

# Alexander Hosea Primary School

## 'Roots to grow, wings to fly'

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Headteacher: Mrs D Williams



### Newsletter 9, 3rd February 2023

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

From Mrs Williams:

**Author visits:** Wickwar Education Foundation have generously offered to pay for an author and poet to spend a day each in school in the coming months. We are in talks with a literary agent to set this up and will let you know when this is confirmed. As Miss Clark is now on maternity leave, Mrs Williams has taken on the English Leader role for the rest of the school year.

**Uniform:** Our children pride themselves on looking smart and being ready to learn. Thank you for making sure your child is dressed appropriately for school. Uniform reminders are on the next page.

**Teacher Strikes** – as you may have seen on the news, as part of a pay dispute, the NEU (one of the biggest unions for teachers) has decided to strike on 2<sup>nd</sup> March (World Book Day) and 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> March. When we know how this may affect provision on these dates, we will let parents know.

#### **Dates for your diary:**

7<sup>th</sup> February – Safer Internet Day <https://saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2023>

10<sup>th</sup> February – Dress to Express for £1 for Place2Be <https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/schools/>

Children can come to school in clothing that reflects their interests or personality.

### **World Book Day 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2023**

As usual, we will be getting involved in the World Book Day. This year's focus will be around fairy tales, so the children are invited to dress up as a fairy tale character on this day.

<https://www.worldbookday.com/2022/09/world-book-day-2023-announcements/>

#### **WBD Book Vouchers**

We're delighted to share with you the new line-up of **£1/€1.50** books for 2023 that **children can choose for free with their £1/€1.50 book token!** With books for beginning, early, fluent and independent readers, there is something for everyone to enjoy. Alongside the 12 titles available across the UK, we also have two exclusive books for Ireland and a new World Book Day Welsh title! The books will be available from booksellers from 16 February 2023.

**The token redemption period is from 16 February – 26 March 2023.**

### **Music tuition for KS2**

We have again been able to arrange for all children in Y3-6 to have programme of 10 week instrument lessons. Y3 learned djembe drumming in autumn term; Y4 are learning ukulele; Y5 are learning cello and Y6 the junior saxophone (jsax). Thank you very much to the Friends of AHS for funding one year group's lessons this year. We maintain our commitment to a strong offer of music at the school as there is much research about the positive impact of music on mental health and wellbeing, as well as academic benefits too. The amount of progress children make in these lessons is impressive. We hope that experiences like the instrument lessons may ignite a love of music.

Y4, 5 and 6 children will be performing their instruments to an audience of their parents in March. Mon 20<sup>th</sup> March 9:30am – Y5 cello; Mon 20<sup>th</sup> March 1:30pm Y6 jsax and Mon 27<sup>th</sup> March 9:30am – Y4 ukulele

We are now looking at whether we can find the funding to be able to offer Beat Bus (percussion instrument lessons) to Reception, Year1 and 2 in summer term. Watch this space!



## Friends of AHS

Did you know we have a Community Facebook page? To find out the latest updates on how you can support our fundraising events, join <https://www.facebook.com/groups/FriendsOfAHSCommunity>  
You can also email us via [FriendsOfAHS@hotmail.com](mailto:FriendsOfAHS@hotmail.com).

**Rags 2 Riches clothing collection:** Our clothing collection is NEXT WEEK on **Thursday 9 February**, so if you are tidying up this weekend, please bag up any clean, good quality clothes, shoes and accessories (sorry, no uniform) and bring them down to school before 9am on the day.

**Spring Disco!** Bounce into Spring at our Spring Disco on **Thursday 9 Feb!** £2 per child, to include sweets and a drink. Please bring a named refillable bottle for your drink if possible to help us reduce our plastic waste. Times are: 4.45 to 5.30pm for Infant classes, 5.45 to 6.45pm for Junior classes.

**Class cake sales** Thank you to **Emerald class** for organising a cake sale for us this term! Could **Ruby class** hold one for us between the half term holiday and Easter? All you need to get started is to agree a date with Mrs Williams and let us know so we can make you a poster!

