



Alwyn Infant School



Build Belonging

Show Kindness

Make Choices

OUR SCHOOL NEWS

Issue No. 13 | 6th December 2024

What has been happening?

Year 2 Bread Making

Year 2 have been busy bakers this week! As part of our Design and Technology unit we researched different types of bread, how bread is made and the different shapes bread rolls can come in.

To decide on our shape we used playdoh to experiment with different designs and also practised kneading, it was hard work! We made our own dough in groups carefully mixing together the dry ingredients, then we added warm water and took turns mixing it into a dough. We then divided it up and started to knead our dough, finally after 10 minutes shaping it into our bread roll design. I am sure you'll agree they look delicious.



Coffee Morning

Thank to the families who came to the coffee morning. It was a lovely social event full of chat and hopefully new friendships were made. Mr Hyatt provided us all with some wonderful, yummy cakes and mince pies.

We look forward to the next one.



Good luck to Reception

Our children in Reception are looking forward to performing to their grown ups next week. Make sure you know which day your child's class is taking centre stage and we look forward to seeing you there.

At all of our performances there will be a cash collection.

This year we equally divide the donations between our school fund and the charity, 'Children's Hospital Pyjamas'. The charity provides pyjamas for children who have been admitted into hospital and have not had time to pack the essentials needed for a hospital stay. Further details about the charity can be [found here](#).

Plea for tissues

We would be really grateful if you could send in a box of tissues into your child's class. We go through them quite quickly so appreciate the donations.



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



CHRISTMAS LUNCH 2024

Alwyn's Christmas lunch is on Thursday 12 December.

Please note that there will not be any jacket potatoes available on this day.

If you do not place an order your child will need to bring in a packed lunch.

This date is also Christmas/own jumper day.



School Applications for Year 3 or Reception

The application portal is open between 11th November and 15th January. It is extremely important that you complete the form during this time to secure a school place. If you log onto the [RBWM](#) site or look in the Schools and Education section, you will find all the information you need. If you need any help with the application process, contact the school office. You will then be informed of the school offer on 16th April 2025.

Further information can be [found here](#).



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.



Christmas PTA Fundraiser!

Order an award winning turkey from Copas and raise funds for Alwyn & Courthouse PTA

Simply enter the code ALWS24PTA at checkout and Copas Turkeys will donate 5% of your order value to the school PTA.

WWW.COPASFARMSHOP.CO.UK
CALL: 01628 499 980

Raise funds and enjoy an award winning turkey!

CHRISTMAS AUCTION

With family days out, meals for two and perfect presents there's something for everyone.

Bidding closes Sunday 8 December at 9pm

Auction

Our wonderful auction is low live!! With an amazing array of bids, including Sports Camps, Afternoon Tea and Family Adventure, there's something for everyone. Bidding closes on the 8th December so there's plenty of time. [Click here.](#)

Smartphone Free Childhood

Join us on the 21st January, 6-7pm, to hear more about the Smartphone Free Childhood movement. It is a grassroots movement of parents who believe childhood's too short to be spent on a smartphone. Guest speaker Tanya Goodin is a digital detox expert and will provide advice and information on achieving a Smartphone Free Childhood.

The event will take place in Courthouse School Hall and tickets are free so [book a place here.](#)

ALWYN INFANT SCHOOL

January 21st 2025
6-7pm

DIGITAL LIVES AND SMARTPHONE FREE CHILDHOODS

GUEST SPEAKER
TANYA GOODIN

MAX 2 SPACES PER FAMILY

@ Courthouse Junior School

What have Reception been learning this week?

This week in Reception we have been learning about the Christmas story and singing our Christmas songs with great gusto! We have been writing simple Christmas words using our phonics, Christmas cards and wrapping pretend presents! We have also enjoyed dressing up in Christmas and winter costumes and creating our own stories! Linked to circles and triangles we have created our own versions of Starry Night by Van Gogh and Kandinsky's paintings.

Ask me to tell you a word that starts with I and a word that has II at the end

Ask me to tell you the sounds in the word pot

Ask me to tell you the Christmas story

Ask me to show you how many sides and corners a triangle has

Ask me to tell you what my favourite animal movement has been in our underwater theme in PE

Next week Reception will learn the phonic sounds le and ss. In maths we will be looking at shapes with 4 sides.

What have Year 1 been learning this week?

The countdown to Christmas is on in Year 1! The children have been busy learning, rehearsing and preparing for their Christmas performance. In addition to this there have been lots of opportunities for the children to create seasonal art and crafts, some of which will be decorating their classrooms. In English they have continued to develop their understanding of nouns and verbs, as well as beginning to use a question mark in their writing. In Maths the children have been interpreting word questions and working out whether it requires an addition or a subtraction calculation. Well done!

Ask me to tell you what I wrote in my letter to Santa.

