



# Alexander Hosea Primary School

*'Roots to grow, wings to fly'*

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Headteacher: Ms V J Quest B.Ed Hons M.A. (Educ)



23rd March 2017

Dear Parents / Carers

## **BE HEALTHY**

### **Bronze Healthy School Award - it's official – we are a healthy school!**

I have just heard that, as a result of the application Mrs Windmill and I completed, Alexander Hosea has been awarded the bronze Healthy School Award. This involved auditing our policies and practice with contributions from various members of the school community. Our 'Ready, steady, go' sports focus also contributed towards this. We now hope to achieve the Silver Award as we already have things in place towards attaining this next goal.

### **Food and Nutrition Policy**

This has recently been updated. Please find the revised version on the website.

**Ready, steady, go!**

### **Inclusion sports**

The disabled basketball was a huge success with staff and children alike, helping the children understand the problems faced when mobility is affected by disability.

### **Visit from London and Rio Paralympian rower, Pamela Relph – 22<sup>nd</sup> March**

Pamela was a gold medallist in rowing at the Rio Olympics and came to speak to the children yesterday which strengthened our Inclusion focus this term. I would like to thank Tracey Brough for making this possible and providing the contact details.

### **Bristol Together Football tournament**

Mrs Gee is once again supporting the children who are participating in this footballing opportunity which enables a small group of our boys and girls to play football with another group of children from a school in a different context to ours. They train and play together as a team against other teams which have been made up of players from two different schools. This also supports our inclusion focus.

### **Ultimate Dodgeball in aid of the British Heart Foundation**

Miss Pursey organised and led a day of Ultimate Dodgeball in aid of the British Heart Foundation. The children loved it but also managed to **raise a massive £2418.32** for the charity, with 12 children raising over £50 each in sponsorship. Every contribution, whatever the amount, was greatly appreciated and contributed to this amazing grand total. Thank you so much for supporting your child with the sponsorship element.

### **Hula hoop day**

This was a successful event with the children enjoying the experience and learning some new skills.

### **Inter-year group hockey**

Children used the skills taught in PE to play hockey against each other – another successful sports event!

### **Tag rugby**

The group of KS1 pupils who played tag rugby at Crossways School in Thornbury came back all very positive and had plenty to report.

### **Quick Sticks Hockey**

A group of Y5/Y6 children went to KLB to take part in a quick sticks hockey event, which they enjoyed, coming 4<sup>th</sup> overall.

### **Swimming gala – Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> March**

We took a number of children of varying abilities to represent the school and they all swam fantastically well. A special 'thank you' must go to Miss Pursey and Miss Tyler for spending their Saturday evening at the poolside supporting them!

### **Sports Leaders**

I am passionate about providing a range of leadership activities for our children and Miss Pursey is working with students from KLB who are going to train some of our children as sports leaders on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> March. Children have had to apply for the role – a total of 20 will be trained.

### **Cross country**

Two of our pupils, Jasper McGrellis and Chloe Howe have reached the finals of the Gloucestershire County Championships and will be representing the school.

### **Gymnastics**

Two of our Y5 girls, Lola Sady and Chloe Howe, have been representing the school in the schools' acrobatic gymnastic preliminaries and they came 1st! They competed in the under 14's category against 25 other pairs so we are extremely proud of the girls!

As they won, they are now through to the national schools finals in May to be held in Stoke-on-Trent. We wish them every success!

### **Forthcoming events**

#### **Badminton**

You will have received a letter about a badminton after school club which was offered on a first come, first served basis.

#### **Archery event**

We are hoping to enter two teams to visit KLB on 6<sup>th</sup> April to take part in an archery tournament, which will again allow some more of our children to have the opportunity to participate in a sporting event this year.

