



Crossgill
Albany Village
Washington
Tyne & Wear
NE37 1UA

Telephone: (0191) 4155 700

Email: info@albanyvillageprimary.org.uk
Website: www.albanyvillageprimary.org.uk

Albany Village Primary School is committed to safeguarding all pupils and staff members by following statutory guidance within Keeping Children Safe in Education - September 2023.

1st July 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

It's hard to believe that July is upon us and we are thinking about the end of term – pupils moving classes, saying goodbye to our Year 6 and finalising school reports.

Just to confirm that school reports will be sent to all parents/carers with parental responsibility on Thursday 17th July and there is an optional Parents/Carers evening on Monday 21st July should you wish to discuss any aspects of the report with your child's class teacher or myself.

Thank you to everyone who came to Sports Day this year, we hope you enjoyed the afternoon. Well done to our joint winning teams Armstrong and Gagarin. The points have been added to the cumulative total of team points gained this year. It will be very close and interesting to see who is our overall winning team at the end of term.

We welcomed back on Friday of last week many of our Year 6 pupils who had been at Derwent Hill outdoor adventurous centre last week – they had a great time. A big thank you to Miss Gibson and Miss Moss for looking after them so well. Also, well done to Year 6 I have heard many complimentary things about your incredible attitude, behaviour and pushing yourselves to your limit. We hope you feel justifiably proud of yourselves. Thank you too to the Year 6s who remained in school – you were incredible role models for our younger children and also achieved so much completing your personal projects and helping around school.

On the next page you will find our staffing structure for next academic year and notice that we have said goodbye to Miss Dalby (Y1 TA apprentice) who successfully completed her apprenticeship and has moved to take up a new role in the Middlesbrough area. We wish her well in the future. In September we welcome Mr Blakelock, as our next TA apprentice.

We also look forward to welcoming back Mr Dutton from his secondment at St Oswald's RC primary in Wrekenton. I also give some important information about a change of leadership roles at both SENDCo and Head teacher level.

The remainder of this term continues to 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)

NEW: Staffing structure for the academic year 2025 -26

| Year group | Teacher | Teaching Assistant |
|---------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| Nursery | Mrs Gregory | Miss Fleury Mr Blakelock |
| Reception | Miss Quinn | Mrs Soulsby |
| 1 | Miss Mitcheson (3 days) Mrs Atkin (2 days) | Mrs Young |
| 2 | Mr Stothard (4days) Mrs Atkin (1 day) | Mrs Robson |
| 3 | Miss Moss | Mrs Bowes (am) Mr Blakelock (pm) |
| 4 | Miss Cutter | Mrs Johnson |
| 5D | Mr Dutton | Mrs Butler |
| 5L | Mrs Lowe | |
| 6 | Miss Gibson | Miss Jobling |
| SEND Teaching assistant | | 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; Mr Dutton

Senior Mental Health lead:

Miss Gibson

Attendance leaders:

Mr Jones; Mrs Holmes

SENDCo's

Mrs Gregory: EYFS & KS1

Mr Dutton: KS2

Mr Jones: Appeals; QA



Leadership changes

SENDCo role: As we welcome back Mr. Dutton to his role as SENDCo and member of the Senior Leadership team. I have asked Mrs. Gregory to join him as SENDCo with responsibility for EYFS and KS1 (Y1 & Y2). Mrs. Gregory has previously been a SENDCo in other settings. I will retain overview of the SEND needs of the school and support both Mr. Dutton and Mrs. Gregory as required.

Head teacher role: Earlier in the year I approached Governors to consider a reduction in my working week, to allow me to give more time to my family, Church, Trustee role in a NE Charity supporting Refugees & Asylum seekers, as well as to gain accreditation as a Psychotherapist supporting adults in the Northeast during my retirement. Governors agreed to release me from my current FT role to work 0.8FTE (4 days per week). This will be part of a phased retirement over the next 5 years (I hit a major age this year).

We are very fortunate to have an excellent, experienced Deputy Head Teacher, Miss Mitcheson, who also recently completed her NPQH (National Professional Qualification for Headship). Governors have agreed that Miss Mitcheson will be HT for one day per week when I am not working in school. This is a role she already fulfils when I am out of school either attending CPD events, child protection conferences or during my School Improvement Partner role supporting other schools.

Miss Mitcheson and I already work together very closely and have an excellent Senior Leadership team (Miss Gibson and Mr Dutton) who give valuable additional support. We look forward to seeing our continual development as a Leadership team who always have every pupil at the heart of each decision we make, so they can all 'Reach for the stars.'

Support available from Sunderland City council or other Partner organisations

Lightning Reach support

Whilst many children are looking forward to the summer break, we do understand that this time can bring financial challenges for many parents. That's why Sunderland City Council have teamed up with Lightning Reach to help you find financial support.

Lightning Reach matches users to 2500 schemes from charities, organisations and councils across the UK, with the average applicant receiving £1070*.

There is a wide variety of support available including:

- Energy and bills
- Furniture and white goods
- Clothing and essentials
- Home improvements

Create your free profile today to see schemes tailored to your circumstances.

Find and apply for support at
www.lightningreach.org/sunderlandschools

Jennifer received support from the Teaching Staff Trust and was provided further schemes to help pay her bills. She said "It was a complete and utter relief when I got the grant! I've been raving about Lightning Reach to my friends".

