

As we wrap up a long and successful Autumn term, we want to thank you for your continued support. So much has happened this term: visits out, visitors in, movie night, wreath making night and winter fair. The children have worked incredibly hard, and we are proud of all they have achieved. We hope you enjoy a restful and joyful break with your families. We look forward to welcoming the children back to school, refreshed and ready for an exciting new term, on **Monday 5th January 2026**.

**Firepit sessions**

This week, classes have been getting into the festive spirit around the firepit. They have listened to stories and music and enjoy hot chocolate and marshmallows. They looked incredible in their Christmas jumpers.



**Working together**

We have recently noticed an increase in pupils using derogatory name-calling and inappropriate language. Please be assured that we always challenge this behaviour, apply appropriate consequences, and use these moments as opportunities to educate pupils about respect and inclusion. As part of this, we teach them about the *protected characteristics* under the Equality Act. These are aspects of identity that must never be targeted or disrespected. Parents and carers often tell us they do not hear these words at home, which we understand; however, we encourage you to check parental controls on devices and monitor what your child is

watching or accessing online, as this can have a significant influence on language and attitudes. Working together, we can help ensure a positive and respectful environment for all.

**Online safety**

With many of our children due to be off school and with access to new technology in the upcoming school holidays and Christmas period, the potential for online exploitation will be at its highest. We have attached an information leaflet created by Leeds Prevent to support with this.

**Musical celebrations**

Thank you to all our families for joining us and supporting our Christmas performances! It was such a joy to celebrate the season together. We loved listening to the beautiful winter-themed songs from Nursery and Reception – they truly set the festive tone. Year 1 and Year 2 amazed us with their confidence and charm on stage; their bravery and ability to make us all smile was inspiring. Year 3 impressed everyone with a fantastic drumming concert, showcasing rhythm and teamwork, woodwind and recorders added to the magic with their showcase and our Choir Club ended their block with an incredible performance that filled the hall with music and cheer. We are so proud of every child and grateful to you for sharing these special moments with us.

**Parking Reminder**

We understand that parking can be challenging, especially with St Paul's families and sometimes Allerton High families using the adjacent streets for drop-off and collection. We kindly ask parents to avoid parking on corners, as this can block dropped kerbs where children cross. Please do not park on the lines and remember to be courteous to one another and to staff who are out there supporting. Last week, there was a small accident outside school; we want to avoid any further incidents which is why we are committed to having a staff presence outside before and after school.

**Diary Dates**

**Teacher Training Days**

19th December 2025  
 20th July 2026  
 21st July 2026.

18th December – 4, 5 & 6 to Leeds Playhouse.  
 18th December – Last Day in School.

Monday 5th January – return to school  
 Monday 12th January – Year 5 British Library Workshop

**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/>

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



### **Free School Meals, Could Your Child Be Eligible?**

All children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 receive a free school meal through the Universal Infant Free School Meals scheme and some families are also entitled to Free School Meal (FSM) status based on their household income or benefits.

FSM status gives families access to extra support and brings additional funding into school so it is important to check, even if your child is already receiving a free meal.

### **Who can apply?**

Children may be eligible for free school meals if their parents or carers receive any of the following benefits:

- income support
- income based Job Seeker's Allowance
- income based Employment and Support Allowance
- Child Tax Credit with an annual income of less than £16,190
- the guaranteed element of the State Pension Credit
- the guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Universal Credit with an annual income of less than £7,400

If a child receives free school meals, they will continue to get them, even if their parents' income changes. This is called transitional protection and will remain in place until 7 September 2026.

After 7 September 2026, transitional protection and the £7,400 annual earnings threshold for universal credit will no longer apply. This means that to qualify for free school meals, the parent will simply need to be in receipt of universal credit irrespective of how much their earnings are. Further details will be shared nearer the time.

### **How to apply**

If you think your child could be eligible for free school meals, you can apply online or by completing the claim form.

If you live in Leeds and you do not already receive Housing Benefit or Council Tax Support, you will need to complete the [online form](#).

If you are already in receipt of Housing Benefit or Council Tax Support, complete and return the [free school meals claim form \(Word 0.3MB\)](#) to:

Welfare and Benefits (FSM Claims)

Leeds City Council

PO Box 911

Leeds

LS1 9WJ

### **Why it matters**

When families apply for FSM and are confirmed as eligible, it brings significant benefits:

### **For your child**

A free, healthy meal every day (and continued entitlement beyond Year 2).

Access to additional support such as help with reduced music lessons, school trips and residential.

Greater support for learning and wellbeing.

### **For the school**

FSM eligibility generates Pupil Premium funding, which the school uses to:

Provide extra teaching and classroom support

Offer targeted interventions

Improve resources and enrichment opportunities for children

Every eligible child registered helps us make a real difference.

If you think you may qualify, or even if you're not sure, please get in touch with the school office. We are always happy to help.

### **Staff News**

Congratulations to Mrs Fox who has welcomed a new baby boy into the family. Baby Ezra arrived just in time for Christmas and we wish the Fox family all the best and know they are enjoying lots of baby cuddles. Mrs Fairbanks and Miss Ryan are both leaving us at the end of this week. We would like to wish them both the best and thank them for their hard work and contribution to life at Alwoodley Primary School. Mrs Hickman will join the school in January to work with Mrs Black as the teachers of Maple Reception.

### **Attendance**


The winners of this half term attendance are KS2 - Rowan 5 - 98.05% KS1 - Cherry 3 - 96.78% both classes celebrated with an extra playtime.


Thank you to everyone for helping achieve our school attendance target if you do have anything that you would like to discuss further, please do not hesitate to contact Jo Shaw - Attendance Officer on: [jo.shaw@alwoodley.net](mailto:jo.shaw@alwoodley.net)


### **Final thoughts**

We wish you all a wonderful Christmas. If you are stuck for ways to entertain the family, please see the attached winter guide for some inspiration.

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

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