

# Alexander Hosea Primary School

## 'Roots to grow, wings to fly'

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Headteacher: Mrs D Williams



### Newsletter 3 – 6<sup>th</sup> October 2017

#### From the Headteacher...

The past fortnight has been enriched by our links to the community. Last week the children visited Holy Trinity Church for our annual Harvest service. The children enjoyed sharing their poems and singing harvest songs. Thank you to all our parent helpers who joined us. This week we invited the Mayor of Sodbury to officially open our renovated school library - see item below. The children were in awe of the Mayor in all her finery (even though some younger children thought she may be a pirate!).

Also this week launched the 'Friends of Alexander Hosea' calendar, with their AGM. I was really impressed by the number of parents/carers who attended the meeting and the proactivity and willingness of the participants to volunteer their time and energy to projects throughout the year. As the saying goes: many hands make light work! The co-Chairs, Mrs Cheeseman and Mrs Lock, have been voted into these posts again after a successful term last year.

If you were unable to attend the meeting, but would like to get involved, the FoAHS may be contacted via [friendsofAHS@hotmail.com](mailto:friendsofAHS@hotmail.com).

#### Official opening of the School Library

We were delighted to welcome the Mayor of Sodbury, Chipping Sodbury Rotary Club and the Parish Council to the official opening of our renovated school library. The event opened with an official declaration by the Mayor and the cutting of a ribbon.



#### Open afternoons for prospective Reception children for 2018

We would like to extend an invitation to parents of children who will be eligible to start school in September 2018. During the visit there will be an introduction to the school by the Headteacher, Mrs Deb Williams; the opportunity to meet the Reception Staff and to see our happy and successful school in action.

**Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2-3pm**

We are very proud of our school and look forward to meeting you.



#### Wizard of Oz Theatre Visit – 6<sup>th</sup> December 2017

We have booked a **whole school** visit to see 'The Wizard of Oz' at the Redgrave Theatre on the afternoon of 6<sup>th</sup> December.

#### We need your help!

- We are very excited to announce that we have successfully applied for some free hedge saplings from the Woodland Trust! They should be arriving sometime in November and we are looking to put together a working party to plant them all. If this is something you could help us with, please contact [allison.hall@sgmail.org.uk](mailto:allison.hall@sgmail.org.uk)
- FINAL CALL: Does your job involve an element of computing that you would be willing to share? Our annual 'Aspirations Week' in Term 2 will focus on jobs which involve computing (computer science, animation or using technology in an innovative way would be of particular interest). Contact [Kimberley.Edgar@sgmail.org.uk](mailto:Kimberley.Edgar@sgmail.org.uk)

## Staff news

Congratulations to Miss Pursey and her fiancé, who are expecting their second child in March 2018. We will be advertising for a maternity cover teacher in the near future.

## School Meal uptake in Infants

Almost all (93%) children in the infants took a school meal yesterday for Census Day. Thank you very much for your help. This helps us to retain the appropriate funding for the next financial year.

## Secondary School Admissions

The application form for Year 7 places is now available on [www.SouthGlos.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.SouthGlos.gov.uk/admissions)

**Deadline for applications is 31<sup>st</sup> October 2017**

## Year 6 Weighing and Measuring

A letter was recently sent out regarding this. We anticipate that this will be carried out some time in November or December. If you **do not** wish your child to be weighed and measured, please return the form to the office.

## Parking

Please could we ask that cars are not parked in the drop off/pick up spaces at the front of the school at the end of the day. It would help the flow for everyone. Also avoid parking over the driveways of residents. There is parking at the Buthay Pub, if you would like to use this to ease congestion.

## Shield Designs

Thank you to all the children who submitted an idea for the house shield designs. I was very impressed that 49 children took part.

The carpenter has now made the wooden shields and talented Mrs Hathaway is working her magic with the children's designs. These will be based on the designs from Autumn in Year 1, Maisie in Year 3, Rohan in Year 6 and Neve in Year 4.

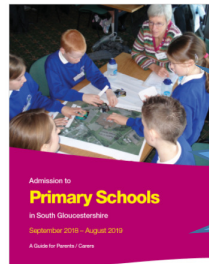
Once the shields are ready to be displayed in the hall, we will let you know.

## Applying for a primary place for September 2018

The booklet about admissions into Primary School is now available on <http://www.southglos.gov.uk/education-and-learning/schools-and-education/school-admissions/apply-online-for-a-school-place/>

## Deadline for applications 15<sup>th</sup> January 2018.

Admission to primary schools in South Gloucestershire



Selecting the school you would prefer your child to attend is an important decision. The information in this booklet is intended to help you in making that decision. Applications must be submitted by 15 January 2018

We currently have places in Reception and Year 5.