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



### PE Kit reminder

**\*\*On PE days the children arrive at school in PE kit\*\***

- Blue School PE Hoodie (see picture above) or school sweatshirt
- Navy Blue or Black shorts (summer)
- Navy Blue or Black joggers or leggings (winter)
- A white T-shirt or coloured printed T-shirt to represent their house: Archers-Blue Potters- Red Weavers- Yellow Brewers- Green
- Trainers (any colour) – not light up please
- Navy Blue or Black lightweight waterproof jacket

#### Safety reminders

- Watches must be removed for PE lessons.
- If your child is wearing stud earrings these must be removed or taped for PE. TAPE MUST BE PROVIDED BY HOME.
- Hair must be tied back for PE.

### Uniform reminder

**\*\*On non-PE days, children are expected to wear full school uniform \*\***



- Grey or black skirts, trousers or shorts in school uniform style
- White polo shirts (with or without school logo)
- Royal blue school sweatshirts (not PE hoodie) or cardigans with the school logo.
- Black, grey or white socks or tights
- Black leather-style shoes or ankle boots, which are sensible and durable. Knee high boots, Ugg-style boot, shoes with heels and trainers are not acceptable.
- Hair that is longer than shoulder length must be tied back with a plain blue or black band.
- A watch to tell the time (not smart watches) and 1 plain stud earring in each ear are the only jewellery permitted.
- Nail varnish is not to be worn.

The Friends of AHS run a second-hand uniform system – see their Facebook page. Donations of unwanted, good condition uniform items are gratefully received and can be placed on the rail just inside the school lobby door. Please remove the name label of the donating family from uniform items, before handing in. Thank you

ALEXANDER HOSEA PRIMARY SCHOOL

# Raise funds by collecting reusable clothes

**RAGS 2 RICHES** Schools Clubs Groups



**WE ACCEPT CLEAN, GOOD QUALITY, DRY, REUSABLE CLOTHING**

- ☒ Adults, Childrens & Babies Clothing
- ☒ Jewellery and Accessories
- ☒ Paired Shoes and Footwear
- ☒ Belts and Handbags

A full list of reusable items is listed on our website [www.rags2riches4schools.co.uk](http://www.rags2riches4schools.co.uk)

**WE DO NOT ACCEPT**

POOR QUALITY ITEMS SUCH AS DIRTY, WET, RIPPED OR SOILED CLOTHES.  
PILLOWS, DUVETS, CURTAINS, BOOKS CDs OR ANY UNIFORM

**STOP AND THINK**  
If you are unsure what to put in the bags  
**WOULD YOU WEAR IT?**

Please use ANY bag for your donations

Collection Date:  
**Thursday 9th February by 9am**

Please remember - NO UNIFORM

  

## Lunchbreak Supervisor Vacancies – open advert

We are looking for new lunchbreak supervisors to join our successful team. There are roles for bank staff (who can work on a casual basis) as well as a contract for 3 lunchtimes.

If you, or anyone you know, might be interested in applying for this role, please contact Mrs Tara Price (new School Business Manager) at

[TaraLou.Price@gmail.org.uk](mailto:TaraLou.Price@gmail.org.uk) or ring the school on 01454 294239 for more information.

## Attendance reminder

It is important for pupils to attend school regularly and punctually in order to take part fully in the life of the school and to take advantage of the learning opportunities offered in order to ensure progress and raise standards of attainment. As attendance is crucial to effective learning and the continuity of learning experiences, Alexander Hosea Primary School places great emphasis upon this.

The expected attendance for our school is 96%. Please do not book holidays in term time as these will not be authorised and may lead to a fine.

The Friends of Alexander Hosea present

# 100 CLUB

**JOIN TODAY FOR THE CHANCE TO WIN A CASH PRIZE EVERY 3 MONTHS!**

Three winners are selected at each draw  
The more people play, the bigger the prizes!  
Find out how at our page on the school website

**You could be a WINNER!**

Registered charity no 1025562

## Mobile Phones

In line with our Online Safety policy

<https://www.alexanderhoseaprimary.co.uk/site/data/files/users/20/docs/FA196529ABE19AB35DD152F6AD06DB79.pdf>, pupils are not permitted to bring mobile devices with camera features (such as mobile phones or smart watches) on site for safeguarding reasons. On the rare occasion where parents think it is essential for their Y5/6 child to have their phone to walk home that particular afternoon, these must be stored in the lockers in the school lobby and the key given to the class teacher. This should be in exceptional circumstances only. Mobile phones must not be kept in school bags/coat pockets.

