

Albany Village Primary School is committed to safeguarding all pupils and staff members by following statutory guidance within Keeping Children Safe in Education - September 2025.

4th September 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back after the summer break. What a summer it was with record temperatures and mostly dry days which we're sure allowed your children and yourself time to have many days outside.

Yesterday it was lovely to see the children return to their new classrooms and they looked fantastic with their uniforms and for many new haircuts too! As we visited each classroom, saw many pupils over lunchtime and led our assembly, it was lovely to hear stories of adventures and experiences over the summer. We were also so impressed with how quickly they settled into their new classrooms and year groups.



The new academic year begins with a focus on Personal Development (PSHE) and Poetry (English) and next week each class teacher will send home their curriculum newsletter to give information about topics across the curriculum as well as other points relevant to their class.

In order to keep up to date we recommend that you download the Tapestry and Arbor Apps to your phone or other mobile devices. These will be the main communication methods for whole school events and class news. If you need to contact the class teacher then the class emails are the best way or ring and leave a message with the office. Staff will then try and get back to you by the end of the day or within 24 hours.

We're sure that you've also seen the vast number of announcements by the Government in regards to school operations – everything from attendance, safeguarding and aspects of curriculum that have been announced over the summer. Many of these are being digested and we are creating a 'How the Government changes affect our school' information sheet for parents/carers which we will send to you over the next 2 weeks. We hope this will be helpful and separate the facts from some myths which have been circulating across social media.

One of the biggest changes is in regard to Benedict's Law. These are a new set of rules to make schools safer for children with serious allergies. It was introduced after Benedict Blythe, a five-year-old boy, died from a severe allergic reaction at his school.

For schools in England, it means they must:

- Have a clear allergy policy.
- Train staff to recognise and respond to severe allergic reactions.
- Keep emergency adrenaline pens available.
- Have healthcare plans for pupils with allergies.
- Improve communication and record-keeping about allergies.

All staff have completed this training and policies are in place, together with the appropriate adrenaline pens. Please help us to protect all children by informing us of any children's diagnosed allergies as soon as possible, so that appropriate healthcare plans can be put in place. However, staff training helps us identify the signs of allergic reactions across all children.

As always if you have any questions about school life, policies or procedures then come and arrange to have a chat with either Miss Mitcheson or myself.

Kind regards,
Mr Jones and Miss Mitcheson (Headteachers)



Other news

Governor Vacancies:

We have recently welcomed Mr David Joyce onto the Governing Body as a Governor and are sure he will be an excellent addition to the Governors, with his vast business experience as well as being a parent of a pupil in school.

However, we still have 2 vacancies for Governors, due to the resignation of previous post holders following changes in their circumstances. Governors play a vital role in determining the strategic direction of the school and giving appropriate challenge to school staff in order to achieve the best outcomes for all pupils.

Please would you consider becoming a Governor and supporting school development in this way. If you are interested but want more information about the role and commitment then please speak to either myself or Miss Mitcheson.

Staffing structure for the autumn term 2026

Year group	Teacher	Teaching Assistant
Nursery	Miss Quinn	Miss Fleury
Reception	Mrs Gregory (am) & Miss Quinn (pm)	Mrs Soulsby
1	Miss Mitcheson (3 days) Mrs Atkin (2 days)	Mrs Young
2	Mr Stothard	Mrs Butler
3	Mr Dutton	Mr Blakelock
4	Miss Kelly	Miss West
5	Mrs Lowe	Mrs Robson
6G	Miss Gibson	Miss Jobling
6M	Miss Moss	
SEND Teaching assistant		Mrs Pickbourne
PPA cover	Mrs Atkin (1 day)	
Outdoor Education, Careers & Finance & PPA teacher	Mrs Harrison	
School Business Manager	Mrs Joyce	
School Administrative assistant	Mrs Holmes	
Head teachers	Mr Jones (4 days) Miss Mitcheson (1 day)	



Other staff news:

Mrs Johnstone remains on long term sick leave.



PE Days

All PE lessons will be taught by school staff:

Monday	Year 4 & Year 6
Tuesday	Reception, Year 1, Year 5
Wednesday	Year 2 & Year 3. Year 4 will be swimming at George Washington swimming pool
Thursday	Reception, Year 1, Year 3, Year 6
Friday	Year 2, Year 5

After-school clubs for Year 1 – Year 6: These clubs will not begin until w/b Monday 13th September. You will receive information next week about the different clubs that will be offered each evening and sign-up details.

