

ALEXANDER HOSEA PRIMARY SCHOOL
'Roots to grow, Wings to Fly'
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NEWSLETTER – 8th JUNE 2015

Dear Parents / Carers

Term 6 is upon us already! I trust you had an enjoyable break with your children.

Staff update

Miss Pursey has now started her maternity leave and we look forward to seeing her later in the term with the new addition to her family. We are pleased to welcome Miss Edwards to the Alexander Hosea School team; she will be teaching Emerald class during term 6.

Miss Clough has also been appointed to the staff and will take up her post in September 2015.

After nine years of teaching at Alexander Hosea, Mrs Luke has successfully secured a promotion which involves more leadership responsibilities. She will therefore be leaving us at the end of this academic year to take up her new post in September.

Our School Business Manager, Mrs Cruickshank, is also leaving at the end of term, so she has more time to pursue her interests.

We will obviously be very sad to see them go and will miss them both greatly, as they have made a large contribution to the school in different ways. We wish them well for the future.

BE HEALTHY

Active for Life

Children in Emerald class have started their 'Active for Life' sessions, which seem to be popular. It is great to see parents coming along to join in too! Thank you for your support.

Sickness and diarrhoea

We appear to have had a number of children off school with a sickness bug; just a reminder to keep children off school until 48 hours after the last bout of sickness to avoid this spreading further.

We are re-emphasising with the children the importance of hand washing and good hygiene. As a precautionary measure, we will also put the water fountains out of use for the time being, so please could you ensure your child brings their own named water bottle to school.

STAY SAFE

Safety at the start and end of the school day

Please be mindful of your child's and the other children's safety at the start and end of the school day, when dropping off and picking up.

I am aware that sometimes grandparents or friends drop off or pick up and they obviously would not be familiar with the content of newsletters relating to safety issues e.g. use of the 'drop off zone' purely for dropping off. It would be greatly appreciated if you could let them know the procedures for this.

With the summer months here, it would be good to walk as often as possible and don't forget you can always park in the Buthay car park and walk from there!

Anti-bullying

The children have now reviewed our school's 'Charter to Prevent Bullying' and this has been updated.

ENJOY AND ACHIEVE

Computing and Engineering week – week beginning 20th April

This was a huge success and I would particularly like to thank Mrs Johnson for organising the week's events and all staff for embracing it; they planned a range of activities to support the children's learning about and understanding of engineering. I would also like to thank Cemex for sponsoring the STEMworks Computer Control Workshops, STEMworks for providing these in such an inspirational way and parents who are engineers, for coming into school to share their experiences and discuss their roles with the children. The time given to this is much appreciated.

In an assembly held to introduce the **Computing and Engineering Awareness Week**, the children described a typical engineer as having '*scruffy shoes*', '*baggy clothes*', '*wearing an overall*', '*grubby face and hands*'. Hopefully the numerous engineering visitors to the school, both male and female, have helped us dispel this stereotypical image of an engineer!

During the workshops, some classes built a Lego robot and then were taught how to program it to carry out complicated tasks, such as moving around a course, dancing and even playing football! Other classes used K'nex to construct a carousel and programmed it with motion, sounds and lights.

Finally, throughout the week, the whole school took part in various challenges, inspired by the James Dyson Foundation Challenges, e.g. the Infants made and tested helicopters, the Lower Juniors had a competition to create and construct a cardboard chair, and the Upper Juniors had to construct a tall stable structure from 10 sheets of newspaper.

Kilve Court – 3 day Residential Visit for Y5

Our Year 5 pupils visited Kilve Court from 11th – 13th May which, as usual, was a great success. The children participated in a range of activities and returned to school elated, but very tired! I would like to thank Miss Edgar, Mrs Luke, Mrs McAleese and two of our governors, Jacob Wilcock and Anna Symington, for giving up so much of their own family

time to support our children on camp. Their commitment to the children and school is greatly appreciated.

Y5 camp is an annual residential visit. Next year it will be slightly earlier (13th – 15th April) to avoid SATs and exam times which will help ensure the school can provide staff to support the children on camp.

