

Alexander Hosea Primary School

'Roots to grow, wings to fly'

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Newsletter 2, 18th September 2020

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

From Mrs Williams.

We would like to extend a very warm welcome to our fantastic new Reception children. They are settling in really well and Mrs Windmill and Mrs Johns have been really impressed with how well they are bonding and adapting to the school routines. We are really looking forward to watching them grow and develop.

Thank you to children, parents and staff for all that you are doing to work together to keep our school open this autumn. All the steps we are taking to socially distance (see letter emailed to parents from South Gloucestershire Council), reinforce good hygiene and wash hands regularly is helping to protect our pupils and staff and keep all classes open. We are very grateful for your cooperation.

We know there are challenges with the Test and Trace system (see information at the end of this newsletter), but it is essential that individuals with symptoms of coronavirus stay at home with the rest of their household and book a test. This can be done online or by phoning 119. No child or adult should come to school with symptoms of coronavirus.

Attendance

- All children are expected to attend school every day, as long as they are well (see link to the right for advice). We are very pleased that all children have returned to school in September.
- Holidays in term time are not authorised and holidays should be booked in the 13 weeks school holidays.
- If your child has a **persistent cough, a temperature of 37.5°+ or loss of taste or smell**, contact the school office, keep them and all members of the household at home and arrange for a coronavirus test*. Once the test result returns, please contact the school office to inform. Negative results (and as long as no one else in the household has symptoms) mean that the household are safe to go about their normal routines and the child(ren) can return to school.

*Please note that there is a national problem with accessing tests and delay in returning results, so this could take several days.

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-body/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

Please follow to link above for advice to help parents to know what to do if their child appears unwell (including colds, chicken pox, head lice, as well as symptoms of Coronavirus).

Pupil Places

We are pleased to have welcomed a number of new children to our school (as well as the Reception children) this term and we know there are a further few families awaiting decisions from admissions.

We are now full and over-subscribed in all KS2 classes and there are children on waiting lists in all KS2 year groups. We have a few remaining places in both Reception and Year 2 at present, if you know of anyone who is looking for a place in our school.

Prospective Parents for September 2021

If you have a child who is due to start school next year and you would like to arrange a visit, please contact the school office. Visits can be arranged between 10th September 2020 and 14th January 2021 for one adult and one child at a time and masks should be worn by the visiting adult and staff member. Tours will not visit classrooms, but you will be able to see classrooms in action through the windows/doors.

Covid-19 Information for Parents and Carers

Social Distancing at our school

Our school is taking all the necessary precautions to protect us all against infection. Please follow the steps below:

Before you travel

Before you send your child to school, **stop and think**. Can you reduce pressure on the public transport system and road network by walking or cycling?

If anyone in your household has any symptoms of Covid-19

CALL US TO LET US KNOW - DO NOT COME TO SCHOOL

Symptoms are: A new continuous cough or high temperature, loss of taste or smell

If you need to book a test phone NHS 119 or book online

www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test

Plan your journey

Please make sure it is only ONE parent or carer that takes your child to the school gate and follow the instructions on social distancing from there:

Wash or sanitise your hands before your journey

Take hand sanitiser and a face covering if you can

If you need to speak to your child's teacher, plan ahead and follow the school's guidance on how and when to speak with them

On your journey

Use a face covering if you can when you will be close to others

Maintain 2 metre-distance where possible, especially at the school gate

Be patient and carry out requests from the school

Wash or sanitise your hands as frequently as possible

Completing your journey

When finishing your journey you should:

Throw away single use face coverings or wash reusable face covering

Wash or sanitise your hands as soon as possible

Off The Record

Off the Record is a local service that has been highly recommended by other parents. They are running virtual parent groups for parents of any aged child who may be experiencing difficulties with their emotional health.

Parents can ring **0808 808 9120** for more information.

Lunchtime Vacancy

We have a vacancy for 3 permanent lunchtime shifts a week from start of October. If you are interested, please contact Mrs Allison Hall on Allison.hall@sgmail.org.uk



ALEXANDER HOSEA PRIMARY SCHOOL
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COULD YOU BE A SCHOOL GOVERNOR?

