

Newsletter 9, 24th January 2025

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

Dear Parents/Carers

We are well in the swing of term now and Christmas seems a long time ago. We hope that your children are really enjoying their new projects (we know the staff are!).

Staffing update – Mrs Windmill has decided to retire at the end of this school year, after more than two decades at the school. Mrs Windmill is a valued member of the team and has taught almost all the children in the school. We will plan a lovely send off for her later in the year.

Reception Sept 2025 – The application deadline has now passed. Parents will be informed by South Glos about their child's places in April.

Places in other year groups – We currently have places in Reception and Year 1, if you know of anyone, who is looking for a local school place. South Glos Admissions manage all our admissions, so applications must be made through them.

Attendance and punctuality –

- We are very proud of our excellent record for school attendance (currently 96.9%, which is well above national average) and know that our families take this seriously. Children make more rapid progress when they attend school every day and it contributes to them building good routines for the future and supports friendships and wellbeing. Please book routine appointments and holidays outside of school time to advantage your child.
- Arriving at school on time every day is key to having a settled start to the day and they benefit from the morning challenges (eg flashback 4, pre-learning, retrieval activities). All children are expected to arrive at or before 8:50am, so that they can come in through the gate before it closes at 8:59am.
- Mrs Williams and Mrs Joyner (ELSA) are on the gate every morning to support pupils' wellbeing and we take messages to pass on to the teachers. Mrs Brooks is our Attendance Leader - she tracks attendance every term and engages with parents to improve attendance as and when needed.

Dogs – Reminder that dogs (except assistance dogs for the blind) are not permitted on site. Thank you.

Kind regards - Mrs Deb Williams - Headteacher

Dates for your diary

Week 4 27th January

29th Jan – Fire safety assembly

Week 5 3rd February

4th Feb – Water safety assembly

5th Feb - Cricket taster day

6th Feb – Y6 SATs meeting for parents

Week 6 10th February

10th Feb – Y4 in Oxford trip

11th Feb – Safer Internet workshops (Y4-6)

11th Feb – Parent Council meeting

11th Feb – Dance festival competition

12th Feb – Cup Award assembly

Half Term

Please see teachers' weekly newsletters for more information about specific class activities.



UNDERSTANDING YOUR CHILD
SOUTHGLOS APPROACH

inourplace NHS

Supporting emotional health and wellbeing from 0-19+

Free online courses for all parents, carers, grandparents and teens

- Antenatal and postnatal baby bonding
- Understanding your child or young person
- Your child or young person with additional needs
- Teenager's feelings and brain development
- And lots more specialist courses

Designed by clinical psychologists in partnership with practitioners and parents

Residents of SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE

In paid partnership with: 

Use Access Code
CONCORDE

www.inourplace.co.uk

This term's Value



Special menus (see email from December for more information)

4th March – Pancake day puddings

6th March – World Book Day Harry Potter themed menu

31st March – Eid Al-Fitr

15th May – Eurovision themed menu

6th June – National fish and chip day

Reminder: please pre-book on Scopay

Online Safety Reminders

Safer internet day will take place the start of February, so it may be a good opportunity to talk with your child(ren) about staying safe online. Please see below the age limits / recommended ages for apps available on iPads / tablets / phones. Avon & Somerset police also recommend using parental controls and apps such as 'Google Family Link' to keep an eye on what your child is accessing.

Facebook – 13 years

Whatsapp – 15 years

Instagram – 13 years

Tiktok – 13 (suggested for 14 years+)

Capcut – 13 years (suggested by parent website as 16 years)

X (previously Twitter) – 18 years

YouTube – 13 years (YouTube Kids is especially designed for children under 13)

Sporting Achievements

Cross country

On Saturday, about 20 children represented the school at cross country at Dursley Rugby Club. Jack and Annabel (Y3) said that it was exciting, tiring and scary. They said that they found that it worked best if they started slowly at first, stayed behind someone running at their pace, then went faster at the end. The children liked hearing the people cheering and this made them go faster. Congratulations to all the children who took part. Mrs Brooks and Miss Clark were very proud of your improvement over time; resilience and support for each other. The final meet will take place on 8th Feb, concluding with an award ceremony. Our school shines at running (with many of the runners in the front pack each time), so we hope to feature in the awards.

Swimming gala

On Saturday, Miss Williams and Mrs Mason escorted a team of 13 swimmers to take part in a swimming gala at Longwell Green pool. Lucy and Hugo (Y6) said that the event was crowded and they loved that everyone was cheering them on to achieve their best. They were nervous, but excited and glad to get in the pool as it was so hot! Congratulations to all our swimmers. They competed brilliantly and we featured highly on the scoring tables, including some first places. Well done!

