

Alexander Hosea Primary School

'Roots to grow, wings to fly'

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Newsletter 7 7th December 2018

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

From the Headteacher...

This is a really special time of the year and we look forward to performances, parties and other Christmas delights. The children have been working hard on their items to sell at the Enchanted Christmas Fair this evening. The fair is one of the highlights of the calendar and we hope you will be able to come along. Thank you very much to the FoAHS for their hard work and dedication in preparing enjoyable events like this.

Celebrations and latest news

- We were delighted to welcome prospective parents to our second **open afternoon** for pupils for Reception in September 2019. It was lovely to see new and existing families at the event. Mrs Moncrieff and Mrs Windmill were very proud to show off our amazing school. The deadline for applications is **Tuesday 15th January**.
- **Year 6 parent visit** – the children displayed their impressive art work, poetry and report writing. It was great to see so many family members.
- **Jet coffee morning** was very well attended and the children were proud to show off their fabulous learning journals and the moon buggies they have started to make.
- The children across the school have been practicing for their **Christmas performances**. The school has been filled with angelic singing, which has brightened up everyone's days. We are looking forward to their forthcoming dress rehearsals to the rest of the school next week. We hope that you will be able to come along to see your child(ren) in action in the coming weeks – dates and time on next page and on school website.
- We have completed our application for **Artsmark Award**, which we will be working towards in the coming 18 months – see item below.
- On drier days, the **drop off and keep clear areas** have been used well, thank you. Please remember that no cars should be parked on the keep clear areas and that the drop area is for pulling in and letting your child alight to go into school. This area is not for parking and cars should not be left unattended in this area during drop off and pick up times, as this causes congestion. Thank you for your co-operation.

As the remaining fortnight is very busy, please keep a special eye on the school calendar (on our website) and we will flag up forthcoming events in fortnightly newsletters.

INSET dates: INSET 3 - **Friday 21st December 2018**; INSET 4 – **Tuesday 23rd April 2019** and INSET 5 – **Monday 8th July 2019**.

Applications for Reception for September 2019

The deadline for applications for Reception 2019 is Tuesday 15th January 2019. South Gloucestershire Council manage all our admissions and all the information you may need is on <http://www.southglos.gov.uk/education-and-learning/schools-and-education/school-admissions/primary-school-admissions/>

Admission to primary school booklet

For more information on Primary admissions please see our Primary Admissions Guidance below:



It is very important that you read the appropriate admissions booklet before making an application, including considering how your child will travel to their preferred school (s).

Start reading

Merry Christmas

Forthcoming Events (colour coded by year group)

W/c 10th December

- **Mon:** Topaz journal share (3-3:30pm).
- **Weds:** Y1/2 Christmas performance (9:30-10:30am).
- **Weds:** Christmas dinner for the children.
- **Weds:** Y3/4 Christmas performance (2-3pm).
- **Thurs:** Y3/4 Christmas performance (9:30-10:30am).
- **Thurs:** Y1/2 Christmas performance (2-3pm).
- **Friday:** Ruby journal share (3-3:30pm)

W/c 17th December

- **Mon:** Y5/6 Christmas service at Holy Trinity (2-3pm).
- **Tues:** Reception Christmas show to parents (10-11am).
- **Tues:** Y1/2 party (pm)
- **Tues:** Discos: Inf 4:45-5:45; KS2 6-7pm.
- **Weds:** Celebration assembly – cup awards.
- **Weds:** Y3/4 party (pm)
- **Weds:** Y5/6 Christmas service at Holy Trinity (6-7pm).
- **Thurs:** FoAHS coffee morning in hall (9-10:15am)
- **Thurs:** Reception party (pm)
- **Thurs:** Y5/6 party (pm)
- **Thurs:** Last day of term.
- **Fri:** INSET. School closed to children.

Sickness

Unfortunately a number of children have experienced sickness over the past fortnight. It has been very helpful that children have been kept at home until 48 hours has passed since the last episode, as this prevents further spread of illness.

