



Newsletter 8th September 2017

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. We hope to hear that all our leavers are settling happily into their new settings. At our Leavers Assembly on the final day of last term, the following awards were made to the Y6 pupils:

- Spirit of Alington Trophy – Connie Perfitt
- Endeavour – Sophie Rallison
- English Literature Prize – Jasmine Bowen

From next Monday we will be welcoming our 20 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, Mrs Connor and Mrs Petch to care for them.

We also extend a warm welcome to Miss Jessica Langlands who is joining the teaching staff and will be teaching Y3, ably supported by Mrs Claire Stuart, in what was “the old hall”.



Another change for the school, as we grow and move forward, is that we will have five classes this year, three in KS2 and two in KS1. We have decided to call them by names of birds as giving them numbers would be too confusing (ie Class 5 with Y6 children).

For your information the classes for 2017-18 are as follows:

Robins	Year R/1	Miss Larter , Mrs Connor, Mrs Petch
Kingfishers	Year 1/2	Ms Betts , Mrs Eland Mrs Green, Mrs Powter-Robinson
Skylarks	Year 3	Miss Langlands , Mrs Stuart
Owls	Year 4/5	Mrs Weathers , Mrs Blazer, Mrs Sayer
Eagles	Year 6	Mr Stowers , Ms Godbold

Mr Paul Colbeck

Paul is our very successful PE coach who comes into school on Tuesday mornings and Fridays to teach PE as well as run an after school sports club.

Dates for this month:

- Mon 11th – All Reception children start part-time attendance
- Mon 18th – Full-time Reception children start full-time attendance
- Thurs 21st – 8.30am Meet and Mingle Coffee and Cake Morning
- Mon 25th – KS2 trip to Norwich Castle re Egyptian topic
- Wed 27th – YR parents invited to lunch
- Thurs 28th – Deena Images taking photos of children in their uniforms
- Fri 29th – am Premier Football League event

Contact Details:
 Alington CE VA Primary School, Wheel Road, Alington, Norwich NR14 7NH
 Tel. 01508 492700
www.alington@norfolk.sch.uk
office@alington.norfolk.sch.uk



Paul also runs a daily Early Birds Breakfast Club. From the end of this month until April, Paul will be working in Italy as a football coach with young people. He will be learning lots of new skills as well as improving his Italian and spaghetti twirling. All the schools Paul works with have supported him in this new opportunity and we wish him well. James Colbeck, another scion of the Pro Coach brand, will be taking over his father's responsibilities at this school in Paul's absence. James often runs the Early Birds and has taken the curriculum lessons both with and without Paul on a number of occasions. He has all the necessary coaching and safeguarding qualifications and we are confident that he will be a very suitable replacement for Paul during his absence. The after school club on Friday will also continue as normal.

Clubs

Clubs will be starting on the following dates:

Art Club	Mon – 11/9/17 please note there will be no art club on 25 th Sept due to statutory safeguarding training.	Y1 – Y6 3.00 – 4.30	Ms Godbold
Gym Club	Tues – 12/9/17	Y1 – 2 3.15 - 4.05	Rachel Perry
Gym Club	Thurs – 14/9/17	Y3 – 6 3.15 – 4.05	Rachel Perry
Recorder Gp	Wed – 13/9/17	Y4 & 5 gp lunchtime	Mrs Osborne
Tennis	This will continue w/c 18 Sept. but we are awaiting confirmation of what day this will be.		Lucy Seppings
Choir	Fri – 8/9/17	Y3,4 5 and 6 from 8.30am	Charlotte Cork
Multi Sports	Fri – 15/9/17	Y3 to Y6 3.10 – 4.10pm pre school to Y2 4.30 – 5.30pm	James Colbeck

In addition to the above we will be offering Guitar Tuition on a Friday afternoon in school time. This will be taught by Mr Ian Cooper from the Music Service. Some of you may remember Mr Cooper as he has taught guitar to a number of our pupils in the past. If your child is interested please complete the attached form and return asap. Mr Cooper will be here from 1.10 to 2.50 on a Friday afternoon. Each session will last 20 mins and will be at a cost of £11. However Mr Cooper is happy to take up to two children per session so the cost can be spread between them. Sessions will start next Friday 15th and places are limited and will be offered on a first come first served basis.

The staff are also offering a number of lunchtime activities such as crafts, gardening and German once the year gets underway.

