

Alexander Hosea Primary School

'Roots to grow, wings to fly'

Honeyborne Way, Wickwar, South Gloucestershire, GL12 8PF
Tel: 01454 294239 or 01454 294638
Email: AlexanderHoseaPrimary@gmail.org.uk
www.alexanderhoseaprimary.co.uk
Headteacher: Mrs D Williams



Newsletter 5, 6th November 2020

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

From Mrs Williams.

We hope that everyone had a good half term. It has been a strange start to the term with the second national lockdown starting yesterday. In school, life has continued as (new) normal and the children have taken the week in their stride. We stand united with you during these challenging times.

Whilst we have not yet finalised our Christmas plans yet, there will be many things for the children to look forward to in school and we will make the run up to the festive season as enjoyable as possible. Next Friday is Children in Need; the following week we will join in with the national annual anti-bullying week (including 'Dare to be Different' Day) before we start advent and Christmas activities.

Usually there are a lot of fundraising activities in this period, but we are aware that times are different and money is tighter for many of our families, so we will try to be sensitive to this in our planning.

Prospective Parents for September 2021

If you have a child who is due to start school next year the deadline for primary school applications is **15th January 2021**. Find out more at: www.southglos.gov.uk/primaryadmissions

Due to the national lockdown, we are unfortunately not able to show prospective parents around at this time. We hope to be able to offer visits to the school for one parent and one child at a time after the lockdown is lifted (depending on revised guidance from gov.uk).

There is a good range of information about the school on the school website and prospective parents can contact the school with any questions about the school.

Gardening thanks

Thank you very much to Mrs Hathaway and Mrs Gregory for planting the roundabout with bulbs to brighten it up for families next spring.

Also thank you to Mrs Trull for planting the pots at the front of the school, ready for the spring too.

COVID-19 Information page – School website

There is now a dedicated COVID-19 information page on the school website. It can be found using this link

<https://www.alexanderhoseaprimary.co.uk/page/?title=COVID%2D19&pid=293>

Parents' evenings

Thank you for working with us to make the parents' evenings on Microsoft Teams run smoothly. The feedback on these has been really positive from parents and teachers and it is proving to be a successful alternative to face-to-face sessions.

Miss Chalmers will be in touch with Diamond parents soon to set up parents' evening sessions in the coming weeks. If Mrs Moncrieff is back at work and able to, she will join these meetings. In the meantime, Miss Clark will accompany Miss Chalmers. The first two meetings will be on 17th and 19th November.

Our Value of the Term is:

Self-belief

We will be thinking about what makes us special and celebrate diversity. The Jigsaw theme that compliments this is 'Celebrating Difference'.

Children in Need

This year we will be doing a low-key 'Children in Need', but if parents would like to donate to the charity, follow the link: www.bbcchildreninneed.co.uk We would like to invite the children to get creative and make a Pudsey using any materials you have at home or garden. Take a photo of their Pudsey and upload it to Google Classroom/Evidence Me. These will be collated onto a class collection.

Christmas cards

Thank you to Mrs Hill and the Friends for organising the Christmas card orders.

Anti-bullying week

The theme for 2020 is 'United against bullying' to use 'the positive power that society can have when we come together to tackle a common challenge'. During this week, the children will take part in activities that will help children to understand the difference between unkind behaviour and key elements of bullying: hurtful; imbalance of power; repetition; intentional. We will help them to understand that everyone has a part to play in anti-bullying.

Our Anti-bullying policy will be updated to fit with the new requirements of the new RSHE (Relationships, Sex and Health Education) Curriculum and the Pupil Council will review their Anti-bullying Charter this term too. Once these have been refreshed, we will save on the website and send parents a link. We have talked through the gist of this with Parent Council.