### **STAY SAFE**

#### **Walking to and from school policy change**

##### **Morning arrangements**

Due to safety and welfare considerations, the Governors have reviewed the 'walk to and from school' policy and procedures, which will change from the start of term 5 – week beginning 24<sup>th</sup> April 2017:-

The school's policy is that all children in Year 4 and below are accompanied by an adult on the way to school and that Year 5 and 6 children only travel without an adult if the parent is fully satisfied that it is safe for them to do so. Parents/carers are asked to inform the school if their child will be regularly walking to school alone so that the register can be updated and appropriate action taken should they not arrive at school at the appropriate time in the morning. **Please complete the slip attached and return to school by Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> April.**

##### **Afternoon (home time) arrangements**

All children from Reception to Year 4 must be collected at the end of the day. Children in Years 5 and 6 may go home on their own only if the parent has made an approved request to the school. Siblings who walk with them must also be named and have permission from parents, carers and the school.

If the school has concerns about a particular child's ability to travel safely or if the child lives too far away, permission for the child to travel home alone may be refused.

Parents therefore must make an informed decision that they are confident that their child is able to walk home sensibly and must be aware that they are responsible for their child's safety on their way from school even when they are not physically present.

Parents who are collecting children from Topaz and Emerald classes should wait in the Foundation playground for the teacher to match their child with them. A member of staff will be on the external doors to enable them to do this, but there will not be a member of staff on the red gates. Please ensure that once you have collected your child/children, you leave as soon as possible.

Older siblings of children in Topaz and Emerald classes should go internally to the class of their younger sibling to be matched to their parents in the Foundation playground.

Parents of children in Jet class and children in Years 3-6 (without siblings in Topaz or Emerald) should wait in the main playground.

Jet class children are let out of the main KS1 door and are only allowed to leave the building once they have been matched with the adult who is collecting them.

Children in Years 3 -6 exit school from the external door closest to their classroom. Children in Years 3 and 4 will be matched with the adult that is collecting them. If not walking home alone, the children in Years 5 and 6 will meet whoever is collecting them in the playground. They will not be matched but are taught to come back into school if the person due to meet them is not there.

It is important that both teacher and child know which adult will be collecting the child at the end of the school day so please inform your child in the morning before school. For the full information please refer to the policy on the school website.

### **Attendance**

The Governors and I regularly review the school's attendance figures and check that our target of 97% attendance during the year is met. Having recently monitored attendance from September 2016 to February 2017, we are concerned that there are a lot of children whose attendance is well below this figure. Whilst letters and details of individual children's attendance are currently sent to parents once attendance falls below 90% or they have 4 or more broken weeks in a long term (A broken week is when a child has not been present for at least one day in a week) the Governors have agreed that letters should now be issued when attendance falls below 95%. You may be invited to an attendance meeting, although the aim of these is to be supportive.

It is recognised that there are times when children are too unwell to attend school or there are occasionally other extenuating circumstances, but holidays taken in term time and children being absent when perhaps they could come to school are impacting on attendance and more importantly on the children's progress and attainment. Please be mindful of this.

At the end of each academic year, children with 100% attendance receive a certificate to celebrate this. From the end of this term, we will celebrate this termly, as well as children who have the most improved attendance, acknowledging that for some children with particular needs or due to particular circumstances, 100% attendance may not be possible.

### **Arrival time at school**

It has been noticed that there are a lot of children who are arriving at school well before 8.50am and then having to wait around outside. Whilst I am pleased the children are so keen to come to school, please can you ensure they are not here before 8.50am, which is when the gates open.

### **Relationships and Sex Education (RSE)**

Emerald class have been covering their part of the RSE curriculum and Miss Tyler has informed parents of children in her class about this.

### **Internet Safety**

With continuing rapid changes in technology and APPs, it is difficult to ensure the children's on line safety out of school. For information, I have put an updated list of sites and links on our website that you as parents can access. The school's Acceptable Use of IT Policy has also recently been updated and this can be found on the website under Policies monitored by the Health and Safety committee. You will also be asked to re-sign the updated version of the Parents' Agreement.

