

### Welcome back

We hope you all had a restful break and enjoyed some time together as families re-energising ready for 2026. The pupils have returned to school well prepared and their behaviour has been brilliant – this was celebrated in assemblies this week. We have issued a reminder to pupils about uniform expectations: active uniform, **plain black trainers**, no makeup or nail varnish and shoulder length hair tied up. In addition, pupils should come to school in weather appropriate outdoor clothing (coats, hats, gloves etc). Please support with this at home. Thank you to the families who were on goat rota over the festive period -we appreciate you helping always and especially during the festive period. Shelly had a great holiday with one of our families – she is already booked in for February half term but if you would like her to come and stay over a weekend or school holiday, please email [office@alwoodley.net](mailto:office@alwoodley.net) and this can be arranged.



### OPAL

It is hard to believe that we are two years into our OPAL journey. On Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup>, our OPAL mentor will come into school to carry out our final audit and assessment. Thank you to those families who took the time to complete the surveys we sent out. We will let you know the outcome once we have it. This will not mark the end of OPAL – we will remain dedicated to a fun and robust play offer so that pupils can enjoy their outdoor learning as much as their indoor lessons.

### Spelling

Last week a letter was sent out to families providing information on our new approach to teaching spelling across school. It is important that families are familiar with this as spelling is an important basic skill that transcends the whole curriculum. The link for the letter is here <https://primarysite-prod-sorted.s3.amazonaws.com/alwoodley-primary-school/UploadedDocument/4316dff2-67ba-4bc6-996f-522e3503b3d4/spelling-at-aps.pdf>

### Digital lives

The Children's Commissioner has launched a new guide, "*What I wish my parents or carers knew...*", designed to help parents and carers confidently manage children's digital lives. The resource offers practical tips for initiating honest conversations, setting healthy boundaries, understanding evolving online behaviours, and fostering a trusting environment—so children feel supported and safe as they navigate an online world that isn't always built with their best interests at heart. For more information click the link <https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/resource/what-i-wish-my-parents-or-carers-knew-a-guide-for-parents-and-carers-on-managing-childrens-digital-lives/>

### Goat group

We sent a letter out this week in the hope we can recruit some more families to our goat care group. If you missed this and would like further details, please email [office@alwoodley.net](mailto:office@alwoodley.net)

### Diary Dates

#### Teacher Training Days

20<sup>th</sup> July 2026

21<sup>st</sup> July 2026.

**27<sup>th</sup> Jan** – Year 5 poetry slam in school.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Feb** – Reception pupils to visit Nell Bank.

**9<sup>th</sup> Feb** – Willow 4 music showcase – more details to follow

#### Parents' consultation meetings

10<sup>th</sup> Feb – R, Y3, Y4, Y5  
 11<sup>th</sup> N, Y1, Y2 Y6 – timings 2:15-7.00pm

**23<sup>rd</sup> Feb** – Height & Weight visit from NHS for Rec & Y6.

**28<sup>th</sup> Feb** – FOA Quiz Night

#### School Instagram

**@alwoodleyprimaryschool**  
**Friends of Alwoodley**

If you would like to know more about our FOA work and how you can help us, please visit the FOA page on the school website. This is such a vital part of our community. We are currently fundraising for a new OPAL area designed to allow climbing, crawling and sliding.

<https://www.alwoodleyprimary.net/friends-of-alwoodley-1/>



### **Items from home**

This week, we've noticed that some children have been bringing items from home that are not required for school, such as small toys, books, and makeup. Please help us by reminding your child that only requested items (e.g., pencil cases) should be brought in. Your support ensures consistency and fairness for all pupils.

### **Library books**

We are delighted to see so many children enjoying our wonderful new library and the vast selection of books now available on site. However, we currently have 156 overdue books that have not been returned since last academic year. We kindly ask families to have a look at home—please check bookcases, behind sofas, under beds, and anywhere else a book might be hiding! If you find any school books, simply send them back in with your child. No questions asked—we just want to make sure these books are available for everyone to enjoy.

### **Champion music school status**

We are delighted to share that Alwoodley Primary has been awarded Champion Music School status. This wonderful achievement means our school has been recognised as a centre of excellence for music in Leeds. We are 1 of 19 schools in the city to be awarded this. Earlier this week, several staff members attended a special celebration evening where they were proudly presented with a certificate and a banner to mark this honour. Well done to everyone involved—this recognition reflects the hard work, enthusiasm, and musical talent across our school community.

### **Year 5 refugee workshop with the British Library**

Year 5 had a fantastic opportunity to work with the British Library this week to explore the journey of Azzi, a refugee, through drama. The workshop was a brilliant experience that encouraged pupils to use empathy, make thoughtful decisions, and express their creativity as they brought Azzi's story to life. Well done to Year 5 for engaging so thoughtfully with such an important and meaningful project.

### **Attendance**

We would like to remind you that our whole-school attendance target is **97%**, and at present we are slightly behind at **95.6%**. Good attendance and punctuality is vital for your child's learning and progress, and we appreciate your continued support in helping us reach our goal.

Please ensure that **all absences are reported on Arbor before 9:00am** each day. This helps us keep accurate records and maintain the highest standards of safeguarding for all pupils.

Thank you for working with us to promote excellent attendance.


### **Parents' Consultation Meetings & Taster Menu**


The dates for our upcoming **Parents' Consultation Meetings**:


- **10th February:** Reception, Year 3, Year 4, Year 5
  - **11th February:** Nursery, Year 1, Year 2, Year 6
- Timings for both days: 2:15pm – 7:00pm**

Alongside the meetings, our new catering provider, **FM**, will be offering a **taster menu for parents**. We warmly encourage you to **visit the dining hall** during your appointment to sample a selection of the delicious meals that children will enjoy throughout the year.

Safeguarding Team: Mr. German, Miss Hill, Miss Pattenden, Mrs. Wray & Mrs. Shaw

 Website:  
[www.alwoodleyprimary.net](http://www.alwoodleyprimary.net)

 Contact:  
0113 2686104

 Email:  
[office@alwoodley.net](mailto:office@alwoodley.net)