

6th January 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy New Year



Welcome back after the Christmas holidays and Happy New Year. I know it seems impossible when we are suffering from a cold snap but warmer and lighter days are on the way! Until then... children can bring a change of shoes or wellies into school in the event they get wet travelling to school and so that we can go outside into the snow should there be no underlying black ice.

2026 has been announced as the 'Year of Reading' by the Department of Education and we are fully behind the idea of both celebrating reading with our children and encouraging them to become life long learners. I know you will agree that reading is an essential life skill and enables everyone who becomes a competent reader to access so many more areas of life than otherwise. This term we want to celebrate the reading journeys of our pupils and also showcase how parents/carers can support your child(ren) in developing this essential skill. In order to do this, we will follow the pattern of the Maths workshops we held last spring term. Each class will deliver an assembly to their parents/carers and this will be followed by a short talk by Miss Gibson (our English subject leader and Year 6 teacher) to help everyone understand how best to support their children with reading. Before we conclude with an opportunity to put into practice some of the strategies shared in a reading workshop with your child. These assemblies will be as follows all **starting at 2:45 pm**:

Wednesday 4th February – Year 5
Wednesday 11th February – Year 4
Wednesday 18th February – Year 3
Wednesday 4th March – Year 6
Wednesday 11th March – Year 2
Wednesday 18th March – Year 1
Wednesday 25th March – Reception class
Wednesday 1st April – Nursery (this will be at 11 am).

Other than Nursery and Reception, all the assemblies will be in the KS2 Hall. The assemblies for Nursery and Reception will be in the KS1 Hall.

At the beginning of this term, we say goodbye to Mr Day, our Sports coach. This is by mutual agreement and we wish him all the best in the future and thank him for his enthusiasm and skills in developing PE within the school. Unfortunately, this means that after-school clubs will be limited to those provided by teaching staff until we appoint a new coach into this roll.

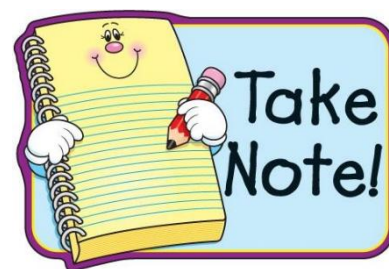
In this updated issue of our newsletter, please note the list of events and activities for the remainder of the term. As always Miss Mitcheson and I are happy to help should you wish to discuss any aspect of your child's education.

Kind regards,
Mr S Jones & Miss Mitcheson (Head Teachers)

Please remember to let us know of updates to phone numbers, email addresses and permissions for adults who can collect your child from school. 0191 4155700.

Staffing structure for the spring term 2026

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 Harrison & Mrs Atkin (1 day)	Mrs Robson
3	Miss Moss	Mrs Bowes (am) Mr Blakelock (pm)
4	Mrs Johnstone (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	
School Business Manager	Mrs Joyce	
School Administrative assistant	Mrs Holmes	



Unfortunately, Chicken Pox is around our area and we have had several cases in school. Please check children daily and follow guidance on NHS app or website if you are not sure what to look out for.



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

Wearing earrings at school

Please could we just offer a gentle reminder that unless a child has just had their ears pierced recently 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 it now includes permission to wear small transparent, rubber or plastic 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.

Key events remaining for the Spring term 2026:

Pupils return for Spring term on Tuesday 6th January

Thursday 8th January – Year 6 Outdoor Education

Tuesday 13th January – Reception class Outdoor Education

Wednesday 14th January – Year 6 at Nissan for Robotics coding event (all day)

Tuesday 20th January – Year 1 Outdoor Education

Monday 26th January – **ART DAY 3**

Tuesday 27th January – Year 2 Outdoor Education

Tuesday 3rd February – Year 3 Outdoor Education

Wednesday 4th February – Year 5 Class assembly & Reading workshop

Friday 6th February – School Nurse talking to Year 4 about relationships

Tuesday 10th February – Safer Internet Day (in class activities for pupils)

Tuesday 10th February – Year 5 Outdoor Education

Wednesday 11th February – Year 4 Class assembly & Reading workshop

Friday 13th February – Valentine's Day Disco (R to Y6)

Monday 16th February – Parents evening

Tuesday 17th February – Year 4 Outdoor Education

Wednesday 18th February – Year 1 Walkwise Pedestrian training

Wednesday 18th February – Year 3 Class assembly & Reading workshop

Wednesday 18th February – Parents evening

School closed from Monday 23rd February to Friday 27th February (inclusive for Spring Half term) – re-open for pupils on Monday 2nd March

Tuesday 3rd March – Year 6 Outdoor Education

Wednesday 4th March - Year 1 Walkwise Pedestrian training

Wednesday 4th March – Year 6 Class assembly & Reading workshop

Tuesday 10th March – Reception class outdoor education

Wednesday 11th March - Year 1 Walkwise Pedestrian training

Wednesday 11th March – Year 2 Class assembly & Reading workshop

Tuesday 17th March – Year 1 Outdoor Education

Wednesday 18th March - Year 1 Walkwise Pedestrian training

Wednesday 18th March – Year 1 Class assembly & Reading workshop

Tuesday 24th March – Year 2 Outdoor Education

Wednesday 25th March - Year 1 Walkwise Pedestrian training

Wednesday 25th March – Reception Class assembly & Reading workshop

Wb Monday 30th March – RE week (The Easter Story)

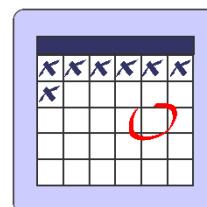
Tuesday 31st March – Year 3 Outdoor Education

Wednesday 1st April - Year 1 Walkwise Pedestrian training

Wednesday 1st April – Nursery (this will be at 11 am) assembly & Reading workshop

Thursday 2nd April – ART Day 4 & Year 6 Visit to Newcastle Tunnels! (all day)


School closed from Friday 3rd April (Good Friday) until Friday 17th April (Inclusive) – Re-opens Monday 20th



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

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)



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

It is against the law to ride a private e-scooter on a public road or pavement.



We understand that buying your own e-scooter can be tempting, especially as you can get them from many popular retailers.

Why is this?

E-scooters are classified as Personal Light Electric Vehicles (PLEVs), so they are treated as motor vehicles and subject to the same legal requirements, such as:

MOT, Licensing, Tax, Insurance

As e-scooters do not have number plates, signalling ability and don't always have visible rear lights, they can't be used legally on the roads.

Although unable to ride your own, there is a government trial taking place in the North East where you are allowed to ride a rented e-scooter.