



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

Dear Parents

I expect it was a big surprise to many of you when you came in on Monday morning to see the renovations to the cloakrooms. This is something the Governors have talked about doing and when the playground re-surfacing and old hall partition was completed there was a small amount of funding left in the project to use up. It isn't often that projects come in on-price but this one did and so the contingency money needed to be spent before the end of the financial year.

The plan is to open up the main corridor to create an open space which can be used as a reading area, we hope to purchase some purpose built book shelving and furniture. It also creates a pleasant reception area with some much needed storage cupboards. The work is not complete and the next stage will be to attend to the flooring, lighting and to install some appropriate coat hooks at a lower level and some shelving for bags. The area will then need to be re-decorated. If anyone has any interest or skill in this line of work please speak to me or one of the Governors.

The main corridor was becoming very cramped and the cloakrooms were an empty space that could be used. It is rare to see large cloakroom areas in primary schools and new primary schools are not built with changing facilities. Classrooms are commonly used for changing and we will be asking the older girls and boys to change in separate rooms.

In addition to this work the school is preparing to bid for funding from the Diocese to renovate the toilets which do need a make-over.

As well as the playground being re-surfaced and new drains put in around the old hall the old hall itself has now been permanently partitioned. We are very pleased with the latter work as it has made a very attractive classroom space. Thank you to Skylarks, parents and Miss Langlands for camping out in the library for much of last term. The children and staff are thrilled with the new classroom and withdrawal room.

We will be having the playground re-marked with netball and short tennis courts once we have secured a competitive price and then we will look to mark some games and graphics onto the tarmac.

We are grateful to the Parish Councils at Yelverton with Alington and Bergh Apton for awarding us grants from the CIL money they received. However we are still looking to secure funding to complete the works and will be looking to Bid from charitable foundations and businesses. The Governors have attached a letter asking for matched funding from individuals or employers. If you know of anyone who would be in a position to help with this please show them the letter!

Diary:

### May

- Wed 2<sup>nd</sup>, Year 5 & 6 parents invited to lunch
- Thurs 3<sup>rd</sup>, whole school taking part in "The Big Sing"
- Mon 7<sup>th</sup>, school closed Bank Holiday
- w/c 14<sup>th</sup>, KS2 SATs
- Fri 18<sup>th</sup>, community coffee morning, 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration inc. "Street Party"
- Fri 25<sup>th</sup> May, last day of half-term

### June

- Mon 4<sup>th</sup>, back to school

Contact Details:

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## **Celebrations – Friday 18<sup>th</sup> May**

There will be an opportunity for parents, extended family and the local community to view the new and ongoing renovations on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> May when we will be holding a Community Coffee Morning combined with a celebration of the 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the school and a Royal Wedding Street Party---phew!

Those of you who were associated with the school at the time of the marriage of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge may remember we held a street party, complete with bunting and “wedding cake” on the playground with sandwiches, crisps, cakes etc etc. We hope to do something similar and are asking NORSE to provide all the savoury food (rather like the picnic last year). We are hoping to persuade 12 or so parents to make a dozen cup cakes which we will use as “wedding cake” centerpieces, then the children will each have one to eat when we cut the cake. There is a slip attached if you feel up to baking a dozen or so cup cakes. If you feel up to doing more than that then please read the next paragraph!

Last time we had a display of parents’ wedding dresses and photos which caused a good deal of interest but this time we will be displaying school log books, photographs and archive material going back 130 years as well as more recent ones. These will be on display in the new hall during the morning when community members and visitors will be invited in for refreshments. I have asked Friends to help run the refreshments but I know they will also be looking for volunteers to help make some cakes.

We will once again be asking the children to come to school dressed as Princes and Princesses, or in their finery.

We are hoping that all children will have “street party food” that day, there will be no hot lunches provided by Norse. Please complete the reply slip so we know how much street party food we need to order. For children in Robins and Kingfishers this will be their free meal entitlement, for children in KS2 the cost will be the same as usual, £2.30.

**Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> May change of menu** – the Friday’s fish and chips will be swapped for the day before, i.e. fish and chips on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup>.

## **The Big Sing – Thurs 3<sup>rd</sup> May**

This week the schools taking part in The Big Sing have been told by the organisers that because of traffic considerations due to an an overwhelming response the event will now be held at the **Norfolk Showground** on Thurs 3<sup>rd</sup> May.

