



ALEXANDER HOSEA PRIMARY SCHOOL

'Roots to grow, Wings to Fly'

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Newsletter – 4th November 2015

Dear Parents / Carers

Communication

Our new website is going live!

In response to parent questionnaire responses and continuing technological and educational changes, we are thrilled to launch our new look website. We are sure that you will find it clearer and more user-friendly! We already have lots on there for you to see, but more content will be added in the weeks and months to come. If there are things that you think it would be useful to access which you cannot find on the website, this may be work in progress, but please let us know so that we can address these. One of the aims is that the website really improves communication with you as existing parents and also promotes the school in the wider community.

I would like to thank Mrs Johnson and Philip Priest, one of our Associate Governors, for working so hard on this. I am sure you will agree they have done a great job!

I am going to launch it in school with the children on Friday afternoon when you will also receive a flyer with all the details you need to access it too.

Twitter

We are in the process of setting up a twitter account which will hopefully make communication a lot quicker and interactive.

Class newsletters

Each class teacher is producing a weekly newsletter to help keep you up to date with class news. Hopefully you will have received these via e-mail, although from now onwards, they will be posted on our new website on Friday afternoons.

Letters file in entrance lobby for information

It seems that parents are not aware that there is a file of all the letters sent out to parents which is kept by the sign in books in the main school entrance for your reference. There are usually a few spare hard copies available in there too!

Staff update

General Assistant

Mrs Chubb, our General Assistant, who has been responsible for supporting staff with displays and administrative tasks such as photocopying, has now left us to resume her studies. We will miss her and her efficiency greatly! We are hoping to recruit into this position as soon as possible. At Alexander Hosea we value the role of the General Assistant, as this allows our Teaching Assistants to

become fully involved in the children's learning and development. This has a positive impact on the outcomes for our children.

Pearl Class Teaching Assistant

I am pleased to say that Mrs Ward has joined our staff team this week. She is supporting Miss Edgar and the children in Pearl class as their Teaching Assistant; I am sure she will settle into the role quickly.

BE HEALTHY

School lunches

These are free for Foundation and KS1 children. The cost per day is £2 for children in KS2 – a total of £70 for Term 2.

If your child brings a packed lunch, please support us by ensuring your child's lunch box contains a balance of foods and plenty of healthy options.

Life Bus

The Life Bus will be coming to school on Thursday 5th and Friday 6th November. This reinforces messages about healthy lifestyles, with a different focus for each year group. Parents are invited to join us in the Life Bus on Friday afternoon at 3.20pm to find out more about the Life Bus.

In the past, the Wickwar Education Foundation has paid for the Life Bus, but they are kindly supporting other visitors this year to enrich our Year of science, so we are asking for your support. Please send £1 with your child on Thursday - This is greatly subsidised.

Look out for further information on the PSHE flyer you will have already received.

NHS consultation on the future of children's community health services in South Gloucestershire

This consultation runs from 3 September to 25 November and outcomes will help shape the design of services from 2017 onwards. The NHS commissioners are actively encouraging children and their parents to respond to the consultation. The website features a range of animations, caricatures and different response mechanisms to appeal to all age groups. Have your say at:

www.yourhealthyfuture.org

STAY SAFE

Premises

The main school gates and a hole in the perimeter fence have been repaired to ensure security.

Dropping off and picking up

Traffic around schools at the start and end of the school day is always an issue. We are trying to make these times as safe as we can for your children, so please remember to keep your speed down, use the drop off zone for dropping off only and park considerately so that the local residents are able to leave and access their driveways.

You are also able to use the Buthay's car park or park in Avon Crescent, which seems less congested. You will have received a flyer by way of a reminder about these issues.

For safety reasons, please remember to enter or access the school through the pedestrian gates only and not through the staff car park.

When arriving at school at the end of the day, please can you ensure that any younger children are not looking through and knocking at the classroom windows, as this is distracting for the children and teachers who are still working.

Anti-bullying Week – 16th – 20th November

We believe it is important to teach children about anti-bullying as part of their personal, social and health education. Every year we do some work with the children when we look at issues around bullying. There is a different focus each year. This year the focus will be what to do if you see someone else being a bully. You will already have received this information in a flyer.

Meetings with teachers after school

If you have arranged to meet a teacher after school, your child/ren should wait in the library or outside the classroom until you have finished, so they are safe.

ENJOY AND ACHIEVE

YEAR OF SCIENCE

The theme in term 1 was 'Life detectives'. To kick this off, a Forensic Science Day was organised.

Forensic Science Day

Recently, the children have had the opportunity to learn about Forensic Science. Walking into the 'crime scene' set up in the hall, our Forensic Science workshop gave the children the opportunity to match fingerprints, footprints, handwriting and many more clues... including DNA.

