



ALEXANDER HOSEA PRIMARY SCHOOL

'Roots to grow, wings to fly'

20th July 2017

Dear Parents / Carers

BE HEALTHY

Ready, Steady, Go!

Circus skills

The last of our visitors who were booked to support our Year of Sport, came to school on 4th July and taught the children in all year groups, a range of circus skills, which they performed in an assembly at the end of the day. Hopefully this will have inspired them to come along to the real circus which is on the school field on Thursday 20th July. Tickets are still available from Friends or on-line – see the posters around school for further information. I hope to see lots of you there!

Amethyst class whole school games morning

Amethyst class have planned and led a sporting morning for all the children in the school, as the grand finale to our 'Ready, Steady, Go' year. Both they and all the other classes enjoyed this immensely and added to the leadership skills set of our oldest children before they transfer to secondary school.

Sports newsletters

The last sports newsletter of the year is available on our website. Please take a look to find out about how we have continued to promote sports and a healthy lifestyle.

School meals research

The Governors are keen for a small group of parents to look into different providers for school meals so they can decide whether our current provider offers the best meals and value for money. I have discussed this Parent Council and Emma Days and Jo Walker-Saunders have agreed to start work on this next term. If you would be interested in joining them, please let Allie Hall know. Thank you

YR and Y6 health survey

School health nurses came into school and weighed and measured the children from these two year groups. The outcomes for Alexander Hosea School were very positive and better than those in South Gloucestershire and nationally.

Wickwar Games

Although blustery and a little wet, the Wickwar Games went very well and many of our pupils successfully entered the 5K run and the various sports. Thanks to the Friends for their contribution towards making this a success.

STAY SAFE

Supersonics

The children who have 'flown' supersonic for their behaviour for learning this year, celebrated yesterday with a table tennis and multi-skills event, followed by ice creams.

Collecting your children at the end of today (Thursday)

Topaz, Emerald and Jet classes along with their older siblings will leave school via the Foundation playground so please collect from there.

Crystal, Diamond, Pearl and Amethyst children will exit the building from the main door, so if collecting please wait in the grassed area adjacent to this entrance so they can be matched where necessary.

ENJOY AND ACHIEVE

Citizenship cups, Creativity Award and Music award.

If your child has one of these at home, please can they bring it back to school tomorrow so we can present to the children who have been awarded them this term/year. Thanks

Reports

I hope you have found the reports useful. May I remind you that these are for personal reference only. If you came to hear Tom Robson earlier in the year, you will know that the most important thing is to praise your child for their attributes and skills as a learner and their progress, which is process rather than outcome based. Obviously outcomes should also be valued without putting too much pressure on children for the future.

Please complete the feedback form and return to school before 21st July. Thank you.

Children's Learning Journals, English and Maths books

We will be keeping the children's books from this year, as they can be used as part of our evidence base to support learning outcomes next year and in case Ofsted visits and wants to see them. Your children will, however, be bringing the previous year's books home for you to keep.

Summary of this year's achievements – Year of sport

We have had another very successful year this year, especially with the wide range of sporting activities provided for our children as part of our Year of Sport - Special thanks to Miss Pursey and also Mrs McAleese.

We have gained the School Games Gold Award, the Healthy School bronze award and bronze and silver Eco- awards.

Our classrooms are more immersive and our 'real life project' curriculum has developed enormously and is continuing to improve all the time. Our focus on character education and the skills and attributes of great learners, including our school and British values, ELLI and gem learning powers and our unique teaching and learning strategies, have all contributed to the overall effectiveness of the school which is reflected in this year's academic results across the school; these are better than both local and national outcomes.

Emerald Class visited Bristol Museum as a WOW ending to their project. The children really enjoyed this, especially the dinosaurs!

Project outcomes

These just keep getting better! We had a huge range of outcomes which enabled parents and grandparents to be involved with their child's / grandchild's learning, showing the processes through the skills taught and how these have been applied.

Topaz – the children demonstrated their amazing confidence in their play, 'Billy no buzz' which they performed for parents.

Emerald – Their talent show was truly spectacular and the children were able to showcase all their learning from throughout the term.

Jet – A great tea party was shared by all and the children were able to share their story writing, art and other learning with their parents.

Crystal – The children demonstrated their understanding of the impact of disability on sports and performed their skills in games they had devised for people with no arms, legs etc., supporting our inclusion value. They also sold teddy bears for charity.

Diamond – Ice cream and strawberry sauce (made from the strawberries grown in the garden) were served whilst children shared their learning with parents.

Pearl – Parents were able to watch the children's film trailers for the summer Harry Potter movie! They also had the opportunity to share Learning Journals and home learning.