Would you like to help shape the future for the next generation?

Do you have valuable/professional skills you can offer?

Are you committed and have a willingness to question, analyse and learn?

If you answered YES to the above, please get in touch.

We have vacancies for parent governors and a co-opted governor. Full training and support will be provided.

Please contact Mrs Sarah Gregory for more information:

sarah.gregory@sgmail.org.uk

Parent Council

Parent Council will recommence in Term 2. We are working on how we can do this safely at the moment.

If you have been the representative for your class in the past and wish to continue, please let the office know that you are the representative. So far, we have heard from Jet Class.

Alternatively, if you would like to hand the role to another parent, please see if you can find someone else to take over and ask them to let the office know that they are the new representative.

For each representative, we will need to know which email address you would like us to use.

Meetings in Terms 2-4 are likely to be carried out remotely.

Free school meals

Free school meals are available to pupils in receipt of, or whose parents are in receipt of, one or more of the following benefits:

- Universal Credit (provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400, as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods, and your monthly average income over three assessment periods should be no more than £616.67)
- Income Support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on – paid for four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit

<https://find-information-for-adultschildrenfamilies.southglos.gov.uk/kb5/southglos/directory/advice.page?id=96T2gCAk10A>

Uniform reminder

Thank you for sending your child in the appropriate uniform each day. They are looking very smart in school.

On PE days, all children are required to wear the PE kit listed below when they arrive at school, so that they are ready to take part and do not need to change clothes during the day. We are already seeing the advantages of this in terms of having less home items on site and no physical activity time being wasted whilst children change clothes. We have had very positive feedback from parents, children and staff.

We are no longer keeping spare kit on site, so the children do need to come to school dressed for PE on their days. Thank you.

PE

- Plimsolls are required by children in our Reception class
- Trainers are also required for children in Years 1 to 6
- Black or navy blue shorts
- Navy blue or black tracksuits/joggers may be worn in cold weather.
- A white T-shirt or a coloured printed T-shirt to represent their house:-

Archers – Blue

Brewers - Green

Potters – Red

Weavers - Yellow

(NB - No football shirts).

Message from NHS Test and Trace

We have seen unprecedented demand for testing recently. NHS Test and Trace figures show that between mid-June and the end of August the number of people getting tested for the first time rose by 63% and we have seen demand for testing increase significantly again this week.

People with symptoms absolutely must come forward to get a test as this will help us stop the spread of the virus. As we manage this period of high demand, it is especially important that if individuals don't have symptoms, and have not specifically been advised to take a test, they should not be coming forward for a test **because they could be taking a test away from someone who really needs it**. A recent survey at testing sites suggests around a quarter of people who have accessed tests did not have symptoms.

Since the start of the pandemic, we have vastly expanded the nation's testing capacity, more than doubling the capacity of the NHS and PHE laboratories as well as setting up an entirely new nationwide network of testing sites and new Lighthouse laboratories to process samples. We continue to expand capacity even further and to help ensure that testing is being used by those who need it most.

Schools have been issued with [guidance on testing](#) and the advice for parents and teachers. It is very important that this guidance is followed. Schools should not advise pupils or teachers to take a test unless they exhibit one or more of the listed symptoms. If there is a confirmed case then schools should not advise entire classes or year groups to get tested. Only those with symptoms or those advised by their clinician or Local Authority should get a test. Schools must not require students to provide evidence of a negative test before letting them back to school.

