



## ALEXANDER HOSEA PRIMARY SCHOOL

*'Roots to grow, Wings to Fly'*

Honeybourne Way, Wickwar, South Gloucestershire, GL12 8PF

Tel: 01454 294239 / Fax: 01454 294638

Headteacher: Ms V J Quest B.Ed Hons M.A. (Educ)

Email: [AlexanderHoseaPrimary@sgmail.org.uk](mailto:AlexanderHoseaPrimary@sgmail.org.uk) [www.alexanderhoseaschool.ik.org](http://www.alexanderhoseaschool.ik.org)

NEWSLETTER – 14<sup>th</sup> JULY 2015

Dear Parents / Carers

### **Staff update**

Congratulations to Miss Pursey on the safe arrival of Sebastian – we are all looking forward to meeting him!

Mrs Lisa Barry has now secured a permanent Teaching Assistant role at the school. Congratulations must go to her too!

At the end of term, we say a fond farewell to both Mrs Luke, who has been teaching at Alexander Hosea for nine years and Mrs Cruickshank, our School Business Manager, who has fulfilled this role for the last seventeen years. They are both very established members of staff who have contributed a great deal to the children and school community as a whole during their time as members of staff at the school. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them both very much for their commitment to the school and their support and to wish them all the very best for the future. Mrs Luke will be taking up a new role at Stoke Lodge Primary School in September and Mrs Cruickshank will be enjoying some extra time to pursue her interests.

We also say 'goodbye' to two temporary members of staff, Mrs Stuckey and Mrs Sleath. I would like to thank them for their contribution to the school and wish them both all the best for the future.

Mrs Sprosen will be teaching in Diamond class on Fridays and will also cover classes when teachers are involved in leadership and management activities.

### **New to the Alexander Hosea Team**

#### **We will be welcoming:**

Mrs Allison Hall will be starting as the School Business Manager at the start of next term. I am sure she will be a great asset to the team.

Miss Clough has also been appointed to the staff and will take up her post in September 2015. She will also be the school's Special Educational Needs and Disability Co-ordinator (SENDCO) – to cover Mrs Luke's role as she moves to her new post.

Miss Woods will be covering Miss Pursey's maternity leave and will teach Sapphire class (Y3).

Mrs Dowding will class share with Mrs Cleverley in Jet Class.

All new teachers will be in school for 'Move Up' morning so the children can meet them and they can meet their class.

### **Governor update**

I would like to thank Caroline Dalton very much for her dedication and commitment as Chair of Governors during the last academic year. She has been proactive in recruiting new members to the board, to ensure the Governing Body has a range of relevant skills to support the school on its journey to recognition as an 'outstanding' school. She will remain on the Governing Body, but our new Chair from September 2015 will be Steve Barry. We also have two newly elected Vice Chairs – Aaron Smith and Gareth Fielding. I look forward to working with them all in their new roles!

### **BE HEALTHY**

#### **Active for Life**

Children in Emerald class have now completed their 'Active for Life' sessions, which the children have enjoyed immensely; they have learnt a lot from these and even suggested that all children in school should do Active for Life. Thank you to all parents and grandparents who came along to support these.

#### **NED Show**

This proved extremely successful in reinforcing our school values and teaching the children some life skills:-

Never give up  
Encourage others  
Do your best.

The yoyos also were helpful in improving children's physical development skills! Thank you to Mrs Windmill for organising this.

#### **School lunches**

All children in Reception and KS1 are entitled to a free school lunch - please take this up.  
School meals for all other children will be £2 per day from September - £72 in total for Term 1.

### **STAY SAFE**

#### **Bikeability**

The Y6 children once again took part in cycling proficiency lessons. These involved checking bikes for safety and learning to ride safely in the playground and on the road.

### **Safety at the start and end of the school day**

We now have the new 'drop off' zone signs installed which will serve to remind everyone dropping off children at the start of the day that cars are not to be left unattended.

Please be mindful of where you park so neighbours' driveways are not obstructed and cars driving in and out of Honeybourne Way have good vision.

### **ENJOY AND ACHIEVE**

#### **Story Walk workshop**

I organised a writing event which we hosted for some of our more able writers along with some from other local schools too. They had the opportunity to experience a Story Walk using i-pads; this involved solving and writing riddles using the outdoor learning environment. The children all enjoyed this and produced some excellent riddles as a result.

#### **Music workshop**

This involved a group of our older KS2 pupils attending a workshop at Marlwood Secondary School where they produced and recorded music in the recording studio – another fantastic experience with a positive impact on pupil outcomes!

#### **Music concerts**

All children who are learning to play drums, keyboards or guitars in school have performed to their parents. This is a great opportunity to hear what they have learnt and see the progress they have made during the year. Well done to all our musicians!

#### **Sports events**

Our **school sports day** was a resounding success once again, despite the heat! There was a real family holiday feel and lots of positive feedback - thank you for coming along to join us, for providing and erecting gazebos and for competing in the parent races which proved very competitive! A special thank you to two of our Governors - Simon Burton and Gareth Fielding for keeping everyone informed of events via the PA system, the PTA for providing refreshments and all the staff for their contribution to the day, especially the Teaching Assistants who planned and ran the day.

