



Newsletter 9th September 2016

ALPINGTON & BERGH APTON Church of England VA Primary School

Dear All

Welcome back to everybody after our summer break. All the children look relaxed, happy and very smart at the start of a new school year.

From next Monday we will be welcoming our 26 new reception children into school and we extend a warm welcome to them and their families as they join us at Alington. Starting school for the first time is a daunting prospect, however I am confident that our “new” children will settle quickly here with Miss Larter, and Mrs Gotts and Mrs Connor to care for them.

This summer has seen further work done to improve the school building and facilities for the children’s learning experiences.



Class 2 and Class 3 now have canopies outside their rooms which has increased the space and opportunities for the children to



The old hall has been redecorated with new doors, an interactive whiteboard has been installed and carpet tiles will be laid this weekend. The change is startling, please come and have a look when you get a moment.



work outside throughout the year. Class 1 has also been re decorated and the sliding doors between C1 and C2 have been “re-modelled”, once again increasing the flexibility of the space.

Dates for this month:

Mon 12th – All Reception children start part-time attendance
Mon 19th – Full-time Reception children start full-time attendance
Mon 19th – Art Club 3-4.30pm commences
Wed 21st – 9am Meet and Mingle Coffee and Cake Morning
Thurs 29th - 3.15pm meeting for Y6 parents

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Resources

Class 2 would dearly like a play house for their outdoor area. If anyone has a playhouse they no longer want, ideally of the plastic "little tike" variety and would like to donate it to a good home then please see Mrs Eland or Mrs York.

Similarly Class 1 are on the lookout for a couple of second-hand two wheeled bikes for the children to hone their skills on in school. If you have a bike in your shed that your child has outgrown perhaps you might consider donating to Class 1. Please speak to Miss Larter or Mrs Connor about it.

New arrivals

We welcome Mrs Elizabeth York who is covering Ms Betts' maternity leave in Y1/2 and wish her well as she and Mrs Eland get to work in C2.

Welcome also to Mrs Claire Petch who is joining us as a midday supervisor as well as supporting learning in Class 1.

No doubt many of you have heard the happy news..."it's a girl for Laura and Thomas". Ms Betts tells us all is going well, she even managed to pop into school last Monday to show us her new daughter Wrenna and I know that many of you saw the baby. Ms Betts wishes me to thank everyone for the good wishes and kind gifts she has received.



Schools are encouraged to support the training of new teachers and most years we have a student from UEA joining us. This year we will be working with the Norfolk SCITT programme who are another postgraduate teacher training provider. Ms Bronwyn Coleman will be working with Class 3 and Mrs Weathers during the coming year. She will be coming in on Mon 12th September for an introductory week and then again from the end of September through to December. We look forward to meeting her.

Governors

Last term Katja Mahnkopf our Chair, stepped down from this role. We are very grateful for all the time and effort Katja put into her term of office and the considerable contribution she has made to the leadership and management of our school. We thank her very much.

This term our Chair of Governors will be Michael Hibbin. Michael has been Vice Chair and a governor for several years. He works for the Diocese and has experience in financial management. The Vice Chair role will be undertaken by Michala Warner and Joy Shreeve. I am sure the Governing Body will continue to run effectively and smoothly during this time of transition.

Meeting for Year 6 parents - Thurs 29th Sept 3.15pm

There will be a short meeting after school for Year 6 parents on Thurs 29th September. The purpose of this meeting is to explain to parents the implications of the 2017 KS2 tests and to suggest ways in which the school and parents can work together to support the children. The 2016 tests were much harder than in previous years and the latest information to schools is that the government will be continuing to set demanding test papers in the coming years. We are still uncertain as to how the proposed online times tables test will operate but we know that learning tables and calculation strategies will be vitally important. This year the government backed down on pupils who failed to

meet expectations having to re-sit the tests in Year 7 but we understand that this is what is likely to happen to the present Year 6 cohort.

Therefore please come along to the meeting when we can explain what maths and reading skills are likely to be tested, as well as the intricacies of the spelling, punctuation and grammar. It is important that all the children get off to a good, positive start to Year 6.

Reading meeting for Year R parents – Wed 5th October at 2.00pm. There will be a reading meeting for parents when Miss Larter will explain how we teach reading and phonics to your children. There will be an opportunity for you to ask questions in a relaxed and informal atmosphere. Parents with children who are attending part-time can bring them along and we will arrange for them to go into C1 for the duration of the meeting.

