



# Alwyn Infant School



Build Belonging

Show Kindness

Make Choices

## OUR SCHOOL NEWS

Issue No. 17 | 17th January 2025

### What has been happening?

#### A Fantastic Music Week, Mrs Booth

The children at Alwyn had a very musical time. As part of our annual music week we've had drumming, singing, parents and teachers performing and much more.

We started on Monday with delivering a Sing and Sign workshop. We learnt how to sing a song about sunshine using signs. Claire not only sang the songs but she had also written them. Thank you Claire.

Bridget and her recorder group came to perform on Monday afternoon. They treated us to some fabulous music and showed us all of the different types of recorders they have from the tiny soprano to the huge contra bass.

On Tuesday, Years 1 and 2 took part in a junk drumming workshop with Paul from Drum Runners. They practised drumming patterns and songs and played instruments that had been made entirely from unwanted items such as pipes, barrels and even bicycle wheels! Reception took part in a singing session with Ziggy's music. They sang songs about arctic animals and played lots of percussion instruments.

Thank you also to Mrs Ridley from Courthouse for Year 1's Boomwhaker and Year 2's drumming workshop that took place this week. Plus, a huge thanks to our musical parents who came to perform for us.

It was an amazing week where the children were able to explore their creative, musical skills and extend their music learning.



#### Staffing

We are so excited to let you know that Mrs Novelle had a gorgeous baby girl. The new family are all doing well and looking forward to getting to know each other.

#### 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 Attendance and Punctuality Phone Calls

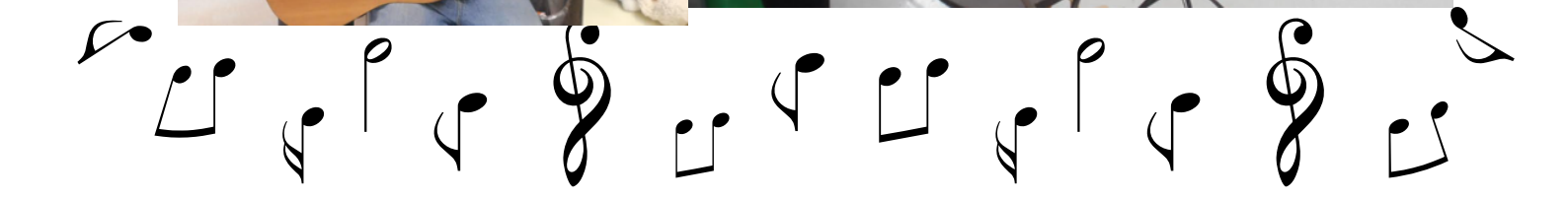
We monitor school attendance very closely in line with local and government rules. If your child's attendance is below 90%, we will contact you over the next few weeks to discuss the reasons and see if we can offer any support or guidance. We accept that illnesses cannot be helped and if your child is 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.



