



Newsletter 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017

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

Dear Parents

Another term has whizzed past, looking back we can see that the children and staff have all been very busy with a whole variety of activities including visits, trips, concerts, music and PE competitions, fund raising, parents evenings etc. etc. ... Thanks to everyone for making this all happen and for the support you give to the children and the school.

Unfortunately this term has seen many children succumb to illness such as slapped cheek and the dreaded chicken pox. Hopefully all the children are now well "inoculated" as it seemed to be a particularly virulent strain. We do follow the health guidelines when advising parents if children should or should not be in school. In most cases the children are at their most infectious before they show physical symptoms. We continually remind the children to wash their hands thoroughly after using the toilet, with soap and before eating lunch ... the cleaner also uses an antibacterial spray especially on taps, door handles etc.

Outcomes from the Parent Questionnaires were sent home a couple of weeks ago and I hope you have had a chance to read it through. Please come and speak to me or to a Governor if there are still issues you want to discuss.

**Red Nose Day – 23<sup>rd</sup> March. As usual this was very well supported. Please see the report from the School Council who organized the day.**

*Last Thursday the school went **red** for Comic Relief. Everyone at school dressed up either as a red nose character or by wearing red – even the grown-ups! We organised a red nose hunt for playtime which was very successful. All the children joined in hunting for small pictures of red nose characters, hidden around the playground and field. Although there was no prize, everyone had lots of fun. At lunchtime we arranged a red nose obstacle course.*



### Dates this half-term

Tues 18<sup>th</sup> **April** – Return to school  
RSPB to visit Classes 1 and 2  
Wed 19<sup>th</sup> – Cricket coaching commences for summer term  
Thurs 20<sup>th</sup> – Performance "Place of Safety" for KS2  
FEHS Parents Evening 5-6pm  
Mon 24<sup>th</sup> – Tennis coaching commences for summer term  
Tues 25<sup>th</sup> – Class 3 trip to Norwich Cathedral  
Wed 26<sup>th</sup> – KS1 tennis at Hobart High  
Mon 1<sup>st</sup> **May** – May Day Public Holiday  
Mon 8<sup>th</sup> – KS2 SATS week  
Fri 12<sup>th</sup> – Year 6 SATS trip to Whitlingham  
Thurs 25<sup>th</sup> May – Class Photographs  
Summer Evening Concert  
Fri 26<sup>th</sup> May – break up for half-term

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*Most children joined in with the races. Children had to balance a red nose on a racquet, jump over a hurdle, skip to a hula-hoop and step through it, then throw a ball into a bucket before running back to tag the next person in the team. We also had a red nose and spoon race for the KS2 children. For those who just wanted to run, we had several sprinting races. The prizes for winners were red nose stickers. At the end of the day we sold cakes and made a massive £167.50. We sold 80 red noses and raised £118.20 by dressing up. In total we raised **£285.70 for Comic Relief**. Everyone enjoyed the day. We want to say a very big thank you to all those who made cakes and/or helped buy and sell them. Thank you too for your generous donations.*

### **Book Week**

We were also delighted with the response from Book Week, not just in terms of the money raised but more importantly in the quality of reading experiences the children received that week. The Book Fair raised £392.95 in commission which will be spent on books for KS1. The response to the Book Cover Competition was very strong with £10 vouchers going to: YR Florence, Y1 Louie, Y2 Lily, Y3 Bradley, Y4 Violet, Y5 Louisa, Y6 Emma.

Many thanks for the kind comments we received from the Mothers' day Service at Bergh Apton church and also to Floss Andrews for providing us with so many posies!

**Alpington and Bergh Apton Primary School Choir** – we were very proud of the choir who were highly commended for their performance at The Norfolk & Norwich Music Festival held in St Andrews's Hall.

Thank you to Mrs Cork.



### **Outside Learning**

Class 3 have been engaged with a good deal of outdoor learning this term connected with the Stone Age topic. We have received a good deal of positive feedback from the children and parents. The children really connected with the topic, and there are plans to use the outdoors in both C3 and C4 next term during their Wild West topic next term.

