



Newsletter 6th January 2017

ALPINGTON & BERGH APTON Church of England VA Primary School

Dear All

Wishing you all a happy, healthy and peaceful new year.

I am very pleased to say that the “new” school hall has now been fitted with some very smart and effective blinds which means our concerts, plays etc. can be held without trying to block the light with black sugar paper. Thank you to the fund raising efforts of our **Friends** association who raised the money for the blinds. Thank you to anyone who has supported the events run by **Friends** in anyway as it is your money which has contributed to this. We are hoping to purchase some lights before the Class 2 performance in February.

Friends will be holding their next meeting in school on Tuesday 17th January at 7.30pm. If you would like to come along you will receive a warm welcome. If you would like to become involved but can't make the meeting I know they will be pleased to hear from anyone who can help at future events in anyway. Speak to Marianne Roper or Jane Delbridge the co-chairs if you are interested.



Drop Off

As we start the second term it is lovely to see the children growing in independence as the year wears on. We are a friendly school with an open door approach and welcome parents into our school. We have found this to be mutually beneficial over the years. However the teachers in KS2 particularly ask that you encourage your child to go into class on their own, we hope that by this stage the children are able to hang up coats, and deposit water bottles and lunch boxes on their own. The corridors are very narrow and do get quite congested also parents shouldn't need to come into the classrooms each day unless they have a specific reason for doing so. Should you need to speak to the class teacher then you can of course still come in and do this if it is a swift message or make an appointment if a longer chat is required. Children in Class 2 should also be encouraged to say a swift goodbye and come into class on their own if possible. Thank you for your understanding.

Icy Roads

The start to the new year has proved to be rather slippery on the roads and pavements. Please can we all take great care as we negotiate the routes to school. Yesterday the T junction at the school was very icy in the early morning with cars sliding across the roads and almost hitting the school fence on more than one occasion. This was not due to fast driving but because the roads were so icy. To this end I went and shoveled some grit onto the crossroads as I was concerned for the safety of children and parents as they walked to school. I did contact highways to

Dates for this half-term:

Mon 16 Jan – 9 am Salvation
Army Bag Collection
Tues 17 Jan – KS2 Visit from
“Stone Age Man”
7.30pm Friends meeting

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remind them that this road does need to be gritted and they assure me it is on their gritting route but the Bergh Apton Lane isn't.

I have asked Mr Petch to grit the pavements around the school from gate to gate but was informed by NCC insurance dept that we do not have a responsibility to do this and that it isn't an expectation on the school. However, in the interests of public duty I feel we should try to make the walk to school as hazard-free as we can. Please be mindful that the pavements around the school can become very icy and take due care when walking on them. Interestingly there is a grit box on the pavement near the double gates which is filled by NCC but when I asked who was responsible for dispersing the grit there was no clear answer.

This might also be a good time to once again remind you to park with care and consideration for our neighbours and other road users. Some folk park very near to the crossroads which obstructs the view for other road users. Thank you for not parking along Nichols Road or on the pavement next to the fence.

Music

It is very pleasing to see how music is really flourishing in school at the moment. We have a super choir who will be performing at the Norwich Music Festival in March and the Class 4 Samba band is producing an amazing sound. Mr Cann "the samba-man" is looking to put on some performances for parents and within the wider community. More details to come.

I am also starting a recorder group for pupils in C3 at lunchtimes, I am not a "music teacher" but I can play the recorder and hope to encourage the children to want to play and make music but who are not able to access instrument lessons at the moment. The club will be free and I will be offering taster sessions for the children to see if they want to commit to it. There is NO requirement at this stage to purchase a recorder as the school has a supply of them which will of course be disinfected before use by your child. A letter for Class 3 children will be sent home explaining the arrangements.

Childminding

I'm sorry to bring depressing information but ... if you use a childminder please check with the Ofsted website that they are registered with them. It is not sufficient to accept a certificate shown by the child minder as these have been fraudulently copied in the past. We have been informed that a de-regulated childminder is once again offering her services in the Poringland area and has once again been served with an enforcement notice by Ofsted. Overnight childcare and babysitting does not come under the protection of Ofsted but it is inadvisable to use strangers or people advertising their services without doing some checks or taking up reliable references.

Recycle with Michael

The next collection date is Monday 16th January. Now is a good time to empty your cupboards and wardrobes. Bags were sent home before Christmas, but feel free to use other bags and bin liners. Please bring your bags for collection either on Friday 13th January or at the latest by 9.00am on the Monday morning.

Parish Council

Yelverton Parish Council would like to develop closer links with the school and would be very happy to see any staff member or parents at their meetings. They often have agenda items that are of interest to the school and are keen to know more about the working of the school. As so many of you live in the local community it would be very helpful if anyone feels they could attend the meeting, the school is a corner stone of the local community and the PC is there to represent your interests. We have recently bid for a grant from the Community Benefit Fund to help towards the cost of resurfacing the playground and remarking. This would enable us to offer netball/Hi 5 not only to the children but to other community members. Sadly on this occasion we were unlucky, but we are hopeful of a grant in future. The next meeting is this Monday 9th January at 7.30pm at the Village Hall. Unfortunately I am already committed on a Monday evening but should anyone be prepared to attend then please let me know.

Message from Mrs Colleen Gotts:

"Dear all, I hope you had a happy and peaceful Christmas. A very big thank you to staff, parents, and all who contributed to the very generous cheque I received on my last day at school. Also all the other gifts and lovely cards, I have enjoyed reading them all. As for the money, we plan to enjoy a city break in the coming months. I've had 19 years of happy times at Alington and loved every minute, I will miss you all.

Wishing the school continued success for the future, my prayers will be with you all.

Happy New year"