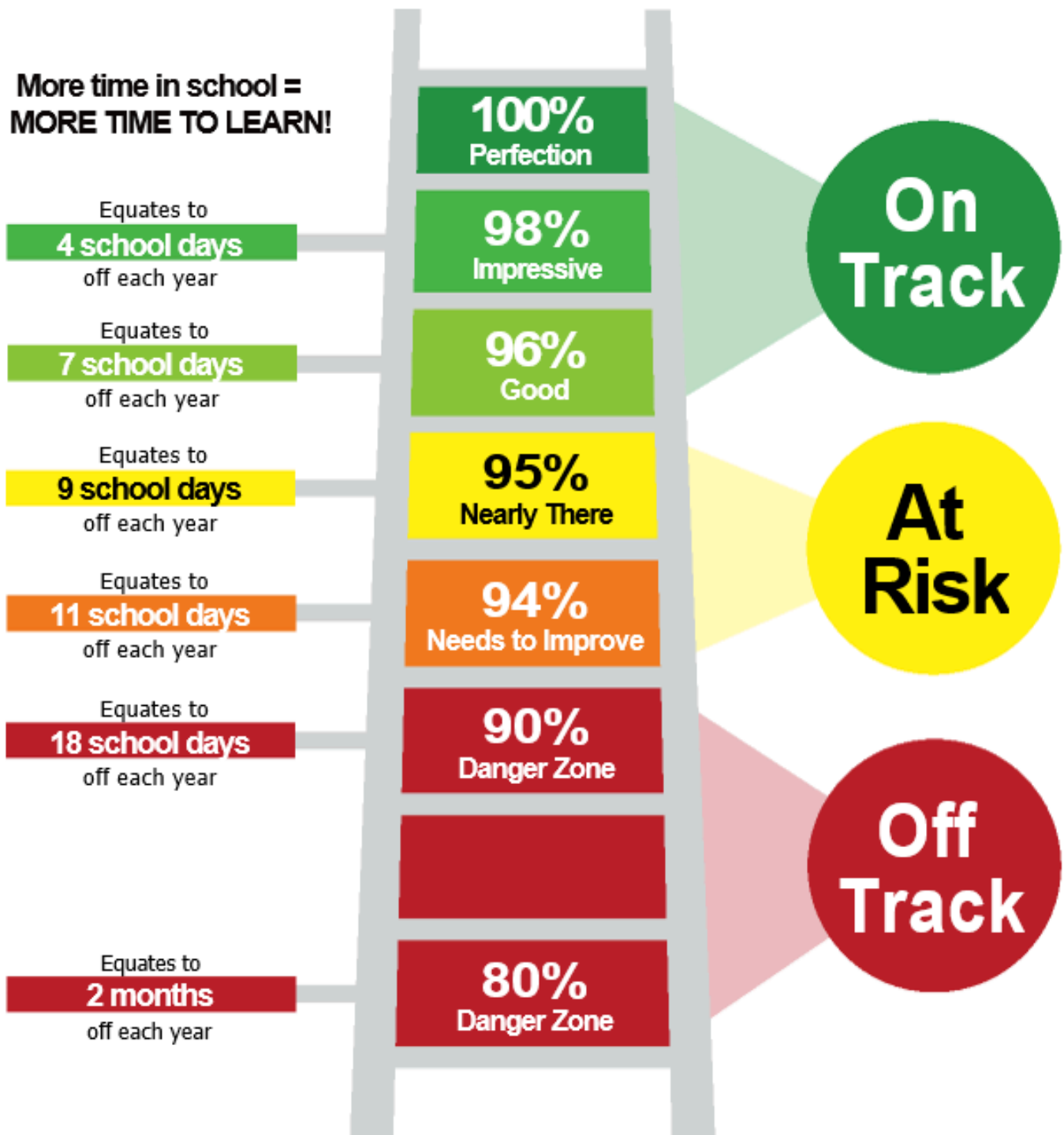
**MUSIC**





# 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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 had great fun listening to and joining in with musical activities. We have had parents come into school and play different instruments which was interesting. Music week kicked off with a brilliant sing and sign assembly where we sang songs about the sun and different activities we could do. We have had the opportunity to play lots of different instruments in our outside area. On Thursday we had a fun singing and movement session with Ziggy's. We sang songs and waddled about like penguins in the South pole, and got to play instruments and pretend we were in an orchestra! Do ask me what my favourite music activity was!

**Ask me to tell you a word that starts with w and a word that has x in it**

**Ask me to show you how to build 5 towers, of 1,2,3,4,5 and ask what can I notice**

**Ask me about the Ziggy's music session we had**

**Ask me what musical instruments we saw and heard this week**

**Ask me to tell you the story Jonty Gentoo**

**Next week Reception will be learning the graphemes y and z. In maths, we are looking at the composition of 5 and weighing and mass.**

## What have Year 1 been learning this week?

This week we have really enjoyed a range of music workshops. We did drumming and learnt about beats, we listened to a woodwind band and enjoyed learning how to sign along to a song we sang. We also enjoyed a Boomwhaker workshop and learnt how to play along to a song. We started weaving practise in Art inspired by the artist Margot Selby and we compared Old Alwyn School to New Alwyn School in history.

**Ask me to name a conjunction.**

**Ask me to use the conjunction 'and' in a sentence.**

**Ask me to use the conjunction 'because' in a sentence.**

**Ask me to read the following words: yawn, dawn, jigsaw, withdraw, lawn.**

**Ask me to tell you 1 more than these numbers: 4, 8, 17, 12.**

**Ask me to tell you 1 less than these numbers: 3, 16, 20, 14.**

Next week we will be creating our own Lost and Found story by changing parts of the story we've been learning.

