



## ALINGTON & BERGH APTON Church of England VA Primary School

Dear All

Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete the parental questionnaires, we will read them through and then report back the findings to you in due course. I really appreciate the candid and honest comments; where parents have put names I will try to catch you for feedback if that is needed. Even at this stage we are pleased to see that the overwhelming majority of responses and feedback is positive and where suggestions are made they are helpful. The questionnaire outcomes are also discussed with governors. You have until this Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February to return your form.

As well as asking parents for their views we have also been surveying the children on reading and on school lunches.

### Reading survey

The outcomes of the reading survey which we carried out before Christmas are interesting. It tells us that the vast majority of our pupils enjoy reading, and crucially feel that they are confident readers. They like being read to and enjoy the selection of books we have available in school. KS2 children enjoyed reading more than KS1, probably because as they get older the actual effort required to decode and read reduces enabling the children to experience greater enjoyment.

I am happy to share the outcomes with any interested parents, all the data is anonymized and I will endeavor to put a shortened version onto our school website.

At a recent seminar Mrs Weathers and I attended, research evidence on how pupils make best progress was explored. In simplest terms the biggest factor in pupils making good progress were high expectations of themselves. In other words pupils who have high expectations and are unafraid of challenges and making mistakes are going to make the best progress.

### Book Week – 27<sup>th</sup> February

Mrs Weathers is planning various activities for this week around the theme of Stories from around the World.

Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February – Sheridan Winn, a children's author has recently moved into Bergh Apton and will be talking to the children in Classes 3 and 4. The children might like to bring some money to buy a book

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March – Dress up Day - as a story character ... we are hoping you can think about this over half term.

The Travelling Book Company will also be in school from Thurs 23<sup>rd</sup> until Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> February and their books will be out on display in the corridor as usual.

As in previous years there will also be a writing competition.

A letter will be sent home explaining all of these activities after the half term break.

### Dates for this half-term:

Tues. 7<sup>th</sup> Feb., Year 5 trip to Hobart "We Will Rock You"  
Tues. 7<sup>th</sup> Feb. 9.30am, C2 dress rehearsal  
Wed. 8<sup>th</sup> and Thurs. 9<sup>th</sup> 2pm C2 performances  
Wed. 8<sup>th</sup> Feb. KS2 trip to Time and Tide Museum  
Thurs. 9<sup>th</sup> Feb. Friends cake sale after school  
Fri. 10<sup>th</sup> Feb., Crazy hair fundraising in support of Great Ormond Street Hospital  
Break up for half-term  
Mon. 20<sup>th</sup> Feb. return to school

### Contact Details:

Alington CE VA Primary School,  
Wheel Road, Alington, Norwich  
NR14 7NH

Tel. 01508 492700

Web:

[www.alington.norfolk.sch.uk](http://www.alington.norfolk.sch.uk)

E-mail:

[office@alington.norfolk.sch.uk](mailto:office@alington.norfolk.sch.uk)



Governors and any interested parents who would like to come and read a short excerpt from a favourite story during the week please speak to the class teachers as you will be very welcome.

### **Lunch survey**

Class 2 parents joined us for lunch on 31<sup>st</sup> January when they enjoyed roast chicken. The parents who attended gave very positive feedback. Many of the comments on the questionnaire were about the quality of school lunches and so we felt we ought to ask KS2 parents to lunch on **Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February** so those of you who can make it will be able to judge for yourselves. You will see there is a booking form attached, the price is £2.30 + VAT = £2.76. Please return your slip by Monday 20<sup>th</sup>.

Again the pupils have commented on lunches, they gave a variety of responses; KS1 children asked for less food in some cases while KS2 pupils asked for bigger portions so we have asked the dining assistant to check with the children if they want small, medium or large!

Salad and bread is always available but some children felt they would eat more salad if it was not served as a mixed salad but as separate items. We will trial this after half term.

### **Changes to school menu**

New school menu – please see attached menu which commences after half-term. Also on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> Feb the dessert will be a Valentine themed cookie instead of the carrot cake, on Tues 28<sup>th</sup> Feb the dessert will be pancakes served with peaches and cream and on Thurs 2<sup>nd</sup> March the dessert will be a blueberry muffin.

