



Alwyn Infant School



Build Belonging

Show Kindness

Make Choices

OUR SCHOOL NEWS

Issue No. 16 | 10th January 2025

What has been happening?

Happy New Year!

We hope you all had a lovely two week break, full of family fun. The children are all looking very happy to be back in their classrooms and they have enjoyed sharing their holiday news.

Much of the talk has been based around the idea of starting a new calendar year as an opportunity for new starts and setting an achievable goal- a New Year's Resolution.

I am not sure my goal of eating fewer biscuits is very achievable but I will try with a little bit of help! (I am sure I had that goal last year too)

Staffing

We have some new members of staff who have joined the Alwyn Team this term. We are pleased to welcome to our two new teachers in Year 1, Mrs Andrade and Mrs Moal.

Miss Rankin has also joined as a teaching assistant and will be supporting the children in Hazel class.

I am very pleased to welcome them to our school as they have already made such a positive impact on the children and their learning.

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.**

Is my child well enough for school?

The increase in colds and illnesses may cause you to feel less confident with knowing if your child is well enough for school. It is fine to send your child to school with mild respiratory illnesses. This would include general cold symptoms: a minor cough, runny nose or sore throat. However, children should not be sent to school if they have a temperature of 38°C or above. We would encourage you to visit the NHS '[Is my child too ill for school?](#)' for further information.

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 Applications for Year 3 or Reception in September 2025 must be completed and submitted by Wednesday 15th January.

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.

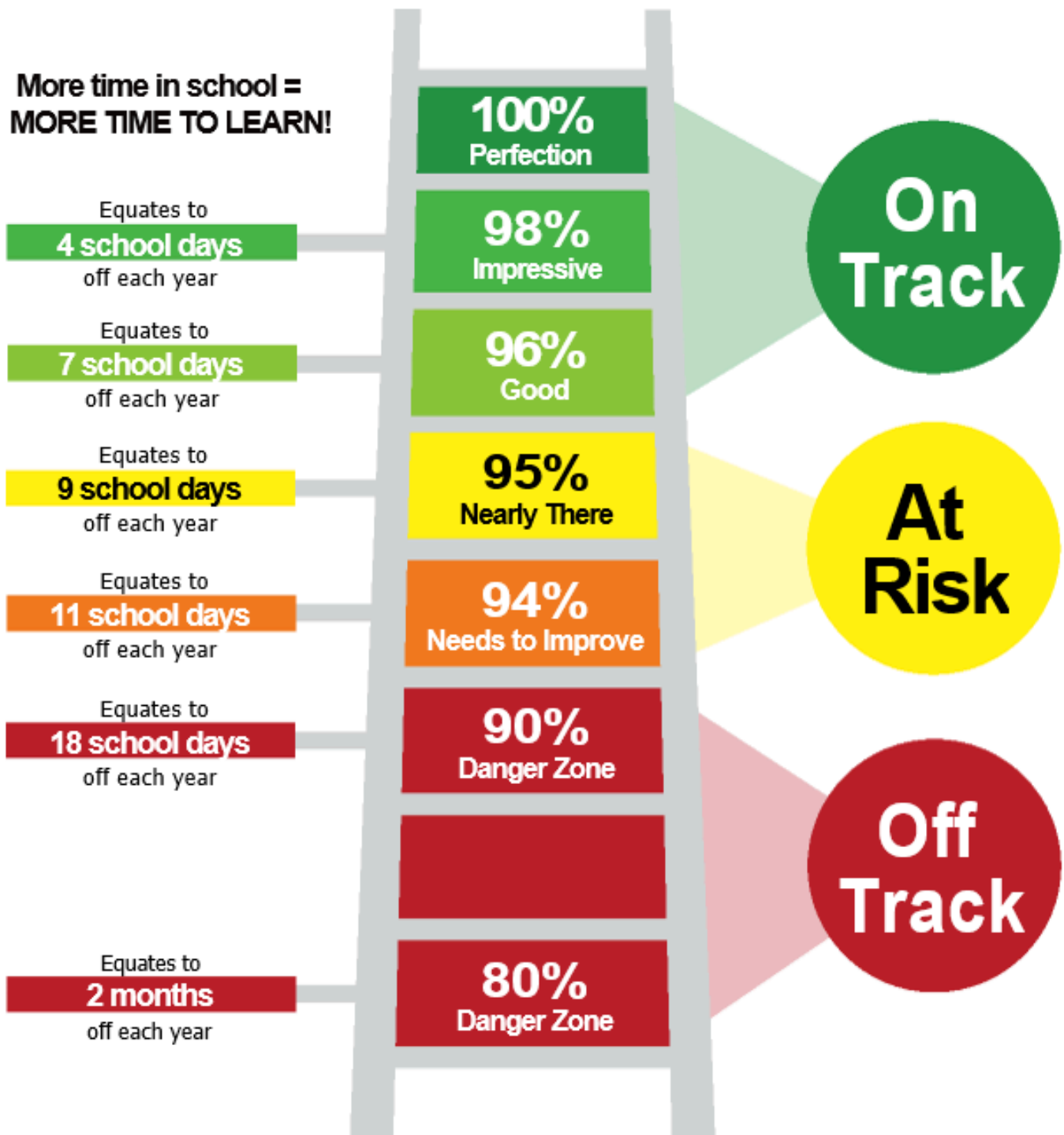
Further information can be [found here](#).



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.

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.

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.](#)

What have Reception been learning this week?