We do not tolerate bullying. We have a range of strategies to support children to be kind and respectful to each other and take responsibility for their words and actions. Excellent behaviour and attitudes are rewarded publically through praise, use of in class 'Soaring' and 'Soaring High' charts, Teacher's Awards, Headteacher's Awards, termly Citizenship Awards (cups). We are explicit with children about what is expected of them and highlight where these behaviours and attitudes are exemplified in others around them. In the event that negative behaviours become evident, we try to uncover the underlying need and gap in social learning, to support with appropriate strategies and bring about improvement, working with other support agencies if needed.

We help the children to understand what to do if they are worried about a relationship becoming unhealthy and strongly encourage them to tell an adult at school straight away, so that they can have help to resolve this quickly.

Where an allegation of bullying is made, we take this seriously and would:

1. Investigate thoroughly, taking into account the views of children involved and observations by staff working with them.
2. Identify strategies to help to support both parties and bring about improvements.
3. Work in partnership with parents to keep them up to date with how the improvements are progressing and take into account child's comments/actions at home and school.
4. Monitor the impact of strategies over time and identify where things are working well and what else could be done to support the children.

Underpinning this is the understanding that, with help from home and school, all children can learn from mistakes made and develop greater skills in managing relationship difficulties, so that everyone can feel safe and happy at school.

If children mention worries at home about unkind behaviour, especially if this feels like a pattern emerging, we would urge parents to alert the teacher straight away, using an appropriate means (eg phone or email). Facebook is not an appropriate way to raise concerns about this or any other school matter, as the staff who are best placed to support children will not be aware and it could be upsetting for other parents and potentially harmful to the wellbeing of children. It is always best to speak to the class teacher directly, so that they can investigate and where needed intervene to support the children appropriately. We can only act and look into matters, if we know.

Dare to be Different Day – Thursday 19th November

We would like to invite all children to swap an item of uniform for something bright or unusual for 'Dare to be Different Day' as part of Anti-bullying Week. Poster from Friends of AHS to follow.

Children could:

- Wear an unusual accessory eg hat/wig, funny socks etc.
- Paint their nails.
- Swap an item of uniform for a much loved dressing up item/item of clothing.

Shoes must be safe to run around in and if it is your PE day, the clothing should be safe to do PE in. Please clearly name any portable items, so that they can come home with the right child at the end of the school day.

Homelearning during Self-Isolation periods

We are in the process of finalising our Homelearning Plan. This has been sent to Parent Council for comment and has been agreed by staff and Governors this week.

As part of this plan, we are sending home today the following items for children to use (only when self-isolating).

EYFS – plain paper exercise book

Y1-6

1 x squared paper exercise book

1 x line paper exercise book

For children in receipt of Free School Meals (not Universal Infant meals)

A stationery pack for use when self-isolating

We know that cases are rising nationally and there are increasingly significant numbers of children in local primary and secondary schools who are having to self-isolate.

When your child is self-isolating, they should only be in the house and garden and not anywhere in any public place. This is to prevent the spread of coronavirus and protect each other.



Wickwar Environmental Fun Day

Saturday 7th November 2020

Wickwar Village Autumn Litter Pick

10:00 – 11:00 pick up litter pickers and rubbish sacks from No.40 High Street.

Help us tidy up Wickwar!

Litter pick routes provided to suit all people and abilities!

Nature & Remembrance Family Trail

Enjoy one of our specially created circular walks – inc. Pond Restoration & our new community VE Bench

Pick-up your map at No. 40 High Street between 12:00 – 16:00

Discover things and places in Wickwar you perhaps never knew about!

FREE Insect Hotel for participants!! ☺

*Max groups of 6/Social distance rules apply**

For more information, just drop us a line at - Weagwickwar1@gmail.com.

Parent Council

Parent Council Representatives:

Topaz – Mrs Narborough (Wilf)

Emerald – Ms Lloyd (Lily G)

Ruby – Mrs Hall (Alana)

Jet – Mrs Bendon (Millie) & Mrs Lee (Freddie)

Crystal – Mrs Dalziel (Evelyn)

Diamond – Mrs Leighton (Anabel)

Pearl – Mrs Zlobec-Short (Zac)

Amethyst – TBC

Our first meeting has taken place this week and the minutes will be saved on the school website soon.