



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

Dear Parents

Thank you for completing the questionnaires and returning them. I have collated the responses and will feed back to you on the areas that have been highlighted.

We are delighted by the many lovely comments we received but just as valuable are the concerns/suggestions you make where we could make improvements. It is by receiving these that we gain a better understanding of how the parent community feels. I will reply to them all as I usually do.

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 19<sup>th</sup> March at 8.30am after drop off – bring any concerns or compliments (or just come along for coffee and a chat!) we look forward to seeing you there!

### Cluster Swimming Competition – Thurs 22<sup>nd</sup> February

Congratulations to Sonny, Y4 who came first in the 25m breast stroke, Harry, Y6 who came fourth in the 25m breast stroke and Jake, Y6 who came fourth in the 25m freestyle. Well done!

**Winter Weather.** As I write this the weather forecast for next week swings from a blanket of snow with arctic conditions covering the East of England to a more gentle prediction of sleet with scattered snow showers. Our **emergency weather procedure** is again attached to this newsletter. As a school we try very hard to remain open where possible. None of the teaching staff live locally so they do have to make the journey safely to and from school, however since I joined the school in Jan 2010 we have only been forced to close on two occasions. It might be prudent to send your child in with a packed lunch if it is very snowy as our hot lunches need to make the journey from Long Stratton ... we do have some emergency supplies in the freezer just in case!

**Parent/Teacher meetings** – will take place for all classes on Tues 13<sup>th</sup> March from 3.30-5.30pm and 14<sup>th</sup> of March from 3.30–7pm. We had originally thought we might be able to offer afternoon starts but with the hall being out of commission the library is now a temporary class base so we have no spare room for parent/teacher meetings outside classrooms during the school day.

### Events:

#### February

- Fri 23<sup>rd</sup> – bring bags to school "Recycle with Michael"
- Mon 26<sup>th</sup> – by 9am bring bags to school "Recycle with Michael"
- Mon 26<sup>th</sup> – BOOK WEEK
- Mon 26<sup>th</sup> – Y6 Forensic Science Day at Hobart High
- Wed 28<sup>th</sup> – Toy and Book Sale

#### March

- Mon 5<sup>th</sup> March 2-3pm Dyslexia workshop
- Wed 7<sup>th</sup> – 2.30pm Open afternoon
- Thurs 8<sup>th</sup> – 2.30pm Open afternoon
- Tues 13<sup>th</sup> 3.30-5.30pm Parent/teacher meetings
- Tues 13<sup>th</sup> – Y3& 4 parents invited to lunch
- Wed 14<sup>th</sup> 3.30-7pm Parent/teacher meetings
- Sat 17<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm – Quiz Night
- Mon 19<sup>th</sup> – 8.30-9am "breakfast" with governors
- Tues 27<sup>th</sup> 9.15am - Easter Service at Bergh Apton church

#### Contact Details:

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**Open Afternoons** will be taking place the previous week on Wed and Thurs 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> March from 2.30pm. Please use this opportunity to pop in and see what your child has been doing, look at books, view the classrooms etc.

**Robins** Miss Larter will shortly be giving details of how parents of pupils in Robins will be given the opportunity to come into class regularly and see what their child is doing and experience the learning environment. She is planning to invite parents in on Thursday afternoons to read, work, play with their child. Obviously it would not be practical to have all parents in at once so her plan is to ask parents in according to their child's key worker group. Miss Larter will let you know dates and the rota. Thank you for those parents not filling up the narrow corridor into Robins, however Miss Larter and the EYFS staff are happy for you to come into class in the morning if you need to speak to one of them. The idea of dropping the children off was to avoid congestion and to encourage greater independence.



**Please keep an eye on the window of the EYFS corridor as Miss Larter will put messages (outward facing) and reminders on there. So if you come in the main entrance, perhaps leave via the back door and glance at the window for any pertinent messages.**

**Parents to Lunch** – Latest Menu. Please note 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.

We had a good response from KS1 parents yesterday, 32 came to lunch and we had extremely positive feedback on the lasagne.

Next Parents to lunch sessions are:

**Tues March 13<sup>th</sup>** – Y3 and 4; **Wed 2<sup>nd</sup> May** – Y5 and 6.

**Dyslexia workshop – Monday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2.00pm to 3.00pm.**

**Dyslexia, struggling with spelling accuracy and lacking fluency in reading is often a concern for parents and children. At present we have access to specialist advice and support so:**

**Liz Jones – Specialist Learning Support Teacher** – will be in school on Mon 5<sup>th</sup> March from 1.45pm  
Liz will talk to parents / carers about:

Developing learning skills in children  
What to do if you feel concerned about your child's learning  
How you can help at home

The sessions will run from 2pm to 3pm with a cup of tea at 1.45pm.