This week in Reception we have started our topic of Wonderful Winter. We were lucky to get a bit of snow and ice which helped to kick off our learning about Winter. We have been looking at our winter landscapes and what we wear in Summer or Winter. This has led us on to thinking how animals cope with the cold weather and we have been finding out about hibernation. We had lots of fun exploring the hard ice and melting snow.

Ask me to tell you a word starting with j and a word with v in it

Ask me to tell you some animals that hibernate in Winter

Ask me to roll a dice and then jump the number of times that it shows

Ask me to tell you the story of Foxes in the Snow

Ask me to tell you some things that are safe to put into my body.

Next week Reception will learn the phonic sounds w and x. In Maths we will be focusing on counting, ordinality and cardinality to 5. We have also got Music Week so will be listening to and making lots of music.

What have Year 1 been learning this week?

It has been lovely to welcome back the Year 1 children in 2025! We enjoyed looking at snow that fell on the first day back and what we did in our holidays. We are very excited to start a new year of fun topics. This week we began our Science unit on animals and discussed mammals and birds. We also learnt to retell the story 'Lost and Found' and we worked with numbers up to 20 in maths. Remember to look out for the maths homework sent home on Friday.

Ask me what all mammals have on their bodies.

Ask me what to name a mammal that we can keep as a pet.

Ask me to name a mammal that is a wild animal.

Ask me to name some of the features of a bird.

Ask me to explain number thirteen.

Ask me to complete the stem sentence: 19 is made of ___ ten and ___.

Ask me to tell you what Oliver (in Lost and Found) was looking for.

KEY DATES!

School Year 2024-2025

Spring Term 3 2024-2025

13-17th January

Music Week- workshops and visitors throughout the week to enrich the children's learning and appreciation of music

21st January, 6-7pm

Smartphone Free Childhood Talk at Courthouse School Hall

21st January

Pine class Pillo Polo Festival at Furze Platt Senior School

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.

What have Year 2 been learning this week?

Year 2 had a positive start to the Spring Term with lots of focus on new beginnings and resolutions. One of our favourite activities was making a 2024 memory box which incorporated our maths skills by making the box from a net and our art skills in drawing our memories.

In maths, we have started a new topic of money. We have been recognising coins and notes and counting amounts in 1's, 2's, 5's, and 10's. We had an interesting discussion about how coins have changed since King Charles' reign.

We also started a new topic in history about Brunel. It was very exciting to find out that he built the railway bridge in Maidenhead and we can't wait to find out more!

Ask me to name all of the different coins

Ask me to name all of the different notes

Ask me to compare £2 and 2p

Ask me to name four different fabrics

Ask me to tell you which of these fabrics would be most suitable for a PE kit

Ask me to describe the properties of fabric

Ask me to name the engineer we are learning about

Ask me to tell you why he is a significant person

Ask me to tell you the four structures he is famous for

Next week, we will be participating in lots of exciting musical activities during music week.

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

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

Spring Term 4 2024-2025

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'/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
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.



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.

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

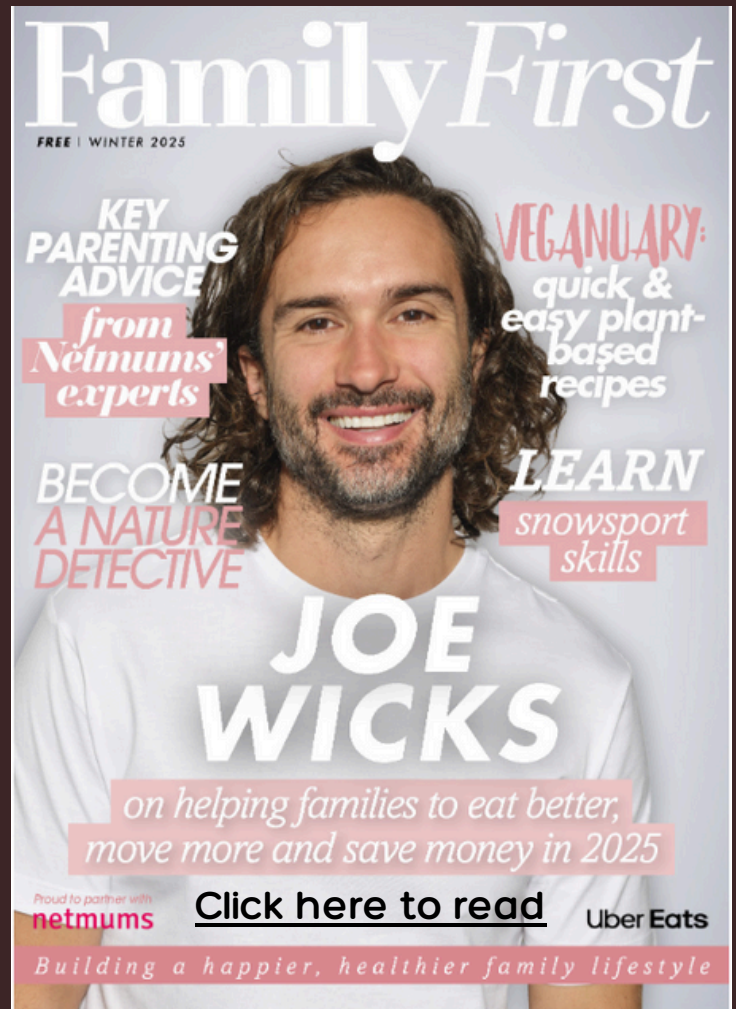
*Please note activities may be subject to change

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



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

[@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](#)