**District Sports**, hosted by KLB for local primary schools, was another success story with around 40 of our children taking part. They all ran their races with enthusiasm and determination and were a credit to you as parents and to the school. Many were placed in their events – with lots coming first or second.

#### **Football**

The Y5 children undergoing training from Bristol City Football Club took part in a football tournament on 3<sup>rd</sup> July in a team made up of our pupils and those from St. Mary's Primary School, Bradley Stoke. They did really well and were knocked out at the quarter final stage on penalties.

#### **Golf**

Children benefited from some golf lessons in school provided by a local pro. These gave the children the opportunity to have a go at a sport which is not part of the usual curriculum. They enjoyed this and improved their striking skills.

### **Wickwar Fun Run and Games**

This was another successful event. It was good to see that a number of children from school took part in the Fun Run, with Potters winning the cup for the most children participating in their house T-shirt. Well done, Potters!

The games at the playing field were well attended too, with the children enjoying another opportunity to take part in a variety of races.

Thank you to the PTA and other parents and staff for supporting this village event.

### **Year 6 Pantomime**

The Year 6 children's performance of Cinderella Rockerfella last night was phenomenal. Their acting and singing skills are amazing and their performance certainly played to their strengths. We were extremely proud of them all.

### **Time4Reading**

You will recently have received a letter about this new South Gloucestershire initiative, which we are launching in school before the end of term. Our aim is for the school community as a whole, to engage in reading during the summer holiday and make a start on reading some of the titles on the top 100 books for different age groups. Happy reading!

### **Children who have flown 'Supersonic' this year.**

At the beginning of this academic year, we introduced our new Behaviour Management Strategy, which has proved extremely positive. The children have responded very well and we have also received lots of really positive feedback from parents and visitors to the school regarding this.

In recognition of those children who have achieved "supersonic" during the year, we have arranged for them to have a treat on Wednesday morning.

### **Transition**

Our current Year 6 children have all been involved in visits to their new secondary schools as part of the transition process. They have found this useful – particularly in relation to finding their way round!

### **Assessment outcomes – we have much to celebrate – well done to all the children and the staff! EYFS**

End of year data is very positive with 83% of the cohort reaching a Good Level of Development. This compares very favourably with previous local and national data. Mrs Windmill and Ms Johns are to be congratulated for their commitment and dedication to teaching and learning to ensure children make outstanding progress.

### **Phonic Screening**

The children all did very well with 89% screening. This is another great result. I would like to thank Mrs Windmill and Mrs Wheeler for supporting the children with this to ensure they did their best and Mrs Windmill for administering the screening, in Miss Pursey's absence.

## **SATs**

The Year 2 children should all feel very proud of their achievements in reading, writing and maths, with most achieving at least the expected level and many achieving more highly. (Please note the SATs levels reported are the old National Curriculum levels). Mrs Cleverley, Mrs Sprosen and Mrs Barry are to be recognised for their contribution and support which enabled the children to attain so highly.

The Year 6 children similarly did extremely well in all three core areas and their progress from the end of KS1 has been very positive too. Again the SATs levels reported are the old National Curriculum levels. A big 'thank you' to all staff who have taught the children during KS2 and to Mrs Moncrieff, Mrs Gee, Mrs Wheeler, Mrs Brooks, Mrs Shrewsbury, Mrs McAleese and Mr Barry for their dedication this year.

## **POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION**

### **Resources required for Lunch times / wet playtimes**

If you are having a clear out at home during the holidays, please remember that we still need any scrap paper, games, jigsaw puzzles, books comics etc. that are no longer used for use in the outdoor classroom at lunch times. Thank you to parents who have already donated items.

## **PTA**

### **Friends of Alexander Hosea School Logo competition**

We now have a winner – Bethany Wilmott from Y3! Congratulations Bethany – your winning design will be used from September. Bethany was awarded a certificate in assembly by the PTA Chair, Vicky Dummer.

### **Parent Support Adviser (PSA) – Chris Cranney**

If anyone would like the support of our Parent Support Advisor, please inform either me or your child's class teacher so this can be arranged. Chris also does some work during school holidays.

## **Website**

Our new look website is due to go live in September; we are very excited about this! Until then, please use the existing website for any information you may require. More information on the new website will follow at the start of next term.

## **2015-16 INSET days and term dates are on the website.**

### **Dates for Term 1 2015-16**

Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September – INSET

Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September – Term starts for children

To finish, I would like to thank all children, staff, governors and parents for their support during the last year. We have much to celebrate as a school community, and this is reflected in the children's progress and attainment, their phonics screening and end of key stage results and in the many positive comments received from visitors to the school and from members of the public when we take the children out of school too.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our Year 6 leavers for their contribution to the school over the last seven years, and to wish them all the very best for the future as they leave Alexander Hosea to continue their educational journey at secondary school. We will miss them all!

That just remains for me to wish you and your families a very enjoyable and relaxing summer holiday.

Yours sincerely

Ms. V. Quest  
Headteacher