

Alexander Hosea Primary School

'Roots to grow, wings to fly'

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Headteacher: Mrs D Williams



Newsletter 5 – 3rd November 2017

From the Headteacher...

I hope you all had a relaxing and enjoyable half term. The time seems to be flying past in the new term already. This week we have been visited by the Life Education Bus, which the children have really enjoyed – see children's quotes below.

Also we spent a day with Tom Robson. He trained up 12 'Learning Detectives' (from Years 2-5) to be experts in the gem powers. The team then visited classes to observe their learning behaviours, then gave kind, specific and helpful feedback. This team will be working with Mrs Moncrieff for the rest of the year to follow up on these sessions. The Directors are Ollie (Year 4) and Millie (Year 5). For more information about gem power, please look at: www.tredu.co.uk/. Thank you to the Wickwar Endowment Fund for funding Tom's visits. We are very grateful and the children loved the experience.

Thank you for your donations for 'Clothes for Cause' yesterday. You raised £192.40.

PAN – Pupil Admission Numbers

After careful consideration by the Governing Board over the past few years, the Governors have decided to propose to South Gloucestershire Council that our school pupil admission level reduces from 45 children to 30 children per year group. This change will reflect our current pupil levels, as we have 30 children or less in all year groups (except Year 6 which has 32 children), so that we can retain the high quality provision that we are able to offer for every year group.

With cohort intakes of 30 we would still be able to accommodate children living in the local Wickwar area, which is classed as our area of prime responsibility. Places would continue to be prioritised for local children. Currently we have a wider catchment area that we serve (Rangeworthy, Cromhall, Iron Acton, Chipping Sodbury, Yate and Peg Hill etc) - a 30 intake would still accommodate these children as they come into Reception for the foreseeable future too. Current pupils would not be affected.

We will keep parents/carers informed about the process as it proceeds via school newsletters.

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 17th November 2-3pm

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

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 15th January 2018.

We need your help!

- We have noticed a big improvement in drivers' use of the drop off/pick up zone at the start and end of school. Thank you.
- We are looking for volunteers to help to plant the new saplings which are arriving from the Woodland Trust next week. They recommend to plant them within 7 days for the best chance to thrive.

School Gate Running

Andy from Wickwar Wunners has kindly agreed to host a school gate running group on Friday mornings at 9:15am. The first sessions will be on the school field **on 24th November, 1st December and 8th December**. These sessions will focus on Couch to 5K but everyone is welcome.

1st Wickwar Cubs

The 1st Wickwar Cubs are recruiting! We have a few spaces available for children aged between 8 and 10 and a half.

From Archery to Zorbing, being a Cub Scout gives you a chance to get stuck into activities you wouldn't normally get to do. We go on camps, we cook outdoors. It's a great chance to make new friends, have fun, get outdoors and learn new and exciting things!

If you would like to give it a go, please contact us - Joanna - 07920 282587, Gail - 07933 161377 or 1stWickwarCubs@gmail.com.

We look forward to sharing your adventure!



We are waiting to hear how we have done!



Life Education Bus

The Life Education Bus was with us on Monday and Tuesday this week. Here are some of the children's thoughts about the experience:

- The Life Bus is all about health and safety and how to deal with problems and being assertive. We talked about legal and illegal drugs and smoking. Jack and Sophie – Y6.
- We looked at the insides of a lady's body. We found out that the liver has lots of jobs (about 16). Also we looked at the brain of the bus, which did a dance with us at the end! Lily and Jack – Y3.

Pete Dommatt (one of the providers) gave feedback that all the children's behaviour was impeccable.

We are the Champions!



On Wednesday this week, our fantastic girls' football team played in an inter-school tournament at KLB. As usual they played with skill and determination. We are delighted that they won the tournament and will go through to the next round. Congratulations girls!



It was wonderful to see you all at the Parents' meeting this week, hosted by Tom Robson. We are in the process of putting together a video of the event, so that it can be shared on our website for members of the community who were unable to attend. We will let you know when it is ready.

Charities and fundraising

We are approached by charities all the time and try to:

- Support those which the community hold dear.
- Not overload families with fundraising requests.
- Spread the events throughout the year.
- Choose events that the children will enjoy.

In Term 2 the focus will be on:

1. **Children in Need** (17th November). Children can bring round pounds and wear spotty clothes for a voluntary donation of £1.
2. **Poppy appeal** (in the run up to 11th November). There is usually a range of items to purchase from 20p for a poppy to £1.
3. **Tombola items** (w/c 20th November – for the Christmas Fair on 1st December).
4. **Christmas Jumper day** (15th December). Children can wear their own jumper for £1. Funds to go towards new books for the school library.



BBC

**Children
in Need**

Pudsey's Round Pound Countdown is on...

You can no longer spend your old pounds, but we can still collect them and put them to work changing young lives here in the UK. Millions of round pound coins are still in circulation. We're challenging the nation to hunt for them in saving jars, piggy banks, coat pockets and down the back of sofas, then put them to good use by donating to BBC Children in Need!

We're aiming to collect as many as we can before our big Appeal Day on **17th November**.

So hunt for your last round pounds and donate them to make them count!

Calendar

We will no longer be putting the calendar at the end of the newsletter, as I think I caused some confusion with the times for Tom Robson this week. My apologies if this affected you. To access the school calendar, please follow this link:

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