

*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.*

4<sup>th</sup> September 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

### Welcome Back to the start of the New academic year

Wow, where did the 6 week summer holidays go? We hope you have had a lovely break and enjoyed some special family time with your children. The children have been amazing and settled so well into their new classes this morning. Already, we have begun to move straight into learning mode with our focus for the first few days being our Personal development curriculum and thinking about how Zones of Regulation (see diagram at end of newsletter) help us become more resilient and support positive mental health.



A special welcome to parents/carers who are joining the school this academic year, whether this is in Nursery, Reception or other year groups, we are looking forward to sharing this important part of your child's Primary school education with you.

You will find in this month's newsletter information about the best and quickest way to contact your child's class teacher. Please can we ask that you follow this information and not to request to see the class teacher between 8:45 am and 3:30 pm, as all teachers are in class during these hours. Using the methods suggested in the newsletter they will get back to you as soon as they can or other staff will be happy to assist.

The new academic year always brings lots of exciting opportunities to enrich the curriculum with visits and visitors. You will see on the diary dates page of the newsletter that some year groups will be having educational visits or will be having visitors in their class to support their curriculum. Every class will have at least one educational visit during the academic year, which is fully funded from our school budget. There may also be other opportunities as funding or grants permit. As a school we will not ask for any contribution to these visits from parents/carers. This is challenging for us with school budgets having been underfunded for many years. However, we will continue to fund visits and visitors during the academic year 2025-26. In order to maintain this stance please help us during other fund-raising activities across the year e.g. Christmas and Summer Fayre raffles etc. These will be announced via the newsletter nearer the time of the event.

Finally, we are always looking for ways to make communication easier between home and school. For the last couple of years, we have used the Tapestry App in Nursery and Reception to share good things which a child has been doing in school, as well as share information. Parents have been very positive about the use of Tapestry, which has the feel of a social media type communication tool. We have decided to roll this App out across the school and you will receive information about signing up to Tapestry in the next couple of days. Teachers and TA's will then use this to send out information, including photos and videos of what your child has been up to in school direct to your phone.

If you have a concern or think that we can be of any help about any aspect of school life then please do not hesitate to get in touch.

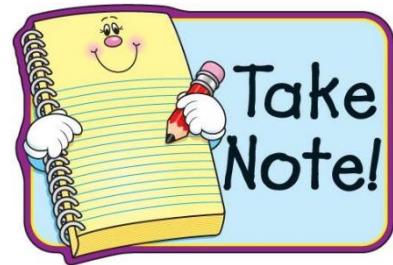
Kind regards,  
Mr S Jones & Miss Mitcheson  
Head Teachers

**Please return your child's new contact / information form as soon as possible.**

**Remember to let us know of updates to phone numbers, email addresses and permissions for adults who can collect your child from school.**

## Staffing structure from September 2025

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 (4 days) Mrs Harrison & Mrs Atkin (1 day)	Mrs Robson
3	Miss Moss	Mrs Bowes (am) Mr Blakelock (pm)
4	Miss Cutter (4 days) Mrs Atkin (1 day)	Mrs Johnson
5D	Mr Dutton	Mrs Butler
5L	Mrs Lowe	
6	Miss Gibson	Miss Jobling
SEND Teaching assistants		Mrs Pickbourne Miss Major (temporary)
PPA cover	Mrs Atkin	
Outdoor education & PPA teacher	Mrs Harrison	
PE Coach	Mr Day	
School Business Manager	Mrs Joyce	
School Administrative assistant	Mrs Holmes	



Thank you for encouraging your children and enabling them to wear school uniform – they look great! Wearing a uniform really does also help pupils remember to turn to work mode and recognise summer time is now over. 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>

We are in the process of reviewing this policy and will include permission to wear small transparent, rubber stud type earrings during the school day. 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.

The current policy also reminds everyone about the appropriate styles for hair-cuts, as well as confirming that coloured hair is not permitted and not part of our uniform.

We would love to have more volunteers helping in school, whether that be with the PTA, as a reading buddy for our pupils or when we take children on visits. If you think that you can help then please have a chat with your child's class teacher, Mr Jones or Miss Mitcheson.

We will then discuss the opportunities and the process of a DBS check, which would be required for these roles, as well as training we can provide to help with the role.



If you arrive after 8:55 am please bring your child to the main school office as other school gates will be closed.



Where do I drop off my child on a morning and where do I pick-up at the end of the school day?



On a morning, 8:45 am, Reception pupils enter via their classroom door, Year 1, 2 and 3 pupils enter via their cloakroom entrance. Reception and Year 3 pupils can be collected from their doors at 3:25 pm and 3:30 pm respectively. Nursery pupils enter and leave school via their own doors.