Please fill in the reply slip if you wish to attend so we know how many cups to make.

**Parking** - I have once again been contacted by irate villagers who get very fed up with poor parking. Please be as considerate as you can be to our neighbours who do need to be able to access their driveways at all times.

**Chatting on the pavement** – we are really pleased that parents talk and engage with each other, however please try not to huddle on the narrow path just outside the school. I have had a complaint from at least one parent who had to step off the pavement, young child in hand, and walk on the road because a group of mums were enjoying a chat on the path along Nichols Road.

## **Book Week begins Mon 26<sup>th</sup> Feb – our theme this year is Science through Stories**



The Travelling Book Fair will be in this week and the children and staff are invited to dress up on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> March as a Book Character. This is always a lot of fun and the children showcasing their outfits!

Mrs Weathers has asked any parents who would like to come and read a story/share a book with a class to speak to the class teacher. On Monday your child will be given a £1 book token, these can also be used for books purchased from the Travelling Book Fair. Please see attachment for further details.

## **Reminder: TOY & BOOK SALE Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February**

The school are holding a sale of no longer needed **toys and books** on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> 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. **Please send in toys and games as soon as you can.**

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. **Please can you ensure that school books are looked after at home, there have been some incidents of new individual readers coming back to school crumpled, torn, written on and soiled.**

**The Big Sing 2018** – your children may be coming home singing popular songs which we are endeavouring to learn for the The Big Sing event at Carrow Road on Thurs 3<sup>rd</sup> May from 11.00 – 12.30pm. This event is something all the children are taking part in. The children are good singers and there is evidence that singing and music is good for memory, co-ordination and positive mental health. From the website: <https://www.norfolkmusiclub.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.”

**The Choir** is also taking part once again in the Norfolk and Norwich Music Festival at St Andrew's Hall. Alington's slot is on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> March from 10.40 to 12.15pm. Parents are welcome to come and hear the children sing, £3 payable on the door. Please note that the organisers are strict about not allowing people in during a performance.

Mrs Cork has asked that children arrive promptly on a Friday so they are ready to attend the choir rehearsals at 8.30am. She is concerned pupils are missing the very important warm-up session. Children in the choir are permitted to arrive at 8.25am on a Friday.

## FRIENDS

**Re-cycle with Michael** – Collection is **Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February**. Please bring in bags by 9am Monday morning.

**Sat 17<sup>th</sup> March QUIZ NIGHT** – please see attachment for entry slip and details.

A raffle of “luxury” items of food and drink will be held on the evening. Friends are asking for any donation to be put in a collecting box in the corridor after next Wed. Please don't confuse it with the Foodbank!!!

### **Future dates:**

There will be the usual **Easter Egg Hunt** after the Easter Service on 27<sup>th</sup> March. The children will receive prizes of tubes of mini eggs which they can take home and fill with small change for doing helpful tasks at home. These can be returned to school after Easter with all proceeds going to our Friends Association funds.

**Easter Colouring Competition** will take place from 12<sup>th</sup> March. Winners to be announced on 27<sup>th</sup> March.

**Sun 20<sup>th</sup> May – Alington Fun Run – are you in training yet??**

**Fri 22<sup>nd</sup> June – Summer BBQ**

## YMCA Sleep Easy

I will be taking part in this YMCA event on the night of 9<sup>th</sup> March when myself and a group of friends will be braving the cold and sleeping in a cardboard box to help raise funds for YMCA Norfolk. All my career has been spent working with children, and it is heartbreaking to realise that some of them through family breakdown and other factors might go on to experience homelessness in some form or other. Homelessness particularly affects young people, it blights their lives and their life opportunities and of course links to physical and mental ill health, drug and alcohol dependency. I'm sure we all feel compassion for the homeless people we see in our City and it is difficult at times to know how to help for the best. I guess many of you, like me, have thought as you pass a homeless person ... “if I give this person a small donation how will they spend it?”

If you are able, please sponsor my effort and the money will go to YMCA Norfolk and the supported accommodation they provide for over 240 people every night who might otherwise be homeless. I will leave a sponsor form on the table in the entrance hall or you can visit my just giving page at <https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/fundraiser-display/search?searchTerm=Teresa%2520Osborne>

Here are some photos taken on Thursday when a YMCA Fundraiser came into school, spoke to the children and “dressed me up”! I must say I am listening to the latest weather forecasts with some trepidation. Thank you to everyone who has already agreed to sponsor me and for all the cardboard boxes I have received.



Thank you.

Teresa Osborne

**Attachments:**

- Invitation to meet Governors/join us for “breakfast” – Monday 1th March: 8.30-9am
- Letter re emergency closure
- Year 3 and 4 parents invited to lunch
- Reply slip re Dyslexia workshop – Mon 5 March
- Letter re Book Week
- Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> March Quiz Entry Form