Lunchtimes – Just to remind you that all children in Class 1 and 2 are entitled to a free school lunch. Menus are available from the school foyer. You can decide on a daily basis if your son or daughter would like a hot lunch. All you need to do is decide whether you want a meat or a vegetarian meal each day. For those in Classes 3 and 4 the cost of a school lunch is £2.30. Please make payment of lunches consumed each week by Friday, or you may prefer to pay in advance. Please make cheques payable to “Alpington VA Primary School”. No change is usually given as any credit is carried forward to the following week.

We have also sent home forms for you to fill in if you think you may be entitled to Pupil Premium (even if your child is in Years R, 1 and 2 and receives a Universal Free School Meal). Please return the completed forms as Pupil Premium is worth £1,320 for each eligible child. Please take a look at our website to see how the money is spent.

Early Birds Club is now running! The club runs from 7.45-8.30am each day. The cost per child is £4.00 per child with a 50p reduction for any siblings. Further details and registration forms are available from the school foyer. Occasional ad hoc attendance is also welcome.

Choir

Choir will be re-starting this Friday, led by Charlotte Cork. This proved to be popular last term and we felt that by having it during the school day rather than lunchtime, more children opted to go along and sing for 20 mins. It will therefore take place from 8.30am to 8.50am and will be open to any child in Class 3 or 4 who enjoys singing. There is no cost to the pupils for this club, only the expectation that you will be a regular participator and arrive in time. We are hoping that choir's first “gig” will be at the Harvest festival; on Wed 12th October.

NSPCC Helping parents to keep their children safe

Parents often turn to schools for advice and support on how to keep their children safe. We will be holding an E-Safety session for parents later this year but we would also signpost you to a number of helpful websites which will help you to make difficult conversations easier. These are from the NSPCC Schools Service.

Parents can visit nspcc.org.uk/pants for downloadable guides, social networks, apps and games for adults and children to **Talk PANTS**. This gives a simple way to help parents keep their children safe from sexual abuse without using scary words or even mentioning sex.

Share Aware is a resource to help parents keep their children safe on social networks, apps and games.

Visit nspcc.org.uk/shareaware

Net Aware is an online tool that informs parents about social networks, apps and games that children might be using. It looks at the frequency of inappropriate content, how robust and easy to find the

privacy settings are and why children like using the sites. Net aware is regularly updated with new apps, and parents can sign up to Net aware newsletters to keep up with digital trends. For more information visit

net-aware.org.uk

After school Clubs

The following will be taking place this term:

Mondays - **Art Club**

Art Club meets on Mondays in the school hall from 3.00 - 4.30pm beginning **19th September**

Tuesdays – **KS1 Gym Club** 3.05-4.05pm for pupils in Years 1 and 2.

Thursdays – **KS2 Gym Club** 3.05-4.05pm for pupils in Years 3,4,5 and 6.

Fridays

Pro Coach after school clubs. Sessions this half-term: Multi-Sports for children in Years 3, 4 5 and 6, Little Ones Football for pre-school children and children in Years R, 1 and 2. Please return forms to the school office.



We are hoping to achieve a School Games Mark this year for all of the excellent work and achievements in PE lessons and competitions. The School Games Mark is sponsored by Sainsbury's and is a Government led awards scheme launched in 2012 to reward schools for their commitment to the development of competition across their school and into the community.

We will keep you updated on any news and information about PE and school competitions through the newsletter, our school website and our PE board (in working progress) which will be by the back door to Key Stage 1. If you have any questions, ideas for improvements or can offer any coaching, please see Mr Colbeck in Ms Betts' absence.

Friends

The Friends recently said farewell to some of our members as their children left to attend high school and we would love to meet some new parents / grandparents / carers, from across the school year groups. Informal meetings are held at the school (approx. 6 per year) and there is no obligation to attend all meetings or events – if you can help at any of the fundraisers we will be pleased to welcome you, many hands make light work and it's always fun and rewarding!

If you would like to become involved, please contact any member of the Friends or join us to eat, meet, mingle and chat at the AGM to be held on Tues 11th October from 7pm. It is important we get feedback across the school so it would be great to have parents from every year group.

Upcoming events organised by Friends:

Wed 21st September from 9am: Meet and Mingle Coffee & Cake morning for new parents as well as our established ones

Thurs 13th October: Children's Disco – Class 1 and 2 from 5-6.15pm and Class 3 and 4 6.30-8pm.

Thurs 20th October: Cake Sale

School Uniform

Thank you to everyone for sending your children to school looking so smart. They are a credit to you. We ask that children wear only stud earrings which should be removed or taped for PE lessons, the only other piece of jewellery allowed is a watch. Nail varnish is very pretty but please keep it for weekends and holidays as it is not suitable for school.

