



ALPINGTON & BERGH APTON

Church of England VA Primary School

School Funding - There is much in the media at the moment about school funding and cuts to education services. As a school our finances are well handled by Governors and we have managed to avoid some of the more extreme cuts some small schools are facing and will continue to face. Prudent handling of funding and forward planning has helped this. We are also lucky to have you as supportive parents who all help to fundraise for the school. Through our Friends Association parents have raised many thousands of pounds over the past few years which helps enormously to support your children's education at this school, providing them with the "extras".

However, we have now reached a point when all schools in Norfolk are receiving a huge cut to their SEN-D budgets. The schools in this area will be taking a 58% budget cut in money it gets from the Cluster to support children with SEN-D. As a group of schools we are protesting to Norfolk Children's Services but I am not hopeful we will reverse the decision made by them.

There has also been a nationwide campaign about the huge disparity in funding from schools in Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridgeshire and other rural local authorities compared to schools in large metropolitan areas. The disparity is enormous, for example:
Norfolk receives £156,534,704 less than Westminster and £248,375,076 less than Hackney. It is no surprise that these London Boroughs are doing so well in terms of academic improvement and social mobility.

31 Headteacher Associations across the country have joined together to write to the Chancellor, Philip Hammond, challenging this unfairness and asking him to distribute funding more fairly. If you are interested to know more about this and wish to read the letter and see the figures for yourselves please look on our website:

<http://alington.norfolk.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/Letter-to-Mr-Hammond-From-Norfolk.pdf>

It is worth remembering that our pupils sit the same public examinations as pupils in the better funded authorities and we are all subject to the same Ofsted inspections. Little wonder Norfolk has been pilloried for poor performance.

Events:

February

- Mon 5th: Valentine cake sale
- Wed 7th 2pm - Kingfisher performance – Mermaids and Pirates
- Wed 7th - Maths workshops for parents:
 - 3pm Years 1 & 2
 - 4.30pm Years 3 & 4
 - 5pm Years 5 & 6
- Thurs 8th 2pm – Kingfisher performance – Mermaids and Pirates
- Fri 9th – Break up
- Mon 19th – Back to school
- Fri 23rd – bring bags to school "Recycle with Michael"
- Mon 26th – by 9am bring bags to school "Recycle with Michael"
- Mon 26th – BOOK WEEK
- Mon 26th – Y6 Forensic Science Day at Hobart High
- Wed 28th – Toy and Book Sale

March:

- Tues 13th & Wed 14th – Open Afternoons and Parent/Teacher meetings
- Sat 17th – Quiz Night
- Tues 27th 9.15am - Easter Service at Bergh Apton church

Contact Details:

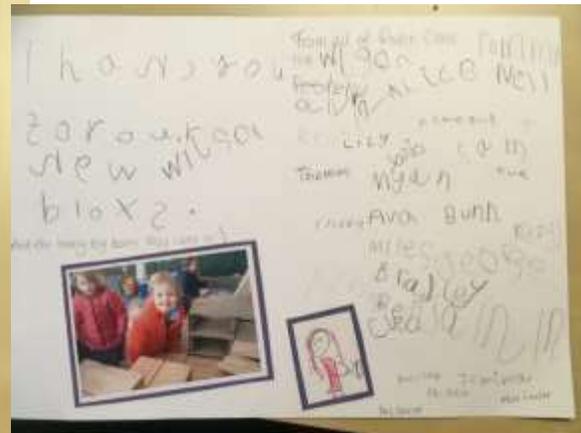
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“Friends” have recently made a substantial contribution for music tuition - £2,500; made a £5 contribution for all the children in KS2 to attend the recent performance of “Around the World in 80 Days” and have purchased additional high quality wooden building blocks for Robins’ class.

Next fundraising ... **Valentine themed cake sale - Monday 5th Feb.** Please bake and bring cakes in during the morning and come and buy at 3pm! Thank you for your support.



Building project – In recent months, we have been thrilled to confirm that long overdue repair and updating works on the old hall can go ahead and have been funded by a substantial grant, an amount which will contribute to the maintenance of drainage around the old hall, making good the playground and building of a partition within the old hall to increase capacity for classroom learning and give us use of a breakout learning/technology area. For our part, we need to raise a 10% contribution of approx. £8000.

Our school Governors have put forward a funding request to Alington with Yelverton Parish Council and Bergh Apton Parish Council, seeking this amount via the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds held in respect of the new housing developments in the villages; the levy can be used to increase the capacity of existing infrastructure or to repair failing existing infrastructure, if that is necessary to support development. Disappointingly, to date we have not had a final response from either Parish Council. If you are a resident of Alington, Yelverton, Bergh Apton and would like to support us in our requests or find out more about how the CIL funding for your area is allocated, please speak to any of the Governors for more information.

