Newsletter 5th September 2025

ALPINGTON & BERGH APTON
Church of England VA Primary School

Matthew 5 v 16

Dear parents

Welcome back to a new school year! We are delighted to have everyone back. We have had a really positive start to term with the children settling quickly into their new classes. From Monday we are looking forward to welcoming our new Robins, starting school for the very first time!

All the classes have begun to update their "Class in action" pages of the website which is a great place to keep up to date with what the children have been doing in school. The class page has important information about curriculum, routines and timetables which will support you and the children as you get back into the rhythms of school life. This includes information about the days your child has PE which may have changed from last year.

Communication between home and school is really important for the children's wellbeing and learning. You can catch me on the gate most mornings, or contact me by email head@alpington.norfolk.sch.uk. Alternatively contact Mrs Reeman to make an appointment. Class teachers are on the playground at the end of the school day. Class email addresses are as follows:

robins@alpington.norfolk.sch.uk
kingfishers@alpington.norfolk.sch.uk
swallows@alpington.norfolk.sch.uk
owls@alpington.norfolk.sch.uk
eagles@alpington.norfolk.sch.uk

Please do keep in touch. No issue is too small; we know that little things make a big difference!

GDPR and permissions
When your children start school, we ask for your permission to use their photographs for Tapestry, the website, and occasionally to share with other organisations – for examples the choir at the Norfolk Show or the Music Festival for them to use on their webpages and social media. The school does not have any social media accounts so this is not relevant for day to day. These permissions remain unchanged unless you contact us to change them, which you can do at any time. Mrs Reeman holds the details

Diary

September
Mon 8th – Fri 13th – Year R start school on part-time basis
Wed 10th, 7.30pm – Friends AGM
Mon 15th – Fri 20th – Year R attend morning and stay for lunch
Mon 22nd – Year R attend full-time; flu immunization
Wed 24th – school photographs
Thurs 25th - 2.20pm – YR phonics meeting

October
Wed 1st – KS2 Cross Country at Langley School
Thurs 16th, 9.30am – Harvest Festival @ St Mary's
Mon 20th – Open Day 9.15 & 11am
Tues 21st & Wed 22nd – Parent/teacher consultations (further details to follow)
Thurs 23rd – Years 4, 5 & 6 River Trip @ Horstead Centre
Half-term holiday: Mon 27th - Friday 31st October

November
Mon 3rd - return to school

We politely remind parents to inform us of any changes in your contact details

Contact Details:
Alpington CE VA Primary School, Wheel Road, Alpington, Norwich NR14 7NH
Tel. 01508 492700
www.alpington.norfolk.sch.uk
office@alpington.norfolk.sch.uk

for each child so if you would like to check what you have given permission for, or if you would like to change anything, please give the office a call and we will sort it.

Safeguarding
Safeguarding children is central to everything we do at Alpington. In line with the latest guidance, we are updating the safeguarding policy. Once this is complete we will publish on the website and send you the link.

Other important information about safeguarding, including how we listen to and support the children in school is available on the safeguarding pages of our website. https://alpington.norfolk.sch.uk/?page_id=55

Our filtering system in school, which keeps our school community safe online in school and ensures we are protected from harmful content is fully compliant with the DfE standards. I receive daily reports which let me know if anyone has attempted to access inappropriate content online. The system also allows us to alert our provider of anything that slips through the net so that controls can be tightened.

In order to ensure children's safety online at home you may wish to consider the parental controls on your broadband and devices. It is worth checking the recommended age limits on social media sites and it is recommended that children use the internet in the lounge or kitchen where there are others around, rather than shut away in their bedroom. We talk to the children all the time about how to stay safe online. Please have this conversation at home too, especially around how we talk to others online. Our number one Alpington rule still applies "Treat others how you would like to be treated".

Attached is a letter to parents of children in years 5 and 6 about the safe use of mobile phones. If you have a younger child who has their own phone, you may wish to read it.

As always, any issues please let us know.