Football tournament

This week a team of 8 footballers represented the school at a KLB local schools' tournament. Jude and Mylo (Y5) said that they were very proud to represent the school and enjoyed being team players. They played 3 matches and came 2nd in their category overall. They found the experience exciting and felt particularly proud of some of their teammates for playing really well (and scoring goals) in their first school tournament. As usual, our team was praised by the organisers for their excellent sportsmanship behaviour and great attitudes.

There are many more sporting opportunities to come. We look forward to seeing the children in action as the year goes on. Thank you to Miss Williams (PE leader) for organising and the staff team for accompanying.



Friends of Alexander Hosea School

committee@friendsofahs.org

Rags2Riches – 6th February

Having a clear out after the Christmas period?



Currently, all of the clothes are being sent to Ukraine to support them during the incredibly difficult time that they are facing.

Uniform Drop

Preloved uniform has a new home in reception!



- A stock of items will be kept here i.e. jumpers, trousers, t-shirts etc. in age categories. This will be restocked so please check here first. If an item that you are looking for isn't stocked, please contact Po via the uniform Facebook page to check the wider stock.

- Please **don't** leave uniform donations in reception. Uniform 'drop off' days will be advertised throughout the school year.

- It has always been asked that a donation is made for preloved uniform. We are looking into the use of QR code to make this easier and will publish a suggested donation list.

Constitution

Please check your emails for details of how and why our constitution (governing document) is being updated.

Please review the current and proposed constitutions and contact us by Friday 14th February 2025 if you have any objections to the updates. If there are no objections, a Special Meeting will be held on **Tuesday 4th March 2025** at 7pm in the school library to vote on the adoption, immediately followed by the AGM.

AGM – Tuesday 4th March 2025

At this meeting, all committee positions will be open for nominations:

- Chair
- Secretary
- Treasurer

The current committee will not be standing for re-election therefore the roles will need to be filled to protect the future of the Friends of Alexander Hosea School. Nominations will open shortly, more information to follow. All members of the school community are welcome to attend the AGM and be nominated to join the committee.

Money raised at FoAHS events last term:

Wonkalicious: £286.31
Halloween Quiz: £139.40
Disco: £280.05
Christmas Cards: £354.50
Elfridges Christmas Shop: £555.74
Christmas Coffee Morning: £274.20
Total
£1890.20



Why does the FoAHS money matter?

Here's how your contributions made a difference last term:

TTRS: £219
Digimaps: £136.80
Jigsaw (50%): £333.33
Mathletics (50%): £744
Music lessons (Year 4): £275
Christmas crackers: £120.42
Bikeability (Year 6): £230
Anti-bullying workshop: £900

Total spend:
£2958.55



Financial support signposting from Compass Early Help Team

Did you know it costs *3 times more* to raise a disabled child? That's why it's vital that these families claim all the financial support they can, but many don't know what's available to them.

To help, we've created this handy checklist for any parent carers who might be struggling with extra costs.

1. **Use the Benefits Calculator:** Parents can check if they're claiming everything they're entitled to by using [this online Benefits Calculator](#) – it takes just 10 minutes and can make a *huge* difference
2. **Try our Grants Search:** [The online Grants Search tool](#) will show parents what charitable funding they could get towards specialist equipment, therapies, home adaptations, white goods and even holidays
3. **Get help with household bills:** Take a look at the [schemes and grants available](#) to help families with water, fuel and other utility bills
4. **Look at our energy saving tips:** With disabled families already facing higher energy bills, [these practical tips](#) can help parents cut down on heating, fuel and appliance costs
5. **Apply for help with extra costs:** Our website lists [several support schemes](#) available to help parents with [education](#), [health](#), and [transport and leisure](#) costs
6. **Read our Money Matters guide:** Parents will find detailed advice on benefits, vouchers, discounts, loans and other sources of financial help in our [Money Matters guide for England & Wales](#)

Festival of Youth Dance Competition sponsorship

We would like to thank DJ Dave Bridgee'o and Swift Sports for sponsoring our Dance Crew. This has enabled the crew to buy matching t-shirts and jackets for the competition. The children are really looking forward to taking part on 11th February.



ScoPay Reminder

Please remember to book your child's lunch in advance, we are seeing an increase in children with no bookings.

Pupil premium

If you are in receipt of benefits, your child may benefit from additional funding through the school. Please complete a short application online or call Education Helpline on 0345 155 1019.

<https://find-information-for-adults-children-families.southglos.gov.uk/kb5/southglos/directory/advice.page?id=yp4evwg7Duw#apply>