



# Newsletter 7<sup>th</sup> September 2018

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

Dear All

Welcome back to everybody after our summer break. All the children look relaxed, happy and very smart at the start of a new school year. We hope to hear that all our leavers are settling happily into their new settings.

This September we are welcoming 19 new reception children into school and we extend a warm welcome to them and their families as they join us at Alington. Starting school for the first time is a daunting prospect, however I am confident that our “new” children will settle quickly here with Miss Larter, Mrs Petch and Mrs Stuart to care for them.

As mentioned in a previous newsletter, one child who was on our list to come this September has moved away and so we do have a space for a YR child should you know of anyone who is looking for a place here. Please tell them to ring Mrs Reeman at the school office, tel. 01508 492700.

We also welcome our “new teacher” Mrs Chisholm as Miss Langlands is now known. Jessica thanks everyone for the good wishes she received on her marriage, she had a wonderful day and is settling happily into married life.

As the school adjusts to five classes there are some slight changes in class configuration this year. For your information the classes for 2018-19 are as follows:

Robins	Year R	<b>Miss Larter, Mrs Petch and Mrs Stuart</b>
Kingfishers	Year 1	<b>Mrs Chisholm</b> Mrs Powter-Robinson
Skylarks	Year 2	<b>Ms Betts, Mrs Eland, Mrs Green</b>
Owls	Year 3/4	<b>Mrs Weathers, Mrs Blazer, Mrs Sayer</b>
Eagles	Year 5/6	<b>Mr Stowers, Ms Godbold, Mrs Connor</b>

Each year brings some changes – I trust many of you noticed the new playground markings which were painted on over the summer.

The toilets have undergone a much needed complete refurbishment. They are fresh, clean and modern ... we are just waiting for the tiling to be completed around the sink areas. This was made possible by a grant from the Diocese.

Finally a HUGE thank you to Steven Cushing for redecorating the cloakroom area, including the ceilings and beams ... we are very grateful for his extremely competitive price as he oversaw all the rewiring and reglazing of the windows as well as undertaking the actual re-painting in his own time. I hope you will agree he has done a super job.

### Dates for this month:

- Wed 12<sup>th</sup> – 8.30am Meet and Greet, Sally Hitchcock our Parent Support Adviser
- Thurs & Fri 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> – Reception children stay for lunch and are collected at 1.30pm
- Mon 17<sup>th</sup> – Reception children start full-time attendance
- Tues 18<sup>th</sup> – Year 2 children visit Poringland library (details in due course)
- Wed 19<sup>th</sup>, 9.30-11.30am Parenting Programme
- Mon 24<sup>th</sup> – Photos of children in their uniforms
- Wed 26<sup>th</sup> – YR parents invited to lunch
- Thurs 27<sup>th</sup> – 8.30am Macmillan/Meet and Mingle Coffee Morning

### Contact Details:

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**Clubs** will be starting on the following dates:

Art Club	Mon – 17/9/18 (Unfortunately Art Club is currently full, however please let Mrs Reeman know if you wish your child's name to be added to the waiting list.)	Y1 – Y6 3.00 – 4.30pm	Ms Godbold
Gym Club	Tues – 11/9/18	Y1 – 2 3.05 - 4.05pm	Rachel Perry
Gym Club	Thurs – 13/9/18	Y3 – 6 3.05 – 4.05pm	Rachel Perry
Recorder Group	Wed – 12/9/18	Y4 & 5 gp lunchtime	Mrs Osborne
Tennis	Wed - 3/10/18.	Y1 – 3 3.05-4.05pm	Lucy Seppings
Guitar	Fri - 14/9/18	Y3-6 Lunchtime/afternoon	Ian Cooper
Multi Sports	Fri – 7/9/18	Y3 to Y6 3.05 – 4.05pm pre school to Y2 4.15 – 5.15pm	ProCoach Sports

**Choir** – as part of the music curriculum provision, all the children in Owls and Eagles will attend choir on a Friday morning from 8.50 to 9.30am each Friday. The benefits of singing are huge not only for emotional Well Being but also in other areas such as memory building and breathing. The choir will be run by Mrs Cork and supported by additional staff. There is no cost to the children for this activity as it is part of national curriculum music.

