



Newsletter 23rd September 2016

ALPINGTON & BERGH APTON Church of England VA Primary School

Dear All

Thank you to everyone who supported our **Meet and Mingle Coffee Morning** on Wednesday. It was lovely to see so many parents there, both old and new, the toys/play mats for the toddlers were a great idea. We are hoping to do the same again next half term so watch out for details of times etc.

A reminder that the **Friends AGM** is on Tuesday 11th October at 7.00pm – all welcome.



Harvest Festival Our Harvest Festival will take place at Yelverton Parish Church on Tues 13th October at 9.15am. You are all very welcome to share in this time with us, we always ask for some willing parents to walk with us from school up to the church to help us make a safe trip. The children are being asked to bring some tinned, dried or packet goods to the church which will then be given to the Salvation Army in Norwich.

Silver Sports Mark and Active Norfolk Strategy

I am pleased to tell you that the school has been awarded a Silver Sports Award Mark, thank you to Ms Betts and Mr Colbeck for all their hard work in making it happen and to all the children who regularly take part in sports, both in and after school. As part of the government's drive to support families and children to live healthier lives, schools, along with every public sector setting, are being encouraged to have a food environment where the food and drink options are healthy ones.

School lunches now have to comply with strict guidelines regarding sugar and salt intake and our policy is that children in C3 and C4 who choose to bring in a snack to eat mid-morning should only bring in fruit or vegetables. A handful of dried raisins is also permissible but we are seeing children bringing in fruit strings, gels and other "fruity" filled and flavoured snacks/bars which can also contain high amounts of added sugar. We don't want to police what children eat at snack time so in order to avoid confusion we ask that parents of children in C3 and C4 just bring in fruit, vegetables or raisins to nibble on at break time. Children in C1 and C2 have fruit or veg. supplied under the free fruit scheme. Some parents have asked me about water bottles and the rule is that they must be filled with water only.

Packed lunches are at parents' discretion, sweets and fizzy drinks are not permitted, fruit squash is allowed at lunch time only, to drink in the dining hall. We will continue to allow children to have sweet "treats" at certain times of the year, ie Christmas parties etc.

Dates for this half-term:

Thurs 29th Sept 3.15pm - meeting for Y6 parents
Tues 4th Oct 6-8.30pm – Hobart High Open Evening
Wed 5th Oct 2pm – Reading meeting for parents of Reception children
Thurs 6 Oct – school photographs (school uniform)
Thurs 6 Oct 6.30-9pm – Framingham Earl High School Open Evening
Tues 11th Oct – Years 1 and 2 trip to Elizabethan House (details to follow)
Tues 11th Oct 7pm – Friends AGM
Wed 12th Oct 9.15am – Harvest Festival at Yelverton Church
Thurs 13th Oct 9.30-11.30am – Open Morning for prospective parents
Thurs 13th Oct – Children's Disco, please see attached for details
Tues 18th Oct – Year 6 Code Breaking Morning at Hobart
Thurs 20th Oct – Friends Cake Sale in aid of Nepalese School
Fri 21st Oct – Break up for half-term

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Pupils in C1 and C2 have been given a free Oral Health Starts Early pack which they should be bringing home to you.

Parents may also be interested to know that the revenue from the government's proposed soft drinks levy will go towards doubling the Primary PE and Sport Premium. If you are interested to know how we spend this money please look on our website.

Important change of date - our School Christmas Fayre has been moved to Saturday 3rd December. Please amend your school calendar.

Meetings for parents

Year 6 – there will be a short meeting for the parents of Year 6 pupils on Thursday 29th September at 3.00pm when we will be explaining the new statutory end of Key Stage tests and expectations. Please come along if you possibly can. Children are welcome to stay.

Year R – there will be a reading and phonics meeting for parents of children in YR at 2.00pm on Wednesday 5th October. We realise that some of you will still have toddlers/babies at home so bring them along if you need to.

Friends AGM

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 would be great to have parents from every year group.

Christmas Nativity. This year, due to the number of children in both C1 and C2, we will do something a little different. The children in C1 will act out the nativity story and sing along with help from C2 who will also supply narrators. However C2 will be putting on a different production of their own in early February, hopefully this will allow more children to take a more active part.

The monthly **German Friendship Club** will take place next Thursday at lunchtime for children in C3 and C4.

Attendance

Please see the attached attendance letter that schools are obliged to send out. Despite the recent story in the press there has been no change in the law and the DfE guidance in respect of authorisation of family holiday during school time. It remains the policy of the Loddon Cluster **NOT** to authorise such requests for holiday and Norfolk County Council will still issue Penalty Notices on behalf of schools for irregular attendance.

I would also remind parents that taking children out of school on a holiday during term time, especially those pupils who are working for exams, can be detrimental to their education and progress.

Shoebox Appeal - Operation Christmas Child is the world's largest Christmas project. Each year the families from our school wrap and fill empty shoeboxes with small gifts for a boy or girl. These are then distributed to needy children world-wide. We have always had an amazing response to this appeal; I am sure this year we will all be even more aware of those children who are in greatest need. Shoeboxes are given based on need, regardless of background or religious beliefs, it is an unconditional gift of love.

Please see the attached leaflet for further details of how to fill your shoebox appropriately. If you have any spare empty shoeboxes please bring them in so others can take one and fill it up! The date to bring your shoeboxes into school is by **9am Friday 18th November**. **The Shoebox Service is at Bergh Apton Church on Sunday 20th November at 11.00am**. It is a moving service and lovely to see the children presenting the boxes. All Welcome.

Tales of Africa are being told at Poringland Library on Saturday 1st October 10-11am. Please see attached flyer for details.

Parking

Please may I remind all parents to park safely and with consideration to other road users. I have had another complaint from a local resident who feels that parking around the crossroads is dangerous. There is space to park at the pub and at the Village hall both of which are only a short walk away.

Pupil Data Collection Sheets have been sent home already (not for Reception Year). Please return the form, regardless if there are any changes or not. Keep us informed of any changes as and when they happen. If you have not already done so, please provide details of any childminder or childminder provider who is collecting or bringing your child to school. We ask that parents check the registration details of their chosen childminder with the Ofsted website.

School Photographs will be taken of the children wearing their smart school uniforms during the morning of Thursday 6th October. If you have pre-school children and wish them to have their photograph taken with their sibling, please come into school a little earlier 8.15am. We will organize siblings in school to have their photographs taken together.

School Disco - Thursday 13th October – Classes 1 and 2 5.00-6.15pm and Classes 3 and 4 6.30-7.45pm. Please see attached booking form.

Gymfinity Activity Day – Tuesday 25th October. Booking forms are available from the school foyer.

Yours sincerely

Teresa Osborne

Attachments

- School Disco – Thurs. 13th Oct.
- Friends leaflet
- Attendance at school and legal intervention letter
- Gymfinity Activity – Tues 25th Oct.
- Tales of Africa at Poringland library
- Operation Christmas Child
- “Good Oral Health Starts Early” – kit for children in Years R, 1 and 2