Over half term work will start on the partition in the old hall. We are hopeful that most of it will be completed by the time the children return, however Skylarks may need to relocate to the library for a few days.

Maths Workshops - a reminder that these will be taking place on Wed 7th Feb.

3pm Y1/2 *We will offer childcare for this session.*
4.30pm Y3/4
5.00pm Y5/6

Kingfishers’ performance of Mermaids and Pirates - this will take place on Wed 7th and Thurs 8th Feb from 2pm. There is a sign up list for parents outside Kingfisher class.

Safeguarding – A letter to parents has been sent home alerting you to online safety. The Norfolk Safeguarding Children Board has asked schools to send out leaflets on Tackling Child Sexual Abuse. Each family will receive a copy.

The school will also be incorporating into our sex and relationships curriculum the **NSPCC Let's Talk PANTS lesson**. This is deemed to be an extremely valuable tool in protecting children from sexual abuse.

Please see the link below if you wish to know more about this.

www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/underwear-rule

This link and the recent letter home to parents will be placed on our website.

Although these are "grim" topics, we need to keep an attitude of safety to ensure our children are protected as best we can. The children may come home after half term and want to talk to you about this.

Parental Questionnaires - Thank you to parents who have returned their parent questionnaire, we will be looking closely at them and give feedback to you in due course. If you have used the questionnaire to raise a concern – great, but please put your name to it otherwise it makes it very difficult to respond to you in person where appropriate.

Governors are also hoping to meet with as many parents/carers who can come along on the morning of our annual Governor's 'Dig Deep Day', you are invited to join us for 'breakfast' (tea/coffee/pastries) on.... Monday 19th March at 8.30 after drop off – bring any concerns or compliments (or just come along for coffee and a chat!) we look forward to seeing you there!

Open Afternoons and Parent/Teacher meetings – will take place for all classes on Tues 13th March from 3.30-5pm and 14th of March from 3.30–7pm.

Parents to Lunch – once again we will be inviting you to lunch on the following days to try out the new menu. **Thurs Feb 22nd** – YR 1 and 2; **Tues March 13th** – Y3 and 4; **Wed 2nd May** – Y5 and 6

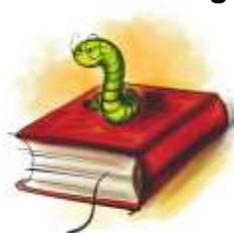
The carrot cake and apple flapjack puddings have not proved very popular so for week 3 on the new spring/summer menu the pudding for Tuesday will now be jelly and fruit and for Friday shortbread. You may wish to change your menu at home.

Sat 17th March QUIZ NIGHT – please see attachment for entry slip and details.

The Church of England Children's Society has thanked us for the £136 raised at our Christingle Celebration.

The Foodbank Box is now in the corridor. Many thanks for all donations received.

Book Week begins Mon 26th Feb



The Travelling Book Fair will be in this week and there will be a dress-up day on Thurs 1st March. Mrs Weathers will send out further details after half term.

The children will all receive a World Book Day token.

Reminder: TOY & BOOK SALE 28th February

The school are holding a sale of no longer needed **toys and books** on Wednesday 28th February. We are hoping to make it a learning experience for the children so different classes will be involved in sorting, pricing, displaying, selling and counting up the money.

The plan is for the children to come to school that day with a small amount of money, they will then go into the hall and spend it from 2pm with parents invited to join them at the end of the day. **Proceeds will go towards new books for the classrooms.**

Clean large cardboard boxes required.

I am taking part in the **YMCA “Sleep Under the Stars – war against sleeping rough”** appeal on Fri 9th March. If you have any clean cardboard boxes you would like to get rid of I will happily accept them to help me build my night shelter. The event will be taking place in the secure grounds of the Norwich School so I won't be encountering the dangers rough sleepers face each night. I will leave out a sponsor form after half term should any parents wish to support this cause. Many thanks.

We have been advised that as we work towards **GDPR** (General Data Protection Regulation) we will only be able to send emails to parents' personal accounts and not to work email addresses. This is to protect the personal data and photographs that may be contained in some of our letters. The next newsletter will not be sent to any work email address. (If you have received this newsletter via a work email account, please provide Mrs Reeman with a personal email address.)

Thank you.

Teresa Osborne

Attachments:

- Tackling Child Sexual Abuse booklet
- Invitation to YR, 1 and 2 to join us for lunch – Thurs 22nd Feb.
- Letter to parents – E-safety Safeguarding Alert
- Reply slip re maths workshops for parents
- Quiz Night entry form