At the end of the school day, 3:25 pm, Year 1 pupils are collected from the KS1 playground next to the adventure playground. Year 2 pupils are collected from the corner of the building as you enter the playground at the opposite corner to this area.



Year 4, 5 and 6 pupils should enter school by the gate adjacent to the KS2 playground – Mr Jones usually greets pupils and parents here from 8:45 – 8:55 am.

At the end of the school day – 3:30 pm – pupils will be brought to this playground by their teachers for collection by parents/carers.



#### How to contact your child's class teacher.

If you feel that it would be helpful to pass information to your child's class teacher on a morning or have an urgent question/query, please could we ask that you pop into school or ring between 8:30 - 8:45 am. **The class teachers are all in the classroom from 8:45 am when the school day begins and they will not be available from 8:45 am.**

You can however, speak to Mr Jones at the KS2 entry gate or one of our TA's at the Reception class, KS1 and KS2 entry doors.

Teacher's will always be available at the end of the school day and would love to chat at that time.

Also, you will find in your child's class termly newsletter, which you will receive by Monday 8<sup>th</sup> September, the contact email address for each class. Alternatively, drop an email to [info@albanyvillageprimary.org.uk](mailto:info@albanyvillageprimary.org.uk) and our admin team will forward this to the teacher.

#### 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

## **Key events for the Autumn term 2025:**

Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September – Teacher Training Day

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> September – First Day of term for all pupils

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> September – Year 6 Outdoor Learning morning

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> September - Visiting Theatre group present 'Alice in Wonderland' Year 1 – Year 6

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> September – Year 6 visit to the F pit (10-11:30 am)

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> September – Year 5 Outdoor Learning morning

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September – Year 3 Stone age day in school – outdoor learning (How did stone age people live?)

Monday 29<sup>th</sup> September: Reception Reading workshops – learn how we teach phonics and reading: 3:30 – 4:00 pm or 5:15 – 5.45 pm

Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> September – Year 4 Outdoor Learning morning

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> October – Year 2 Outdoor Learning morning

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> October – Year 5 attend STEMFEST in Newcastle (whole day trip)

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> October – Art Day 1

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> October – Year 1 Outdoor Learning morning

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> October – Year 6 visit to Nissan: Monozukuri caravan robotics event (whole day trip)

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> October – Parents evening 1 – 3:30 -5:45

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> October – Reception class Outdoor Learning morning

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October – Parents evening 2

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October – Halloween Disco for pupils

Monday 27<sup>th</sup> October – Friday 31<sup>st</sup> October: School closed for Half term

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> November – Reception class Outdoor Learning morning

Monday 10<sup>th</sup> November – Whole School Photographs

Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> November – Year 1 Outdoor Learning morning

Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> November – KS2 Armistice Day assembly (pupils only)

Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> November – Year 2 Outdoor Learning morning

Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> November – Year 3 Outdoor Learning morning

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> November – ART Day 2

Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December – Year 4 Outdoor Learning morning

Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December – Year 5 RAF STEM Challenge (in school)

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December – Year 5 Outdoor Learning morning

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December – Reception Nativity play – 2pm (3 tickets per pupil)

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December – Year 1 & 2 Nativity play – 2pm (2 tickets per pupil)

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> December – Nursery, Reception, Year 1 & 2 Christmas parties

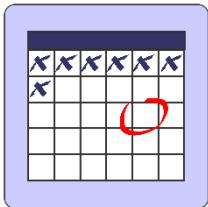
Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December – Year 3 – 6 Christmas parties

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December – Theatre group visit for Christmas Panto (in school)

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December - School Christmas lunch and last day of term

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December – Teacher Training Day (covered by twilights across the term)

**School closed for Christmas holidays from Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December to Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2025 inclusive  
(Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January is a Teacher Training Day on-site)**



## What Zone Are You In?





Community Opportunities' **AFFORDABLE FOOD HUB** WASHINGTON

Thanks to Sunderland City Council and Feeding Britain, Community Opportunities will be bringing an Affordable Food Hub to Washington to help local residents struggling with the cost of living. The Hub will provide a range of nutritious food, household & cleaning items as well as personal care supplies at a low cost.

OPEN WED 1.30 - 3.30, FRI 10 - 12

POINT SYSTEM BUYING

HEALTHY FOOD AVAILABLE

HOUSEHOLD ITEMS AVAILABLE

Albany Centre, Albany Village, Washington, NE37 1UB  
Community Opportunities: 0191 5373231



## 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		1	2	3	4	5	6	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	1	2	3	4	5	6		
Second Half Term: 35 days		14	15	16	17	18	19	20	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	11		
		21	22	23	24	25	26	27	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6			
		28	29	30					26	27	28	29	30	31		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
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	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20		
Second Half Term: 24 days		11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	
		18	19	20	21	22	23	24	20	21	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	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Second Half Term: 38 days		12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31									
Total Days: 193									10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	

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)