## Tesco Bags for Schools: Pond area renovation

We are delighted that our application to the Tesco Bags of Help Grant Scheme has been successful and our project has been put forward to a customer vote in the following Tesco stores:

YATE STATION ROAD EXP      BS37 4PH  
BRIMSHAM PRK YATE EXP      BS37 7PJ  
YATE EXTRA      BS37 4AS

To vote, you will need to make a purchase within store of any value. You will receive one token per transaction and it's not necessary to purchase a carrier bag in order to receive a token.

Voting will take place from **now until Tuesday 31st October.**



## Parent Council

We held our first meeting of the year, to plan possible focus areas. The areas we discussed were: Homework progressions in KS2; transition arrangements; parking and clubs.

| Class         | Parent representative                        |
|---------------|--|
| R – Topaz     | Mrs Hathaway (James) & Mrs Heffernan (Alfie) |
| Y1 - Emerald  | Mrs Mason (Tessa)                            |
| Y2 – Jet      | & Mrs Norton (Charlotte)                     |
| Y3 – Crystal  | Mrs Clausen (Katherine)                      |
| Y4 – Diamond  | Mrs Carter (Ava)                             |
| Y5 - Pearl    | Ms Days (Mason)                              |
| Y6 - Amethyst | Mrs Woodward (Douglas) & Mrs Howes (Fred)    |

We will upload the minutes to the website in the Parent Council section.

## PE T-shirts

We are pleased to inform you that you can now purchase school PE t-shirts direct from Initially Yours (either from their website [http://www.initiallyyours.co.uk/schools/alexander\\_hosea/uniform\\_and\\_sports\\_kit.htm](http://www.initiallyyours.co.uk/schools/alexander_hosea/uniform_and_sports_kit.htm) or from their Yate shop). We still have some stock of PE t-shirts in school (at a lower price of £4.50), which you can continue to buy them directly from us if you prefer. However we are running this stock down, so this option is only available whilst stocks last.

## Funky Punk Music lessons

FunkyPunk Music provide Guitar and Keyboard lessons at school for children in KS2 at a cost of £6.50 per week for a shared 20 min group lesson (£11 for individual tuition). To apply for lessons, please visit: [www.funkypunk.org.uk/apply](http://www.funkypunk.org.uk/apply) or contact them directly by email: [office@funkypunk.org.uk](mailto:office@funkypunk.org.uk)



## Macmillan Cake Sale/Year of Computing Launch

Our Year 5 children and staff would like to invite everyone to a Macmillan cake sale on

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October 9-10am.**

Families are invited to make cakes with a computer theme, which will be sold on the day (see letter from Miss Edgar last week). We look forward to seeing everyone's creativity.

During the coffee morning, the Y5 children will demonstrate some of the computing technology we use in school.

70% of funds will go direct to the Macmillan charity and 30% towards resourcing/activities for the children in the Year of Computing.

## Tom Robson Visit 1<sup>st</sup> November



- **Ruby** – being aware of others and how what you do or say, might make them feel
- **Emerald** – bouncing back from mistakes and disappointment, and controlling your anger if it tries to get out!
- **Sapphire** – keeping focused and staying in control of the monster distractions
- **Diamond** – being able to notice a problem and thinking of ways to solve it

We are delighted that Tom Robson will be visiting us again on 1<sup>st</sup> November. During the day, he will spend some time training a group of children who will become experts in the gem powers and so known as 'Gemsters'. This will be followed by visits to as many classes as he can. In the evening, we would like to invite parents/carers to attend a meeting hosted by Tom Robson from 6-7pm. We hope that you will be able to attend. Please contact the school office to book your place.

Thank you to the Wickwar Endowment Fund for funding Tom's visits.



## Ofsted – September 2017

We were very pleased with the outcome of our recent Ofsted inspection. The letter has been sent to all parents/carers, but here are the highlights:

- ✓ School leaders, including governors, are highly reflective and know the school extremely well.
- ✓ Leaders (have) an in-depth understanding of the different ways in which pupils learn. This knowledge is now being skilfully applied to meet the needs of pupils at Alexander Hosea.
- ✓ Leaders have created an engaging learning environment which puts pupils at the heart of their learning.
- ✓ Pupils respond positively to the freedoms they are given in their learning as well as the individual investment they receive from teachers.
- ✓ Parents are equally positive, with nearly all saying they would recommend the school.
- ✓ There is an open culture in the school where staff, as well as pupils, feel comfortable in taking risks.
- ✓ There is a strong culture of promoting pupils' well-being and safety in the school. Staff are vigilant and knowledgeable.
- ✓ All pupils in the school, and especially the most vulnerable, are as safe as they can possibly be.