### **Class 2 Easter Activities Afternoon**

On Wednesday, Class 2 invited parents and carers to join them for an afternoon of Easter activities. The children had time to sit with their visitor, showing them their books and talking about the learning they have enjoyed this term. They were then encouraged to visit a variety of activities related to the Bible story of Holy Week, including washing each other's feet and sharing bread and 'wine'. The children enjoyed explaining the miracle of Jesus taking the punishment for our sins with the aid of a candle on a plate, some coins, coloured water and a glass. There was an opportunity to make salt dough crosses and decorate them to show how precious Jesus' sacrifice is and Easter eggs to colour in to remind us of the new life we have been promised. The children also painted the palm of their adult's hand to be printed and form part of our display 'God's love is for everyone'. It is always lovely to share our learning with you and we appreciate your ongoing support. (from Mrs Eland and Mrs York)

### **Eddie and the Penguins Save the World**

David Whiteley has made a DVD of "Eddie and the Penguins Save the World" which he has kindly made available to school. We have 10 copies which are available "first come first served" to parents in C2. Please see Mrs Reeman if you would like one, we can always run off additional copies. There is no charge for this.

**Year 6 SATS – these will be taking place during the week of May 8<sup>th</sup>. All Year 6 pupils have homework for Easter, they will also benefit from practicing their tables and mental number facts. Please support them with their homework and if at all possible take a look at what they are being asked to do and talk through some of their answers with them. The children are working very hard at the moment as the requirements for meeting the new expected standards are quite challenging.**

### **Lateness and Holidays**

Attendance does continue to be an issue for some children. There are increasing numbers of parents taking their children out of school for a holiday during term time. This is an even greater issue for children who have less than average attendance or are making slow progress. Should attendance dip below national averages then you will still come to the attention of the Attendance Officer.

### **Lateness**

There are still parents bringing children into school after 8.45am. School starts at 8.45am so please ensure you are here well before this time. It might mean changing your early morning routines but it will ensure that your child settles in easily, is not anxious about lateness and does not disrupt the rest of the class. Letters will now be sent to parents whose children have been late for school on several occasions.

Please do not follow the children into the cloakrooms as it is important that the children become independent and are able to hang up their own coats, and store their lunchboxes and water bottles.

### **Safeguarding**

We work very hard to keep your children safe at school, this includes vetting of adults allowed to work with children as well as the obvious means such as locked gates etc. In addition to this we do spend curriculum time talking to the children about E-Safety and how to remain safe online. Sadly this is a reality of modern life and both schools and parents have a duty of care to keep the children as safe as they can. The Know <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/website> has a section for parents as well as schools which are very informative and interactive.

However, parents do need to be aware that social media sites such as Instagram and Facebook are not deemed to be appropriate for children under the **age of 13**. It is very worrying to learn that a number of children at the school access these sites and may have unwittingly opened up what were intended to be closed groups to unknown people. The children in Class 4 have had many conversations with the staff about what to do if a "stranger" makes an approach online, the best advice is to ignore or delete it and to tell a trusted adult. We have explained that someone purporting to be an 11 year old may not in reality be an 11 year old.

The school has also received a Safeguarding Update via NB2B on the dangers of children accessing sites such as Instagram and Facebook and other social media sites as well as children accessing online games sites at inappropriate ages. Some popular games are unsuitable for under **18 year olds**. Staff have a duty to report to the designated safeguarding lead if children are using age inappropriate games or online activities. These activities can expose them to many dangers, and they need to know that friends you make online are not the same as real friends.

The Breck Foundation has been set up to help young people remain safe online and parents might like to consider the message below.

- Be aware** Opening files, accepting emails, IM messages, pictures or texts from people you don't know or trust can lead to problems - they may contain viruses or nasty messages
- Report it** Tell your parent, or trusted adult if someone or something makes you feel uncomfortable or worried, or if you or someone you know is being bullied
- Educate** Someone online might lie about who they are and information on the internet may not be true. Always check information with other websites, books or someone who knows. If you like chatting online it's best to only chat to your real friends and family
- Communicate** Meeting someone you have met online can be dangerous. Remember online friends are still strangers even if you have been talking to them for a long time. Never meet up with them alone and always speak to a parent or carer beforehand.
- Keep Safe** Keep safe by being careful not to give your personal information when you are chatting or posting online. Personal information includes your email address, phone number, password, location

**Health & Safety** – aerosol cans are not permitted in schools, older pupils who wear deodorant need to apply it at home for the day.

Some children react badly to the vapour if aerosols are discharged in a confined space such as the cloakrooms.

**Haircuts!!!!** We are experiencing a current trend where some boys are coming to school with “fashion” haircuts which involve very closely shaven heads. We really want to avoid this becoming an issue where children try to compete with each other over the way they look. In common with most schools we have a uniform policy which ensures that children and parents don't have to bother about “what to wear” each day and so are not subject to the vagaries of fashion and the pressures some children might come under. We accept and encourage children to be individuals and to express their individuality in the things they do, the kindness they show to others and in their skills and talents. Children in primary schools should not be over-concerned with their appearance and setting the latest trend in hair fashion. Thank you for your understanding in this matter.