If you have any questions about Lightning Reach, please get in touch.

Best wishes

Sunderland City Council



Lightning

Summer Holiday Free School Meal Vouchers

The Council and Together for Children have again allocated Government HSF funding for free school meal vouchers to cover the summer holiday period. The vouchers are intended for

Summer Holiday activities (HAF)

The summer listings for the Wear Here 4 programme are now live! Delivered by Together for Children and funded by the Department for Education, Wear Here 4 is Sunderland's Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme.

Running throughout the school holidays, the programme offers fun, enriching activities and tasty, nutritious meals for eligible families. From sports and dance to crafts, outdoor adventures, and even science sessions, there's something for everyone.

The programme is free for children and young people who:

- Live in Sunderland
- Are aged 4 to 16 and receive means-tested Free School Meals
- Or have a special educational need or disability (up to age 25)

Please visit Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme - Together for Children, for details:

https://www.togetherforchildren.org.uk/HAF

This term in our Personal Development (PSHE) curriculum we have introduced the idea of Zones of Regulation to help our pupils be better able to express how they feel.

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.

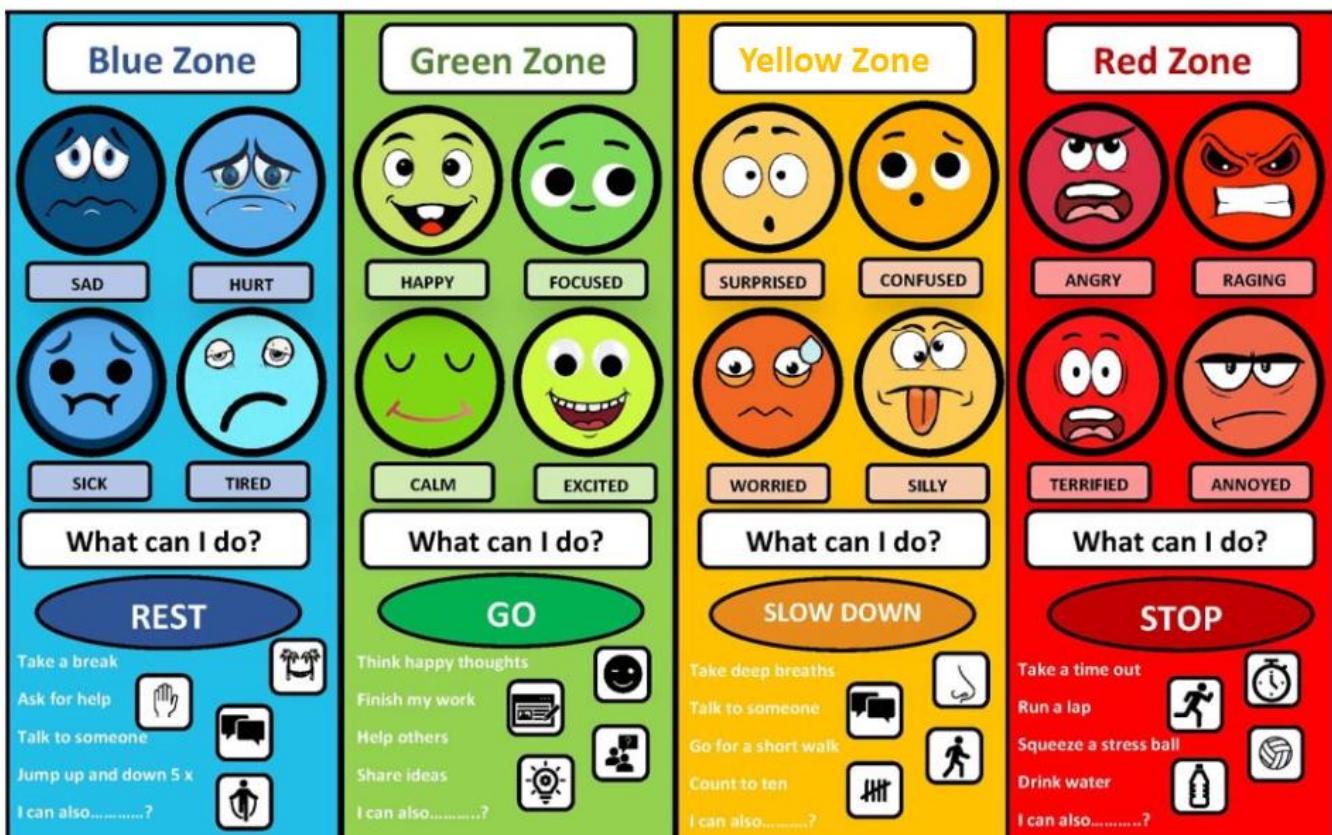
‘The simple, common language and visual structure of Zones of Regulation helps make the complex skill of regulation more concrete for learners and those who support them. We learn to regulate our Zones to meet our goals and task demands, as well as support our overall well-being.’

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>

Below is a quick summary of the 4 zones which you may also find helpful.

What Zone Are You In?



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. **Please note these decisions have been made by central Government and schools are held accountable to the DfE and Ofsted for implementing them to improve attendance. We use the standard, legal letters provide by Together for Children in relation to all holiday and leave of absence requests/penalties.**

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.

Please find below our term dates for the whole of the next academic year, so you can see when school will be closed. You may find this helpful when planning holidays.



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

TERM DATES 2025/2026

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

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

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