Please visit www.pbparentsonline.co.uk/alpington or use the link on our school website to order uniform and book/PE bags. Mrs Reeman has samples of uniform if you are unsure of sizing and still has some items available from the school office so you may wish to first check if there is any stock still left in school.

Head lice

We also remind parents that long hair needs to be tied up at all times, this is to try and prevent the outbreak of head lice that schools seem to be plagued with if you are unlucky and pick some up it is incredibly frustrating to deal with. Unfortunately there is an outbreak in school at the moment. Please also note that extreme haircuts or hair colouring are not desirable either.

Water Bottles

These can be purchased from Mrs Reeman at a cost of £1.00. Please encourage your child to take them home each day to be washed out and refilled.

It is important the children bring only **water** in their bottles. Sugary drinks can cause damage to teeth as well as an excess of sugar contributing to obesity and other health issues. Furthermore if children spill their bottles or they leak, then it causes sticky marks on books, furniture and carpets. The children may bring drinks other than water with their packed lunches which are consumed in the dining hall.

Payments to school should preferably be made by cheque to "Alpington VA Primary School". Please write out separate cheques for lunches, breakfast club, uniform, trips etc. Payments should be in envelopes with your child's name and description. School lunches and breakfast club payments are to be made by the Friday of the week taken. However, you may prefer to pay in advance, or half-termly – this is not a problem! There is a post box in the school foyer where correspondence and payments can be posted.

Admissions for Sept 2017

It's that time already! Do you have a child who will be five between 1st September 2017 and 31st August 2018? If so, your child could start full time in September 2017 and you should apply to Norfolk County Council by 15th January 2017

Apply online:

www.admissionsonline.norfolk.gov.uk (website open between 28th Sept. and 15th Jan.) or application forms can be obtained from Norfolk County Council Customer Service Centre

Tel. 0344 800 8020

Email: admissions@norfolk.gov.uk

If you have an older child at school or your child is currently attending a nursery, please don't assume that no further action is required on your part. You still have to apply for a place for your child in the normal way.

Open Morning

We will be holding an Open Morning for prospective parents on Thurs 13th October from 9.30am to 12 midday in Class 1. Please come along if you are interested in a place for your child.

Transfer to Secondary School

The Year 6 children should have taken home a letter giving details of how to apply for a place at secondary school. It is important that applications are received by 31st October 2016. **For your information the Open Evenings for prospective Y7 pupils and parents are:**

Hobart High School Tues 4th October 6.30-8.30pm and for Framingham Earl High Thurs 6th October from 6.30-9.00pm.

Attendance

The Cluster Attendance leaflet is attached to this newsletter. It explains the Cluster policy of not authorising holidays in school time other than in “exceptional circumstances”.

The **Pupil Data Collection Sheet** attached gives details of emergency contact details etc. we have for your child. Please check these details and make any amendments on the sheet and return to the school office for updating. Please return the sheet even if no amendments are necessary.

Please ensure we have details of any childminder or childminder provider, who collects or brings your child to school. We would ask all parents to check the registration details of their chosen childminder with the Ofsted website.

Mrs Reeman has details of local childminders if you are interested.

Values For Life

Each half term we focus on a different Value during school assemblies. This half term we are focusing on the value of Generosity, some of you may notice the ongoing displays each term in the corridor. Attached is a leaflet for you and your family to enjoy. We hope you will find these ideas helpful as you explore the value and have fun together.

Newsletter distribution

You will have received this newsletter in the form of a paper copy and via email. Usually newsletters are only emailed to parents and posted on our school website. Paper copies are available from the school foyer. If you haven't received this newsletter via email please give Mrs Reeman your email address for future newsletters.

A **Scholastic Book Club** magazine is attached. They have informed us *“the publisher of the new David Walliams book told us that the publication of the book has been delayed until 8th Nov. This means that although the book is featured in our Sept. leaflet, we won't be able to deliver it to schools until the new publication date ... in order not to disappoint readers, Scholastic will send every child who places an order for the David Walliams book a free Tom Gates book as a gift ...”*

Please return any orders you wish to place via the school by Fri. 30th Sept.

We will be taking part in **“Operation Christmas Child”** again this year. Only mentioning at this stage so that any shoe boxes you may have, you keep please!

Thank You

All the staff would like to thank the many parents who sent cards and gifts at the end of last term showing their appreciation. The staff are always very touched by the kind thoughts and gestures they receive from parents.

Teresa Osborne

Attachments

- School calendar
- Term dates
- Home School Values – “Generosity”
- Cluster Attendance leaflet and letter regarding penalty notice
- Safeguarding – Information for parents and Carers
- Application form for Free School Meals
- Privacy Notice – Data Protection Act 1998
- Scholastic Book Club
- Pupil Data Collection