To help infection control at school, we had all areas of affected carpet professionally cleaned and arranged for a deep clean of edges, ledges and door handles (on top of our normal daily clean). The sofa coverings next to the crossroads (near front office) were removed and washed. All children were reminded regularly about the importance of washing their hands thoroughly. Some classes even sang 'Nellie the Elephant' whilst handwashing to make sure that they were doing it for long enough!

We hope that everyone has now recovered so that they can enjoy the Christmas festivities.



Yate Library What's On in December

Vision West of England – Information, Advice and Support for visually impaired people

Thursday 6th December 2 – 4pm

First Thursday of the month



LEGO CLUB

Saturday 8th 10.30 – 11.30pm

Free drop in fun for 4 – 11 year olds

Wriggle and Rhyme



Thursday 6th 10.30 – 11.00am

Thursday 13th 10.30 – 11.00am

Thursday 20th 10.30 – 11.00am

Christmas Stories & songs round the Christmas Tree

with the members of Yate Teen Focus Group

Thursday 20th 5.30 – 6.30pm

Suitable for young children and their families

Teen Focus Group - Year 7 upwards

Thursday 20th 6.30 – 7.30pm

Every third Thursday of the month - £1.00 per session per child



Just Chillin' – Holiday Drop-In

Saturday 22nd 10.30 – 11.30am suitable for ages 4 – 11 years



Poetry Group

Tuesday 11th 1.00 – 2.00pm

Every other Tuesday of the month

Active Libraries

Craft Group Drop-In

Saturday 1st, 15th & 29th 10.00 – 12 noon

Wickwar Rainbows, Brownies and Guides

Looking for fun, friendship and an opportunity to put something back into your community? Then volunteer with Girl Guiding in Wickwar. We need more adults to join our team to provide the best opportunities for our Rainbows, Brownies and Guides. There are many ways in which you can help. We also welcome Young Leaders, aged 14-18 - a great way to gain the service element of D of E Awards. Contact me NOW for more information - Rosalind Abbott, South Cotswold Division Commissioner (a posh title for local adult recruitment and support!) [email: rosabbott@hotmail.com](mailto:rosabbott@hotmail.com) or 07709 739846.



Girlguiding

Safety reminder

Please can we remind parents/carers to not park on the keep clear areas (particularly to the right of the staff car park gates) and to only use the drop off section directly at the front of the school to drop off. Cars should not be left unattended in this area.

Thank you.



'Bank' lunchtime staff required

We are currently looking to expand the number of people we have on our books as 'bank' lunchtime staff (i.e. lunchtime supervisors who are available to come in and cover on an ad hoc basis when our permanent lunchtime supervisors are absent for any reason).

If you would be interested in applying to be a member of 'bank' lunchtime staff, please contact the School Business Manager Allie Hall on (01454) 294239 or allison.hall@sgmail.org.uk



JIGSAW THORNBURY is a small welcoming group set up by parents to support families with children and young people with any additional needs. This may be learning problems such as dyslexia to complex disabilities or health problems and may be without diagnosis.

<http://www.jigsawthornbury.org.uk/>

Parent Council

The Parent Council meet 3 times a year to talk about various aspects of the day-to-day running of the school. A representative from each class bring ideas about what is going well and talking points for consideration. This is complimented by the contribution of a member of the senior leadership team (usually Mrs Williams), who bring reflections/actions from previous meeting and possible ideas for future school development. The next meeting is **8th January 2:45-3:30pm**. We are looking for representatives for Crystal and Pearl Classes this year (please contact the school office, if you would like to get involved). Our current representatives are:

Infants: Mrs Hall (Ruby), Mrs Mason (Topaz), Mrs Heffernan (Emerald), Mrs Leighton (Jet).

Juniors: **Vacancy** (Crystal), Mrs Hathaway (Diamond), Mrs Carter (Pearl) and Ms Days (Amethyst).



Friends of AHS

7th December – Wickwar's Enchanted Christmas Fair

18th December – Christmas Discos

20th December – Coffee and Carols Morning

Wickwar's Enchanted Christmas Fair – 4:00-7:00pm

Join us for a fun evening for all the family. Meet Santa for only £2.50 with our all new Santa Experience 4-7pm. We will be operating a ticket system – please queue on arrival, collect your ticket and then freely roam within the Santa enclosure until your number is called. Visit Mrs Claus for a story or have a go in Santa's sleigh.

