year 2 Church Visit

The Year 2 children had a wonderful visit to St Mark's church to supplement their learning about symbols and stories in the Christian faith.

They met the vicar David and his assistant Leah who explained about the church. The children enjoyed learning about the symbols and features in a church and went on a treasure hunt to find them. They enjoyed dressing up and acting out the story of The Feeding of the 5000. We finished off by learning a song with actions. What fun!



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, however, we are finding that if you leave the ordering close to the deadline, the system can throw out an error message. Please try to order the night or weekend before.

If your child does not have a packed lunch or you have not 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!

Book Fair

Thank you to everyone who visited our book fair. There was a lovely buzz in the hall as the children chose their books. If you didn't use your book token, you can pop into the local book shops for the £1 books published for World Book Day. Happy reading!



A Week Off Next Week!

17th - 21st February 2025

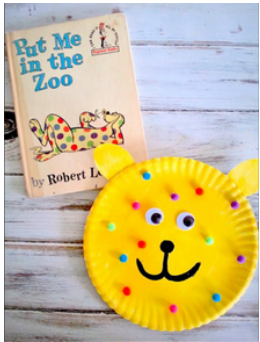


Half term challenge (17th-23rd February)

Stuck for something to do? Take part in the half term book challenge!

The children will come home with a paper plate 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. Here are some ideas ...



Remember to write their name and class on the back! It would also be helpful to write the name of the book.

Their work will be celebrated and displayed in school!

We look forward to seeing you all back in school on **Monday 24th February**.

30 Day Book Challenge

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!



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.

Thank you to our brilliant PTA

The PTA have funded our new domestic role play area in Elm class. The children were incredibly excited to see it delivered and watch the fabulous resources emerge from the huge boxes. They set up the dog and cat bed and bowls, the laundry area, the baby area and set the table. They loved the cooker with the boiled eggs and pop up toaster. The children loved exploring the new area. The language and cooperative play was a pleasure to watch!



Clothes Collection

Spring is in the air, and it's the perfect time for a fresh start! If you're having a spring clear-out, let us help you recycle all those unwanted clothes. Join our Clothes Collection event on **10th March** and give your old outfits a new lease on life. Drop off to the wooden gazebo in the Courthouse playground at drop off / pick up time. There's also a drop off point in the Courthouse Staff Car Park under the gazebo on Monday 8.30 - 9.15am at school drop off or 3 - 6.30pm. Follow [the link](#) for more information about what we can collect.



We would like to know what you think! Please fill in [this form](#) to share ideas for future events.

Thank you

What have Reception been learning this week?

This week in Reception we have been reading lots of books. Many of us brought our favourite books in from home to share with our class and we enjoyed reading them.

On Thursday we had Lift the Flap book making workshops with Amanda Schenk, based on The Gruffalo's child.

We have some new utensils in the mud pit and we have enjoyed 'cooking' and 'making potions' with them.

Oak class had their new furniture and the new role play furniture for Elm class. As you can imagine this caused great excitement and it was lovely to watch the children boiling eggs and giving the cat a bath!

Ask me to sound out the words 'thick' and 'bang'.

Ask me to tell you the story of The Gruffalo's child

Ask me what was my favourite story that I heard in Book Week

Ask me who keeps me safe

Ask me what the weather is like in the jungle

After half term, Reception will be learning digraph ve and trigraph dge in phonics and we will focus on the 'staircase' pattern and ordering numbers in Maths



What have Year 1 been learning this week?

It's the end of another very busy half term in Year One. This week, in Science, we have continued our work on classifying animals and have used our knowledge to explain the features of each group.

In Maths, we have been adding and subtracting as well as noticing fact families. In phonics, we have been revising all the new letter sounds we have learnt this half term and used our skills to decipher real and nonsense words. In English, we learnt about bossy verbs and time words and used them to write our own instructions on how to make gingerbread people.