- The main symptoms of coronavirus are: **a high temperature, a new, continuous cough and a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste**. Most people with coronavirus have at least 1 of these symptoms.
- If you have Covid-19 symptoms, get a test. It's really important that anyone with Covid-19 symptoms can get a test. This will help us stop the spread of the virus. If you don't have Covid-19 symptoms and you are trying to book a test, do not come forwards for a test – **you could be taking a test away from someone who really needs it**. This is increasingly important as we head into Autumn and Winter and more people will get colds and the flu. Only if you have one of the 3 symptoms should you book a test.
- Do not stockpile tests – if you develop symptoms in the future you will be able to book a test. There is no need to order a test in case of future use.
- If someone in your household starts to have symptoms, then that person must get tested and the rest of the household should self-isolate with them whilst they wait for the results. If you or other members of the household don't have symptoms, then you should not get a test – only people with symptoms should get tested. The vast majority of people who are tested in person get their results the very next day. [Full guidance on self-isolation is available on gov.uk](#).
- If you are self-isolating or in quarantine, then a negative test result does not mean you can end isolation early. The virus can take time to develop and so a test early on does not prove that you won't go on to develop the virus. That means you could still be at risk of spreading the disease to other people.
- If you have symptoms and need to book a test, you can do this online [here](#) or by ringing 119. Please keep trying as appointments are released throughout the day.
- The local NHS 111 service is currently experiencing high numbers of calls from people seeking Covid-19 tests. The 111 service is not able to arrange tests and callers have to be redirected to the correct 119 number, or online service, which is frustrating for individuals and affects 111 capacity. We need to make sure that 111 is protected for people who are ringing about other medical and health issues.
- You can find NHS information and advice on how to treat coronavirus symptoms at home [here](#). If you are concerned about your symptoms and need medical advice, use the NHS 111 online coronavirus service or call 111.



- The spread of coronavirus, particularly in enclosed spaces is shown in a new film, produced with experts in the field, which highlights the risk in simple, everyday interactions
- The campaign will run across TV, radio, print, out of home, social and digital display advertising

Pupil Premium

Pupil Premium is funding for children who are eligible for 'Free School Meals'. This funding follows the child throughout primary school, with approx. £1350 per year to help each child to achieve well in school and keep fit and healthy. Even if the family were only eligible to receive FSM for a short period, it is definitely worth applying for this funding, if you are eligible.

'Universal Free School Meals' is different – this is the national free meals programme for all Infant children. **Children can receive Universal free school meals in the infants and be eligible for Free School Meals (Pupil Premium).**

School Reading Books

Please could we ask families to check their bookshelves to see if any school reading books (particularly Infant reading books) have got mixed up with home reading books. We are running low on Infant reading books. Please place any books you may find in the school entrance (under the FoAHS display board), so that we can quarantine them for a few days before putting back into circulation. Thank you very much.

We are planning to apply for funding to a few local charities, but if you know of a company/community group that might be willing to help us to purchase more Infant reading books, please contact Angela.Moncrieff@sgmail.org.uk

Calling larger families!

If you have 3 children in the school, we would like to hear from you. How are drop off pick-ups going? What would you find helpful as we go forward? Email Angela.Moncrieff@sgmail.org.uk

Parent Questionnaire

We have reached the end of our 2nd full week back at school and we are reflecting on all the measures we are continuing to take to protect the safety of the children and staff and support the children to re-engage with school life and learning again. We would value parents' feedback too. With this in mind, we would be grateful if you might spare a few minutes to share your reflections on how the reintegration process is going so far.

1. How clear is communication about planned procedures to keep children and adults safe?
2. How well do you think these safety measures are adhered to?
3. How safe does your child feel at school?
4. How well is your child's wellbeing being supported to aid their return to school?
5. How well is school engaging with parents during this period of transition?
6. How did you child feel about coming back to school? How do they feel now? What do you think has helped them to reconnect?

Do feel free to copy and paste the questions into an email to Alexanderhoseprimary@sgmail.org.uk titled '**Week 2 parental consultation**'. It would be great to have **as many responders as possible** so that we can gain a full picture of parental views, so even if you are completely happy with everything, please drop us an email to say so. To remain anonymous, please print/write your comments clearly (against the numbers above) and post in the black post box by the front of the school.

If we could ask for one response per family, it will make it easier for us to manage the analysis. Equally short bullet pointed responses would be really appreciated. In lengthy responses it might be more difficult to identify the key gist of the feedback, with high volume of returns that we are expecting.

We will not provide individual responses to the questionnaires. Please contact the teacher directly if you have concerns about how your child is settling in.