Reception children starting school, reminder of arrangements:
Monday 8th – Friday 12th September
Those with surnames A-L attending mornings, arrive between 8.30-8.50am and collection time 11.30am.
(For those attending Wed. a.m., please come to school in your PE kit.)
Those with surnames M-W attending afternoons, arrive 1.30pm and collection time 3pm.
Monday 15th – Friday 19th September
All reception children will attend mornings and stay for lunch. Children will need to be collected at 1.30pm.
From Monday 22nd September, reception children attend full-time.

Lunches
Please see the attached school menu which runs until the end of October when a new Autumn/Winter menu will be issued. Paper copies are available from the school foyer.

Children in Robins and Kingfishers are entitled to Universal Infant Free School Meals. Messages from Norse to support new parents are attached.

Children having a school lunch will need to tell their teacher what they would like from the menu each morning.

Once children reach Year 3, parents need to pay for school lunches. School lunches and breakfast clubs need to be paid by Friday, 9am. Payments may be made weekly, monthly, half-termly in advance as long as we receive payment for meals consumed by the end of the week. School lunches are £2.70 and are paid direct to the school bank account:

Please make payment to “NCC Alpington & Bergh Apton CE VA Pri. School”, sort code: 20-62-61, account No. 70668451, enter child’s surname followed by description, e.g. Surname – Lunches.

Mrs Reeman sends out regular reminders!

Please note that we have children in school with severe allergies to nuts and other foods such as dairy and eggs. Please keep packed lunches and snacks nut free, including peanut butter, Nutella or nuts as snacks. Please pack your child’s lunch as if it were them who had the allergy. School lunches are nut free. There are also other food allergies in school so please could you remind children not to share lunches or snacks with their friends. Thank you!

Our allergies policy is available on the website. https://alpington.norfolk.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/ANAPHYLAXIS-POLICY-24-26.pdf

If your child has food allergies which have changed since July, including changes to medication, please let us know immediately by contacting the school office.

Free School meals and the Pupil Premium

Families on low incomes or who are entitled to particular benefits are entitled to Free School Meals. This is SEPARATE and additional to the universal infant free school meals described above which are for all infant aged children. If you have a child starting in Reception, or your family circumstances have changed, you may be entitled to free school meals. The school also receives money from the Pupil Premium to support the learning of children in school who are entitled to free school meals, even if they are Reception or KS1 and receive the universal offer, so if you think you may be entitled please complete the form even if your child is in Robins or Kingfishers and has the universal infant meals.

https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/education-and-learning/schools/school-meals-and-milk

Compass

We have switched our Management Information System to a new company called Compass. Over the course of this half term we will be contacting you with further information about this. Parents will eventually need to have an app which will enable you to receive messages from school, see your child’s attendance, order and pay for lunches and give permission and pay for school trips! For the moment, the systems remain unchanged, but please keep an eye out for future communications both in the newsletter and via email.

Attendance

There is a national crisis in school attendance, and the evidence increasingly shows that children who miss school do less well academically and in life generally than their peers. We don’t want this for any of our children at Alpington.

There are all kinds of reasons why children may miss school. At Alpington, the single biggest reason for absence is illness. This is often unavoidable, but we will contact you if your child has repeated time off with illness to see if there is anything we can do to help. We are working hard on simple hygiene measures in school, washing hands regularly and properly, to try to prevent the unnecessary spread of everyday colds and tummy bugs.

Our rate of unauthorised absence at Alpington is made up almost exclusively of term time holiday. The law is now unavoidably clear that term time holiday is not an acceptable reason for children missing school. **Parents need to read the attached letter regarding school attendance.** Fines have increased this year, and increase significantly for a second holiday within a three year period and a third holiday in this time frame can result in prosecution leading to a criminal record. Please please don’t book term time holidays and make sure you have read the information carefully so you don’t get caught out.

If a child is absent from school the parent must follow these procedures:

- Contact the school on the first day of absence before 8.50am when our register closes.

- Parents should call the school on 01508 492700 and leave a message by choosing option 1. Alternatively parents can email the school office – office@alpington.norfolk.sch.uk.
- Contact the school on every further day of absence, again before 8.50am.
- Ensure that your child returns to school as soon as possible.