## **ENJOY AND ACHIEVE**

### **Numbers Day**

The children looked great sporting their numbers and a total of £329.32 was raised for the NSPCC. Thank you for supporting this event.

### **World Book Day**

Children looked superb dressed as a character from a favourite book. They all paraded around the hall so we could guess who they were.

### **Science Week**

Last week was Science Week so the children have been acting like scientists, being involved in a range of science activities, which they will be sharing with the school this week.

### **Project outcomes**

Look out for your invitations to your child's/children's class project outcomes for Terms 3 and 4 if they involve parents. These will showcase the children's learning over the past two terms, which give children a real life purpose for their skills learning.

**TOM ROBSON is returning to Alexander Hosea Primary!  
PUT THE DATE IN YOUR DIARY – THURSDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> JULY**

I have managed to secure another visit from Tom Robson, which the Wickwar Education Foundation Trustees have kindly agreed to fund. I know lots of you missed his visit last time, so here is another opportunity to hear Tom who is an inspirational educationalist and speaker. More details will follow nearer the time but if any of you who attended last October have any specific areas you would like to learn more about or any questions, please let me know as soon as possible so I can try and arrange to have these included.

**Assessment Update**

The school has been selected again to be part of the trial for the KS1 maths tests for 2018. These will be taken between 19 and 30 June with a NFER assessor present. The outcomes will not be reported to the school and therefore will have no bearing on the children's results this year.

**Educational visits**

Topaz class visited Redwood for the second time this year. Parent Council reported very favourably on the opportunity this provides for the children to support their outdoor learning and appreciation of the natural world.

**Kilve Court**

The Y5 children are off to Kilve Court next week for their residential visit. We hope the weather is kind to them!

**School staff led After School Clubs**

These will finish on 31<sup>st</sup> March due to other commitments during the summer terms. Clubs run by external providers will continue.

**POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION**

**Bug Club**

I hope you are all supporting your child's reading by encouraging them to read the Bug Club books either online or as a hard copy. I would like to thank the Friends for donating £2000 towards the cost of these valuable resources.

**Easyfundraising** – please remember to use this when buying online; it is an easy way to raise money for the school to support your child's learning. [www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/ahpta](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/ahpta)

**Parent Council**

Parent Council met on 17<sup>th</sup> March. The minutes will be posted on the Parents' page of the website for information.

**Parents' Evenings – 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> April**

If you have not already signed up there is still time to do so using the electronic system which is available until 29 March. This is an important opportunity for you to find out about your child's progress and attainment so far this year.

**Cleaners**

Our cleaning company is currently looking to recruit a new cleaner. Hours are 3.30pm-5.30pm Mon-Fri. Please contact Daren Vaughan on (01225) 812496 if interested.

**Community news**

**Thornbury Tennis Club Easter and summer tennis camps** – for more details call 07590024186 or email [taylor.tennis@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:taylor.tennis@yahoo.co.uk)

**What's on?**

Age appropriate activities – what is available in our area – find out using the link below – again - Useful with the Easter holidays coming up.

<https://hoop.co.uk/>

**DIARY DATES FOR TERMS 5 and 6 2016-17**

<b>March</b>	Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Friends SEN Coffee Morning 9.15 am
	Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Crystal and Diamond Clip and Climb - Bristol

	Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup>	9am – 3.30 pm Sports leader training – for year 4 and 5 (25 pupils only)
	Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup>	Jet Class – End of topic event 9.30 am (parents invited)
	Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 31 <sup>st</sup>	Y5 residential trip Kilve Court
	Friday 31 <sup>st</sup>	Staff run clubs finish
<b>April</b>	Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup>	Parents' Evening 4.00pm – 7.30pm
	Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup>	Parents' Evening 4.00pm – 7.30pm
	Friday 7 <sup>th</sup>	<b>End of Term 4 for pupils</b>
	Monday 24 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Start of Term 5</b>
		Clothes for a Cause Collection
	Friday 28 <sup>th</sup>	Morfa Bay meeting Year 6 3.30-4.00pm
<b>May</b>	<b>Monday 1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>May Bank Holiday – school closed</b>
	Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> – Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup>	Year 6 SATs
	Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 19 <sup>th</sup>	Year 2 SATs
	Friday 19 <sup>th</sup>	Skipping – Whole school event
	Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Topaz Redwood Trip
	Friday 26 <sup>th</sup>	<b>End of Term 5</b>
<b>June</b>	<b>Monday 5<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Start of Term 6</b>
	Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 9 <sup>th</sup>	Y6 Morfa Bay Residential
	Saturday 10 <sup>th</sup>	Festival of Youth Sport
	Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 16 <sup>th</sup>	Phonics Screening week (Y1)
	Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	New Parents Evening
	Monday 26 <sup>th</sup>	Jet Class Berkeley Castle
	Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup>	Sports Day
	Friday 30 <sup>th</sup>	Reserve Sports Day
<b>July</b>	Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup>	Circus Skills Workshop – whole school event
	<b>Monday 10<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Staff INSET day – school closed to pupils</b>
	Friday 14 <sup>th</sup>	Pupil Reports home to parents
	Monday 17 <sup>th</sup>	Y6 Leavers Assembly – 6.00 pm (Y6 parents invited)
	Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup>	Move Up Day
	Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup>	Friends of AHS – Big Family Event
	<b>Friday 21<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>End of Term 6</b>

Yours sincerely

Ms. V. Quest  
Headteacher

**APPENDIX 1**

**Information Form - Walking to school without an adult – Years 5 and 6 Only**

Person with parental responsibility to complete and return this reply slip to Alexander Hosea Primary School.

NB There must be a separate form completed for each child for whom there is a request.

Name of child: .....

Class: .....

Date: .....

1) I wish to inform you that my child will be walking without an accompanying adult to school on regular basis, including from after school clubs.

2) I understand that the school will contact me if there are any concerns relating to my child walking to school alone.

3) I have taken reasonable precautions aimed at ensuring my child is safe including showing them the safest route, demonstrating the route to them and talking to them about road safety and stranger danger.

4) I understand that the school requires me to inform them if my child is absent from school for any reason on each and every morning of their absence.

5) I understand that the school will endeavour to make contact with me on the morning of registered absence if my child is absent from school and no notice (phone call or letter) has been received (from myself) to the school.

Signed: .....

(Please print name): .....

Contact Numbers (parent):

Home: .....

Mobile: .....

Work: .....

**APPENDIX 2**

**Request Form – Walking home from school without an adult – Years 5 and 6 Only**

Person with parental responsibility to complete and return this reply slip to Alexander Hosea Primary School.

NB There must be a separate form completed for each child for whom there is a request.

Name of child: .....

Class: .....

Date: .....

1) I wish to request permission for my child to walk home from school without an accompanying adult on a regular basis, including from after school clubs.

2) I wish to request permission for my child to walk home with their younger sibling.

Name of sibling:.....Class:.....

3) I have taken reasonable precautions aimed at ensuring my child is safe including showing them the safest route, demonstrating the route to them and talking to them about road safety and stranger danger, not allowing them to walk home alone in the dark.

4) I understand that the school may refuse permission for my child to walk home unaccompanied by an adult if it is deemed that it is not safe to do so (we will speak to you if this is the case).

5) I understand that the school will send written confirmation that my child has permission to walk home without an accompanying adult.

6) I understand that I have full responsibility for my child’s safety if they walk home alone.

Signed: .....

(Please print name): .....

Contact Number (parent): .....

Address (where the child will be walking to):  
.....  
.....

**SCHOOL USE ONLY**

Your child \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_ has/does not have permission to walk home without an accompanying adult following your recent request dated \_\_\_\_\_.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ (Headteacher) Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Years 5 and 6 only)

Yours sincerely,  
Ms V. Quest