

3rd June 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

We hope that you have had a good break over the half-term with your children and enjoyed the lovely early summer weather that we experienced.

At the end of last term, we were privileged to be nominated for an award by the North-East Automotive Alliance and Port of Tyne Authority in recognition of the Outdoor and STEM work that we have been doing in school over the last couple of years. Our School Council welcomed representatives of the organisation to school and received a large cheque for £1000. This amazing amount of money will be used in school to further extend the STEM and Outdoor learning work we do. Well done to Mrs Harrison and all staff for the excellent work they do in these areas of the curriculum.



We were also fortunate to be receive another grant for £3000 to support the development of sensory areas, our sensory room and mental health provision in the school. Miss Gibson and Mrs Pickbourne are very busy ensuring that this is used fully and expands the provision we have in the school for all pupils when they require sensory breaks or places and equipment to help them relax and be more able to access the school curriculum and school day.

Our final half term began today, for all pupils, by focussing on our Personal Development (PSHE) curriculum and particularly thinking about how we manage our feelings. To help us with becoming more aware of and better able to manage our feelings we are introducing the idea of Zones of Regulation to pupils.

We all know that feelings are complicated. They come in different sizes, intensities, and levels of energy that are unique within our brains and bodies. To make them easier to talk about, think about, and regulate, the Zones of Regulation organises our feelings, state of alertness, and energy levels into four coloured Zones – Blue, Green, Yellow, and Red. 'The simple, common language and visual structure of Zones of Regulation helps make the complex skill of regulation more concrete for learners and those who support them. We learn to regulate our Zones to meet our goals and task demands, as well as support our overall well-being.'

A short video lasting 2 ½ minutes may help you further understand when children begin to talk about the red, blue, yellow and green zones. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zZ9X-d3oZvQ>

On the next page I have also pasted a quick summary of the 4 zones which you may also find helpful.

The remainder of this term will be very busy! Please see diary dates section for up to date information regarding visits, visitors and events for the rest of this term.

If you are unsure about an event or any aspect of your child's education then drop the class teacher an email via the class email or alternatively the info@albanyvillageprimary.org.uk central email address. Alternatively, ring the school office (0191 4155700) and speak to Mrs Joyce or Mrs Holmes, who may be able to answer your query or take a message for the class teacher or myself to give you a call.