Ask me to tell you the number that is '2 more' than a number (up to 10).

Ask me to tell you the number that is '2 less' than a number (up to 10).

Ask me to tell you about a gift that is special to me.

Ask me to write the words 'snow' and 'window'.

Ask me to write the Helpful Words 'go', 'she' and 'are'.

Ask me to name as many 2D shapes as I can.

Next week we will be thinking about 3D shapes in Maths, working on independent writing in English and continuing with the Christmas preparations!

KEY DATES!

School Year 2024-2025

Autumn Term 2 2024-2025

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

12th December
Festive or own jumper day
Christmas lunch

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

23rd December- 3rd January
School closed

6th January
INSET Day (no children in
school)

What have Year 2 been learning this week?

Year 2 have been enjoying creating repeating patterns with 2 and 3 D shapes in maths and sorting 3D shapes into different categories, such as ones that can roll and ones that can't.

In science we have been investigating the differences between brick and rock. We found out that brick is human made and rock is naturally occurring. We also thought about suitable materials for building and discussed why rock is not a suitable material for a cycle helmet!

In Geography we drew a map of a park using a key to indicate what features were in our park.

Ask me to tell you what a pattern is

Ask me to tell you some 3D shapes that can roll and some that can stack

Ask me to tell you a simile to describe jewels

Ask me to tell you a simile to describe a wolf's teeth

Ask me to tell you why rock is not a suitable material for the following-

Window

Door

Bike helmet

Ask me to tell you why rock is a suitable material for the following-

Wall

House

Bridge

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

6th January
INSET Day (no children in school)

7th January
Children back to school

13-17th January
Music Week

21st January, 6-7pm
Smartphone Free Childhood Talk
at Courthouse

10th-14th February
Book Week and Book Fair
Visiting authors/poets/illustrators

17th-21st February
HALF TERM - SCHOOL CLOSED
Reading Challenge

24th February
Children back to school

24th-28th February
Art/DT Week

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

11th & 13th March
Parents Evening

17th-21st March
Grown Ups into School
Afternoons

21st March
Comic Relief/Red Nose Day

25th March
Year 2 Trip to The LookOut



Alwyn performance time is coming!



Reception Christmas Performances, 10th-12th December, 9.30am

Our three reception classes will perform some fantastic seasonal songs, usually with actions, to their parents and families. The performances are the same on each day, however one class will take the centre stage at the different performances.

**Ash class on 10th December, Oak class on 11th December,
Elm class on 12th December**

There is no need to request tickets for these performances.

There will be a cash collection after each performance for our chosen charity.



Year 1 Christmas Performances, 16th-18th December, 9.30am

The Year 1 classes will be working together to perform 'Humph the Camel'. They will repeat the same performance on each of the three days however you will need to order tickets in advance using [this order form](#).

The numbers for each performance are limited due to Health and Safety reasons so put in your requests promptly. Each performance will be the same and include all of the three classes in Year 1.

We can allocate up to 2 tickets per family (in total, not per performance), however there is an option of requesting further tickets if they become available. The extra tickets are not guaranteed so if you do not receive confirmation then your request has not been successful.

There will be a cash collection after each performance for our chosen charity.



Festive Songs with Year 2, 18th December, 2.30pm

Our Year 2 parents are invited to come and listen to, or join in, with some festive songs and carols. This should be a jolly occasion and allow the children to demonstrate their singing talents.

There is no need to request a ticket for this. Just turn up ready to sing!

At all of our performances there will be a cash collection

This year we equally divide the donations between our school fund and the charity, 'Children's Hospital Pyjamas'. The charity provides pyjamas for children who have been admitted into hospital and have not had time to pack the essentials needed for a hospital stay. Further details about the charity can be [found here](#).





Caterlink Christmas Lunch Menu

Thursday 12th December 2024

(also Christmas Jumper Day)

Roast Turkey and Pork Chipolata Sausage (beef casing)

or

Roast Halal Turkey and Vegan Christmas Chipolata

or

Sweet Potato/Parsnip Loaf and Vegan Christmas Chipolata

WITH

Roast Potatoes, Sage & Onion Stuffing, Garden Peas and Carrots

DESSERT

Christmas Pudding Rice Krispie Cake

**Please order on Parent Pay by
Monday 25th November 2024**

Please note that there will not be any Jacket Potatoes on this day

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.](#)

YOU SHALL GO TO THE BALL... MAIDENHEAD PANTO STYLE!

SATURDAY 14 – TUESDAY 24 DECEMBER 2024



BAYLIS THEATRE, BRAYWICK LEISURE CENTRE
BRAYWICK ROAD, MAIDENHEAD, SL6 1BN

SCAN ME



TICKETS FROM £17*
BOX OFFICE 0333 666 3366
MAIDENHEADPANTO.CO.UK

*CONDITIONS AND BOOKING FEES APPLY

Supported by



LEISURE FOCUS



You shall go to the ball! Oh yes you are ... oh no you're not ... oh yes you are!!!
What better way to celebrate the end of a long year, than some good old fashioned family fun at this year's Maidenhead panto "Cinderella" at the fabulous Baylis Theatre at Braywick Leisure Centre.

