



Newsletter 24th November 2023

ALPINGTON & BERGH APTON Church of England VA Primary School

Matthew 5 v 16

Dear parents

We have lots of lovely Christmas events coming up – please check the calendar carefully and contact us if you have any queries!

“Let Every Light Shine”

Swimming Gala

Congratulations to our swimming team who did an amazing job at representing our school at the swimming gala last week. There were some brilliant individual performances and Alpington was placed first! As always, behavior from all the children in and out of the water was impeccable. Well done everyone.

Parent survey / SEND forum feedback

Thank you all for your helpful feedback in the parent survey. We are delighted with the results which are overwhelmingly positive, supportive and constructive. Attached to this newsletter is some more detailed feedback on the results and the actions that the school is planning to take.

Reminder – years 5 and 6 are baking Christmas cakes in school on Thursday 1st December! Make sure you have the ingredients / equipment you need – this has already been sent out by separate email.

The Nativity

We have 2 performances of the **Year 1 and 2 Nativity** “Baarmy Bethlehem” on Tuesday 12th and Wednesday 13th Dec. Both performances will be at 2pm. You are welcome to stay for a coffee and a mince pie afterwards while the children get changed.

Please could you use the form <https://forms.office.com/r/HbixUQgWn> to let us know which performance(s) you would like to attend so we have an idea of numbers. At this point we have not put a limit on the number of seats you can request, but we ask that you are considerate of others and take into account the size of our hall when requesting places. Thank you!

The **Reception Nativity Morning is on Thursday 14th December from 9am**. Please note that this will not be a “traditional” performance. There will be activities to do together with your child, followed by a retelling of the Christmas stories and some songs. There is no need to sign up – please just come along. The children need to be in a nativity costume of their choice - No superheroes or princesses please! No need to buy – the traditional dressing gown and tea towel will do beautifully! If you do buy a

Diary

November

Thurs 30th – Years 5 & 6, Christmas cake baking

December

Sat 2nd, 9-3 Christmas Art Day

Thurs 7th – Christmas cake icing, Years 5 9-10.30am, Years 6 10.45-12.15am

2.30pm Reception parents meeting re phonics

Sat 9th 11am-2pm - Christmas Fayre

Tues 12th and Wed 13th, 2pm Years 1 and 2 Nativity,

Thurs 14th, 9am – Reception “Nativity”

Fri 15th, 9am, Carol singing at local church, all welcome

Tues 19th – Christingle (see attached for details) and Christmas dinner

Wed 20th – Class Christmas parties (Last day of term)

January

Thurs 4th – Children return to school

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costume, we suggest sizing up so it can be worn again next year, by your own child or someone else's! If you, or another adult, are not able to come with your child that morning please could you let us know so we can arrange for a grown up to be with them. Grandparents, aunties, uncles etc. all welcome. Thank you.

Getting out and about!



Last week the children in years 1 and 2 spent the day in Great Yarmouth, visiting the Time and Tide museum and Elizabethan House. The children spent time exploring the Time and Tide museum, thinking about how objects, buildings and daily life has changed over time. We talked about time and how long ago events and changes had happened. At Elizabethan House the children were immersed in the world of Cinderella! They learnt about the jobs done by servants in the past, the clothes worn and the kind of music and entertainment people enjoyed. They helped out Cinderella and met the fairy godmother! Adults at both museums commented on the engagement and knowledge of the children and how beautifully they behaved.



Reception parents please come along to a meeting in the hall on **Thursday 7th December at 2.30pm** (prior to pick-up). This will give us the chance to talk through how we teach phonics in school and how you can best support your child to progress.



A huge thank you to the Friends for last week's discos which were a huge success. The children had an amazing time and the event raised over £300 for Friends.

School Christmas Fayre – Saturday 9th December, 11am – 2pm

Our Christmas Fayre helps raise a significant amount of money which helps support your child's education. More recently the various trips the children have attended have been subsidised by funds raised by The Friends. Are you please able to support our Christmas Fayre:

1. Teddies - please bring your unwanted teddies into school as soon as possible and donate them to the Christmas Fayre - we have a teddies tombola every year and the children love it! (The black bin in school foyer is the collection point for teddies – thank you.)
2. Helpers and bakers - This wonderful event can't happen without the support of parents. You can access the helpers sign up form and the bakers sheet here

(tab 1 helpers, tab 2 bakers) <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1RILafkM03ooNvqFqd-Lh2nPmHbUUHHvOywomHc1ZljM/edit?usp=sharing>

Please add your full name in a box for a one hour time slot, for the hours you are free and able to help out. There are many options to choose from, from helping in the cafe, or running a tombola stall, or helping in the grotto.