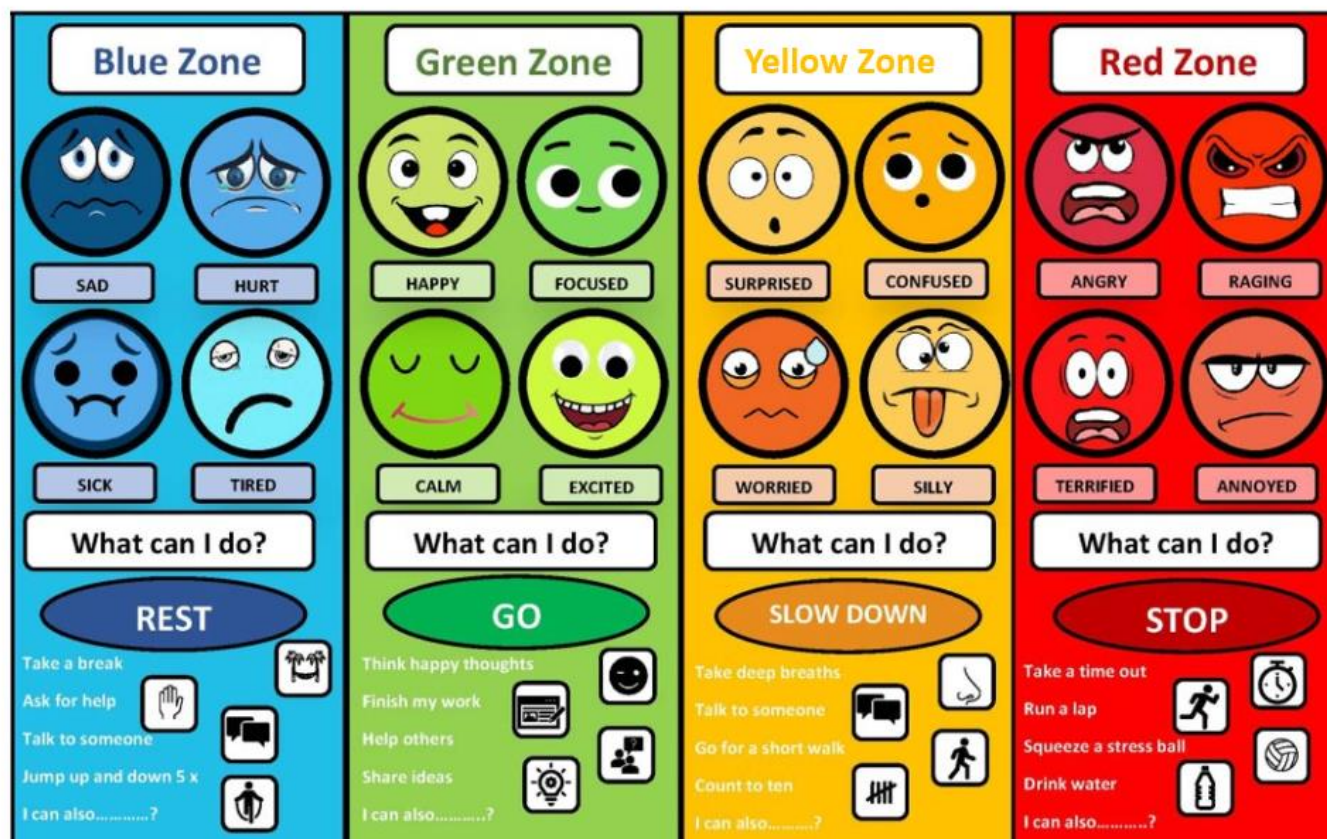
Kind regards,
Mr S Jones (Head Teacher)

Year 4 pupils will be completing the National Year 4 Multiplication Times Tables check - wb 2nd June.

Year 1 pupils will be completing the National Year 1 Phonics Screening Check – wb 9th June.

Good luck to all of the pupils in Year 1 and Year 4.

What Zone Are You In?



Staffing structure for remainder of the academic year

Year group	Teacher	Teaching Assistant
Nursery	Mrs Gregory	Miss Fleury
Reception	Miss Quinn	Mrs Soulsby
1	Miss Mitcheson	Mrs Young; Miss Dalby
2	Mrs Lawson	Mrs Robson
3	Miss Cutter	Mrs Johnson
4	Mr Stothard	Mrs Butler
5M	Miss Moss	Mrs Bowes
5L	Mrs Lowe	
6	Miss Gibson	Miss Jobling
SENDCo	Mr Jones	Mrs Pickbourne
PPA cover	Mrs Atkin	

Outdoor education & PPA teacher	Mrs Harrison
PE Coach	Mr Day
School Business Manager	Mrs Joyce
School Administrative assistant	Mrs Holmes



Designated Safeguarding Leaders:

Mr Jones; Miss Mitcheson;
Mrs Holmes

Senior Mental Health lead:

Miss Gibson

Attendance leaders:

Mr Jones; Mrs Holmes

POLITE NOTICE

Please treat our staff with respect

We will always do our best to help you and support your child.

We will not however tolerate any verbal abuse, aggressive or violent behaviour towards any member of staff, either in person or via social media. Those who demonstrate these types of behaviour will be asked to leave the school premises and telephone calls will be ended. In extreme cases it may result in a report of the incident being shared with the police. Any abuse seen on social media may be reported to the platform provider.

Our staff are here to help you – so please treat them with respect, as they do their best to respond to you.

Thank you for your understanding

School Budget for 2025-26

We have recently been able to set our school budget for the financial year ending in March 2025.

This will mean that we can continue with our existing staffing structure and plan for the new academic year.