**The Alington with Yelverton Parish Council AGM was held in the new school hall on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm.**

The school will once again be applying for a grant from their Community Benefit Fund which receives funding of £8000 per year from the solar farm to spend on community projects. We are hoping to obtain some much needed funding to enable us to resurface and remark our playground. The school is used by 123 community members each day and the Governors feel that the school is an important part of the community.

We have also received a request for volunteers to help with the refurbishment of the Alington and Yelverton Children's Play Area. This will be taking place between Sat 1<sup>st</sup> April and Sun 2<sup>nd</sup> April between 9am and 4pm. Please contact Maria Davidson 01508 494841 for further details.



Thanks to everyone who supported the Quiz Night and to David Whitely for being our Quizmaster. The event raised £570. Well done.

**FUN RUN – this will take place on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> May, 10.30am. 3Km for all. Cost of entry £3 adult, £2 children (under 16 year olds to be supervised)**

The route is shorter than previous years, there will be medal winners for the four age groups boys and girls. Entry forms are attached so make the most of the Easter hols. to do some “light training.”

If you are unable to run but would like to help out please see “A Friend” about offering to be a Course Marshall.

**Easter Egg Hunt –** The children have taken part in an Easter Egg Hunt and have each been given a box of mini eggs. If over Easter they are able to re-fill the box with small change, possible in exchange for undertaking small chores???, and return the boxes to school the money raised will go to purchase new play equipment.

**The Bergh Apton Parish Council AGM will be held at Bergh Apton village hall on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> April.** Please do come along to one of these meetings as it is important that there are positive links between the school and the parish councils.

#### **Additional PE Opportunities**

Feedback from parents in the recent questionnaire asked about additional PE. As a school we do take part in as many sporting competitions as possible, C4 recently competed in Quick Sticks Hockey at Hobart where Alington B team were runners up. We also offer after school sport on Fridays with Mr Colbeck as well as Gym on Tues or Thurs.

**Cricket** - After Easter the children in C3 will be taking part in Cricket Coaching on a Wednesday afternoon with a further opportunity for children in Class 3 and 4 to have cricket coaching at school between 3 and 4pm. Please see attached sheet.

**Tennis** – Years 1 and 2 will be going to Hobart on 26<sup>th</sup> April for a tennis taster session in the sports hall between 9.00 and 11.00 am. There is no charge for this, the children will be taken to and from Hobart by coach. This is organized through the Cluster and will be paid for by our PE Grant.

#### **Lucy Seppings (a qualified tennis coach )**

will be running an after school tennis club for those children in Years 1 and 2 who are interested in playing tennis. These sessions will take place between 3 and 4pm on a Monday afternoon. Please see attached sheet for further details. We are aware this clashes with Art Club however if it proves popular we would look to change it to another afternoon for the autumn term.

**Pupils with SEN-D** – Julie Risby, our Cluster SENCo lead is hosting a meeting to discuss the Cluster Local Offer at Loddon Junior on Wed 19<sup>th</sup> April at 9.30am. Please see the flier for further information if you are interested in attending....you can let us know if you want to go on the first day back, or leave a message on the answer phone.

**School Lunches** – Vegetable Bolognese has been replaced by Meat Bolognese on Monday Week 1.

### **Lost Property**

We have sifted through the named items and returned them to their owners. The children have been reminded to check the remaining **unnamed items**. Please come and look if you think your child is missing something. All unclaimed and unnamed items of clothing and footwear will go in a bin liner for the next Recycle with Michael. PLEASE NAME YOUR CHILD'S CLOTHING AND SHOES, INCLUDING PE KIT!

**Sainsbury's Vouchers** - We are now collecting these, there is a box in the corridor for your vouchers. Please support this as we have had a very good response in the past which has bought us playground equipment for the children to use.

Summer Term 2017 begins 8.45am Tues 18<sup>th</sup> April.

The staff wish all our families a Happy Easter holiday.

Thank you

Teresa Osborne

### **Attachments:**

- Tennis coaching reply slip
- Cricket coaching reply slip
- Letter and reply slip re Class 3 trip to Norwich Cathedral – 25<sup>th</sup> April
- Letter and reply slip KS1 Tennis event at Hobart – 26<sup>th</sup> April
- Run4Fun – 14<sup>th</sup> May
- ProCoach Multi-Sports Friday After School Club for children in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6
- ProCoach Little Ones Football Friday After School Club for children aged 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7
- What is the Local Offer – Loddon Cluster School Event, 19<sup>th</sup> April
- Alington & Yelverton Children's Play Area Refurishment – 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> April
- Primary Times
- Kids' Talk