# KEY DATES!

## School Year 2024-2025

### Spring Term 3 2024-2025

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 have enjoyed an exciting week of music and money! As it was music week, we read and listened to Peter and the Wolf, a symphonic tale by Prokofiev. In the story, each character is represented by a musical instrument. We learned about many different instruments, what a composer is and wrote the story. In maths, we have continued our work on money. This week, we were finding out different ways of making amounts and adding pounds and pence.

**Ask me to tell you what a composer does**

**Ask me to tell you which instruments represented the following characters in Peter and the Wolf-**

Peter

The duck

Grandad

The wolf

**Ask me how many different ways I can make the following amounts with coins-**

10p

21p

56p

98p

**Ask me to tell you why cups can be made from plastic, china, metal and glass**

**Ask me to name some objects that can be made from different materials**

## 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.

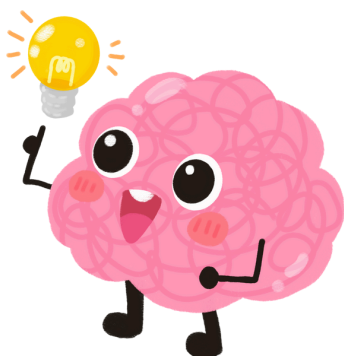


## Smartphone Free Childhood

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.



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

Thank you



# 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.



## 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

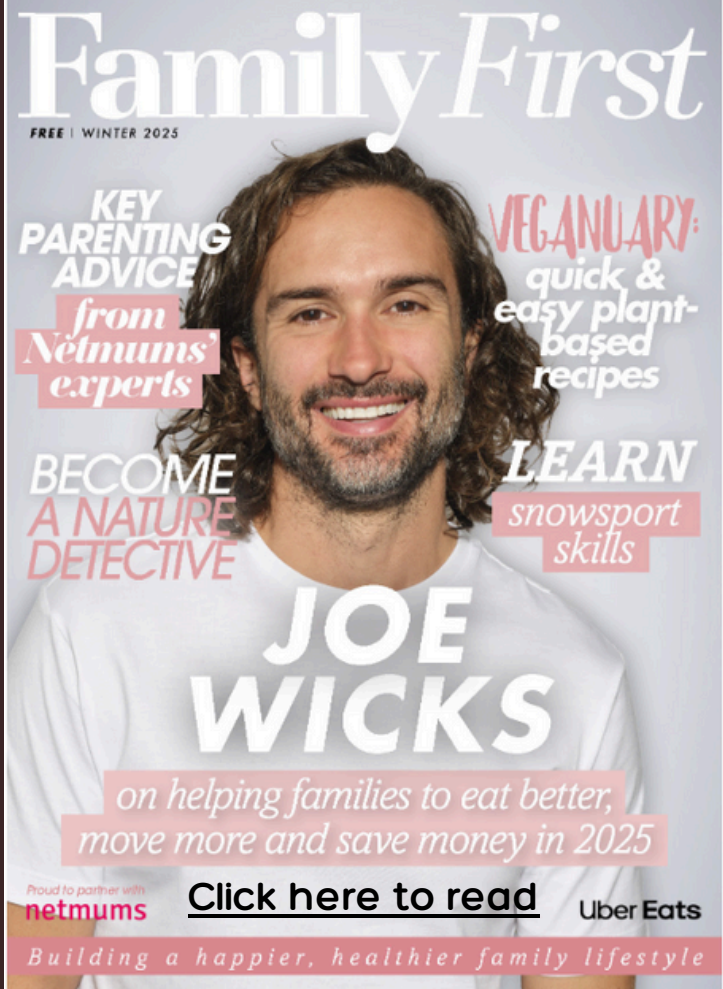
\*Please note activities may be subject to change

**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](#)



**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**

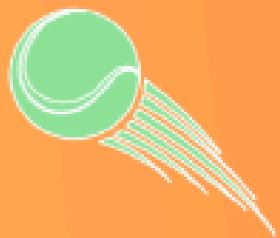
**YEAR 4 - 6  
6:20pm-  
7:20pm**

**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)**