### **New MSA – Mrs Debbie Smith**

We welcome Debbie to the staff, she is settling in well with the staff and pupils. We do still have a vacancy for an MSA, for 1 hour 15 mins Monday to Friday. If you are interested please speak to Mrs Reeman.

### **Allergies**

We do have children in school with various allergies which we are aware of and deal with. However we are not aware of a child with a severe peanut allergy in school. We haven't been informed that there is but as some children would like to bring in peanut butter sandwiches to eat for lunch this could cause a serious problem. **If your child has a severe peanut allergy please speak to Mrs Reeman ASAP.**

**Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> February** all the KS2 children will be visiting the Time and Tide Museum where they will take part in activities relating to their Stone Age topic.

**Class 2 performance – “Eddie and the Penguins Save the World”.** Performances: Tues. 7<sup>th</sup> Feb. at 9.30am dress rehearsal and toddlers invited, Wed. and Thurs. 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Feb. 2pm performances for parents. If you are coming along and are able to help serve tea/coffee afterwards please let me know!

### **School Sports**

A group of Y5 pupils went to UEA and represented the school at the Sports Hall athletics competition. I am very pleased to report that we came third ... well done indeed. The Y3/4 pupils also played in a Cluster basketball competition at Loddon Junior school last Wednesday where they won every match and won the shield. On both occasions you will be pleased to learn that the children behaved impeccably and were a credit to themselves, the school and their parents.



There is a five-a side basketball competition for pupils in Y4, 5 and 6 this Thursday at Hobart High. As always many thanks to parents who can help with the transporting of children to and from the competitions.

**“We Will Rock You”** is being performed by the pupils at Hobart High School and the Year 5 children have been invited to their dress rehearsal on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February. Transport has been arranged, the children will have an early school lunch and will be back by 3pm.

**Friends Cake Sale** ... after school on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February on the theme of Valentine. Please bring cakes into school in the morning – thank you.

**Great Ormond Street fundraising** – Mrs Farrow has requested we support her fundraising for this very good cause. On Friday 10<sup>th</sup> Feb. the children and staff are invited to come into school with wacky hairstyles as crazy or as subtle as they like, bringing in a donation of £1 per person. I am sure you will agree that GOSH does a very good job and as George has benefitted from their expertise it would be good to give something back. However, children will be expected to have their hair back to its usual style and colour by the Monday after half term!

### **Friends Quiz – Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> March**

This is always a very popular event. This year we are resting Mr Stowers and so Mr David Whiteley has kindly agreed to step up to the plate. We are going to follow the same format as last year with no food or drink provided and the cost will remain at £5 per person, with additional games on the evening and a small raffle. A return slip from the Friends will be available soon for you to show your interest. It should be a good night!!

**Texting message service** – We can text messages to parents from school which we know parents find helpful but unfortunately parents are unable to reply. If you need to get back, please ring or email us.

**Lateness** – There are still too many children arriving after 8.45 am. Pupils are to be in school from between 8.30 and 8.45 each day. We have to record late arrivals and it isn't acceptable to come in persistently late as this delays the start of the lesson not only for your child but at times for everyone else. Please do try hard to be punctual, it also sows good habits in the children for later life as well as seeing education as valuable.

Mrs Reeman has asked that parents ensure all outstanding monies are paid by the end of half term. She is needing the accounts to be up to date in preparation for the end of the school financial year. Thank you.

**Letters for Parent Teacher meetings** should have gone out. You will see that you have been given an afternoon option as well as a late evening. I am hoping this will alleviate the long wait some parents experienced in November. Please return your slip asap.

**Year 6 parents** – please note that Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> July will be the Super Learning day at Framingham Earl High School, in the past this has been an event for all Y6, even for those children not transferring to Fram. However this year 6<sup>th</sup> July is also Hobart's intake day so these children will not be going to Framingham Earl for the event. Please amend your school calendar, we had incorrectly put 4<sup>th</sup> July down as Hobart Intake Day.

**Gate** – Please can you ensure the school gate is closed behind you if you come into school during the school day.

Thank you

Teresa Osborne

### **Attachments:**

- Spring/Summer 2017 Menu
- Invitation to KS2 Parents to join us for lunch – Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February