

Newsletter 3, 2nd October 2026

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



Dear Parents/Carers

Conversion to join The Leaf Trust

We are delighted to say that the final stage of discussions between Alexander Hosea, The Leaf Trust, the local authority and DfE are well underway for the proposed conversion date to join The Leaf Trust of 1st November 2026. We are excited to join The Leaf Trust family of **unique schools, growing together**. Please follow the link to find out more about the trust <https://leaftrust.co.uk/>

Over the next two weeks, the children will have a lesson about the trust and will have the opportunity to ask questions, which will be passed to the CEO – Ross Newman. At the start of the new term, The CEO will visit the school and lead an assembly for all of our children to welcome them to the trust, answer any questions they may have had and talk about what they can expect from being part of this new family of schools.

Thank you

Thank you so much to our parent helpers (Mrs Sharples and Miss Green) and members of Wickwar Environmental Action Group – WEAG and Wickwar Helping Hands Group (Mr Teague and Mr Broad) for their assistance in building the last remaining flat pack outdoor furniture for our new nursery. We are very grateful to you for the time you have given to the school.

Prospective Reception tours for Sept 27 – We are now booking tours for prospective parents of children who are due to start in Reception in September 2027. If you know of anyone who has a child who will be starting school next September, please do encourage them to come and see our fantastic school for themselves. Applications are now open and will close on **15th January 2027**. Please spread the word and contact the school office to book your tour.

<https://life.southglos.gov.uk/kb5/southglos/directory/advice.page?id=GLu6GUIMkpw>

Best regards, Mrs Deb Williams

This term's Value



<https://www.alexanderhoseaprimay.co.uk/page/?title=Little+Gems+Nursery&pid=385>

We have places in our new nursery for children who will be 3 by 31st Dec 2026. These children can join in January 2027.

We are now also taking applications for places for September 2027. Please complete and return the application form (available through the link above, FAO Mr Feaster).

Flood repair works

Works continue behind closed doors in the Community Centre and the school kitchen, which is having an electrical rewire, new ceiling and redecoration. KP Wilton have advised that this will be complete by 31st October.

Once ready, the kitchen appliances and resources will start to return from storage and Edwards & Wards will prepare to restart service from the school kitchen (we hope this will be by the end of this term). In the meantime, the team will continue to use the catering unit in the staff car park.

INSET days

Please note that we have 6 INSET days from this year, as we will be joining The Leaf Trust on 1st November 2026

Fri 23rd Oct 2026

Fri 27th Nov 2026

Mon 4th Jan 2027

Mon 22nd Feb 2027

Mon 12th April 2027

Parent Council dates:

Term 1 – Tues 29th Sept 2026

Term 2 Weds 18th Nov 2026

Term 3 Tues 9th Feb 2027

Term 4 – No meeting – short term

Term 5 -Tues 20th April 2027

Term 6 Tues 6th July 2027

Notices and reminders

- **WATER BOTTLES:** Children need a water bottle in school every day. This must contain water only. No squash or juice please.
- **EMAILS** - All email correspondence with teachers and staff must go through the school admin team via AlexanderHoseaPrimary@sgmail.org.uk.
- **ATTENDANCE** – Good attendance is very important to your child's education. Please make sure that your child is in school every day and arrives on time. The gate closes at 8:59am.
- **BIRTHDAY ITEMS** – We have noticed that the birthday accessories are becoming an issue and distracting children from learning. Children may wear a small badge only. Please no tiaras, sashes etc. Children will be asked to remove these in school.
- **Transition to Secondary School** - If your child is in Y6, please go online and apply for your child's secondary school place. The deadline for applying for Y7 places is **31st October 2026**.
- **Thank you very much for your harvest donations** this week. They will be distributed by the church to families who need them.

Homelearning for Maths

Mathletics

We have been reviewing our use of Mathletics and considering alternatives. This currently costs £3000 p/a, with Friends of AHS contributing 50%. With other costs rising, this no longer seems good value for money.

Parents have reported to us that it has not been as smooth to use since it moved to a new platform and it can be tricky to use on some devices and it keeps dropping out.

We have adopted a new maths curriculum this year called White Rose, which is also used by many of the schools in The Leaf Trust and is tried and tested. With this in mind, we are looking into alternative resources linked to White Rose for children to use at home. More information to follow.

TTRS is still very popular with the children and (when used regularly) has a very good impact on pupils' rapid recall of times' tables, so we plan to continue with this system.

Miss Edgar – Maths Leader

Children's Commissioner survey

As the Children's Commissioner I've launched this survey so you can have your say on what it's like to be a child or young person in England today. I will take your views to the Government, to help them make life better for children.

Please follow the link below to share your child's views.

[About this survey : The Big Future survey - have your say!](#)

Caretaker

We now have an agency caretaker on site with us called Mr Emerton. He will be working 3 afternoons a week in the first instance

Handwriting

We have reviewed our handwriting across the school and decided to move to a new handwriting programme. Previously we have used Nelson handwriting, but in this style there are lots of breaks where the pen/pencil comes off the page (which doesn't help spelling). It is also confusing for children to know where to start letters, leading to some issues with letter formation and joining. Also the children told us that they wanted to loop their g y f and they didn't like the s in the old programme.

