



Alwyn Infant School



Build Belonging

Show Kindness

Make Choices

OUR SCHOOL NEWS

Issue No. 9 | 8th November 2024

What has been happening?

Welcome back to Term 2. We are pleased that the children have settled back into school so well. This term is always busy as we head towards the Festive Season!

Please be sure to check the Key Dates and update your diaries!

Diwali



The children loved the first day back to school as we learnt about Diwali through stories, art and dance. The dance workshop was absolutely brilliant and so fast the grown ups found it tricky to keep up with the children. The visiting dance instructors commented on how engaged and well behaved our children were. Well done us! Thank you to the PTA for organising the dance workshops.



Staffing Update

I am incredibly pleased to tell you that we have recruited for our advertised positions. We have found a fabulous, experienced teacher to cover Maple class while Mrs Novelle is on maternity. She will start with us in January but there will be handover meetings and visits before that time.

We have recruited three Teaching Assistants, two of whom will work in Little Alwyn. They will begin as soon as possible, once the safeguarding checks are completed.

Unfortunately, we are going to be saying goodbye to Mrs Rietdyk on 5th December, as she is going to further her career opportunities at a local secondary school as a student mentor.

It is always sad when we lose school staff, however one of our school principles is to grow talents not just of our children but also our grown ups. It is incredibly rewarding to see our staff develop their skills and confidence so they can move on to further their job opportunities and continue to make a positive impact within our community.

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. The menu has changed to the Autumn/Winter menu. The full menu is on our website.

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

Term-time Holidays

We have had a recent increase in holiday request forms.

In line with the Local Authority, we will not authorise term time holidays.

Holidays taken during school time will result in a fixed penalty notice (fine) issued by the Local Authority.

See the poster on this newsletter or our [website](#) for more details .



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.





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.



Elfridges

It's back, the Kids Only Christmas Shop! Children select from a range of presents perfect for Mum, Dad, Granny or even Aunty Sue, then wrap them ready to hide under the tree for Christmas Day.

[Click here for more details.](#)



We need your help!

For these fabulous events to happen, the PTA need volunteers to help them set up, run stalls and clean up. Just an hour of your time will make a huge difference.

To sign up to help, [click this link.](#)



Asda Shopping

We've joined the Asda Rewards Cashpot for schools that has been advertise on television. If you shop at Asda, download the app, select Alwyn Infant School and raise funds for our school every time you shop.



Copas Farm Shop | UK Delivery
Christmas Turkey Code:
ALWS24PTA

It's never too early to start planning for Christmas! By getting a head start, you can enjoy a stress-free holiday season.

Plus, when you use the code **ALWS24PTA**, the PTA will receive a 5% donation from each turkey sold.

Happy planning and happy holidays!

<https://www.alwyncourthousepta.com/promotions/>

There are many events planned for this term. Keep an eye for these on the PTA facebook page, website and this newsletter.

What have Reception been learning this week?

This week we have been finding out about celebrating Diwali and we had a brilliant Indian dance workshop which we loved! We also started our PE lessons which we had been looking forward to.

Our theme this term is underwater so we did lots of games moving like sea creatures such as crabs and jellyfish.

In our phonics lessons we learnt our first digraph (two letters that make one sound) /ck/ which was fun - especially as it mostly comes at the end of a word.

Ask me to tell you a word that has ck in it.

Where is the ck sound in the word - the beginning, within or the end?

Ask me to tell you the Diwali Story

Ask me to build 2 towers with an equal amount of bricks

Ask me to tell you what happens when chocolate gets hot

Next week Reception will learn the phonic sounds /u/ and /r/.

In maths we will be comparing groups.

What have Year 1 been learning this week?

Year One have really enjoyed getting back into the school routine this week. Their teachers loved hearing all about what they got up to in the holidays.

On Tuesday, the children enjoyed a fun filled day with lots of Diwali activities. They took part in a fabulous dance workshop and finished off the day creating beautiful Diwali lanterns. In RE this week, the children learned all about Hinduism and the story of Rama and Sita.

In maths, the children have deepened their knowledge of addition by looking at word problems. They have also represented these word problems in lots of different ways.

In English, we have started a new book 'Dear Zoo' and will use this book over the coming weeks to continue to develop their sentence writing.

Ask me to tell you the story of Rama and Sita and how this relates to Diwali.

Ask me to write the helpful words all, her and when.

Ask me to name as many body parts as I can.

Ask me to tell you what a human feature and a physical feature is.

Ask me to show you firework shapes with my body.