I will be writing to each year group by the end of this month to confirm their Class Teachers and Teaching Assistants from September 2025.

New trees and hedges in the school grounds

You will have noticed that last half term we had a significant number of trees and new hedges planted around the perimeter of the school yards and field.

These were provided by the City of Sunderland council and we are very grateful for increased biodiversity which they bring to the school.

In time we will reap the benefits of the additional shade, shelter and opportunities that this new resource gives all pupils.

The contractors who planted the trees and hedges are also contracted to maintain these areas for the next 12 months until they are established.

Requests for Holidays/Leave of Absence during Term time

As reported in previous newsletters (March 2024 & July 2024), new Government directives to schools in place from September 2024 mean that requests for leave of absence during term time for holidays will be declined. **See information sheet on last page of the Newsletter for more detailed information provided for parents from the local authority.**

The Headteacher has been given some discretion in extreme, exceptional circumstances to authorise certain requests. Under the amended legislation, 'exceptional circumstances' are one-off events which are unavoidable. Examples may include: **the death of a close relative; attendance at a funeral; respite care of a child looked after by the Local Authority; or a housing crisis which prevents attendance.**

A holiday is not considered an exceptional circumstance.



Albany Village Primary school - Term dates and PD days 2025-26

TERM DATES 2025/2026

AUTUMN TERM 72 DAYS First Half Term: 37 days Second Half Term: 35 days	SEPTEMBER 2025 19 Days							OCTOBER 2025 18 Days							NOVEMBER 2025 20 Days							DECEMBER 2025 15 Days									
	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S			
			1	2	3	4	5	6				1	2	3	4						1			1	2	3	4	5	6		
	7	8	9	10	11	12	13		5	6	7	8	9	10	11		2	3	4	5	6	7	8		7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	14	15	16	17	18	19	20		12	13	14	15	16	17	18		9	10	11	12	13	14	15		14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	21	22	23	24	25	26	27		19	20	21	22	23	24	25		16	17	18	19	20	21	22		21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	28	29	30						26	27	28	29	30	31			23	24	25	26	27	28	29		28	29	30	31			
																	30														
SPRING TERM 59 DAYS First Half Term: 35 days Second Half Term: 24 days	JANUARY 2026 20 Days							FEBRUARY 2026 15 Days							MARCH 2026 22 Days							April 2026 2 Days									
	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S			
						1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7						1						1	2	3	4	
	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		8	9	10	11	12	13	14		8	9	10	11	12	13	14								
	11	12	13	14	15	16	17		15	16	17	18	19	20	21		15	16	17	18	19	20	21								
	18	19	20	21	22	23	24		22	23	24	25	26	27	28		22	23	24	25	26	27	28								
	25	26	27	28	29	30	31										29	30	31												
SUMMER TERM 62 DAYS First Half Term: 24 days Second Half Term: 38 days Total Days: 193	APRIL 2026 9 Days							MAY 2026 15 Days							June 2026 22 Days							July 2026 16 Days									
	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S			
	5	6	7	8	9	10	11						1	2							1						1	2	3	4	
	12	13	14	15	16	17	18		3	4	5	6	7	8	9		7	8	9	10	11	12	13		5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	19	20	21	22	23	24	25		10	11	12	13	14	15	16		14	15	16	17	18	19	20		12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	26	27	28	29	30				17	18	19	20	21	22	23		21	22	23	24	25	26	27		19	20	21	22	23	24	25
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									31																						

Teacher training days: Tuesday 2nd September (covered by twilights)
Wednesday 3rd September (In-school teacher training day)
Friday 19th December (covered by twilights)
Monday 5th January 2026 (In-school teacher training day)
Monday 1st June 2026 (Report writing day)

Key events for the remainder of the Summer term 2025:

Monday 2nd June – Teacher Training Day (school closed)

Wb Tuesday 3rd June – Year 4 Multiplication Times Tables check week

Tuesday 3rd June – Year 6 Outdoor activity morning

Tuesday 3rd June – year 6 'Kooth' mental health workshop

Wb Monday 9th June – Year 1 Phonics screening check week

Monday 9th June – Year 5 – Mars Mapping project with scientists from Aldrin project

