



Newsletter 10th November 2017

ALINGTON & BERGH APTON Church of England VA Primary School

Foodbank

Many thanks for the amazing support we have had for the Food Bank, Sophie from the Norwich Foodbank came in to collect the goods you donated and to speak to the children about the work of the Foodbank in assembly on Wednesday. We have arranged for the School Council to visit the Foodbank in January and do some packing in the warehouse. They will then feedback to the rest of the school about their experience. This is something we did a few years ago and it was very positive.

Shoebox appeal

Please keep them coming in, they will be collected from school next Friday, the Shoebox service is at Bergh Apton Church on Sunday 19th November at 11am. I hope to see some of you there.

Christmas Fayre Tombolas.

Many, many thanks for the chocolate and bottles sent in by you. If you forgot to send in some goodies the box will be there until the end of November.

If you have any clean, no longer required soft toys then there is another collection box in the corridor ready to receive them. There is a lid on the box for a purpose!!

Children in Need - £129.10 was also raised for Children in Need.

Open Afternoons – There will be Open Afternoons next **Tuesday and Wednesday, 14th and 15th Nov from 3-4pm** when parents can come in and view children's books and visit the classroom. No appointments necessary.

The following week there will be parent/teacher meetings when you will be talking to the class teachers about your child's progress, learning and any other issues. You should all have received an appointment slot for this. (On this occasion books will not be made available.) We had positive feedback when we held Open Afternoons last year and felt that it was worth repeating it this time, just before parent/teacher meetings.

Parish Council Grant. Many thanks to those parents who made their way to the Village Hall on Monday when the PC reported on the allocation of the Community Infrastructure Levy and Community Benefit funds.

The school approached the Parish Council for a grant of £5500 towards the £8000 the school will need to unlock a further 90% of funding to re-mark the playground and create a more permanent partition in the old school hall. The Diocese is seeking to raise the 90% on our behalf from government funding.

Although we are grateful to receive some funding, it was slightly disappointing to find that the PC was only prepared to offer us £2,275.

2 parish councillors felt the school should receive no grant from the funding, 2 felt £2,275 was an appropriate amount and 3 felt the full £5,500 we asked for should

November

Tues 14th and Wed 15th – 3-4pm Open Afternoons for all Classes – come and have a look at your child's books

Wed 15th – Swimming Gala Years 4, 5 and 6

Fri 17th – shoe boxes to be collected

Sun 19th 11am – shoe box service at Bergh Apton Church

Tues 21st and Wed 22nd – Parent/teacher meeting

Tues 21st – Robin's trip to see "The Tiger Who Came to Tea"

Year 2 – "Step On It" pedestrian training

7.30pm "Tropic" Beauty and Skincare evening

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be allocated. We didn't learn how the final decision was made to give us the £2,275 figure, however the Council felt we should also ask Bergh Apton PC which we have plans to do.

I have asked Yelverton PC to re-consider the amount they are allocating to us. The compelling point is that for another £2,250 from Yelverton Parish Council the Department for Education potentially will invest another £72,000 in our school.

Let's hope we hear some good news from them shortly.

On another positive note the Parish Council have decided to allocate £3700 to buy portable speed warning cameras which they will be placing at various places throughout the village. The school are concerned at the number of cars speeding through the village and past the school, hopefully these cameras will help to keep the children safer.

Parking – There are still people parking dangerously near to the corner of the crossroads and this came up at the Parish council meeting. The Governors of the school are concerned about the width of the path leading to the new gate and have asked Highways Dept to come and take a look. In the spring I have been informed that yellow zig zags will be painted on the road outside the gate, I have asked if some zig zagging in front of the large double gates can be removed in order for the stretch of available parking to be extended. This they will do in due course I am told. Please take care when arriving and leaving school especially when accompanied by your toddlers.



Robin's Tea Dance – next Friday afternoon the Robins will be holding a tea dance for their parents where they will be demonstrating the Strictly Come Dancing moves they have been practising with the ballroom dance teacher and they will love to dance with you too. It has been an absolute joy to watch them practising so far! The hall will be yours for the afternoon so please come along at 2pm. The children will also be serving refreshments.