All pupils are expected to arrive on time for every day of the school year. The school day begins at **8.30 am and all children must be in their classrooms by 8.50am.** We advise all parents to ensure their child is on site prior to this. The school register will be taken at **8.50am**. All pupils arriving after this time are required to report to the main office with their parents, who will be expected to sign the late book and provide a reason for their absence. If their arrival is before **9.00am** it will be recorded as late - L code (Late before the close of register).

Our school term dates are as detailed here:
https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/media/32949/Term-dates-and-school-holidays-2025-2026/pdf/13School_term_dates_and_holidays_2025-2026.pdf?m=1711472615780

School Calendar 2025-26
Parents have requested they have details of events as far in advance as possible. We have endeavored to secure activities including events at the local church, but have yet to receive confirmation, therefore you will appreciate at this early stage these dates may be subject to change and we will notify you should there be any changes.

Key Stage 2 trip to Norwich Castle
You will see we already have an exciting trip booked for this **Thursday 11th September**. Key Stage 2 pupils' topic this term is Archaeology/Ancient Egypt and the Norwich Castle Museum is hosting an "Ancient Egypt/ Discovery and Debate workshop". Please complete the online form as soon as possible, we do need parents to complete the form to give their consent, therefore your swift response will much appreciated and save Mrs Reeman chasing parents!
https://forms.office.com/e/F2zNPjb0Yw

New Intake 2026!
Believe it or not we are starting to think about the children who will be joining our school in September 2026! We are holding a series of open mornings for prospective parents – more details are attached and on the website. If you are a parent of a child who turns four before the 1st September 2026, or know someone who is, please come along and find out more. Please spread the word!

After school clubs
Clubs will begin again from next week. Contact details are below. You will need to contact the clubs directly to reserve a place and make payment. (Clubs are available for those in Years 1-6, apart from Friday's Little Ones Football which Reception children may attend.)

Club	Day	Contact
Gym Club with Rachel Perry	Tuesday – Please contact Rachel for details.	Gymfinifty15@gmail.com
Art Club with Ms Godbold	Wednesday – Unfortunately Art Club currently is full.	egodbold@alpington.norfolk.sch.uk
MPA dance with Harriet	Thursday – please click on contact link for further details	www.maysperformingarts.co.uk/book-class
Multi Sports (KS2) Little ones Football (KS1/ EYFS)	Friday – details for this half-term have been emailed to parents	procoach@btinternet.com

Drawing and Talking and Parent Support and Advice

As you are aware, we have Monika Firago working with us on a Friday. She has two roles in school; she is our PSA (parent support advisor), which means she is available to offer support to parents with all issues great and small! There is nothing too trivial or too big – please contact Monika directly on psa@alpington.norfolk.sch.uk or pop in on a Friday morning for a chat.

Monika is also trained in Drawing and Talking, which is a programme designed to get children exploring their feelings and ideas through drawing. This can be done in small groups or as individuals. Monika is running at least one group each term, and the children who have taken part have loved it and got a huge amount out of it. Because the groups run regularly, lots of children will have the chance to take part during their time at Alpington. If we are able to offer this to your child, we will contact you to let you know. If you think your child would particularly benefit, then please let Mrs Welch know (email me or give us a ring), and we will try to prioritise them.

Monika is also running a programme for parents called "Working with Worries" which is designed to help parents to help their children with anxieties. The feedback we have received from parents who have completed the course so far has been hugely positive! Please get in touch if you think this would be helpful.

Guitar lessons

Mr Ian Cooper who is employed by Norfolk Music Service has spaces for children in Years 3-6 wishing to learn to play the guitar or ukulele.
Mr Ian Cooper will be in school next Friday 12th and is offering a taster session to anyone interested. If you require more information please speak to Mrs Reeman.
For those who had guitar lessons last term, don't forget your guitars!

Rosie Welch and the Alpington Team

Attached

- Local Authority attendance warning letter
- Attendance Policy Quick Guide for Parents
- School Calendar 2025-2026
- Letter to Year 5 & 6 parents – Safe use of mobile phones
- Open Days for Intake 2026
- School Menu
- Information from Norse to YR parents regarding school meals