Ask me to tell you the features of a bird and of a mammal.

Ask me to tell you some facts using the numbers 2, 5 and 7.

Ask me to tell you how I feel when I lose something.

Ask me to tell you which 'red' sound I find trickiest.

Ask me to read the following nonsense words: floam, graik, blence

Next week is half term and we hope everyone manages to have a well-earned rest!

KEY DATES!

School Year 2024-2025

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
Block printing workshops

4th March
Year 1 Trip to Odds Farm

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

10th March
PTA Clothes Collection

11th & 13th March
Parents'/carers Evening

17th-21st March
Grown Ups into School
Afternoons, 2pm onwards

21st March
Comic Relief/Red Nose Day, wear
something red/own clothes for
£1

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

What have Year 2 been learning this week?

This week, Year 2 have really enjoyed reading Flat Stanley. The story is about a boy who becomes flat after a notice board falls on him overnight. He has many adventures as a flat boy, including being a kite and being posted to California. The children had the opportunity to create their own 'flat' character and create a book about their adventures.

In maths the children have successfully divided by grouping by using counters, drawing pictures and then writing the division equations. This is building on their work on multiplication.

Ask me to tell you the story of my 'flat' character

Ask me to tell you what I could do if I was flat

Ask me to draw out these division equations

12 divided by 3

20 divided by 5

15 divided by 3

Ask me to tell you what 3 things plants need to grow

Ask me to tell you what happens to a plant if it is not watered

After half term we will be starting a new Talk for Writing text- A Journey Story.

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

Summer Term 5, 2024-2025

22nd April

INSET Day (no children in school)

23rd April

Children back to school

28th April

IT workshops with 3

5th May

Bank Holiday- school closed

14th May

Yr1 Trip to Bekonscot

16th May

Rabbi visiting Year 1 (RE)

19th May

Parent session on phonics screening check, 2.30pm

23rd May

End of term- normal finishing time

26th-30th May

Half term- school closed

2nd June

INSET Day- school closed

6th June

Class photos

9th-13th June

Phonics Screening Check

18th June

National Thank a Teacher Day

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

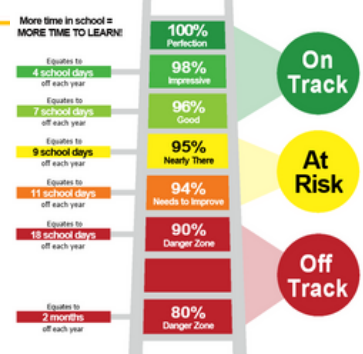
[Link](#) to the attendance page on the Alwyn website.



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.



NEW YEAR NEW YOU

NEW **P**ARKING RESOLUTION

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.



NEW YEAR NEW YOU

NEW **P**ARKING RESOLUTION

Safer Parking checklist

- Get active**
Park further away from school and walk the last 5-15 minutes of the journey.
- Be more considerate**
Don't block driveways or dropped kerbs even for a few minutes.
- Always park away from junctions and corners**
Parking 10 meters away increases the visibility for pedestrians and drivers and reduces risks for everyone.
- Keep ALL children safe**
Parking, stopping or dropping on SCHOOL KEEP CLEAR zigzags, even just for a minute, endangers other children. Keep it clear.
- Keep yourself within the law**
Never park on a single yellow line, double yellow line or zig zag line during restricted times. This could lead to a fine.

Share the roads, Share the responsibility



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



“Join Our FREE FEBRUARY Fun Football Coaching Sessions”




- Create friendships
- Increase physical activity
- Promote creativity through play
- Develop teamwork skills
- Increase confidence

Fun Football Coaching

Opposite Buzz Gym
Eskdale Road
Winnersh Triangle
Reading





Check out our website and book your session
www.funfootballcoaching.com



Boyn Grove Library

Drop in children's chess club sessions

Saturdays
1.30pm to 3pm



www.rbwm.gov.uk

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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](#)