Our families can get £3 off every ticket for pupils using the code AMSSP-2024_PUPIL. Valid at 5pm on Sunday 15 December 2024 and 5pm on Saturday 21 December 2024 ONLY

EARLY BOOKING OFFER expires on 22 November 2024.
Discount applies to adult and under 16s tickets only.

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



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



Roots and Branches
Building the community together

Maidenhead PCN Roots and Branches proudly present a Children and Young People's seminar where you can come and talk to our CYP and Family Social Prescribers to build a profile of your child as supportive evidence for school/EHCP's and strategies and tools to help support those with neurodivergence or any challenges that may be arising in school or at home.

Tuesday 17th December from 10-12

St Marks Hospital Maidenhead in the large conference room. (Head to the Courtyard café and a member of the team will meet you there).

If this is of interest, please respond to this poster via email with confirmation that you would like to attend to:

be-pct.socialprescribing@nhs.net

If for any reason you cannot make this seminar, please give 48 hours' notice so we can offer your place to another parent in the community.

We look forward to seeing you there,
Roots and Branches (Maidenhead PCN)



We're encouraging all parents to Think Pharmacy First



Did you know that community pharmacies can now offer clinical appointments with medication available (if required) for **five clinical conditions** particularly relevant to school age children?

- Ear ache (children aged 1-17)
- Sore throat (over 5s)
- Infected insect bites (over 1s)
- Impetigo (over 1s)
- Sinusitis (over 12s)

GP practices are busy and making an appointment with them is not always necessary!

When your child is ill with any of these conditions, head straight to your local community pharmacy where you can have a consultation with a trained clinical professional and receive advice, guidance and even medication if it's needed. Lets get your child on the road to recovery as soon as possible.



The majority of Frimley Health and Care community pharmacies offer the Pharmacy First service.

Remember - if your child has an ear ache, sore throat, impetigo symptoms or a suspected infected insect bite think Pharmacy First.

For more information visit: www.nhs.uk/nhs-services/pharmacies

let them play!

Winter HOLIDAY CAMPS

Multi-activity

Football

BOOK NOW

Holiday Camps run from 9am-3pm*, Ages 5-12 years old.
Week 1: 23rd December, Week 2: 2nd & 3rd January, Inset day camp: 6th Jan*

MULTI-ACTIVITY		FOOTBALL	
Reading: Calcot Junior School	Reading: Calcot Junior School		
Maidenhead: Alwyn Infants School	Newbury: Winchcombe School		
Newbury: Winchcombe School			

DISCOUNT CODE: SNOW15 15% OFF

Discount offer ends 1st December
Extended day 8:30am-5pm & Inset day camp* Newbury Camp only
Christmas Party day 23rd December at ALL venues
For Holiday Camp enquiries- email holidaycamps@mnrcocb.org

HAF funded spaces available

CHRISTMAS TOUCH RUGBY CAMP

2 & 3 JAN 2025

AGES 5-17

Hosted by Regional and National Qualified Touch Rugby Coaches.

Cost: £35 for 1 day (9.30am - 3:00pm) or £60 for 2 days. 10% sibling discount.
Includes FREE hot chocolate!!

Venue: Maidenhead RFC, Braywick Park, Braywick Road, Maidenhead SL6 1BN

REGISTER

To register your junior or for more information, please email sammie@in2touch.com

Camps in association with England Touch's West Region @wildcatstouch
wildcatsjuniorstouch@gmail.com

THE LANTERN PARADE

CARNIVAL OF THE ANIMALS
OUR ANIMAL NEIGHBOURS

SATURDAY 7 DECEMBER 2024

Free Event

With music from Babel Brass Band and Ronak Mela Baja

4.30pm Entertainment starts outside Maidenhead Town Hall
5pm Parade departs from the Town Hall
5.45pm - 6.15pm Entertainment continues

Get parade ready by joining us at a Lantern Making Workshop!

FIND OUT MORE

[nordenfarm.org](https://www.nordenfarm.org) 01628 788997

Norden Farm Centre for the Arts Maidenhead

STAND OUT FOR AUTISM

STAND OUT FOR AUTISM PRESENTS

CHRISTMAS SENSORY BUS

DEC 14

SENSORY BUS SANTA'S GROTTTO, FAKE SNOW, CHRISTMAS SENSORY TOYS & GIFTS TO BUY PLUS LIVE MUSIC, FOOD & DRINK

OUTSIDE OFF THE TAP, HIGH STREET, MAIDENHEAD SL6 1EA

OFF THE TAP