In school we teach the children about staying safe online (including being kind, responsible and respectful) and it is helpful for parents to reinforce this message at home.

The Friends of Alexander Hosea present



Registered charity no: 1025562

# SPRING DISCO

## Thursday 9 Feb

with thanks to



**INFANTS**  
4.45-5.30pm

**JUNIORS**  
5.45-6.45pm

£2 per child including sweets and a drink



**Please bring a NAMED refillable drink bottle for your drink!**



### Scopay online payment system

You will have received log in details about this new system which will go live during half term. This will replace Pay 360, which can no longer be used after Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February. The reason for this change is that an increasing amount of parents were experiencing difficulties logging in and the system was not running as smoothly as we would have liked.

It is important that all parents login during half term (even if your child has free school meals), as this will be used for trips and events and booking and selecting lunches. This means that parents will be able to book the exact meal they would like their child to have – Parent Council were very keen for this service to be available, so we are very pleased to be able to offer it now. At present we will not be able to take payments for toast online, but we are pursuing this with Integra Catering, as parents also said that they would like to have a cashless option for this too.

Lunches will need to be paid for at the time of booking (in advance of taking the meal). Parents will be contacted on the day if their child does not have a packed lunch and has not booked and paid for a meal.

When the system goes live, the menu will be published and details of credit balances will appear.

**All current lunch arrears should be settled in full by Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February.**

### Mental health week – next week

We will be taking part in the national mental health awareness week next week. This will start with a whole school assembly on Monday and continue with the following events, as well as sessions in class.

#### Special lunchtime provision

Mrs Windmill will be opening up the ELSA (Emotional Literacy Support Assistants) room (aka Blue Room) every lunchtime next week for mindfulness colouring for any children who would like to pop along. There will be space for about 20 children at a time.

In addition to this, the Swift sports coaches and Mrs Brooks and Miss Williams will be leading some fun football sessions at lunchtimes. Please can the children who would like to join in, bring a spare pair of shoes to wear on the field. Monday – Y5/6; Tuesday Y4; Wednesday Y1/2 and Thursday Y3.

#### Safer Internet Day Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February

As usual we will be taking part in the annual Safer Internet Day. Teachers have planned activities for the children to do to raise awareness. This is in addition to the regular education about this as part of the IT and PHSE curriculum.

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2023> We are looking into running another session for parents about helping your children to stay safe online through the police. Date and time to follow.

#### Dress to Express day Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February –

Dress to Express for £1 for Place2Be <https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/schools/> Children are invited to come to school in clothing that reflects their interests or personality.

### Author and poet visits

We are delighted to be able to offer a range of author and poet visits over the next 3 terms. The children in these year groups may wish to borrow one of the authors' books from the library and listen to the poetry online (<https://youtu.be/RVNSRYwjEfw>) in advance, so that they get even more enjoyment from the experiences.

We are in contact with **James Bishop** (author of 'Iguana Boy') to arrange an assembly and some sessions with Years 2-4 – hopefully on 27<sup>th</sup> February. Thank you to Mrs Andrews for putting us in touch and to the Friends for funding this. <https://evewhite.co.uk/authors/james-bishop/>

**Joseph Elliot** (author of 'The Good Hawk') is booked to run some sessions for years 5 and 6 on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March. <https://www.joseph-elliott.net/> Thank you to Mrs Hillier for organising and to Friends for funding this visit.

**Zohab Zee Khan** (poet) will be visiting on 21<sup>st</sup> March to run poetry sessions throughout the day for children across the school. <https://www.zohabzee.com/>. We are grateful that this is being funded by WEF (Wickwar Education Foundation).

Finally we are in the process of booking another well-known author (funded by WEF) – once booked, we will let parents know.