



## ALEXANDER HOSEA PRIMARY SCHOOL

*'Roots to grow, Wings to Fly'*

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### Newsletter September 2015

#### Dear Parents / Carers

#### Welcome

I hope you and your families have had an enjoyable holiday and managed to enjoy some quality family time.

Welcome back to the start of yet another school year and the new learning opportunities this brings!

We especially welcome our new reception children and hope that this is the start of a very positive educational experience for them. We have also had several new children join us this term in other classes throughout the school and I would like to take this opportunity to also welcome them to Alexander Hosea Primary. We are sure that all our new pupils and their parents will quickly feel part of our school community and we look forward to working in partnership with you.

As parents of children new to the school, I hope you will become fully involved in school life and support your children's learning as much as possible. There will be plenty of opportunities to get involved! If you are interested in joining the Friends of Alexander Hosea School, the Parent Council or wish to help in school, please let me or your child's class teacher know. If you have any strengths or interests which you would be happy to share with the children, we would like to hear about those too!

#### UPDATES

#### Staff

I would like to welcome Ms. Clough (Emerald), Mrs Dowding (Jet) and Miss Woods (Sapphire) to the teaching staff and Mrs Hall to the role of School Business Manager. We look forward to working with them.

#### Class organisation for 2015-16

Class teacher	Teaching Assistant	Class	Year group
Mrs Windmill	Ms Johns	<b>Topaz</b>	Foundation (YR)
Ms Clough	Mrs Wheeler	<b>Emerald</b>	Year 1
Mrs Dowding Mrs Cleverley	Mrs Barry	<b>Jet</b>	Year 2
Miss Woods	Mrs Johnson	<b>Sapphire</b>	Year 3

Miss Clark	Mrs McAleese	<b>Crystal</b>	Year 4
Miss Edgar	TBC	<b>Pearl</b>	Year 5
Mrs Moncrieff	Mrs Gee	<b>Diamond</b>	Year 5/6
Mrs Brooks	Mrs Shrewsbury	<b>Amethyst</b>	Year 6

## **Premises**

During the school holidays Tom's Garden has been re-furbished and re-painted creating a relaxing space for the children to use at play times and lunch times. Thank you to Mr Gilbert, our caretaker, for working so hard on this.

To improve the learning environment, Diamond and Amethyst classes have had new carpets fitted and Emerald and Jet classes have been re-decorated. The staffroom has also been re-furbished.

## **BE HEALTHY**

The water fountains are now in use again, but please remember to send your child to school each day with a bottle of **water**.

## **School lunches**

Lunch arrangements are flexible. Your child may bring sandwiches to school or alternatively they may have a school lunch every day or just on specific days. You may choose which days your child would like a school lunch.

The cost per day is £2 for children in KS2. School meals are free for all children in Foundation and Key Stage 1 (Years 1 and 2). Irrespective of this, please ensure you complete the necessary paperwork if you are entitled to free school meals due to your personal circumstances, as we do receive additional funding for children who are entitled to free school meals. This is used to provide them with additional educational support.

Meals must be paid for in advance. Please send money for the week on Monday mornings in an envelope with your child's name, class and which days they are having school lunch clearly written on it. If you prefer, you can pay for the term's lunches by cheque made payable to South Gloucestershire Council or via SIMs Agora, our on-line payment system. If you have difficulty at any time making a payment, please contact Mrs McNeill in the school office as soon as possible. Please do not allow arrears to accrue – we are obliged to report these to South Gloucestershire.

Please support us by ensuring your child's lunch box contains a balance of foods and plenty of healthy options.

## **Nut allergies**

We have a number of children in school who have nut allergies and who can suffer severe reactions, even if only in the proximity of someone eating nuts. This includes all nuts, not just peanuts. Therefore I would ask you not to send peanut butter sandwiches, nut bars or any other food item containing nuts in your child's packed lunch. Please also avoid sending kiwi fruit as we have a child with a severe allergy to kiwi. Thank you for your co-operation.

## **Life Bus**

The Life Bus will be coming to school on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> and Friday 6<sup>th</sup> November. This reinforces messages about healthy lifestyles.

## **STAY SAFE**

We have an 'Open Door' policy, which means staff are available to speak with you at relatively short notice, however, if you do need to speak to someone, please remember to access the school through the main entrance only, so you can be signed in. This is an important part of our safeguarding procedures.

### **Dropping off and picking up**

These are key times when we need to ensure the children's safety due to the volume of traffic around the school at these times.

Please remember that the designated 'drop off' zone is literally to stop and drop your children off and must not be used to park in. This ensures the system works well. The car park is for use by staff and the disabled only. Please do not block the drives of residents in Honeybourne Way or other nearby roads.

## **ENJOY AND ACHIEVE**

### **Science focus**

This year we have decided to introduce a curriculum focus for this and each subsequent academic year. This year's focus across the school will be upon Science. This means that a range of activities, visits and visitors will be based around scientific topics. The first of these has been arranged for Monday 28<sup>th</sup> September, which will be a 'Forensic Science' day in school. Of course all the National Curriculum core and non-core subjects will be taught as usual.

### **Harvest Festival – 30<sup>th</sup> September**

The children will be celebrating harvest at Holy Trinity Church, Wickwar on the morning of 30<sup>th</sup> September. We will be asking the children to bring tinned or packeted food which will be donated, along with the churches' harvest gifts, to 'Survive' in Bristol.

### **Swimming**

Swimming commences for Year 2 children on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> September. You will already have been sent details about this.

### **Music Tuition**

We are once again offering drum, guitar and keyboard lessons. Jim Sanders and Funky Punk Music will be handling applications for these lessons and will liaise with you directly.