Tuesday 10th June – Year 2 Outdoor activity morning

Tuesday 10th June – Year 5 Puberty talk with school nurse

Wednesday 11th June – Mrs Harrison and 4 pupils from Eco-group attend Sunderland Climate conference at City Hall

Thursday 12th June – Year 1 visit to Beamish Museum

Friday 13th June – Year 5 visit to Lindisfarne

Wb 16th June – Sports and Refugee week

Tuesday 17th June – Year 1 Outdoor activity morning

Tuesday 17th June – Climbing wall day (all year groups Y2-Y6)

Wednesday 18th June – Sports Day: Nursery – 11:00 am; Reception – Year 6 – 1:30 pm (school field)

Friday 20th June – Year 3 visit to Washington Wildfowl Centre

Monday 23rd – Friday 27th June – Derwent Hill Residential visit for Year 6

Tuesday 24th June – Year 3 Outdoor activity morning

Tuesday 24th June – Reception class visit to Tynemouth & Aquarium

Wednesday 25th June – Tennis coach in school working with KS2 pupils

Wb 30th June – Assessment week (Y1-Y5)

Tuesday 1st – Thursday 3rd July – Year 6 Transition days at Secondary schools (Sunderland schools only)

Tuesday 1st July – Year 4 Outdoor activity morning

Monday 7th July – Teddy Bears Picnic for new Reception (September 2025) pupils – 2:00 pm

Tuesday 8th July – Year 5 Outdoor activity morning

Tuesday 8th July – Art Day 6

Friday 11th July – Albany Music Festival and Summer Fayre (1:30 pm)

Wednesday 16th July – Nursery class visit to Tweddle Farm

Wednesday 16th July – Year 6 end of year Musical/Play – 5:15 pm (2 tickets per pupil)

Thursday 17th July – End of Year Reports sent to parents/carers of all pupils

Monday 21st July – Optional parents/carers evening

Tuesday 22nd July – Move-Up morning for all pupils (except Year 6)

Wednesday 23rd July – Leaver's Service for all Year 6 pupils – 9:30 am (2 tickets per pupil)

Wednesday 23rd July – Last day of term for all pupils.

School re-opens to pupils on Thursday 4th September 2025

Fixed Penalty Notices for irregular attendance at school

Important information for parents

1 OVERVIEW

Regular school attendance is vital for children to reach their full potential. If your child is absent for any reason, it is important that you communicate fully with the school. However new national guidance is to be implemented from September to manage irregular attendance at school.

Penalty notices are issued as an alternative to prosecution where parents have failed to ensure their child attends school regularly. They can be used in cases where absence has not been authorised by a head teacher and can be in respect of any unauthorised absence, irrespective of reason.

The notices are used to prevent the need for court action, for example, when support has not been engaged with or is not appropriate (for example, leave of absence during term time).

Changes from September 2024 are shown →

2 LEAVE

Head Teachers are unable to grant leave of absence during term time unless there are **exceptional circumstances**.

Generally, a need or desire for a holiday or other absence for the purpose of leisure and recreation **would not** constitute an exceptional circumstance.

3 ABSENCE

A Fixed Penalty Notice may be issued if there are **5 days / 10 sessions** of absence in a period of **10 school weeks** (where absence has not been authorised).

A notice may be issued where the 5-day level of consecutive absence has not been reached, for example, if there are several periods of leave.

4 AMOUNT

The first penalty notice is **£160** if paid within 28 days, reduced to **£80** if paid within 21 days.

A second penalty notice is **£160** to be paid within 28 days.

A third penalty notice cannot be issued.

Legal action may result (for example, prosecution).

5 FAQ'S

For further information please see Sunderland City Council website page on school attendance:

<https://www.sunderland.gov.uk/>

Or DfE Working together to improve school attendance document:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-improve-school-attendance>