Morfa Bay – 5 day Residential Visit for Y6

The year 6 children are just back from their camp at Morfa Bay in Wales. They had a wonderful time and the staff really saw all of the children 'dig deep' to overcome their fears and develop perseverance and greater self-belief – two of our school core values!

They were a real pleasure to take away and Jenny, the owner of Morfa Bay, also said how good they had all been and that they were a credit to the school. In fact, although she said our children are always well behaved and polite, she thought that they were the best group we had ever taken!!

A special 'thank you' to Mrs Brooks and Mrs Gee for their support with the residential and again for giving up personal time for the benefit of the children and school.

We have already booked for the same week next year!

Parent View

If you would like to add any positive comments to Parent View (available via the Ofsted website) following the school camps or any other events held by the school which support children with their learning across the curriculum, we are keen for you to do so.

Leaver's sweatshirts

I have said to the Year 6 children that they can choose whether to wear their usual Alexander Hosea sweatshirt or their leaver's sweatshirt to school during term 6.

Peer Groups

Thank you for sending in plants for the Peer Group session on 19th May, which involved all the children planting up the two beds outside Sapphire and Pearl classrooms. The flower beds certainly looked lovely and will provide some colour during term 6! The Y6 children also played playground games with the rest of their peer group when they were not involved in the planting.

Football

We have a number of Year 5 children who are currently involved in football training with a group of pupils from St. Mary's Primary School, Bradley Stoke. This training is provided by Bristol City Football Club and is in preparation for an inter-schools football tournament to be hosted at Ashton Gate on 3rd July. This is a great opportunity for those involved!

Multi-skills

All children from Emerald and Jet classes benefited from a multi-skills session hosted by KLB School. The children really enjoyed this opportunity and it supported their learning about healthy lifestyles.

Cricket success

One of our pupils, Alfie Greaves, has been selected to play for the Stroud and South Gloucestershire District Cricket team. This is fantastic news – well done Alfie!

Assessment data

EYFS

Our Early Years Foundation Stage data has been moderated by the Local Authority and was found to be very accurate. Mrs Windmill also moderates the data of other local schools for the Local Authority, so is in a very good position to ensure this accuracy.

Phonics Workshop for Y1 parents – 19th May / Phonic Screening

I hope you all found the workshop useful and were reassured by the procedure for phonics screening. Children in Emerald class will be undertaking their screening week beginning 15th June. This will be undertaken by Mrs Windmill who knows the children well.

SATs

SATs have now been completed by Year 2 and Year 6 pupils. We are very pleased with the children's approach to these.

In Year 2, each child's SATs result provides a piece of evidence of the level the child is working at. This is used to support teacher assessments, which are what are reported at the end of year to you and the Local Authority.

Year 6 SATs are marked externally and the results are received in July. These are reported to you as part of your child's end of year report.

Drumming concert

Parents of children who have drum lessons are invited to a 'drumming' concert as part of an assembly on Wednesday 1st July at 1.15pm in the school hall. We look forward to seeing you there so you can see how well the children are doing with their lessons. I am always impressed with the level they reach in such a short time!

POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION

Non-uniform day to support the relief effort in Nepal

Thank you for supporting the children and the school with our fundraising for Nepal. A total of £236.20 was raised.

Resources required for Lunch times / wet playtimes

We are currently sorting the small items we have for use in the outdoor classroom at lunch times and wondered whether your children have any scrap paper, games, jigsaw puzzles, books comics etc. that are no longer used at home. If so, we would be glad of these to supplement our resources. Please hand them into the school office. Thank you!

PTA

Clothes for a Cause

Thank you for supporting 'Clothes for a Cause'. A total of £276.50 was raised for PTA funds.

Friends of Alexander Hosea School Logo competition

With the extended closing date, more entries were received. The PTA will be informing you of the winner and this will be celebrated in assembly too. The entries are currently being judged!