### **PE**

Children are offered a wide range of sporting activities throughout the year, both as part of the National Curriculum and the wider curriculum. Please ensure your child has their PE kit in school every day and that it is named. The requirements can be found in the Uniform Policy on our website.

### **Enrichment clubs**

We have enrichment clubs run by members of staff and external providers. These will be confirmed in the near future. Some of those run by staff will take place at lunch times and some after school.

Elaine, our tennis coach has asked me to include the following:

ALEX HOSEA MINI TENNIS CLUB

FROM MONDAY SEPTEMBER 14TH 3.30pm to 4.15pm 🎾

Dates: MONDAYS 14/9 21/9 28/9 5/10 12/10 Cost for 5 week club £15.50

BY cash or BACS payment to bank account: *on request*

Reference: Your Surname, AlexH (please send an email & when transfer to the account was made For BACS pyts)

Please return the slip below in a sealed envelope to the school secretary by THURSDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER in order to assist with administration MARKED F.a.o.E Weightman Tennis OR advise Elaine direct by email/text if making Bacs pyt.

If you are unable to get along to the school club please enquire about activities THROUGHOUT THE YEAR IN THE LOCAL AREA INCLUDING DURING HOLIDAYS On 01454 315023 / 07725165181 or email elaineweightman@btinternet.com LTA Coach

email Elaine the following information

Name .....ADDRESS.....

D.O.B/ Year Group .....Email .....

Mob/home tel .....Fee enclosed/cash/bank pyt. £..... Mon AH

(Please inform if any medical issues we need to be aware of.)

**POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION**

**Village Fair – Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> September – Alexander Hosea School**

Please come along and support this annual event, which is run by the village and the Friends (PTA) of Alexander Hosea School. This year there is a 'movie' theme. There will be lots of stalls, games and competitions as well as refreshments available.

The children have also been encouraged to enter as many 'classes' as possible as part of the village 'show' element. You will already have received information about this by e-mail. Last year Tyler Coates won the cup for his amazing lego model. I wonder who will win the cup this year?

**HOME SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS**

**Communication**

**Website**

Look out for our new website which should be launched at the beginning of October. All relevant information will be accessible from here once it is up and running.

We will obviously continue to use the text messaging service and e-mail newsletters. Please ensure that we have your correct e-mail address and that you have registered to receive communication via e-mail. If you are unable to access e-mails, hard copies are available. Newsletters will be posted on our new website once it has been launched.

**Notable dates**

The diary dates for the year will be issued shortly, although please note that occasionally these may need to be changed. We will endeavour to give you as much notice as we can when changes are necessary, although as you will appreciate sometimes this is beyond our control.

## **Meet the teacher**

The 'Meet the Teacher' meetings are scheduled for next week. I hope you will take this opportunity to come along to meet your child's teacher and find out about the expectations and other relevant information. More formal individual parents' evenings have been scheduled for 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> October.

### **Meet the Teacher Dates:**

Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup>, 3.45 pm – Emerald, Crystal and Pearl

Friday 18<sup>th</sup>, 3.45 pm – Jet, \*Sapphire, Diamond and Amethyst

**\*Please note the changed date for Sapphire from the 17<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup>.**

## **Parent helpers**

We are always very keen to involve parents in the children's learning and really value your support. If you or a grandparent would like to help in school, please let the class teacher or me know. If you know someone who may be interested in supporting in this way, even if their child does not attend school here, please ask them to contact me. They will of course have to have a DBS check and attend a meeting with me before starting. I will be having a Parent Helper meeting on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> September at 9.05am.

I know many parents are working but if you are unable to come into school to help, there are usually tasks that can be taken home to do in front of the TV! Please see your child's class teacher /Teaching Assistant.

We look forward to working with you.

## **Parent Council**

Parent Council meets once a term to discuss issues relating to the general day to day running of the school and aspects of school life that affect parents in particular. Each class has a Parent Council representative. If you would be interested in standing or finding out more, please mention to your child's class teacher or let me know as soon as possible. Our first meeting is on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September at 2.00pm.

## **Friends of Alexander Hosea School**

The Friends will be seeking new recruits, so look out for the information about the forthcoming AGM to find out more.

## **Parent Link**

Chris Cranney is our Parent Link Advisor. If you would like someone to talk to or would like some parenting advice etc. she is the person who can offer independent support. To find out more or to secure some help, please talk to your child's class teacher or to me so this support can be accessed.

## **MacMillan Coffee Morning – Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> October**

Although parents will not be able to join us for harvest in the church due to space restrictions, you will have the opportunity to hear and see the children's contribution to the harvest celebration at our MacMillan coffee morning, which will be held in the school hall on the morning of 2<sup>nd</sup> October. We would greatly appreciate it if you could provide some cakes, biscuits etc. to help make this a special event and to help raise funds for MacMillan, a charity which supports those with cancer.

## **School readiness evening – 30<sup>th</sup> September – 7.30pm – Alexander Hosea School**

This is a meeting for any parents/carers who are interested in helping their child / children develop the skills and attitudes that will give them a great start to their schooling. It is for parents/carers of all pre-school aged children (not just those due to start Reception in 2016), whether they are thinking of

attending our school or another school. Please spread the word! If you know of any childminders or pre-school settings we would appreciate their contact details so we can invite the parents of their children to come along too.

### **Art Experience**

The Royal High School, Bath are hosting 'The Art Experience' on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> September from 10.00am to 12.30pm for girls in Y5 and Y6. RSVP by 11<sup>th</sup> September. Further information is available from [l.bevan@rhsb.gdst.net](mailto:l.bevan@rhsb.gdst.net) or call 01225 313877.

Yours sincerely

Ms. V. Quest

Headteacher