



Newsletter 13<sup>th</sup> October 2017

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



**HARVEST FESTIVAL** - will take place on Wed 18<sup>th</sup> October 9.15am at Yelverton Parish Church. If you would like to come to school and help us walk the children to the church you will be very welcome. We ask that all children come to school first that morning. We are very grateful for all the donations for Foodbank; **however** we are also asking that the children each bring a “gift” of food to the church next Wednesday morning which they will take up to the altar at the beginning of the service. These items will then be sent with the church’s own donations to the Salvation Army. The usual food items the children bring are tins and packets of dried goods/biscuits etc.

**Cross Country** – well done to our brilliant KS2 runners, an amazing 20% of the pupils from Alington who ran have made it through to the next round which will be at **Fritton Lake on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 11.30am – 14.30pm.**

### **Special congratulations to the qualifying children below:**

**Y3** Gracie and Martha, Sonny and Harry

**Y4** Minnie, Jessica and Louisa Murphy, Finlay D, Elliot, Archie and Harry M

**Y5** Charlotte, Sam and Ben

**Y6** Maddy and Cordelia and Harry, Charlie and Tristan

A letter with further details will be sent out to your parents before half term.

### **Attendance and Holidays**

I know this is a dreary subject but there are still several parents booking holidays in school time, despite the information and leaflets sent out to you at the beginning of term. I try to be understanding, especially if there is a problem with a flight and you need to take a day etc. However, all schools have now received notification from Norfolk County Council that they will positively respond to requests from schools to prosecute an absence of 10 consecutive sessions. For your information 10 consecutive sessions is **five** school days as each day has two sessions am and pm.

The Governors have also updated our Attendance Policy to say that children with an absence of below 90% will be regarded as persistent absentees (PA) and that children whose attendance falls below 92% and therefore at risk of becoming a PA will be notified by the school. At this school children whose absence falls into the PA category is almost always due to illness. However,

### **OCTOBER**

Wed. 18<sup>th</sup> - Harvest Festival  
9.15am at Yelverton Church

**Thurs. 19<sup>th</sup> – NON-UNIFORM DAY** – School Photographs

Also

School Disco – Years R, 1 and 2  
4.45-5.45pm, Years 3, 4, 5 and 6  
6-7.30pm

Thurs. 19<sup>th</sup> – School closes for half term –re-opens Mon 30<sup>th</sup> October.

### **Contact Details:**

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it is easy to see how a five day holiday and then a week or two of illness in the course of a year can push a child into the zone when their attendance becomes a cause for concern.

Our attendance data is collected and checked and an Attendance report issued to the Governing Body. Our attendance is ranked and reported with other Norfolk schools. I am questioned about children's absences and their attendance if the Attendance Officer feels it is not high enough. Our latest published attendance figures are 96%.

Please ensure your child arrives at school promptly each day. Arriving after 8.45am means your child will be marked down as late and persistent lateness is also an issue of interest to the attendance team.

**Early Birds Breakfast Club.** Unfortunately there will be an increase after half term to £4.50 per child and £4.00 for siblings. This is the first increase we have made and I am sure you will agree it is good value for an hour's childcare, breakfast and sporting activity. Breakfast Club does not aim to make a profit but to cover its costs. There is no charge to pupils receiving Pupil Premium.

**Parish Council Grant.** Parents will be interested to learn that the school is seeking to access a grant from the Diocese to re-surface and re-mark the playground, put a drain around the old hall to prevent water seeping into the brickwork and to erect a more permanent partition in the old hall to create an additional classroom space and small withdrawal area. The grant will pay for 90% of the costs which leaves the school to fund the 10%.

Yelverton Parish Council currently hold two funds – the Community Benefit Fund which is the money paid each year by the solar farm on the edge of the village and must be used for the benefit of the parish and the Community Infrastructure Level (CIL) which is £20,680 given to parish councils to deal with issues which arise locally as a result of new development. The school has been advised to approach the Parish Council and ask for a grant from the CIL fund of £5,500 towards the 10% the school is required to raise for the project to progress.

The Governors have written to the Parish Council outlining how the money will be used to improve and maintain our infrastructure in the light of the demand for additional places from the new developments in the area. All responses to the invitation to apply for funding will be reviewed by the Parish Council meeting on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November. I will attend the meeting, hopefully with another member of the Governing Body, however it will be helpful to have some parents who live in the parish to come along and hear how the decisions are made. If you are willing and able to do this please have a word with me before 6<sup>th</sup> November. Thank you.