Research shows that cursive writing:

- improves fine motor skills - engages multiple areas of the brain through continuous fine-motor movement;
- increases hand-eye co-ordination;
- boosts memory and retention of information;
- helps children to process words as single connected units rather than isolated letters, which improves spelling.

We have looked at a range of handwriting programmes and decided to adopt 'Letter Join Plus' as our school style.



In the coming weeks, your child will be taught handwriting through the new programme. We know that it will take a bit of time for children (and teaching staff) to get used to, but we believe the effort will be worth the reward.



Reception – Letter Join Print Plus

Y1 – Letter Join Air Plus, with joined digraphs

Y2-6 – Letter Join Plus

Miss Clark – English Leader

Dates for your diary

Week 6

Mon 5th – Author visit – Fleur Hitchcock (Y4-6)
Tues 6th – Inter Schools football at KLB
Weds 7th – Dodgeball at Bradley Stoke
Thurs 8th – Prospective parent tours for Reception 2027
Fri 9th – Class newsletters

Week 7

Tues 13th – Prospective parent tours for Reception 2027
Weds 25th – Rev'd Catherine assembly
Fri 16th – School newsletter
Sat 18th Oct – Cross country at KLB

Week 8

Tues 20th – Jet class at St Augustines' Farm
Tues 20th – Parents' evening
Weds 21st – Parents' evening
Weds 21st – Y5/6 Come and try rugby at Yate Academy
Weds 21st – Krispy Kreme donut sale (Friends of AHS)
Thurs 22nd – End of term for children
Thurs 22nd – Class newsletters
Thurs 22nd – Non-uniform day for chocolate donations (Friends)
Fri 23rd – INSET day for staff

HALF TERM

Sat 31st Oct – Deadline for Y6 applications for secondary school

Lettings for sports clubs - Field

Exciting news! We are almost ready to start letting out the school field, with our new toilets for sporting clubs.

This is the first time we have been able to do this and is possible due to the summer re-development of the Blue Room (no longer blue and no longer 1 room!), which is now divided into 3 areas including 3 new toilets for our younger children.

Please contact the school office for more information. All clubs will need to have their own £1 million insurance and safeguarding policies and procedures.

Christmas cards – The Friends of AHS are arranging for Christmas cards again this year. Following on from feedback from parents last year, where they wanted personalised designs, these have come home for children to complete.

Worshipful Company of Weavers

Last week, Mrs Price and Mrs Williams met with the Upper Bailiff of the 'Worshipful Company of Weavers' <https://www.weavers.org.uk/>, which is based in London. One of their significant benefactors was Alexander Hosea! With this in mind, they are keen to build some links with our school.

Their crest is on the stained glass window featuring Alexander Hosea in Holy Trinity Church (where we have our harvest service and Y5/6 Christmas performance).

As an initial link, the Weavers would like to find something for the children at our school and we have decided to host a day of textile/weaving arts and crafts. This is still in the planning stage at the moment, but if you know of any artists or textile professionals who might be interested in getting involved, please signpost them to us.

Attendance

In light of the increased focus nationally on securing good school attendance for every child, we have reviewed our practices around Penalty Notices (fines) in consultation with our new Education Welfare Officer. Previously, we have only engaged South Glos Council in issuing penalty notices on rare occasions, however to bring us in line with other schools, we will now be expected to apply these as a matter of course, where applicable.

As you will have seen in previous communications about attendance and in our policy, we do not authorise holiday in term time. Going forward, where unauthorised absences equate to 10 missed sessions (5 school days) in a period of 10 weeks, we will consult with Education Welfare in our monthly reviews and a penalty notice may be issued.

We send out an attendance information booklet with all Absence Request Forms.

When we join The Leaf Trust, we will adopt the shared Attendance and Truancy Policy.



Friends of Alexander Hosea Events we are hoping to organise – please contact a committee member if you can help

- Colour run
- Grow a £
- Discos for the children
- Family quiz

Friends of AHS – Upcoming Events

1. **Wednesday 21st October** - Krispy Kreme Sale (Front of School 3:20pm - 4pm)
2. **Thursday 22nd October** - Non-Uniform Day (Chocolate Donations **NO NUTS**)
3. **Wednesday 2nd December** - Christmas Elf Gift Shop
4. **Friday 4th December** - Christmas Fair (4pm - 6pm)
5. **Tuesday 15th December** - Christmas Disco (4:15pm - 5pm Infants / 5:15pm - 6:15pm Juniors)
6. **Friday 18th December** - Christmas Coffee and Carols (Raffle donations needed please)

A reminder of who the friends are:

Co-Chairs: Alice (year 2 & year 5 parent) & Shelley (year 3 & year 5 parent)

Treasurer: Gemma S (Nursery & year 3 parent)

Secretary: Becci S (year 3 & year 5 parent)

Parent Liaison for Friends

Nursery - TBC

Topaz - TBC

Ruby - Kelly (Theo's mum)

Jet - Becky (Esme's mum)

Crystal - Becci S (Alfred's mum)

Diamond - Annette (Mia's mum)

Pearl - Becci S (Hugo's mum)

Amethyst - Sarah (Rocco's mum) Amee (Neeva's mum)

If you would like to find out more or become involved with Friends contact us at

committee@friendsofahs.org