Ask me to tell you all about keeping safe around fireworks.

Ask me to tell you all the bonds of 10.

Ask me to tell you all about our new class text 'Dear Zoo'.

Next week, we will be learning all about addition word problems and introducing subtraction and the minus symbol.

KEY DATES!

School Year 2024-2025

11th-15th November
Anti-bullying Week

11th November
Remembrance Day

12th November
Odd Socks Day- wear some great non-matching socks

14th November
Diabetes Awareness Day- wear something blue with your uniform

15th November
Children in Need- non uniform day, (wear spots, stripes or both) for a donation of £1

27th November
No Pens Day
Year 1 trip to the park

28th & 29th November
PTA Elfridges

29th November
Non uniform day for a tombola gift

30th November
PTA Christmas Fair

3rd December @9am
Parents/carers/helpers coffee morning with school leaders

10th December @9.30am
Reception performance for Ash class parents/carers

11th December @9.30am
Reception performance for Oak class parents/carers

12th December @9.30am
Reception performance for Elm class parents/carers

What have Year 2 been learning this week?

Year 2 have had a great first week back. We eased into school with a fun-filled day learning about and celebrating Diwali. The children loved the dance workshop where they learnt and performed a Diwali themed routine with a partner.

In science we learnt about germs and carried out an investigation using hand cream and herbs. It was so intriguing to see how quickly and far germs can spread. If only real germs smelt as good as oregano and cumin!

As geographers, we have been learning about the UK and have pored over our class atlases. We have enjoyed sharing the places we have visited and exploring the capital cities.

Ask me to name the four countries that make up the UK.

Ask me to name the capital city for each country.

Ask me what a healthy packed lunch might look like.

Ask me why I shouldn't eat unhealthy food regularly.

Ask me what exchange means in maths.

Ask me how I know I need to exchange the ones to a ten.

Next week, we are learning about bread in DT.

KEY DATES!

Autumn Term 2 2024-2025

12th December
Festive or own jumper day

16th, 17th, 18th December, 9.30am
Year 1 Christmas Performance

18th December, 2.30pm
Year 2 Festive Songs with
Parents/Carers

19th December, 3.30pm
Carols in Courthouse playground

20th December
End of term, 1.30pm finish

END OF TERM
23rd December- 3rd January
School closed

6th January
INSET Day (no children in school)

7th January
Children back to school

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!**

Penalty Notice Changes

With the introduction of the new National Framework for Attendance, Punctuality and Penalty Notices on 19th 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 Head of School or 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 magistrate's 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 DfE Blog for Parents](#)



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



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

Community Pages

What is happening in our local area?



Bear cubs



Ages 5 to 10

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

Monday 18th November - Bingo Fun - Bracknell

Monday 2nd December - Christmas Quiz - Online

Monday 16th December - Big on Bouncing - Slough - Small fee applicable

**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



FAMILY FIT TOGETHER

Join us for an exciting opportunity to have fun & be active with your kids. Laugh & bond while getting Fit Together through exercise & sports games.

Saturdays 11.30am-12.30pm
*£5 each per session
50% Sibling discount

Woodlands Park Hall, Manifold Way,
Maidenhead, SL6 3GW

f Lei Lani Fitness or Natalie Lei Lani
@lei_lanifitness
87528440022
natalielelani27@gmail.com



*Block bookings, term time only
Certified Gym Instructor & Personal Trainer
Bootcamps - Legs, Bums & Tums - Sports Birthday Parties - Parent & Baby Classes



COURTHOUSE JUNIOR SCHOOL

OPEN MORNING FOR PROSPECTIVE FAMILIES FOR SEPTEMBER 2025

Come and find out more about our wonderful school and hear from Senior Leaders, Parent Teacher Associates, Governors and our amazing pupils

TUESDAY 26TH NOVEMBER
At 9:15 AM - 10:45 AM

COURTHOUSE JUNIOR SCHOOL
Blenheim Rd, Maidenhead SL6 5HE

MORE INFORMATION

01628 626958

www.courthousejunior.co.uk

NOW YOU SEE ME, NOW YOU DON'T

Don't be a disappearing act this winter



Your bike should have:

- a white light on the front, with a white reflector
- a red light on the back, with a red reflector
- amber reflectors on each pedal (spoke reflectors also helpful)

Wearing bright, high vis and reflective clothing will make you more visible on the road

More info



shg.fyi/WMUGTC

**It is a legal requirement to make sure you ride with
the correct lights when it is dark**