



Happy New Year

Happy New Year. We hope you all had a restful and enjoyable break. It's wonderful to see the children back and ready for a new term of learning and fun.

We do acknowledge that this week brings its challenges, with cold weather and icy conditions making journeys to school more difficult. Please rest assured that we are monitoring the situation daily to ensure the safety of our school community. We will communicate any updates promptly if conditions require adjustments to the usual routine.

Thank you for your understanding and support as we navigate this frosty start to the new year.

Staffing updates

We would like to inform parents and carers that Mrs. J. Thompson has decided to resign from her post at Alwoodley Primary School. Mrs. Thompson has taught in our school for 19 years, working across various year groups, from Early Years through to Year Three. We are grateful for her hard work and the positive impact she has had on the children she has taught. We wish Mrs. Thompson every success and happiness in her future endeavours.

Additionally, we would like to thank Dominic Noteman for his commitment to football coaching during lunchtimes as his time at Alwoodley has come to an end. We extend our thanks to Dominic for his time and effort in

supporting the development of football across school.

Travel Tracker

During the autumn term, our school has recorded a total of **16703** active trips, of which **9718** were walking all the way trips. This equates to **53% walking trips**, a **14%** increase from your baseline. Not only this, but this term our school has seen an **84% decrease in car trips** from baseline, too. Thank you - Your hard work is making a difference.

It goes without saying that there are many benefits of walking to school – it can help boost mental health, reduce air pollution and congestion and supports a cleaner, greener community. As we venture into the Spring term we hope you are motivated to continue supporting this initiative.

Wellies

As part of our outdoor learning and OPAL activities, we will soon let you know when we would like wellies to be returned to the school site for storage and use. At present, the field is being rested, so wellies are not currently necessary. When it is time for them to come back, it is essential that each pair has your child's name and class written clearly inside. This will help us ensure any misplaced wellies can be quickly reunited with their rightful owners. We are always happy to return lost property, as long as we know where it belongs.

Diary Dates

Sunday 12th January: Noodle's birthday

Thursday 23rd February – Year 5 Poetry Slam

Thursday 6th February – Reception trip to Nell Bank

Thursday 6th February Nico's birthday

Friday 14th February Nero's birthday

Wednesday 12th February Nursery, Reception, Years 1 & 2 parents' meetings *2:15-7:15 (Nursery to start at 3:30)*

Thursday 13th February Years 3, 4, 5 & 6 parents' meetings *2:15-7:15*


Friday 14th February – Last day in school before the half-term break. The children return to school on **Monday 24th February**.


Uniform


Scan the QR code below to access the uniform exchange page on Facebook.



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

Website:
 www.alwoodleyprimary.net

Contact:
 0113 2686104

Email:
 office@alwoodley.net



Clothing recycling

You may have noticed the white clothing recycling bin in the main car park. If you are having a post-Christmas clear-out, please consider donating any old clothes by placing them in bags and depositing them in this bin. Once full, the bin is collected, weighed, and the school earns money based on the weight of the donations. Thank you for supporting this initiative—it's a great way to recycle and raise funds for our school!

Wellbeing tips

As we begin a new year, January can be a time of fresh starts but also a challenging month for children and families adjusting back to routines after the holidays. Here are some well-being tips to help keep everyone feeling positive and supported:

Prioritise Sleep

After the excitement of the festive season, re-establishing a good sleep routine is essential. Aim for consistent bedtimes and wake-up times to help children feel rested and ready to learn.

Encourage Outdoor Time

Even though it's cold, spending time outside can do wonders for mental health. A brisk walk, a trip to the park, or exploring nature helps boost mood and energy levels.

Create Calm Moments

Busy schedules can feel overwhelming, so build quiet moments into the day. Reading together, doing puzzles, or just chatting over a warm drink can help children unwind and reconnect.

Focus on Healthy Habits

January is a great time to encourage balanced eating, staying hydrated, and regular physical activity. Small changes, like adding more fruit and vegetables or a short family stretch session, can have a big impact.

Attendance

Our school target is 97%. At present we are behind our school target, and it stands at 95.6%.

At the end of last term, we unfortunately saw an increase in the number of children arriving to school late. As per the New National guidelines introduced on the 19th of August 2024 Penalty notice fines will be considered when there have been 10 sessions (half days) of unauthorised absence in a 10-week period. The 10 sessions can be accumulated by lateness after registration closes at 9.10am or any further unauthorised absences.

Please help by making attendance and punctuality a priority.

To date the classes with the best attendance this year are:

Phase 1 - Oak 1 - 95.62%

Phase 2 - Rowan 4 - 97.18%

The classes with the best attendance this half term will get a Pizza Party at the fire pit - weather permitting.

If your child is absent, please telephone the school attendance officer **as soon as possible - ideally before 9am** on the first day of absence (and each subsequent day of absence) on 0113 2686104

Fundraising

Reminder - If you are shopping online, please scan the QR code below and go through easyfundraising. It costs you nothing and a small percentage goes to school – every little helps.



Scan QR Code to go directly to the Friends of Alwoodley Primary easyfundraising page



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