

Alexander Hosea Primary School

'Roots to grow, wings to fly'

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Newsletter 6, 20th November 2020

For school calendar: <http://www.alexanderhoseaprimarv.co.uk/calendar/?calid=1&pid=3&viewid=1>

From Mrs Williams.

What a very busy fortnight we have had! As you will know we had our first covid case and there was a short term self-isolation period for the children in Y3/4. We are very pleased that the children and most of the adults are now back in school and that the positive individual is feeling much better and cannot wait to come back to school next week.

Staff have been busy planning our Christmas events and working with our wonderful Friends of AHS to help arrange their forthcoming events in a covid-friendly way. There was a separate email yesterday and all the events are at the end of this newsletter too. There is so much to look forward to. We hope the children will have great fun during the festive period. Dust off those Christmas jumpers!

Our next newsletter will be after the end of this lockdown period and we do not yet know what will follow, but we know that together as a united community we will face it together.

Prospective Parents for September 2021

If you have a child who is due to start school next year the deadline for primary school applications is **15th January 2021**. Find out more at: www.southglos.gov.uk/primaryadmissions

Due to the national lockdown, we are unfortunately not able to show prospective parents around at this time. We hope to be able to offer visits to the school for one parent and one child at a time after the lockdown is lifted (depending on revised guidance from gov.uk).

There is a good range of information about the school on the school website and prospective parents can contact the school with any questions about the school.



We would ask that children do not bring Christmas cards to send to their classmates this year as the post-box will not be open.

Classes will look at an alternative way for the children to wish their classmates a Happy Christmas.

COVID-19 Information page – School website

There is now a dedicated COVID-19 information page on the school website. It can be found using this link

<https://www.alexanderhoseaprimarv.co.uk/page/?title=COVID%2D19&pid=293>

Dare to be Different Day – Thursday 19th November

We all enjoyed a day with a difference! The school was full of bright colours and characters. The children were proud to stand out and 'Dare to be Different' and loved showing off their style for the day. Thank you to the Friends for organising the event.

'I liked to be different and dressing up. I liked how everyone dressed up and did their own unique thing'. Ella – Y4

'It was fun to wear things that you wouldn't normally wear to school. It is good to be different for yourself'. Isaac – Y3

Our Value of the Term is:

Self-belief

We will be thinking about what makes us special and celebrate diversity. The Jigsaw theme that compliments this is 'Celebrating Difference'.

Children's University Graduates

Congratulations to our first graduates from the Children's University. Eight children achieved bronze (Justin, Jack, Lawson, Thomas, Tessa, Connie, Elliot and Austin), seven children achieved silver (Alfie, Molly, Ria, Evelyn, Olivia, Zac and Zachary) and two children achieved Gold CU certificates (Maria and Reuben). This is a great achievement as the children have earned so many hours in just one year.

All other children that are part of the scheme can roll their hours over, so they will have the chance to achieve a certificate next year if they keep adding their hours to the E-Platform. Well done everyone!

At Alexander Hosea, each year we aim to give the children as many sporting opportunities as possible. We give the children the chance to participate in both inter and intra competitions. Currently, as we are keeping in our bubbles, this is not possible in a physical form, so this year we are finding virtual ways.

We have signed up to take part in the virtual School winter games. Each week we are set a different challenge, and after watching a short video, the children then have 60 seconds to complete the challenge. All of our school results are gathered together with the virtual results from other schools around South Gloucestershire. This is an event for Years 1-6, but Topaz are also joining in just for fun!

At the end of each weekly challenge, two children from each class are awarded a certificate for a personal best achievement in that week's challenge. These are presented to the children during our schools virtual celebration assembly on a Friday.

We are very proud of all of the children for putting into place all of the school games values, which also link in with our school ELLI values when they do the weekly challenge.

We will continue to find other ways throughout the coming year for the children to have the opportunity to be involved in more inter and intra sporting opportunities.

Mrs Rehman

PE Lead



Staffing Levels

Like many other local schools, we have been experiencing much lower than usual staffing levels due to the pandemic in the past fortnight, with up to 10 staff out of school each day.

Thanks to our fantastic team of dedicated and flexible Teachers, TAs and lunchtime staff, we have managed to keep all classes running and we are very grateful to all staff for pulling together, so that classes can stay open. We are also grateful to Mr Craine, Mrs Ogden and Mrs Dickens who have provided supply cover for us in recent weeks.

We are very pleased that this peak seems to have reduced significantly now and almost all staff are back in school. We are also seeing a decrease (back to normal levels) in pupil absence rates due to covid too, after a period of time when about 10% of the children were out self-isolating at home due to contact in the wider community or own symptoms.



Friends of AHS

We would just like to say THANK YOU again for your support this year. We are delighted to be able to offer some Covid-safe events this term and are working closely with school on plans for 2021. Watch this space and our Facebook page for news of upcoming events!

Dare to be Different Thank you to everyone who donated for Dare to be Different day – we hope the children had fun choosing how to be different in school, they certainly looked great!

Christmas Gift Shop The Friends Christmas Gift Shop for pupils is open until 12 noon on **Sunday 22 November**. Parents/carers buy a voucher and the child can then choose a gift to bring home ready-wrapped for a friend or family member. Vouchers are £3 each and can be bought from our [PTA Events](#) page.

Don't forget to check our [Facebook page](#) and [webpage](#) for the latest news!



See further details on the flier.

Parties

Class Teachers will let parents know when their party will be. The children can bring food from home in a named bag or wrapped party plate.



Santa

We are hoping that, if Santa can find the time in his busy schedule, that he might link in with the Infant children online from the North Pole this year.

Christmas Events at Alexander Hosea December 2020

We are delighted to be able to offer a range of Christmas events at school this year, so that the children have ways to celebrate the festive season at school.

Christmas Cards

The children have designed their personalised Christmas cards and these have now returned from the printers. The Friends' Christmas elves are sorting these ready for collection and will be in touch with the collection dates very soon.

The plan is that there will be collection tables for a bubble a day in the staff car park.

Christmas Jumper Day

The children are invited to wear their Christmas jumpers on the last day of term – Thursday 17th December.

Christmas Present Sale

The Friends of AHS Christmas Present Sale will take place for each class in the final week of term. Please see the flyer they sent out recently for more information.

Christmas Performances

As it is not possible to perform to live audiences at the moment, each class will perform a festive song and video it to share with families. On their recording day, the children in the class will be invited to wear a Christmas Jumper. The individual class performance will be uploaded to Google Classroom and there will also be compilation of all of these for the whole school to watch in school.

As it will be Reception's only opportunity to take part in their first school nativity, they will be recording their nativity for their parents and the whole school to watch in the last week of term.

We are looking forward to hearing our beautiful singers in action.

Christmas Tree

Our Christmas tree will be in the hall this year, so that as many children as possible can enjoy it when eating lunch, taking part in PE or attending Woosc.

It's Panto Time!

As it will not be likely that families will be able to go out to watch a live panto, we are in the process of booking Bare Foot Hippodrome Theatre's Panto of Sleeping Beauty. The children will be able to watch this remotely at school. There will be no cost for parents, as the school will fund as a thank you to all our wonderful children.

Christmas Lunch is on Tuesday 8th December. Vegetarian/vegan option available and eco crackers.