#### **Meet and Mingle Coffee Morning for new parents and existing ones - Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> Sept.**

In the past these events have been popular especially with new parents. This year we thought to coincide it with the **Macmillan Coffee Morning appeal** and so serve refreshments during the morning. Hopefully members of the wider community will also attend. I have had requests to look at the old school log books and registers again so I can get these out for those people who are interested. Please put the date in your diaries ... further details to follow. Those of you who are keen baker's please can you support this. All proceeds will go to the Macmillan Appeal.

**Chicken Pox** – It is very important that we are informed if your child develops chicken pox or has been in contact with someone who has chicken pox. We have a child beginning school in Robins/Reception who is receiving treatment which destroys his immune system. He has no immunity to chicken pox so it is important we know if chicken pox is in school so that the child's mother can take appropriate action for her child. This is especially relevant to the children in Robins class.

**Sally Hitchcock – Parent Support Advisor.** Sally will be in school on Wed 12<sup>th</sup> September from 8.45am to meet and chat informally with any parents who wish to talk to her. She will also be holding her Parenting sessions from 19<sup>th</sup> September 9.30–11.30am for five weeks here at Alington.

#### ***Would you like to...***

- **Enjoy being a parent more?**
- **Create a better relationship with your child/children?**
- **Learn to enjoy play with your child/children?**
- **Have a greater understanding of your child?**

Parents who have undertaken this course in the past have found it very helpful. Places are limited so please sign up early to avoid disappointment

**Sally Hitchcock, Parent Support Advisor 07825356836 or [psa@alpington.norfolk.sch.uk](mailto:psa@alpington.norfolk.sch.uk)**

The school calendar will be out very shortly, in the meantime I have included some diary dates for the near future:

**Reading meeting for Robins/Reception parents – Tues 2<sup>nd</sup> October at 2.00pm.** There will be a reading meeting for parents when Miss Larter will explain how we teach reading and phonics to your children. There will be an opportunity for you to ask questions in a relaxed and informal atmosphere. We are happy for you to bring along your babies, any preschool children could go into Robins during that period.

**Parents to lunch** – once again we will be inviting parents in to enjoy a lunch with their children. Dates so far:

Robins – Wed 26<sup>th</sup> September

Kingfishers - Mon 1<sup>st</sup> October

Skylarks – Tues 11<sup>th</sup> October

### **Friends**

The Friends recently said farewell to some of our members as their children left to attend high school and we would love to meet some new parents/grandparents/carers, from across the school year groups. Informal meetings are held at the school (approx. 6 per year) and there is no obligation to attend all meetings or events – if you can help at any of the fundraisers we will be pleased to welcome you, many hands make light work and it's always fun and rewarding!

**If you would like to become involved**, please contact any member of the Friends or join us to eat, meet, mingle and chat at the AGM to be held on **Thurs 4th October from 7pm**. It is important we get feedback across the school so it would be great to have parents from every year group.

### **Art Weekend at Yelverton Church**

In July a local artist, Ted Cullum, came into school and invited the children to produce a painting of St Mary's Church. The response was amazing and all the pictures will be on display at St Mary's Church on Sat and Sun 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> September. Please go along with your children and family members to see this colourful display of your children's paintings. **Invitations are in book bags.**

### **SAFEGUARDING:**

**NSPCC Helping parents to keep their children safe** Parents can visit [https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/underwear-rule/?utm\\_source=vanity&utm\\_medium=vanity&utm\\_campaign=2016+pants](https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/underwear-rule/?utm_source=vanity&utm_medium=vanity&utm_campaign=2016+pants)

for downloadable guides, social networks, apps and games for adults and children to **Talk PANTS**. This gives a simple way to help parents keep their children safe from sexual abuse without using scary words or even mentioning sex.

