

Newsletter 7 5th December 2025

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

Dear Parents/Carers

Reception places for September 2026

If your child was born between 1 September 2021 and 31 August 2022, you must apply for them to start primary school in September 2026. This is a very important decision and it is important that you read the South Gloucestershire Primary school admission guide before you apply. Applications for primary school admission must be submitted no later than **15 January 2026**. <https://life.southglos.gov.uk/kb5/southglos/directory/advice.page?id=GLu6GUIMkpw&familychannel=2-2&channel=family> We host weekly tours throughout the autumn term and in January in the run up to the deadline. Spaces on these can be booked through the school office.

Consultation to apply to open a School-Based Nursery – The consultation window has now closed. Thank you to everyone (including many prospective new parents), who have taken the time to respond to the survey. We have received a huge response to this already and there is a clear appetite for a pre-school in the village. We will find out whether our application has been successful in March 2026.

Consultation to join the Leaf Trust

Thank you for all your responses to the consultation. There were a couple of specific queries from parents that we thought it may be helpful to respond to. Please see FAQ item on the next page.

Christmas Elf Gift Shop

Thank you, Mrs Creed, Mrs Page, Mrs Farthing, Mrs Rose, Mrs Price and Mrs Wilson for organising, wrapping and volunteering on the day. It was a wonderful event which the children really enjoyed.

Best regards, Mrs Deb Williams

Dates for your diary

Week 6

- 8th Dec – Prospective parent tour for Reception '26
- 9th Dec – KS1 performance to parents 9:30am
- 9th Dec – Y3/4 performance to parents 2pm
- 10th Dec – Y1 trip to Bristol Aquarium
- 11th Dec – Y3/4 performance to parents 9:30am
- 11th Dec – KS1 performance to parents 2:30pm
- 12th Dec – Assessment reports to parents INSIGHT

Week 7

- 15th Dec – Reception nativity to parents
- 15th Dec – Cup assembly
- 15th Dec – Y5/6 service at Holy Trinity Church 6pm
- 16th Dec – Y5/6 service at Holy Trinity Church 2pm
- 16th Dec – Friends of AHS discos Inf 4:15-5pm; Ks2 5:15-6:15pm
- 17th Dec – Christmas meal for children
- 17th Dec – Topaz party in pm
- 18th Dec – Y3/4 party in afternoon
- 19th Dec – Coffee and carols in hall from 9:15am
- 19th Dec – Y5/6 party pm
- 19th Dec – Last day of term
- 5th Jan – INSET day



Stop norovirus spreading

Norovirus, also known as the 'winter vomiting bug', is the most common stomach bug in the UK. It can spread easily through close contact, or by contaminated surfaces, food or water.

The main symptoms of norovirus include a sudden onset of nausea, followed by projectile vomiting and diarrhoea, usually 1 to 2 days after becoming infected. Other common symptoms include a high fever, a headache and aching arms and legs.

Good hand hygiene is important to stop norovirus spreading.

To stop norovirus spreading, you should:

- wash your hands thoroughly using soap and warm water after using the toilet or contact with a sick individual and before preparing and eating food.
- stay off school or work until you have not been sick or had diarrhoea for at least two days
- not rely on alcohol gels instead of washing your hands, as these do not kill the virus
- wash any contaminated clothing or bedding using detergent at 60°C using disposable gloves to handle any items
- use bleach-based cleaners to disinfect surfaces

If you catch it, stay home for 48 hours after your symptoms clear

DO ✓ Wash clothes and bedding at 60°C	 Wash hands with soap, clean surfaces with bleach-based disinfectants	DON'T ✗ Go to work or school, visit care homes or hospitals	 Prepare food for others
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Most people will make a full recovery in 2-3 days without needing any medicine. It is important to keep hydrated – especially children and the elderly.

Try not to visit A&E or GP surgeries if you have symptoms of norovirus unless advised to do so by a healthcare professional, as this may spread the bug to others. Call ahead to a GP or ring NHS 111 if you are worried about your symptoms.

Further information is available at NHS 111 or NHS.uk (<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/norovirus/>)

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The NHS have provided this guidance for schools, as we go into the winter season.

This term's Value



Absence

If your child is absent, please inform the School Office before 9AM by phoning 01454 294239, pressing option 1, please state your child's name, class and reason, you will then be prompted to finish the voicemail by pressing # and saving the voicemail by pressing 0. You can also email the school on AlexanderHoseaPrimary@gmail.org.uk stating the above information.

You must inform us every day your child is absent, unless we have had a absence request form.

Teacher contact

All emails should be sent to the school inbox AlexanderHoseaPrimary@gmail.org.uk. This will ensure your email is seen quickly and will be passed to the relevant members of staff. Please ensure any emails have the child's name and class information.



Special menus

17th December – Christmas Lunch, traditional lunch or Quorn fillets

25th March – Year 2 / Jet class parent lunch

17th July – Year 6 / Amethyst class parent leavers lunch

Thank you to the Friends of Alexander Hosea

A special thank you to our wonderful PTA and their volunteers for all the Christmas activities they have organised for our children.

We look forward to this evening's Christmas Fair at 4pm.

Please do support the Friends, they raise much needed funds for our school.

FAQ regarding Leaf Trust

Would the school be able to maintain its distinctiveness if we join the trust?

Yes, when the governors researched different trusts, one of the criteria for us was to find a trust that aligned with our values and valued the distinctiveness of each school. We are a rural, village community with strong links to the heritage of our place and want to maintain this. We ruled out other trusts that where there appeared to be more of a one size fits all approach. In the Leaf Trust, we would be able to maintain a significant amount of autonomy, whilst accessing the benefits of working within a wider school family (eg benefits for children to engage in wider learning, leadership, sporting and cultural activities with other like-minded schools; shared procurement of services to save money and time; access to high quality professional development for all staff; benefits for leaders of working within specialist networks eg for SEN, English leaders etc).