Many thanks.

Mel Vince and the team

Carol singing

On Friday 15th December from approximately 9am, we will be taking the whole school to sing Christmas songs outside the church in Alington. We would love anyone who is around to come and listen! Please spread the word in the village. It would be a lovely opportunity for local residents to come and hear the children sing. Afterwards the children will be returning to their classes and parents and local residents are welcome to join us in the school hall for coffee / tea and a mince pie.

Christmas lunch and Christingle, Tuesday 19th December.

Our Christingle service will take place on Tuesday 19th December at the church and parents are warmly invited to attend with their children. In order to fit everyone in, we will be going in Alington Families, with two services, one at 9.30 and the second at 11.00. Further information about groupings and timings is attached. If you (or your child) doesn't know which Alington Family they are in, please pop in and ask.

The service will be followed by our school **Christmas lunch**. We would love as many children as possible to give this a try – please complete the form below to order your child's lunch. If your child is in Robins or Kingfishers, the lunch is included as part of the universal free school meal offer. If your child is in KS2 you will need to pay for lunch as usual. If your child really doesn't want a Christmas lunch, they will be able to eat their packed lunch in the hall at the same time as everyone else. Allergies will be catered for as usual.

Please complete the online form by Friday 1st to order your child's lunch:

<https://forms.office.com/e/N3Ri7NFFqT>

Children can come to school on this day in their Christmas jumper / hat etc.

Christmas parties.

These will be in classes on the last day of term. Please come to school in **non uniform** on this day. Party clothes welcome but please be practical as the children will still need to go out at playtime and lunchtime!

Attendance

Our attendance for this term to date is 97.3%, against a national average of 95% which is really positive. Our rate of persistent absence has crept up a little, mostly due to people taking term time holiday. Please can I remind all parents that it is not OK to take children out of school for holidays and all term time holiday will be unauthorized and could lead to a fine from the local authority.

Christmas Art Day – Saturday 2nd December

For children in Years 1- 6 (unfortunately this event is not suitable for Reception children)

Need a Saturday to do some Christmas shopping/preparations or whatever! Ms Godbold and Mrs Blazer are hosting a Christmas Art Day here in the school hall, Saturday 2nd December. Please see attached for details. Please address any queries and make payment direct to Ms Godbold egodbold@alpington.norfolk.sch.uk

At the moment we do not have the numbers to make this day viable. Please contact Mrs Godbold by Tuesday 28th November at the latest. We will let you know on Wednesday if the day is able to go ahead.

Langley Senior School are inviting 12 of our Year 5 student to their Science Enrichment Club. This will start on January 9th 2024 and run for 5 weeks until February 6th 2024.

Please find attached a letter (detailing the specifics of the club, including the dates, times and location of the sessions) and a link to a consent form for parents/guardians to complete. Spaces are limited and will be issued by Langley on a first come first served basis.

Children in Need

Thank you to everyone who brought in a donation to school for Children in Need. The collection in school raised £115.55; we appreciate some parents will have made donations direct to Children in Need – thank you.

Christmas cards

If children would like to send Christmas cards, the Christmas box post will be available from Monday 4th December in the Atrium. Please make sure that all cards are posted and not taken into class directly. Please address the envelope with child's full name and class. The final date for posting is Friday 15th December.

We want to make sure that no child feels left out or excluded from Christmas at Alpington. You can help this by:

- Considering sending a single card addressed to the whole class
- Encouraging your child to send cards to children in other classes who they do not see so often
- Suggesting children send a card to each child in their year group where a whole class is too many
- Encouraging your child to think who else they could send a card to who would not normally be on their list

Thank you!

Parking at drop off and pick up

We have had another tricky incident outside school with parking / stopping at drop off and pick up. Please can we ask again that parents are considerate of each other and the children's safety. This may mean parking a little further away and walking – as we have said before we have use of the car parks at the Wheel and the village hall. Please do not stop or park on the yellow markings outside school. Please also consider safety when parking close to the junctions or stopping to let children out of the car.

Best wishes

Rosie Welch and the Alpington Team

Attached

- **Christmas Art Day – Saturday 2nd December flyer**
- **Christingle Service details**
- **Christmas lunch menus**
- **Year 5 Science Enrichment Club at Langley Senior School**