



# Alexander Hosea Primary School

*'Roots to grow, wings to fly'*

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Headteacher: Mrs D Williams



Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

As you will be aware, all schools will be reopening to all pupils on Monday 8th March. We are delighted about this news and look forward to welcoming the children back in; the staff have definitely got an increased bounce in their step this week. Attendance for all children will become mandatory again from 8th March.

### **Preventative safety measures**

The staggered drop off and pick up and all other preventative measures will revert back to our pre-lockdown model from the autumn 2020. A reminder of these times and arrangements will be in tomorrow's newsletter. PE days will be as autumn term and the current menu will continue up until the Easter break (see website).

Although there will be easing of measures over the coming months, we ask that for the time being all parents follow the one way system, respect social distancing expectations (2m), wear a mask within the school gates and disperse quickly away from the site to avoid over congestion. Some staff have been offered the vaccine, but there will remain large groups of staff and parents who have not yet been vaccinated until the summer.

In school, we will be continuing our safety measures from our risk assessment for some time yet. These include separating bubbles of children to limit contact between children and staff; staff will continue to be offered lateral flow tests (new from Feb 2021); staff wear masks in the communal areas; regular cleaning; limited sharing of resources; frequent handwashing etc. We know that these measures are effective as we have had very few cases of covid in school and these have been quickly contained.

### **What to bring to school**

Upon the children's return to school, we would ask that they bring in:

- Their homelearning books (Teachers will be able to use tasks that have been completed independently as part of their evidence base for assessment - at the end of March);
- Any school reading books that they have borrowed from school;
- Named water bottle (this goes home and back every day for washing);
- They can bring a small bag on the days when they have more to carry.
- All children are expected to wear full school uniform, so you may wish to try these on in advance, in case they have grown since Christmas.

WOOSC will be open again as normal from 8th March. Please contact them directly about places.

### **Focus for settling in upon return**

Please be reassured that we know what we are doing in supporting the children's transition back to school. We have done this before and with great success. The focus will be:

- **Re-establishing routines** to help the children to feel secure and reconnect.
- Relational approach - all about **relationships** - this will involve supporting the children's social and emotional resilience and rebuilding relationships with their peers and the adults who look after them at school.
- Promoting **positive behaviour** - sharing, turn taking, problem-solving together to help them to reconnect appropriately with peers and adults.

### **Assessment**

Please try not to worry about academic gaps in learning. We know that engagement with the remote learning offer has been very high and all families have done all that they can to keep their children on track with their learning and we thank you for this.

As of December 2020 assessment, almost all children were on track with their prior attainment expectations, so we did not go into this lockdown with big concerns about learning gaps. The teachers know what they are doing, they know the children well and have already started planning for their return to face-to-face teaching (as well as starting to plan their inspiring projects for the summer term - with basic skills woven through).

### **Parents' Evening**

To allow an appropriate timescale for teachers to settle the children back in and assess where they are with their learning, parents' evening has been shuffled forward by a fortnight. These will now be hosted remotely on week commencing **26th April and the following 2 weeks**. The teachers are in the process of booking appointment blocks with the office and these will be shared with parents in the coming fortnight.

### **How to prepare your child to return to school**

All children are different and there will be a range of feelings about the return to school. We know that some children have loved being at home and are anxious about being back in school, whilst others will have felt isolated and really missed the social contact with friends and many other mixed feelings too. It may help your child to talk with them about their feelings and ask them what they are looking forward to and anything they might be worried about.

The way the adults around them communicate about the return to school will make a difference too, so it is important for them to know that you want them to be back at school to learn and play with their friends.

The teachers are available to support in the transition phase. Please contact them through Google Classroom/Evidence Me, if you would like to talk anything through.

For children with special educational needs, you may also wish to contact the SENCo [Kimberley.Edgar@sgmail.org.uk](mailto:Kimberley.Edgar@sgmail.org.uk)

We look forward to welcoming all our children and their families back to school on Monday 8th March.

All the very best,

Mrs Deb Williams