This learning was continued in the class, with children becoming class detectives. Building observation skills, the children applied what they had learnt in the workshop and matched suspects to their clues. Fun was certainly had by all and we have some great detectives of the future!

Visits to Redwood

Year 5 and 6 children went to Redwood to investigate different environments and animal habitats to support their science theme. They were very positive about the trip, some saying it was the best one they had been on!

Time4reading

I wrote to you in July advising you that our school is participating in the Time4Reading Awards as part of the South Gloucestershire Year of Reading campaign. It is now time to discover which books you and your child/ren have read since July. Please find attached a list of the books and a form to complete and return to the office by 13th November.

Curriculum development

The staff are continuing to work on developing an engaging theme based curriculum. Our recent INSET day was spent on relevant training to support this.

School Improvement Plan for parents and pupils

The parent and pupil overviews of the school's improvement priorities for 2015-2016 are available on the school's website. These highlight the areas we will be working on as a school community to secure further improvement on our journey to 'outstanding'.

PE

Football matches

I would like to congratulate Olivia Belsten, Freya Marshall and Maia Parmar on being selected to play in the South Gloucestershire girls' football team which is a squad of 20 girls from across the Local Authority.

Similarly I would like to congratulate Louis Templeton for his selection as a member of the South Gloucestershire boys' football team.

This is a huge achievement for all these children both personally and in terms of representing Alexander Hosea School. Well done!

The Alexander Hosea boys' and girls' teams have both played a number of matches and have done extremely well. As well as being proud of their sportsmanship on and off the field, we are also proud of their excellent behaviour.

Swimming

Swimming commences for Year 3 children on Thursday 5th November. You will already have been sent details about this.

Cross Country

Cross Country races will be coming up soon. The first one is on Saturday 21st November. Look out for further details.

Bristol Together

Alexander Hosea has signed up to this scheme again. It involves some of our Y5 children training with footballers from another school with a contrasting school context and location to make up a team. This will finish with them playing in a football tournament against other schools next summer term.

PE Kit

A reminder - all PE items need to be kept in a named drawstring bag **which must be in school every day during term time.**

As the winter approaches, it is important for all children to have a pair of **navy blue or black** tracksuits/joggers in their PE bags to wear for outdoor PE. Please ensure these are named.

Foundation children need a pair of **navy blue or black** joggers or waterproofs to wear for outdoor learning.

Uniform

Again a couple of reminders – children should wear plain blue or black hairbands and not fancy ones; please save these for wearing outside school.

Our Uniform Policy states that only ankle boots should be worn.

Coats

All children need to bring a **coat** to school every day because the children go out to play despite the weather and teachers often plan for the children to learn outside.

Enrichment clubs

These continue as for last term, except for mini tennis.

POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION

Village Fair

It was great to see so many children entering the various classes at the Village Fair. Well done to all entrants and winners. This year's overall winner was Douglas Woodward. Congratulations go to him. Correction from the last newsletter - last year's winner was **Teilo** Coates! Apologies!

Harvest Festival

Thank you for supporting Harvest by providing tins and packets of food. I have received a letter of thanks from 'Survive' for the gifts they received from the school.

MacMillan Coffee Morning

This was hugely successful with a total of £661.71 being raised for MacMillan; this included the takings from the competitions run by the children and the cake sale at the end of the day. I would like to thank you for supporting this fundraising event and also thank the Y5 children, staff and parents for their hard work in organising and running this.

Poppy Appeal

We are hoping to have the usual paper poppies and a poppy bracelet available. A donation is required for the poppies, although a minimum donation of £1 is suggested for the bracelet. These will be available from Thursday 5th November so please send children into school with money for these if you wish to donate.

Stamp collection

Please start saving used stamps off envelopes as we will be collecting these to raise money for needy children across the world. A visitor will be leading an assembly about this on 13th November when they will know more.

HOME SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS

Parents' evenings

I hope you all found these informative and you now have a clear idea of your child's strengths and next steps in their learning. Any support you can give with these next steps will be extremely helpful in securing your child's continued progress.

Parent Council

The next Parent Council meeting is on Friday 13th November at 2.00pm in the Blue Room. Please pass any agenda items to your class rep.

PTA AGM -- Wednesday 4th November

Please come along and join us at the AGM and find out what the PTA has been up to all year and how they have supported the school and your children.

PTA Halloween Disco

This was another successful event which raised an amazing £547.90 for PTA funds, whilst providing plenty of fun for the children! Thank you to all those who organised and attended the event!

Topaz class 'thank you'

Parents and children of Topaz class also raised £50 as part of their Halloween celebrations and Mrs Windmill and Ms Johns were thrilled to receive this which was donated in order to boost class funds – many thanks. I am sure Mrs Windmill will let you know how the money has been spent in her class newsletter.

Parent Link

A reminder that 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.

Yours sincerely

Ms. V. Quest
Headteacher



