

Alexander Hosea Primary School

'Roots to grow, wings to fly'

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www.alexanderhoseaprimary.co.uk
Headteacher: Mrs D Williams



Newsletter 1, 4th September 2020

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

From Mrs Williams.

Welcome back to school. It is so fantastic to see all our children back in school again – it has been such a long time since we have all been able to be together. The children have returned to school with a positive mindset and have started to settle into their new classes. We are really proud of them for the great attitudes they have shown during their first few days. We are also very grateful to all parents for being flexible and supportive of the new arrangements to keep children and staff safe. In the words of a journalist recently schools are 'building the plane as they fly it' and we are regularly reflecting and tweaking our arrangements to make them the best they can be. We will carry out a formal review at our weekly staff meetings and give parents as much notice as possible where we decide to make a change as we proceed through the terms.

Please do make the time to read the whole school **fortnightly newsletters** throughout the year, so that you can stay abreast of what is happening for your children in school. The school calendar (see link above) is updated each Monday and is a helpful overview of key events. We do not have many key dates at the moment, as our priority is to settle the children back into school routines and learning. Future events may look quite different as we balance creating an experience and social distancing and safety.

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.

Parents' Evenings: The dates for these are provisionally set for 20th and 22nd October, but we have not yet confirmed the format for these. Once we have a firm plan, we will let parents know the arrangements.

Teachers create **weekly class newsletters** for parents and these are posted on the class pages of the school website and also will be posted on Google Classroom (Y1-6) in the news stream. These contain useful information about the learning from the week and what to expect in the week ahead.

The **'Meet the Teacher'** meetings are another way to find out about the expectations for the year. These will be presented virtually on Google Classroom next week and we would encourage parents to watch the presentation. Any follow up questions can be emailed to teachers.

In the event that your child will be absent from school for any reason, please contact the **school office**, so that they can update the class register (you may wish to copy in the teacher to any emails too for their information). 'Request for Absence' forms are in the office. These must be completed in advance of a planned period of absence and submitted to the school office via the post box at front of school or by email. We do not authorise holiday in term time, so please book family holidays during the 13 weeks of school holidays. When children miss school, they miss important learning and social opportunities. Good attendance is important to be able to access the full curriculum and opportunities on offer and to build good routines and practices for the future. All children are expected to be in school every day.

We look forward to a happy, healthy and productive year.

Permission to walk to/from school

If your child is in Y5 or Y6 and you feel that they are ready to be able to walk to or from school independently, please complete a request form (available from the school office). Permission to walk home alone is at the discretion of the headteacher.

This permission does not cover walking home from non-staff run clubs. Arrangements should be made directly between parents and the company providing the club.

Parents may wish to change permissions during weeks when darker afternoons are drawing in. Parents should let the club provider know of any such changes in advance.

School Dinners

<https://www.alexanderhoseprimary.co.uk/page/?title=School+Meals&pid=29> (link to current menu).

The cost of school meals are FREE for children in Reception – Year 2; for other years they are £2.30 a day.

Meals are payable in advance using the online pay system (ask at the office for more details).

Parking Polite Reminder

Please park in a respectful and safe manner. The drop off zone is for dropping off only; cars should not be left unattended in this area. Neighbours have asked that drivers do not park on pavements, across driveways nor with engines left running. The local PCSOs plan to visit from time to time during the year to support sensible parking.

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

Children who get paid these benefits directly, instead of through a parent or guardian, can also get free school meals.

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

Uniform reminder

For more information, follow the link on the website:

<https://www.alexanderhoseaprimary.co.uk/page/?title=Uniform&pid=28>

THE CURRENT UNIFORM

There is an expectation that children come to school dressed smartly. Fashion items are not considered appropriate.

GIRLS

- grey or black skirts, trousers or pinafore dresses
- white polo shirts
- royal blue sweatshirts or cardigans depicting the school logo.
- black, grey or white socks or tights
- dark coloured shoes/ankle boots which are sensible and durable.

Knee high boots and trainers are not acceptable.

In summer, as an alternative to the above, girls may wear:

- blue and white checked gingham dresses or plain school knee length black or grey shorts
- caps or hats

Socks should be worn with all shoes.

Swimming costumes must be all-in-one suits to adhere to pool regulations.