Parent Support Adviser (PSA)

I have secured an experienced PSA, Chris Cranney, who is available to work with parents and children in a number of ways. Below is some basic information about the support Chris can provide. Please contact me or your child's class teacher if you feel you or your family would benefit from this.

What do Parent Support Advisers do?

Parent Support Advisers work in partnership with schools and other professionals helping families with children of school age. They give friendly, confidential advice and support. They are non-judgemental.

How will PSAs work with your family?

There are times when your family may need extra support and the PSA will listen and work with you towards your goals to make changes that will achieve positive outcomes for your children. This might be in the form of

- Issues around attendance, homework, morning routines.
- Concerns around bedtime routines and mealtimes.
- Practical advice on managing challenging behaviour while encouraging good behaviour and setting boundaries.

How do I get help from a PSA?

The school may contact you to see if you would like to be put in touch with your PSA. At other times it might be that you would like to speak to the PSA for a brief chat to see if further help is needed.

Please contact me or your child's class teacher for more details.

Other News

The Royal High School, Bath – Y5 Music Competition and Computer Science Day – Saturday 20th June – 10.00am – 12.30pm – no specific knowledge of music or computers is necessary.

I have been asked to pass this information to any parents who have a daughter currently in Y5. If you would like a form to complete, please ask our office staff. They need to be returned by 10th June!

Alexander Hosea Primary School Open Day for parents of children due to start school in September 2016 – Monday 6th July.

There will be an opportunity for parents of children due to start school in September 2016, to come and have a look around the school and meet some of the staff on Monday 6th July between 4.00 and 5.30pm. We look forward to welcoming you. Please could you inform any parents you may know, who do not already have children at Alexander Hosea School, about this open afternoon. Thank you.

Term 6 diary dates

June	Monday 1st	Start of Term 6
	Monday 1 st – Friday 5 th	Y6 Morfa Bay Residential
	Wednesday 3 rd	Active For Life Session 4
	Monday 8 th	Sapphire and Crystal Weston Sand Sculpture
	Friday 12 th	Active For Life Session 5
	Thursday 18 th	New Parents Evening
	Friday 19 th	Active For Life Session 6
	Monday 22 nd	KLB – Field events
	Wednesday 24 th	KLB District sports 6.30pm – 8.00pm
	Thursday 25 th	Active For Life Session 7
	Tuesday 30 th	Sports Day
July	Wednesday 1 st	Drum Concert (for parents of children who have lessons) 1.15 pm
	Friday 3 rd	Reserve Sports Day
		Year 5 KLB Language Day
	Monday 6 th	Open Afternoon (for parents of children starting 2016) 4-5.30 pm.
	Tuesday 7 th	Active For Life Session 8
	Monday 13 th	Y6 Leavers Assembly – 6.00 pm (Y6 Parents invited)
		Pupil Reports home to parents
	Tuesday 14 th	Move Up Day
	Friday 17th	End of Term 6 for pupils
	Monday 20th	Staff INSET Day

2015-16 INSET days and term dates

Please see attached for term dates and INSET days 2015-16. These are also posted on the school's website for reference.

Yours sincerely

Ms. V. Quest
Headteacher

Term & Holiday Dates Academic Year 2015-2016

TERM 1

Tuesday 1st September – Staff INSET school closed to pupils

Begin: Wednesday 2nd September 2015

End: Tuesday 20th October 2015

Wednesday 21st October 2015 – Staff INSET school closed to pupils

TERM 2

Begin: Monday 2nd November 2015

End: Friday 18th December 2015

TERM 3

Begin: Monday 4th January 2016

End: Thursday 4th February 2016

Friday 5th February – Staff INSET school closed to pupils

TERM 4

Begin: Monday 15th February 2016

End: Wednesday 23rd March 2016

Thursday 24th March 2016 – Staff INSET school closed to pupils

TERM 5

Monday 11th April 2016 – Staff INSET school closed to pupils

Begin: Tuesday 12th April 2016

End: Friday 27th May 2016

TERM 6

Begin: Monday 6th June 2016

End: Friday 22nd July 2016