**Share Aware** is a resource to help parents keep their children safe on social networks, apps and games. Visit <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/shareaware>

**Net Aware** is an online tool that informs parents about social networks, apps and games that children might be using. It looks at the frequency of inappropriate content, how robust and easy to find the privacy settings are and why children like using the sites. Net Aware is regularly updated with new apps, and parents can sign up to Net Aware newsletters to keep up with digital trends. For more information visit <https://www.net-aware.org.uk/>

**Parents will be asked to give details of any childminder or childminder provider who is collecting or bringing children to Alington Primary School. Parents are reminded at the beginning of each school year to check the registration details of their chosen childminder with the Ofsted website.**

For your information, our school is a member of a jointly run operation between Norfolk County Council, Norfolk Police, it is called Operation Encompass. Encompass has been set-up to help schools to provide support to children who have been present at incidents of domestic violence. We know that children can be significantly physically or emotionally harmed when they are involved in, present or witness to domestic violence.

The school will receive a confidential phone call from the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub before 9am on the morning after any domestic incident where a child at their school has been involved in, present or witness to domestic violence.

The Key Adults at our school are myself and Mr Michael Stowers (Assistant Headteacher). We have received training from Norfolk County Council to allow us to use the information that has been shared, in confidence to make sure that the right support is available for children and their families, who have been involved in or witnessed a domestic violence incident.

We are keen to offer the best support possible to our pupils and we believe this is going to be extremely beneficial for all those involved.

If you have any concerns or questions then please contact myself and I will be happy to discuss this further. Further information about the project can be found on our school's website and is available from the school office on request

**Lunchtimes** – Just to remind you that all children in Robins, Kingfishers and Skylarks are entitled to a Universal Infants Free School Meal (UIFSM). Menus are available from the school foyer. You can decide on a daily basis if your son or daughter would like a hot lunch. All you need to do is decide whether you want a meat or a vegetarian meal each day. For those in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 the cost of a school lunch is £2.30. Please make payment of lunches consumed each week by Friday, or you may prefer to pay in advance. Please make cheques payable to "Alington VA Primary School". No change is usually given as any credit is carried forward to the following week.

We have also sent home forms for you to fill in if you think you may be entitled to Pupil Premium (even if your child is in Years R, 1 and 2 and receives a UIFSM). Please return the completed forms as Pupil Premium is worth £1,320 for each eligible child. Please take a look at our website to see how the money is spent.

**Early Birds Club is now running!** The club runs from 7.45-8.30am each day. The cost per child is £4.50 with a 50p reduction for any siblings. Further details and registration forms are available from the school website/foyer. Occasional ad hoc attendance is also welcome.

### **School Uniform**

Thank you to everyone for sending your children to school looking so smart. They are a credit to you. We ask that children wear only stud earrings which should be removed or taped for PE lessons, the only other piece of jewellery allowed is a watch. Nail varnish is very pretty but please keep it for weekends and holidays as it is not suitable for school.

Please visit <https://www.pbuniformonline.com/> or use the link on our school website to order uniform and book/PE bags. Mrs Reeman has samples of uniform if you are unsure of sizing and still has some items available from the school office so you may wish to first check if there is any stock still left in school.

## **Long hair**

We also remind parents that according to our uniform rules long hair needs to be tied up at all times, one reason for this is to try and prevent the outbreak of head lice that schools seem to be plagued with. If you are unlucky and pick some up it is incredibly frustrating to deal with. We also ask for long hair to be tied up for Health and Safety reasons, no child can undertake any PE or climbing and building activities without their hair tied up effectively. This applies equally to both boys and girls. Please also note that extreme haircuts or hair colouring are not desirable either.

## **Water Bottles.**

It is important children bring only **water** in their bottles. Sugary drinks can cause damage to teeth as well as an excess of sugar contributing to obesity and other health issues. Furthermore, if children spill their bottles or they leak, then it causes sticky marks on books, furniture and carpets. The children may bring drinks other than water with their packed lunches which are consumed in the dining hall.