BOYS

- grey or black trousers or shorts
- white polo shirts

- royal blue sweatshirts depicting the school logo
- black, grey or white socks
- dark coloured shoes which are durable and sensible.

Trainers are not acceptable.

In summer, boys may wear:

- caps or hats (caps are available with the school logo)

Swimming trunks/shorts, but not Bermudas, to adhere to pool regulations.

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).

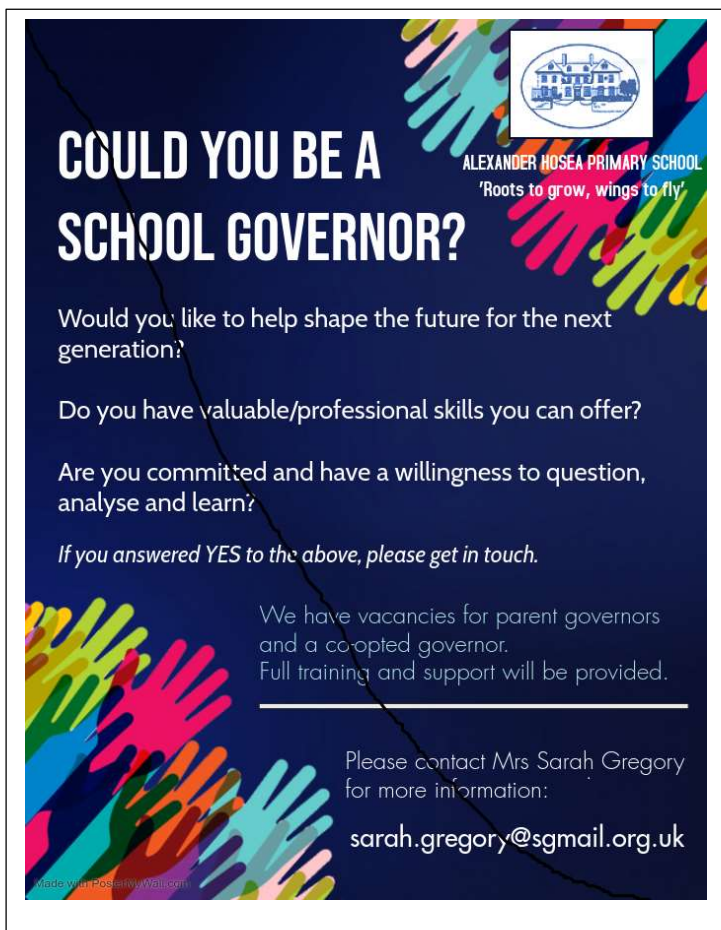
All PE items need to be kept in a named drawstring bag, which must be in school every

Swimming

At this time of the year, we usually start our swimming lessons in Year 3. In light of the current situation, the Local Authority have advised us that school swimming lessons will not take place for now. We will let Year 3 parents know when we are safe to proceed with these.

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



COULD YOU BE A SCHOOL GOVERNOR?

ALEXANDER HOSEA PRIMARY SCHOOL
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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

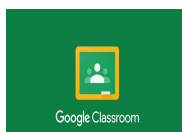
Parent Council will recommence in Term 2. We are working on how we can do this safely at the moment.

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.

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.



During Lockdown we used Google Classroom as our platform for online learning in Years 1-6 and it was a huge investment of time and effort for our school community. In these ever uncertain times and with the possibility that children may have to return to online learning if there was a local Lockdown, we are very keen to keep using it to support the children's home learning and as a vehicle of communication.

On reflection, we now want to make a clear distinction between what is shared on the class stream and the learning that is set on classwork pages.

Moving forward, Google Classroom Stream will now be used for:

- Weekly class newsletters from the teachers.
- Home/school communication about child's achievements which they may have wanted to share in Achievement Assembly – sports awards, etc.
- Messages in a Twitter style – teacher's may post pictures of classroom activities and quick updates.

The classwork pages / topics and assignments will be used for:

Setting home learning tasks. For KS1 this will be weekly challenges (starting Friday Sept 4th) and for KS2, 1 task will be set every 3 weeks (starting Friday 11th Sept) which links closely to the children's learning. In turn, parents will be able to upload the children's learning into their child's private folder, which will enable the teacher to then respond to it.

We are very keen to grow the use of Google Classroom and watch it evolve as a virtual learning platform; we look forward to your support in helping us to do so.