

# ALEXANDRA JUNIOR NEWS

Alexandra Junior School, Meir Road, Normacot, Stoke-on-Trent, ST3 7JG

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We are very proud of our children and how they have coped with the pressures of this term, which have not been easy. With all the hand washing, going to specific toilets, moving around school as little as possible, changes to playtimes and lunchtimes, virtual assemblies, no sports clubs, or school trips. It has been astounding to see how they have adapted and just got on with our 'new normal'. A big well done to all of our amazing children!

I would also like to express my thanks to our incredibly amazing staff too – not just our teachers and teaching assistants, but our office staff, premises staff and lunchtime supervisors too. Everyone has thrown themselves into doing the best they can for our lovely children, and so many of them have gone over and above what is normally expected of them. Although the festive season will be different this year, we all continue to try and keep each other safe and healthy, we do hope that you can enjoy this period and we wish you a safe and happy New Year.

## Christmas Lunch Day



# Star of the Week



Well done to these children who have gone over and above to receive certificates

Headteacher's Award goes to **Ayan Arshad**

| Class 3DO          | Class 3RW                 | Class 4CW         | Class 4SB        | Class 5CV      | Class 5SW         | Year 6            |
|--------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|------------------|----------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Aston<br>Gascoigne | Sofia<br>Maria<br>Cristea | Karanveer<br>Deol | Anam<br>Shahid   | Sami<br>Kousar | Areesha<br>Shahid | Eleeza<br>Ghilani |
| Luca<br>Delicostea | Amaan<br>Hussaini         | Salma<br>Kiani    | Tulisa<br>Bailey | Hooriya<br>Ali | Fatima<br>Bushra  | Hussain<br>Arooj  |

## Keep on reading!

The children are taking part in lots of reading activities in school, including reading in groups, reading independently, listening to stories, reading comprehension activities and studying class texts.

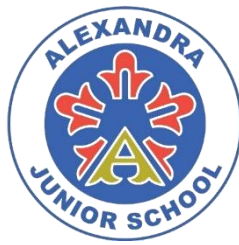
Please also encourage your children to read online too! If you have access to books at home, please read to your children and share books with them regularly. Talk to your children about what they are reading and encourage them to develop preferences for types of books or particular authors. For ideas of new authors and books to try you could look at the following websites: • National Literacy Trust: [wordsforlife.org.uk](http://wordsforlife.org.uk) (including a new Virtual School Library) • Book Trust: [booktrust.org.uk](http://booktrust.org.uk) • authorfy.com • [lovereading4kids.co.uk](http://lovereading4kids.co.uk) • [toppsta.com](http://toppsta.com) • [lovelybooks.co.uk](http://lovelybooks.co.uk)

## Free School Meals – Is this you?

We believe there may be more families out there who are entitled to Free School Meals and are not claiming them. Please ring and speak to the office staff if you receive any benefits. Not only will you receive FSM for your child but we, as a school, receive extra funding to go into our pot for the children and it will also help us claim for things like free laptops if we have to close a bubble. Claiming FSM therefore not only helps you as a family but it really helps our school too – so, if you think you may be entitled to FSM, please apply directly on [www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/sims](http://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/sims)

When dropping off or picking up your child from school, please DO NOT park on any part of the painted yellow lines or zigzag crossings. These lines are there to protect your child's safety. Can we also request that the Staff Car Park entrance is not used for reversing or making any u -turns in the road. Please use the roundabout at the end of Meir Road if you wish to turn around. We have also had a number of complaints from local residents that cars are obstructing their drive ways! Our concern is the safety and wellbeing of our children around the school site. Please remind your children that they should only be using pedestrian zebra crossings, when crossing over a road.





### School Diary Dates

|   |                      |
|---|----------------------|
| Friday, 18 <sup>th</sup> December 2020  | Last day of term     |
| Tuesday, 5 <sup>th</sup> January 2021   | School reopens       |
| Friday, 12 <sup>th</sup> February 2020  | Last day of term     |
| Monday, 15 <sup>th</sup> February 2020 – Friday, 19 <sup>th</sup> February 2020 | Half term holidays   |
| Monday, 22 <sup>nd</sup> February 2021  | School reopens       |
| Thursday, 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2021  | Last day of term     |
| Friday, 2 <sup>nd</sup> April 2021  | Good Friday          |
| Monday, 19 <sup>th</sup> April 2021   | School reopens       |
| Monday, 3 <sup>rd</sup> May 2021  | May Day Bank Holiday |
| Thursday, 27 <sup>th</sup> May 2021   | Last Day of Term     |
| Monday, 31 <sup>st</sup> May 2021 – Friday, 4 <sup>th</sup> June 2021           | Half term holidays   |
| Monday, 7 <sup>th</sup> June 2021   | School reopens       |
| Wednesday, 21 <sup>st</sup> July 2021   | Last day of term     |

Alexandra Junior School Website : [www.alexandrajunior.co.uk](http://www.alexandrajunior.co.uk)

#### Reminder

- Wear a face mask/covering at drop off and pick up
- Keep a suitable distance from others



#### Keep Warm In School

Please ensure that your children come to school in a school jumper. Due to Covid 19, although the heating is on, we do have windows and doors open in order to circulate the air.

**Please see lots of marvellous pictures on all school events on our school facebook site.**

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Alexandra-Junior-School/529483397177151>

It has been a fun filled packed week at school. The children have watched a virtual Cinderella Pantomime performance. Year 3 and Year 4 pupils had the opportunity to have a virtual zoom meeting with Father Christmas, lots of craft activities and all enjoyed a Christmas Disco with party games.

## Christmas Party Day



### **Summary of the guidance for reporting Covid-19 positive cases to school from the end of term:**

Parents and carers should: Email school only if your child has developed symptoms within 48 hours of last attending school. (Before Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December).

- For the first 6 days after teaching ends (up to and including Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> December) If a child or staff member tests positive then schools are asked to continue to support Public Health England with tracking and tracing to identify close contacts and advise self-isolation.
- We will contact you by letter via text if your child is identified as a contact. (not after 23<sup>rd</sup> December)
- To report a case to us you should email the school office and we will be in touch as soon as possible.
- Should symptoms develop after 48 hours of last attending school, (after Sunday, 20<sup>th</sup> December, 2020) do not contact school – get tested and NHS Track and Trace will provide all the support you need.
- Please email on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January if your child or anyone in your household has symptoms or has tested positive over the Christmas break, after 23<sup>rd</sup> December, 2020.