Diary Dates for

Autumn 1 half-term 2026:



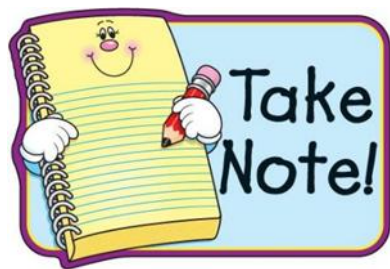
Tuesday 8th September – Year 1 Outdoor education session in school
Tuesday 15th September – Year 2 Outdoor education session in school
Tuesday 15th September – All staff Annual Safeguarding refresher after school
Tuesday 22nd September – Year 3 Stone age Day (all day outside in school grounds)
Tuesday 29th September – Year 4 Outdoor education session in school
Tuesday 6th October – Year 5 at Vertu arena (am)
Wednesday 7th October – Art Day 1 (all year groups)
Tuesday 13th October – Year 5 Outdoor education session in school
Friday 16th to Sunday 18th October - Year 5 Derwent Hill weekend
Monday 19th October – Parents evening meetings with teachers (pre-booked appointments)
Tuesday 20th October – Flu Nasal sprays for pupils from R to Year 6
Wednesday 21st October – Parents evening meetings with teachers (pre-booked appointments)
Thursday 22nd October – Reception class Outdoor education session in school
Friday 23rd October – Halloween Disco (during the school day – Reception to Year 6)
Monday 26th to Friday 30th October – Half term (school closed)

A couple of things to remember about school events:

Outdoor Education sessions – are led by Mrs Harrison, supported by class teachers and TA's. Please can children wear appropriate clothes and footwear. A water-proof coat is a must. We do have a small supply in school should a child not have appropriate clothing on the day, this means no one misses out on this opportunity.

Art days – these days can be messy with paint, glue, glitter etc- so we recommend that pupils wear older clothing that you don't mind getting messy!

Parent/carers evenings – these are pre-booked and a link will be sent out via the Arbor app to book appointments.



Wearing earrings at school

Please could we just offer a gentle reminder that unless a child has just had their ears pierced during the holidays then earrings should be removed for school, and no other jewellery should be worn. If you have queries about the uniform policy then please follow the link below or pop in for a chat with myself or your child's class teacher. If a child has recently had ears pierced then they must be covered by tape during the school day.

<https://www.albanyvillageprimary.org.uk/key-information/policies>

Our policy now includes permission for pupils to wear small transparent, rubber stud type earrings during the school day, where parents are worried that the hole may close. As these have no metal peg, the risk of the ear being torn during a knock when taking part in PE lessons or during playtimes is reduced significantly.

Albany Village Primary school TERM DATES 2026/2027

AUTUMN TERM Autumn 1: 39 days Autumn 2: 35days Autumn Term: 74 Days	SEPTEMBER 2026 22 days							OCTOBER 2026 17 days							NOVEMBER 2026 21 Days							DECEMBER 2027 14 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						
	BH 1 2 3 4 5														1 2 3 4 5 6 7							1 2 3 4 5						
	6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30							4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31							8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30							6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31						
SPRING TERM Spring 1: 30 days Spring 2: 24 Days Autumn Term: 54 Days	JANUARY 2027 20 days							FEBRUARY 2027 10 Days Term 1: 5 Days Term 2							MARCH 2027 19 Days (prior Easter)							April 2027						
	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							1 2 3 4 5 6							1 2 3 4 5 6							1 2 3						
	3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31							7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28							7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31							4 5 6 7 8 9 10 						
SUMMER TERM Summer 1: 34 days Summer 2: 33 Days Summer Term: 67 Days	APRIL 2027 15 Days							MAY 2027 19 Days							June 2027 18 Days							July 2027 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						
	11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30							2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31							6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30							4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31						

Total Number of Days within the academic year: 195
Schools Must be open to pupils for 190 days. Staff must be available for work on a further 5 days (195 in total) or the equivalent for in-service training.

Schools will re-open on Monday 6th September 2027

Teacher Training Days 2026-27 will be held on:

Autumn term: Monday 1st September 2026; Tuesday 2nd September 2026; Friday 18th December 2026

Spring term: Monday 4th January

Summer term: Monday 7th June