Would there be changes to the SEN support?/reduction in funding for SEN?

No, the school would still receive the national funding for SEN and the funding related to banding for EHCPs. We would continue to work with the South Glos SEN Cluster to support children who are at SEN Support (this includes for funding and access to services). All schools in Leaf Trust engage with their local SEN Cluster. For children with EHCPs, these would continue to be managed by the EHCP team at South Glos and income would match the banding identified on EHCP along with £6000 from the school's national budget. Being part of the Leaf Trust would give us potential access to further school to school resources and support (including through the links to 2 schools with SEN resource bases on site and access to further speech & language specialist support). Since last term, our SENCo has been invited to engage with the Leaf Trust SENCO network, which seems excellent already.

What happens with the profits made by the trust?

Academy trusts are education charities that are set up purely for the purpose of running and improving schools. Trustees have strict duties under charity law and company law. Trustees are not paid – they are not allowed to run the trust for their own 'private' interest but are required to advance education for public benefit. They are required to uphold the Principles of Public Life. All funds are used to run and continually improve schools.

Monies raised by the parents and community via the Friends of PTA or school sales are still for the benefit of our children. School will still receive Pupil Premium, Sports Premium etc in the way we normally do.

Nursery Consultation feedback

We received 57 responses to the consultation. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this.

96% of respondents were in favour of opening a school-based nursery and there were many, many responses from families saying that there is a desperate need for a pre-school in the village.

Key areas in support were:

- There is no pre-school provision in walking distance (hard for 1 car/no car families/no regular local public transport).
- Benefits for transition into school for pre-school children and help them to make friendships in the village before they start school.
- Families are struggling to find suitable childcare places locally (long waiting lists; having to travel out of the area to find childcare)
- Beneficial to families with other pupils at Alexander Hosea – as one drop off and pick up.

FAQ

Would children who attend the pre-school have higher priority by Admissions to get Reception places?

No, the South Glos Admissions criteria would still apply to all families and be administered in a fair way.

Would a pre-school reduce space and resources available to other children?

No, we have had a spare empty classroom adjacent to Topaz Reception Class for the past 6 years. Reception have used it as it has been empty, but they have a large classroom and outside space so will not be disadvantaged. As part of the application for the school-based nursery we will be applying for the whole EYFS unit to be redecorated; flooring updated; toilets renovated; additional technology, furniture and other resources to set up the unit; resources and an outside shelter for EYFS outside learning space. This means that there would be a significant benefit to the children in the whole of the EYFS unit.

Would the new pre-school affect WOOSC?

No, WOOSC would still run as usual, in their current space in the Community Centre and with the age of children they currently serve, during their usual times.

Free school meals



You could be one of thousands of families across South Gloucestershire missing out on saving over £400 each year, per child.

Your child will get a hot, healthy, freshly prepared meal at lunchtime. Their school will have full menu details including dietary requirements.

All children in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2 get universal infant free school meals so you do not need to apply for them.

However, you need to apply to receive benefits-related free school meals and the extra help they offer, including funded holiday club places in the main school holidays and help towards school uniform and school trips.

Plus, you'll be helping your child's school - they will receive extra funding to improve educational outcomes.

Christmas Play Donations

As requested through parents & grandparents in previous years, there will be donation pots at the end of the Christmas performances, should anyone wish to donate to the children's classes.

The monies will be split between the classes doing the performances.



Maths workshops for Parents

As requested through parent council, there will be workshops for parents in the coming months. The dates for these are (times TBC):

4th February – Year 3&4

25th February – Year 1&2

Further information will be provided by Miss Edgar next term.



Friends of Alexander Hosea

Lots of exciting Christmas events happening in December 🎄

Christmas Fair 🎁 🎁 – TONIGHT 4-5PM – Thank you Mrs Creed for organising a very special guest to arrive at the fair this evening

Winter Disco pre booking available - with a special winter treat! ❄️

<https://www.pta-events.co.uk/friendsofahs/index.cfm?event=event&eventId=105568>

🎁 The annual Christmas Coffee & Carols is scheduled for the last day of term.

Please bring in raffle donation prizes and cake donations so we can raise lots of funds for our children.

We also need volunteers on the day to help us run the refreshments and raffle, please signup using the link below.

volunteersignup.org/Y8YE3

Events we are hoping to organise – please contact a committee member if you can help

- Colour run
- Grow a £
- Summer fair
- Ice cream sales

Upcoming events

- 5th December – Christmas Fair
- 16th December – Winter disco – KS1 4.15-5pm KS2 5.15pm-6.15pm – pre booking available
- 19th December – Coffee & Carol morning – please bring donations for the raffle to the main office

A reminder of who the Friends are:

Co-Chairs: Alice (year 1 & year 4 parent) & Shelley (year 2 & year 4 parent)

Treasurer: Gemma (year 2 parent)

Co-Secretary: Tara (year 2 & year 4 parent – School's SBM) & Becci (year 2 & year 4 parent)

Parent liaison for Friends

Topaz – Kelly (Theo's mum)

Ruby – Becky (Esme's mum)

Jet – Becci S (Alfred's mum)

Crystal – Annette (Mia's mum)

Diamond – Becci S (Hugo D's mum)

Pearl – Sarah (Rocco's mum) Amee (Neeva's mum)

Amethyst – Gemma (Max's mum)