The organisers have asked us to tell parents *“For any parents/families who have already purchased tickets for Norwich City Football Ground, the tickets are transferrable for the Norfolk Showground so please ensure that ticket holders bring their pre-purchased tickets with them on the day, otherwise entry will not be permitted. Any existing ticket holders will be contacted directly tomorrow morning.”*

Please help the children practice the songs by downloading the Big Sing lyrics and performance tracks. You can do this by **following the link below:**

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

**Scroll down to “What is the repertoire?” and access the learning resources on “click here”**  
**The Password is singup**

I hope you find the songs and enjoy singing along with the children at home.

**All the children will require a packed lunch on the day.**

## **Matilda – July 2019**

You may be aware that the West End production of Matilda the Musical is coming to the Theatre Royal Norwich next July. Several parents have asked if we will be taking the children and so we have made enquiries as it is a good opportunity for the children to see and hear a quality production. The school has reserved up to 70 seats until the middle of May and a letter has already gone home to all parents in Years 2,3 ,4 and 5 with details asking for your response. It is not a cheap production and £45 per seat does seem very expensive. This includes travel costs via coach. However the school has subsidised the cost as much as it can. Any parent who would like their child to go but feels it is unaffordable please speak in confidence

to Mrs Reeman or myself. We are aware that some of you have already booked seats as a family and may not wish your child to take part. I understand that completely and wish you an enjoyable family experience, your child/ren will remain at school that afternoon and undertake a fun activity. Therefore there may be tickets available for parents to join us. We will inform you once we know final numbers.

**Suncream, sun hats and water bottles** – it is lovely to see the children dressed in their summer dresses and shorts, let's hope we have a bumper summer after so much yucky weather. However may I remind you that the children do need to bring a sun hat (named) and a water bottle to school each day also please apply sun cream to your child before coming to school. Our H & S policy does not allow us to apply cream in case of allergic reactions, nor do we allow children to bring it in and self-apply. We have already had one child lathering itself in cream all over its face and risk putting it in eyes etc. Also there is the danger that someone "loans" some cream to another child in innocence and it causes a negative reaction.

If your child is very fair and/or you have concerns about the risk to their skin then please come and speak to the class teacher as we can make other arrangements in a particular circumstance.

**Scooters and roller skates to school** – once again we will be allowing the children to bring these items to school on certain days to use at break and lunchtimes. They will be closely supervised and we ask that children wear helmets.

Please note the days below:

<b>Monday</b>	<b>Kingfishers</b>	<b>Scooters</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Skylarks</b>	<b>Tennis</b>
	<b>Robins</b>	<b>Scooters – during the afternoon</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Eagles</b>	<b>Netball game</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Owls</b>	<b>Roller skates</b>

### **Food waste**

Kingfishers are working on a topic around re-cycling this term. One of the ways we are all wasteful is in the amount of food and packaging we throw away. The children in Kingfisher class are looking to see if we can cut down on the amount of food we waste and will shortly be weighing the school food waste. We will then feedback their data to NORSE. I have also reminded the children eating packed lunch that they must take home all their uneaten food and packaging. This is something we have always done in order for parents to see how much their child has eaten, we have in the past caught children throwing whole packs of uneaten sandwiches in the bin. Also we at school need to try harder to recycle our plastic food packaging such as plastic milk cartons and so we need to separate these items out. Unfortunately we can't wash out items such as plastic yoghurt pots that your child might bring in for packed lunch so we are asking for all packaging to be returned so you can dispose of it appropriately.

**Year 5 and 6 parents are invited to lunch on Wed 2<sup>nd</sup> May**, please complete the reply slip and return to the office by Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> April.

### **School Dates 2018-2019**

The school will be keeping to the Norfolk Model calendar, this is attached.

<https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/education-and-learning/schools/term-dates/term-dates-and-school-holidays>

Some parents are interested to book holidays for October half term. May I remind you that we are required to monitor closely attendance and that holidays in term time are not sanctioned. An absence of 10 consecutive sessions can trigger an attendance enquiry and that each morning and afternoon counts as two sessions. Therefore 10 consecutive absences is only one school week.

Yours sincerely  
Teresa Osborne

### **Attachments**

- Letter from Governors re Match Funding
- The Big Sing 3<sup>rd</sup> May – acknowledgement slip
- Street Party Lunch booking form
- Community Coffee Morning, 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary of school and royal wedding request for baking
- KS2 Big School Sleepover 6-7 July