Amethyst – Leaver's Panto

An outstanding performance of 'Pirates of the Curry Bean'. The children all showed their acting and singing skills **and** the confidence to perform at such a high level in front of an audience.

A big thank you to all the staff who have worked so hard to make these project endings possible.

Move up morning – 18th July

The children all spent a morning in their new classroom with their new teacher and Teaching Assistant – they already seem very excited about their new projects which will start in September.

Tom Robson – Wednesday 1st November

Unfortunately Tom was unable to join us last week due to some devastating family news. We have now managed to re-arrange the date, which is scheduled for the evening of 1st November, 7.00pm. He will work with the children during the day and then provide an evening session for parents. Please put the date in you diaries, even if you came last time as he will be talking about something different but equally as inspirational and will give important messages that can make a real difference to you and you children. The Trustees have very kindly agreed to fund his visit.

POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION

Parent Council

We had the last meeting of the year on 6th July – the minutes are on the school's website. Parents Councillors are keen for this to continue next year, so hopefully there will be volunteers from each class – preferably two, so if one of you can't make it the other one will be able to!

Library refurbishment

The school library is currently being refurbished using funding gratefully received from the Friends. This will hopefully be completed during the holidays ready for the start of September. Rachel Hathaway, Ben's mum, has very kindly offered to create some wall art for us, donating her time, for which I am extremely grateful too.

New carpets for Emerald and Jet classes

New carpets will be fitted in the holidays before the exciting learning environments are created for their next projects.

FORTHCOMING SCHOOL EVENTS

Thursday 20th July – Happy's Circus – please come along – tickets are available from members of the Friends committee or on-line: www.pta-events.co.uk/FriendsOfAHS.

It is hoped this will be successful in terms of entertainment and fundraising to ensure your children benefit from an enriched learning environment and resources.

Other events

I have been asked to include:-

Chipping Sodbury Open Evening will take place on Thursday 14th September 2017. The school will be open from 5.45pm with the Headteacher's presentation at 6.00pm, 6.45pm and again at 7.30pm. If you are unable to attend but would like to look round the school, please contact them on: 01454 862900 or email: enquiries@chippingsodbury.school

DIARY DATES FOR TERM 1 2018-19

Welcome Mrs Williams

Mrs Williams will be starting as the new Headteacher of Alexander Hosea School on 1st September and I am sure you will all make her feel very welcome.

Dates for next academic year have been circulated and are available on the website.

We now have term dates for 2018-19 attached and these will also be uploaded onto our website.

Goodbyes

Sports coaches

Unfortunately, we will no longer be using the sports coaches to provide PE lessons in the afternoons as part of our PPA provision. Instead, Mrs McAleese will be providing these lessons, as she has qualified as a Higher Level Teaching Assistant and has also been trained by the sports coaches previously. This has helped make the model more sustainable.

Another reason for using our own staff is because they know the children, the school and its expectations and rules – this provides consistency for the children and results in high standards being maintained and improved upon. As we have extremely well qualified and high quality Teaching Assistants, we increasingly use them to provide cover instead of supply teachers for the same reasons. This is shown to have a positive impact on the children's learning outcomes too!

Mrs Sprosen and Mrs Wiffen will sadly be leaving us at the end of term. I would like to thank them for the contribution they have made to the children's education and to the school during their time with us and wish them all the best for the future.

The end of term sees the end of an era for our Year 6 children who will be leaving Alexander Hosea and transferring to secondary school for the next stage in their life's journey. They have been amazing and I am sure Alexander Hosea School has given them 'roots to grow' and 'wings to fly', as was clearly demonstrated in their leaver's pantomime. I wish them every success and hope to hear of their future achievements.

It also brings the end of an era for me as I shall be retiring at the end of term. I have had a wonderful eight and a half years as Headteacher of Alexander Hosea Primary School, during which time I hope, with the strong team of staff, governors and parents, I have made a positive difference to the lives of children in Wickwar and surrounding villages/towns; they have been at the centre of everything I have done and they have all achieved many great things during this time. I believe I leave the school in a really positive place and hopefully well set to achieve an outstanding judgement from Ofsted at the next inspection.

I have also enjoyed the opportunity to work with members of the local community, including the pre-schools, Wickwar out of School Club, the Community Centre committee / Parish Councillors and Reverend Russell and the local churches. I will certainly miss you all and wish the school and community within which it lies, all the very best for the future.

I would just like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your kind words, which mean so much to me and for the gifts I have received from the children, including those presented in a farewell assembly this morning and from the Friends. There were meaningful momentos of my time at the school and a new camera which I will be able to use to record my travels and other experiences in the years to come. I wish you all and your children all the very best for the future and hope to see the school go from strength to strength.

Wishing you all a very happy and relaxing summer holiday.

Yours sincerely

Ms. V. Quest
Headteacher

