



Alexander Hosea Primary School

'Roots to grow, wings to fly'

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to the new academic year. We hope that everyone has had a good summer. The staff have been working hard to prepare inspiring projects and our highly valued immersive environments – we know how much the children value these spaces – and we are really looking forward to seeing your children back to school on Monday. Trips and visits will resume and some are already booked for the autumn term!

Start of the day

As we communicated in the Newsletter in July, we plan to keep the one-way system but the staggered timings will be discontinued. The front door will be opened at 8:45am and children will filter to class between 8:45-8:59am. All children are expected to be in class ready for the start of the day by 9am and the registers will be done at this time. Masks are not needed on site, but adults are welcome to continue wearing them if they would prefer to.

End of the day

All children can be collected from the main playground at 3:30pm. The gates will be opened as soon as the playground is clear of PE lessons (approximately 3:20pm). Please make your way to the collection point for your youngest child and keep the access corridor near the playground gate clear for other parents to arrive and leave. The classes will leave through building exit points as follows:

Reception (Topaz) – from Blue Room door (please wait by the large plant bed on the far side of the playground).

Year 1 (Jet) and Year 3 (Ruby and Emerald) – from the Infant corridor door (please wait by the garage doors to play pod on the far side of the playground)

Year 2 (Crystal) and Year 4 (Diamond) – from the middle doors between the two large planters.

Year 5 (Pearl) and Year 6 (Amethyst) – from the upper Junior doors on the near side of the classroom (near bright bench)

If you would like your Year 5 or Year 6 child to walk to and/or from school alone, please contact the school office for a form. This must be submitted at least 2 days before the child starts to walk alone.

PE days

PE days were posted in the July newsletter and children will still need to wear PE kits into school on PE days. Full PE uniform is expected.

New! ELSA – Emotional Literacy Support Assistant

We now have 2 new ELSA Teaching Assistants, who will be delivering regular social and emotional learning support for children who need it across the school. They have a wealth of experience in supporting children with additional needs and will have ongoing training and support from an Educational Psychologist. Teachers will be making referrals into the programme and Miss Edgar has the final decision on priority children for support and will contact parents to offer support. A programme of sessions will last 6 weeks with a clear entry and exit assessment to measure impact. Some children will access sessions individually and some in small groups.

Updates from Public Health

Attached to this email is a newsletter from Public Health about the reopening of schools in South Gloucestershire. It explains the changes made to schools in line with government guidance and the measures we can all continue to take to help keep yourself, your child and everyone safer while Covid-19 continues to circulate.

School Lunches

School lunches will resume being served in the hall for all children, however as stated in our email on 2nd September, there are some difficulties with our dinner service in the short term and food will be provided by another local school until Integra are able to recruit a new kitchen manager. We have now been advised that the food will be transported in large trays to be served at the hatch as usual and the children will eat on plates not from boxes as previously advised. We would like to thank Mrs Thornbury for her exceptional commitment and hard work over the past two decades – we will miss her and wish her all the best in her new venture. We are awaiting an update on recruitment and the reduced menu for the short term. We will keep parents informed about progress in this matter and hope that normal service will resume as quickly as possible.

Helpers in School

We are really pleased to be planning to start to welcome parent helpers back into school later in the autumn term. We value the support of helpers in school and have really missed the positive contribution, especially the additional support with reading, so this will be our priority. We will take a limited number of parent helpers at any time to manage the numbers of additional adults on site. We know that there will be a high demand for parent helpers as our parent body is highly engaged and enjoys playing an active part in school life and we value this too. Mrs Williams will send an information session out in the coming few weeks and interested parties can put themselves forward to class teachers, after they have attended the session and returned the necessary paperwork. The teachers will then start with a couple of helpers per class in Term 1 & 2.

We are really looking forward to seeing all our children back to school on Monday 6th September and welcoming our new Reception children on Monday 13th September after home visits.

Kind regards
Mrs Deb Williams