## **Asthma Sufferers**

If your child suffers from asthma and has an inhaler please ensure they always have an in-date working inhaler with them in the classroom. We also request that you read the emergency consent form and if agreeable sign and return it to the school office.

**Payments to school** should preferably be made by cheque to “Alpington VA Primary School”. Please write out separate cheques for lunches, breakfast clubs, after school clubs, trips etc. Payments should be in envelopes with your child’s name and description. School lunches and breakfast club payments are to be made by the Friday of the week taken. However, you may prefer to pay in advance, or half-termly – this is not a problem! There is a post box in the school foyer where correspondence and payments can be posted.

## **Admissions for Sept 2019**

It’s that time already! Do you have a child who was born between 1/9/2014 and 31/8/2015? If so, your child could start full time in September 2019 and you should apply to Norfolk County Council by 15<sup>th</sup> January 2019.

Apply online:

**<https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/education-and-learning/schools/school-admissions/admission-to-reception-classes>**

(website open between 28<sup>th</sup> Sept. and 15<sup>th</sup> Jan.) or

application forms can be obtained from Norfolk County Council Customer Service Centre

Tel. 0344 800 8020

Email: [admissions@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:admissions@norfolk.gov.uk)

If you have an older child at school or your child is currently attending a nursery, please don’t assume that no further action is required on your part. You still have to apply for a place for your child in the normal way.

## **Open Morning**

We will be holding an Open Morning for prospective parents on Tues 16<sup>th</sup> October from 9.30am to 12 midday in Class 1. Please come along if you are interested in a place for your child.

## **Attendance**

The Cluster Attendance leaflet is attached to this newsletter. It explains the Cluster policy of not authorising holidays in school time other than in “exceptional circumstances”. Unfortunately we have already been asked for holiday forms and I would urge you to read carefully the letter, “Attendance at school and legal intervention”.

## **Newsletter distribution**

You will have received this newsletter in the form of a paper copy and via email. Usually newsletters are only emailed to parents and posted on our school website. Paper copies are available from the school foyer. If you haven't received this newsletter via email please give Mrs Reeman your email address for future newsletters.

We will be taking part in "**Operation Christmas Child**" again this year. Only mentioning it at this stage so that any shoe boxes you may have at home you might like to keep for the moment please.

**Parking** – Once again I urge all parents to park with consideration to our neighbours and other road users. Please ensure that you do not block entrances to people's homes and do not park so close to the junction that it becomes a real danger. Parking is NOT permitted on the zig zag lines, unfortunately having a baby in the car or being in a hurry does not make it any safer to children who are attempting to cross the road and have their view impeded. If you are a few minutes late picking up your child they will be in school with us.

**Dog Mess** – Once again the phantom dog walkers are allowing their dogs to foul the footpath near the school ... we had two children treading in it today, most unpleasant.

**Congratulations** to Amy, Tim and Miles Beardmore on the arrive of little Hattie. She has already been wheeled round to school.

**Survey** – The Parish Council are keen to have parent/child responses to the village play area. Please could you complete the attached survey and return to the school office asap.

## **Thank You**

All the staff would like to thank the many parents who sent cards and gifts at the end of last term showing their appreciation. The staff are always very touched by the kind thoughts and gestures they receive from parents.

Teresa Osborne

## **Attachments:**

- School Term dates (<https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/education-and-learning/schools/term-dates-and-school-holidays>)
- Cluster Attendance leaflet and letter regarding penalty notice
- Safeguarding – Information for parents and Carers
- Free School Meals and Pupil Premium application
- Scholastic Book Club
- Consent Form: Use of Emergency Salbutamol Inhaler
- 5 week Parent Programme
- Art Exhibition "St Mary's in View", 15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> September
- School Meals Menu (Jacket potato option is not available)
- Robins' Parents/Carers Invitation to join us for lunch – 26<sup>th</sup> September
- Parish Council Survey