



ALPINGTON & BERGH APTON Church of England VA Primary School

Dear Parents

Well done to the members of the choir who sang yesterday at the Norfolk & Norwich Music Festival held in St Andrew's Hall. Many thanks also to Mrs Cork who rehearsed and led the choir so well. The adjudicator made some lovely comments about the choir's singing and presentation as well as some things to think about to be even better. The performance was judged to be Highly Commended: *"a generally correct and creditable performance with greater evidence of artistic performance"*.

If you wish to see a video of the choir, please go onto the Norfolk Music Festival twitter feed and scroll down until you come to our school.

Music, and all the arts really, are such an important way to build confidence, empathy and camaraderie. There are also the obvious health benefits to singing, breathing deeply, using one's memory and exercising focus. Our school is keen to promote music through singing and playing instruments, we are grateful to be able to have teachers such as Mrs cork and Mrs Ball and I am pleased to tell parents that in these times of severe budget cuts to schools "The Friends" will be using their funds to ensure we can afford specialist music teaching again next year.

Our next singing event will be The Big Sing at Carrow Road on Thurs 3rd May. Come along and join us if you can...details below.

<https://www.norfolkmusicclub.org.uk/site/events/event/the-big-sing/>

"Can anyone watch the event?"

Yes! Parents, families, and invited guests can purchase audience tickets priced at £5 per ticket (free for under 5's). There will be audience refreshments available to purchase from arrival. We are working with the venue on organising the ticketing system and will have more information very soon. Please **do not** book via Ticketsource.

NB. Please note that there will be no cash payments available on the day. Book online ahead of the event. Please make sure not to park at Carrow Road as spaces are reserved for school coaches. Use Riverside car park or elsewhere."

Mrs Ball - The children in Skylarks will hold a short performance for their parents in the hall at 2.55pm on Mon 26th March.

While we are congratulating ourselves we have received a belated letter of congrats from Nick Gibb, MP, Minister of State for School Standards, congratulating us on 100% of pupils reaching expected and above in maths at the end of KS2 last summer. It puts us in the top 1% of primary schools for attainment in mathematics. This is nice to know but it is more important to

March

- Sat 17th 7.30pm – Quiz Night
- Mon 19th – 8.30-9am "breakfast" with governors
- Thurs 22nd – Kingfisher trip to Sea Life Centre
- Fri 23rd – Sport Relief, come to school dressed as a favourite sports person or in PE kit
- Mon 26th – 2.55pm short musical performance by Skylarks
- Tues 27th 9.15am - Easter Service at Bergh Apton church
- Wed 28th – last day of term

April

- Mon 16th – return to school

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know that all our Y6 pupils make better than expected progress from their relative starting points.

PE Competitions – Well done to the Y3 and Y4 children who took part in the recent basketball competition at Loddon. For some Y3 children it was their first taste of sports competition and basketball! There are one or two competitions to be re-arranged due to the bad weather. We do try to ensure every child gets the opportunity to take part.

Parent Questionnaire – please see the attached report and summary of the findings. Thank you to everyone who took part. We had some very extensive comments which we value, thank you for taking the time to fill it in. We nearly always find ways to improve our practice from the comments and responses we receive. The children will shortly be completing their own questionnaire.

Old Hall re-modelling and Playground re-surfacing – As you will have seen the builders have been busily creating a permanent partition in the Skylarks' classroom as well as putting in a classroom sink and cloakroom area. In addition we have a new heater and skylights. I am hoping the work will be completed by the end of next week allowing Skylarks to move from their temporary home back into their new classroom after Easter.

In the meantime another firm of builders are coming in to improve the drainage around the outside of the old hall and to re-surface the playground. We are hoping that we will then be able to afford to have it all re-marked. 90% of the cost of these works has been funded through an LCVAP grant which was bid for us from the DfE by the Diocese. However, as a VA school we need to raise 10% of any capital project. Some of you may remember the school had to raise over £40,000 towards the cost of the building of the "new" hall. This time the amount is more modest with the school governors needing to raise £9,700. The Governors approached both Yelverton with Alington Parish Council and Berg Apton Parish Council to ask for support with this. As I have explained in previous newsletters both Parish Councils have been given funding, the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), from the housing developers to explicitly pay for any improvements to infrastructure caused by the building of new homes. New houses mean that there is an increased demand for places at the school and we have increased our admissions number and number of classes to meet the demand from local residents going forward.

The school has asked both parish Councils for £4,000 each. I am very pleased to tell you that Alington with Yelverton agreed to offer us this sum and that to date Bergh Apton has offered us £2,000. This leaves the school to find the additional £2,700.

We are very grateful for the money we have received from the Parish Councils and thank them very much for their contributions.

Governors Dig Deep Day – this Monday 19th March. Please pop into the hall and join the Governors for a quick cuppa and a pastry from 8.30am, it is your opportunity to talk to them about your feelings and to ask them any questions or raise any issues.

Travelling Book Sale raised £184.52 in commission with the **Toy and Book Sale** raising a further £145. All of this will be spent on books. Many thanks for all your support and to the children who dressed up so amazingly last Thursday.





More photographs will be uploaded onto the school website shortly.

Story Writing Competition.

Mrs Weathers has received a really pleasing number of entries for the **Story Writing Competition**. We will be announcing the winners shortly. I am told the standard is high...well done to all who took part.

Easter Service at Bergh Apton Church on Tues 27th March. – A letter has gone home explaining where and when. As usual there is the option of coming on the coach but many parents prefer to take their children to Bergh Apton Church. We do need a slip back so please see Mrs Reeman if you have mislaid your letter.

Mon 26th March is the last day for handing in your Easter Egg decoration card. Mrs Reeman does have some spares if you want to decorate one.

Next Friday is Sport Relief – come to school dressed as a favourite sports person or in your PE kit ... yes this is the day when you can wear your ??? strip to school. Please bring £1 which will go to Sport Relief.

We were hoping to run a mile a day this week but as the playground is very cluttered and with more builders arriving we will do it once we can get on the field.

Swimming - Skylarks will begin swimming after Easter starting Tues 24th April. The children will need to go in for an early lunch as it is an afternoon session. Any child in Owls or Eagles who has yet to swim 25m will also be asked to go. The DfE has a target that all Y6 pupils need to be able to swim at least 25m. As we are a County with lots of water it does make good sense to have this as an aspiration. Please speak to your child's teacher if there is a problem with this.

Menu change – last day of term, Wed 29th March, the dessert will be “Benjamin Bunny’s Hot Cross Crunch” (Chocolate Crunch).

Outstanding monies – now we are coming to the end of the financial year it is important to have all outstanding monies paid and up to date, i.e. dinner money, payments for breakfast and gym clubs. **Can we please therefore ask for payments for next week and the last three days of term to be made as soon as possible and no later than Friday 23rd March.** In cases of financial hardship, do come and talk in confidence to Mrs Reeman or myself.

Yours sincerely

Teresa Osborne

Attachments

- Parent Questionnaire report and summary
- Easter Service 27.3.18 letter