Timetable: AHS School choir 4-4.30pm, Wotton Silver Band 4.30-5.15pm, Holy Trinity & Yr5&6 AHS children hand bells 5.15-5.45pm, Wotton Silver Band 5.45-6.30pm, Christmas Tree Auction 6.30-7pm.

There will also be Refreshments, Games, Stalls, plus you will be able to buy your Children's creations from their class stalls. Entry: Adults 50p, Children Free.

Christmas Discos - Infants 4:45-5:45pm, Juniors 6:00-7:00pm

Entry is £1, plus £1 for a sweet cup and glow stick. This is for AHS children only. Please contact us if you can help at this event – thank you!

Coffee and Carols Morning – 9:15am

Please join us for a festive morning of singing, cakes, refreshments, and our always popular Christmas Hamper Raffle! The children will all perform their songs throughout the morning. Cake donations (homemade or bought, but no nuts) gratefully received on the day or the day before – thank you.

Christmas Shopping Evening

Thank you to everyone who came to our shopping event. It was a lovely evening with a variety of stalls. We are very pleased to announce we raised almost £500 for our school - thank you!

Chocolate Donations

Thank you for all your chocolate and monetary donations on Friday 30th November. We hope the children enjoyed their non-uniform day.

Happy Christmas from all the Friends of AHS

friendsofahs@hotmail.com www.facebook.com/FriendsOfAHS

Artsmark – going for gold!

We are pleased that over the next 18 months Alexander Hosea will be working towards the Artsmark award (hopefully Gold). We have submitted our Statement of commitment, which highlights the main areas of improvement. These focus on three main areas:

- supporting professional development for all staff in the arts;
- building partnership with outside agencies to enhance arts and cultural learning throughout the school;
- developing the use of sketchbooks to display children's skills and artwork clearly.

We are looking forward to starting our Artsmark journey and will keep you updated with our achievements.

Mrs Laura Cleverley (Art Leader)

News from the governors:

Our latest Full Governing Body meeting was held towards the end of November when we were able to welcome our newest governor, Mr Peter Lloyd, to the team. We also discussed the recruitment of a new parent governor.

Our governors come from a range of different backgrounds with varied skills and experiences but are united by wanting the very best education for all the children at Alexander Hosea. Being a governor is a very rewarding experience, requiring enthusiasm and interest. Please be on the lookout for the request to apply early in 2019.

On behalf of the governors I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and hope that you enjoy the Christmas performances given by the children.

Mrs Celia Rogers – Chair of Governors

Just Chillin'

Drop in craft session



Saturday

22 December

Yate Library

10.30—11.30am

Suitable for ages 4-11yrs

Cross-country gets underway

THE Dursley and Wotton-under-Edge Primary Schools Cross-Country League got underway in October, with young athletes from 25 schools across the county taking part.

Organiser Ron White, from Kingswood, has been staging the event for 21 years, and it's grown from around 16 schools and 200 competitors in 1997 to 25 schools and 350 runners this season.

"I get fantastic support from Mr Harris, the

headteacher at KLS school, who allows me to use the school grounds, from sport co-ordinator Sharon Bates whose assistance behind the scenes is a great help," said Ron.

"I think I run a great, fun event which allows children the opportunity to win medals and trophies as an individual or as part of a team.

"This season we have adopted a high-tech full timing chip system, and this allows us to have results, placements and times within 10 minutes of the end of each race.



"There are four races per event and four events per season - the format is a bit like Formula One - points are added together from each race and the higher you finish the more points you get."

Years five and six children also have the chance to run against other districts at the Gloucestershire Primary School Championship.

Ron has many happy memories of the event, including the winner of the first event: "Sam Dalglish won the first event and he's still running and won the Wotton parkrun a few weeks ago."

"England rugby player Ben Morgan ran in the past and returned last year to present the awards, but I think the best memory is of all the happy faces of the children who do this event over the years and if their do well and win medals."



We were really pleased to see several of our Y5/6 children in the December edition of the Wotton Times.

www.wottontimes.co.uk

Good luck to our runners for tomorrow's competition!