### **How Hill Residential - July 2018**

A residential trip to How Hill has been booked for all Year 5 and 6 pupils. It will be a two night trip from Mon. July 16<sup>th</sup> to Wed. July 18<sup>th</sup> 2018. We went there in 2016 and all the pupils thoroughly enjoyed the experience. A letter has been given to pupils in Years 5 and 6. Hobart High School have been informed of the date which was set 18 months ago and realise that this week clashes with its transition week and that some pupils from Alington, and other feeder schools, will not be able to attend transition for the Mon, Tues and Wed. We have discussed the need for the high schools to consult with feeder primary schools before putting their dates to parents.

### **NON-UNIFORM DAY – Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October**

**School Photographs by Deena Images** will also be taken of the children wearing **NON-UNIFORM** on **Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October**. If you have younger children not at school, you may come into school a little earlier so they may have their photograph taken with their sibling(s) and/ or with you. Sensible clothing please i.e. no high heeled shoes/boots or jewellery.

**School Disco - Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October – Years R, 1 and 2 4.45-5.45pm and Years 3, 4, 5 and 6.00-7.30pm.** Please see attached booking form – deadline for returning forms Monday 16<sup>th</sup> October.

**Changes to menu –** Thank you to all the parents who Came and Dined with us this half term, I have passed on your feedback to Norse who are interested in your comments and observations. There will be a couple of changes to the menu.

Week 3 Tues - will now be Cottage Pie as the children really did not like the Pork and Sweet Potato Pie

Week 1 Tues – A return to the popular omelette, sausage, beans and hash brown instead of two chipolata sausages and mash which we felt was not substantial enough.



### **Shoebox appeal – Samaritan’s Purse**

Once again we are asking parents to fill a shoebox with small suitable gifts for a child and return it gift wrapped to the main corridor by Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November. I realise this is another charitable request but when we see the DVD showing the faces of the children in deprived areas of the world opening their Christmas gifts it is hard not to be moved. These children, many of them

orphans, live in appalling conditions and have almost nothing in the way of toys and personal possessions. They are thrilled to receive the crayons, notebooks and small gifts that are in the shoeboxes and it tells them that they aren’t forgotten and that somewhere in the world there is a family who thought of them.

What do you need to do?

Read the leaflet and fill an empty shoebox covered with Christmas paper with some of the items listed for a girl or boy of your chosen age group and return to school. If you have any spare empty shoeboxes please bring them in and leave them in the corridor for others to use. There will be a shoebox service at Bergh Apton parish church on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> November at 11.00am which you are welcome to attend. Our school always sends a large number of filled shoeboxes and I know you won’t disappoint again this year.

Thank you very much.

**Musical Instruments ex VAT –** Within specific rules, the school can purchase a musical instrument for your child. This allows the school to purchase certain items, recover VAT thereon, and resell the items “outside the scope” of VAT. This scheme is, for larger musical instruments e.g. drum kits, double bass, pianos where the student is also paying for regular tuition on that instrument. Please see Mrs Reeman for further information.

### **Friends**

**Match Funding** Please see the attached letter asking for parents who work for an organisation that has a match funding policy to inform Mrs Reeman in the school office.

**Cake Sale** on Thursday raised a whopping £182.45 which will go towards the purchase of some new Community Play Blocks for Robins. Thank you very much to everyone who baked and bought.

**Around the World in 80 days...**The school has booked theatre tickets for Skylarks, Owls and Eagles to see this matinee performance at the Theatre Royal on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> January at 2.15pm. Friends have agreed to subsidise part of the cost of the trip. Further details to follow.

**Gymfinity Action days and Alington Art Club.** Please see attached information about two holiday clubs running at school this half term

**Reminder Family Portraits** – Sat 14<sup>th</sup> October in the school hall between 9– 12 noon. Please ring Deena 07737470895 if you haven't already done so, to book your appointment.

### **Admissions for Sept 2018**

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

Apply online:

[www.admissionsonline.norfolk.gov.uk](http://www.admissionsonline.norfolk.gov.uk) (website open between 28<sup>th</sup> Sept. and 15<sup>th</sup> Jan.) or application forms can be obtained from Norfolk County Council Customer Service Centre  
Tel. 0344 800 8020

Email: [admissions@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto: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

### **Transfer to Secondary School**

It is important that applications are received by 31<sup>st</sup> October 2017.

**Parking** – This seems to have improved recently. As you may have noticed I do keep an eye on the parking at the start and end of the day and am grateful for parents who no longer park on both sides of Wheel road and who leave a sensible space at the crossroads.

Thank you.

Teresa Osborne

Attachments:

- Leaflet from Samaritan's Purse – How to pack your shoebox gift
- Letter from "The Friends" re Match Funding
- Letter to Year 5 and Year 6 parents re How Hill residential
- Gymfinity Activity Day – Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> October
- Alington Art Club – Big Make Day, Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> October
- Disco booking slip, please make sure you have returned your slip by Monday 16<sup>th</sup> Oct.