Ms Betts is also intending to run a sporting activity after school on a Monday in the second half of each term.

We will also be running after school maths clubs for children in Y5 and Y6. More details to follow.

All lunchtime and after school activities provided by staff are offered at no cost to parents.

Governors

Last term we said goodbye and thank you to two of our long serving governors. James Debbage who served as an LA Governor for a number of years and Greg Roper who was a parent governor. We are very grateful for their time, commitment, and the skills they brought to the governing body.

If you are interested in serving as a parent governor, please speak to myself, or one of the existing governors for more information. There is also a letter attached explaining the process and the skills we are looking for.

Meet and Mingle Coffee Morning for new parents and existing ones! 8.30–9.30am, 21st Sept.

Once again we will be holding a “Meet and Mingle” in the school hall on Thurs 21st Sept from 8.30am. This proved to be a very successful meeting last year. Please drop in and say “hi” to other parents, it is a useful forum to ask questions about the school as well as a way of getting to know other parents. Members of our Friends Association and Governors will be there to chat and serve coffee and refreshments. We will have some toys for younger children so please bring them in with you. The aim is to make you feel part of the school. We do hope that several existing parents will also be able to spare the time for a quick chat and a cuppa. I hope to see you there!

Reading meeting for Reception year parents – Tues 3rd 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 Robins for the duration of the meeting.

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 on Tues 3rd Oct between 4 and 5 pm. We 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

Lunchtimes – Just to remind you that all children in Robins and Skylarks 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 **Skylarks, Owls and Eagles** 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 the choir's first "gig" will be at the Harvest festival on Wed 18th October.



The choir has also been asked to perform in **Norwich Cathedral** on the evening of **Wed 13th December**. They will be forming part of a **Christmas concert** arranged in aid of the **YMCA**. Tickets for parents and families will be on sale from school nearer the time. This is a very exciting invitation for us and I know Mrs Cork has been thinking about repertoire over the summer. Huff n Puff have also been asked to perform.

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 **Wed 4th 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:

Thurs 21st September from 8.30am: Meet and Mingle Coffee & Cake morning for new parents as well as our established ones

Thurs 19th October: Children's Disco – Robins and Kingfishers from 4.45 – 5.45pm and Skylarks, Owls and Eagles from 6.00 – 7.30pm.

Thurs 12th October: Cake Sale

Recycle with Michael – please bring bags into school by **9am Monday 2nd October**. Your child should be bringing home a bag with details. Unfortunately we do not have space in school for bags to be brought in any earlier than this.

Sat 2nd December - Christmas Fayre

Extreme Reading

Mrs Weathers says "thank you" for the photos she has received of pupils reading in unlikely places over the summer holidays. If there are any more photos lurking at home please could you send them in asap.



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.

Asthma Sufferers

If your child suffers from asthma and has an inhaler please ensure they always have an in-date working inhaler with them in the classroom. We also request that you read the emergency consent form and if agreeable sign and return it to the school office.

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 2018

It's that time already! Do you have a child who will be five between 1st September 2018 and 31st August 2019? If so, your child could start full time in September 2018 and you should apply to Norfolk County Council by 15th January 2018.

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 12th 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 2017.

For your information the Open Evenings for prospective Y7 pupils and parents are:

Framingham Earl High Thurs 5th October from 6.00-9.00pm

Hobart High School Thurs 12th October 6.30-8.30pm

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". Unfortunately we have

already been asked for holiday forms and I would urge you to read carefully the letter “Attendance at school and legal intervention”.

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.

We will be taking part in “**Operation Christmas Child**” again this year. Only mentioning it at this stage so that any shoe boxes you may have at home you might like to keep for the moment please.

A number of trainers were left at the end of last year. Think they may be your child's ... please see Mrs Reeman.

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
- NCC Term dates
- Cluster Attendance leaflet and letter regarding penalty notice
- Safeguarding – Information for parents and Carers
- Application form for Pupil Premium
- Privacy Notice – Data Protection Act 1998
- Scholastic Book Club – if you wish to place an order via the school, please return orders by Friday 29th September
- “Recycle with Michael” bag
- Consent Form: Use of Emergency Salbutamol Inhaler
- Friday After School Club: Little Ones Football
- Friday After School Club: Multi-Sports
- Gym Club reply/payment slip
- Guitar interest slip
- Letter regarding becoming a Governor of the school
- Friends AGM flyer
- “Meet & Mingle” – 21st September flyer