### Next steps for the school

Leaders and Governors should ensure that:

- The curriculum in mathematics is developed so that understanding of concepts is fully developed within and across year groups and all pupils are supported to reach the higher standards.
- Mathematical activities provide pupils of all abilities with opportunities for further development of their reasoning and problem-solving skills.

**School Diary – please also see calendar on school website**

| Date     | Day       | Start time | End time | Event  |
|----------|-----------|------------|----------|--|
| 09/10/17 | Monday    | 3:00pm     | 3:30pm   | Jet Class open afternoon to share journals                 |
| 12/10/17 | Thursday  | 3:00pm     | 3:30pm   | Jet Class open afternoon to share journals                 |
| 13/10/17 | Friday    | 9:00am     | 10:00am  | Macmillan Cake Sale/Year of Computing launch               |
| 16/10/17 | Monday    | All day    |          | Crystal class school trip to Cadbury World                 |
| 18/10/17 | Wednesday | 4:00pm     | 7:00pm   | Parents' evening   |
| 19/10/17 | Thursday  | 5:00pm     | 7:00pm   | Parents' evening   |
| 19/10/17 | Thursday  |            |          | End of Term 1  |
| 20/10/17 | Friday    |            |          | Staff INSET 2 – school closed to children                  |
|          |           |            |          |  |
| 30/10/17 | Monday    |            |          | Start of Term 2  |
| 30/10/17 | Monday    | 9:00am     | 3:30pm   | Life Bus visit   |
| 31/10/17 | Tuesday   | 9.30am     | 3.30pm   | Topaz trip to Redwood                                      |
| 31/10/17 | Tuesday   | 9:00am     | 3:30pm   | Life Bus visit   |
| 31/10/17 | Tuesday   |            |          | Deadline for applications for Year 7 places                |
| 01/11/17 | Wednesday | 6:00pm     | 7:00pm   | Tom Robson visit and parents' meeting                      |
| 07/11/17 | Tuesday   | 1:10pm     | 1:30pm   | Rev Canon David Russell visiting – Remembrance assembly    |
| 13/11/17 | Monday    | TBC        |          | Flu vaccination for Reception and Year1-4 children.        |
| 15/11/17 | Wednesday | 1:10om     | 1:30pm   | Rev Canon David Russell visiting – Christingle assembly    |
| 17/11/17 | Friday    | 2pm        | 3pm      | Meeting for prospective parents – Reception 2018           |
| 06/12/17 | Wednesday | 12:45      | 5:40     | Whole School theatre trip – Wizard of Oz                   |
| 11/12/17 | Monday    | 6:30pm     | 7:30pm   | Y5/6 Christmas show at Holy Trinity Church - TBC           |
| 13/12/17 | Wednesday | 2pm        | 3pm      | Y5/6 Christmas show at Holy Trinity Church - TBC           |
| 15/12/17 | Friday    |            |          | Last day of Term 2   |
| 18/12/17 | Monday    |            |          | Staff INSET 3 – school closed to children                  |
|          |           |            |          |  |
| 02/01/18 | Tuesday   |            |          | Term 3 starts  |
| 15/01/18 | Monday    |            |          | Deadline for parents to apply for primary places           |
| 06/02/18 | Tuesday   |            |          | Online safety day  |
| 06/02/18 | Tuesday   | 2:30pm     | 3:30pm   | Jo Briscoombe hosting parents' meeting about online safety |
| 01/03/18 | Thursday  |            |          | World Book Day   |
| 01/03/18 | Thursday  |            |          | Y6 parents receive offers of secondary places              |

|          |          |  |  |  |
|----------|----------|--|--|--|
| 15/03/18 | Thursday |  |  | Deadline for Y6 parents to respond to offers of Y7 places      |
| 16/04/18 | Monday   |  |  | Prospective YR parents receive offers of primary places        |
| 30/04/18 | Monday   |  |  | Deadline for YR parents to respond to offers of primary places |
|          |          |  |  |  |
|          |          |  |  |  |
|          |          |  |  |  |