Communion Service – Rev Chris has been talking to the children about Holy Communion and he will be demonstrating what happens in a Communion Service as part of his next assembly with us on Thurs 30th November. Any staff, parents or Governors who wish to take part in this and receive Holy Communion are welcome to attend. The children will be spectators and not participate in this. The assembly that day will be from 10.00 to 10.45am

Choir at Norwich Cathedral this Christmas - Our school choir will be part of a concert performing in Norwich Cathedral on Wednesday 13th December at 7.30pm. This charity Christmas concert has been organised by the YMCA and entry is by ticket only. There is no charge for the tickets, however there will be a collection during the evening for the YMCA. Children in the choir will need to be at the cathedral by 7pm. Mrs Cork will advise in due course where she will arrange to meet the children. If you are unable to attend the concert, please note that children will need to be collected by you after the concert. Please let us know if your child is unable to attend the concert. To obtain tickets please return the attached slip to the school office.



Christmas Lunch - On the Christmas theme – the school Christmas lunch will take place on Wednesday 13th December.

As in previous years we are hoping that all children will sit together with the whole staff and enjoy a Christmas Lunch. It is a fun occasion with hats, crackers and Christmas music. It does make the whole occasion easier to manage if we don't have to accommodate a table or two for packed lunches and everyone is then included and served by the staff sitting at their table.

The menu is attached, children with special dietary or eating requirements can be accommodated. For the past couple of years the food has been very good indeed, I have already set the expectation barrier high for Norse.

Please complete the slip attached to the Christmas Lunch letter.

Christmas Cakes – The Years 5 and 6 children should have taken home a letter together with a list of ingredients in preparation for making on Wed. 29th Nov.

Christmas Fayre – 2nd December

As you know we do have a very active Friends committee but on Christmas Fayre day the committee is looking for parents who are prepared to help out for a short while on one of the stalls or to bake some cakes/savories for the Café.

The Friends have been busily organising the Christmas Fayre and can promise all the sights, smells and sounds of the season. In the spacious new hall you can relax in the Café whilst checking out the fabulous prizes to be won on Rudolph's Raffle and throughout the rest of the school you will enjoy a variety of market stalls, many fun games and tables full of tombola. There will be mulled wine and mince pies available to compliment the festive fun. Sitting happily amongst all of this will be Santa in his amazing grotto – with wonder, magic and gifts for all!

This is our most enjoyable and elaborate fundraiser of the year and your support is always greatly appreciated – we can't do it without you!

If you are able, could we please ask for contributions of ;

-  *your time on the day – anything from 30mins on a stall, game or in the café (please add your name to your preferred slot on the rota in school foyer)*
-  *cakes or bakes for the café (again, add your name in the foyer)*
-  *donated teddies/cuddly toys for the Teddy Tombola (bear box in school foyer)*

We look forward to seeing you on Saturday, 2nd December from midday – perfect festive fun for all ages, please come along and bring family and friends to enjoy the day with us!

Also from The Friends ... “Tropic” Beauty and Skincare Evening – Tuesday 21st Nov., 7.30pm - Please see attached for details. We hope you are able to join us.

School Photographs – Please return any orders to the school office by 9am Thurs. 16th Nov.

Change 4 Life Club – The government have doubled the amount of money they are releasing to primary schools as part of the PE Grant. The aim is to reduce the number of overweight children and to increase physical activity for all children. Nationally this is a big issue for teenage girls especially around body image, mental ill health and self harming. One of the things that has been flagged up nationally is the number of girls who won't take part in PE at high schools because they feel self conscious and may be over weight. Primary Schools are therefore being charged with the responsibility to raise pupil fitness, healthy eating and sports participation. Miss Betts is running a Change for Life Club aimed at those children in our school who do not take part in as much physical activity either in after school clubs or outside school. In many cases it is lack of confidence or opportunity to take part in extra curricular sport. She has had a very positive response and if you feel your child would benefit from this please speak to either Miss Betts or myself.

Thank you.

Teresa Osborne

Attachments:

- School Tea Towels and Carrier Bag Tidys – order form
- Christmas Lunch reply slip
- YMCA Christmas Celebration, 13th December at Norwich Cathedral – ticket order form
- Christmas Fayre – 2nd December 12-3pm flyer
- Scholastic Book Club – Please return any orders to the school office by Monday 27th November