Newsletter 15th May 2026

ALPINGTON & BERGH APTON
Church of England VA Primary School

Matthew 5 v 16

Dear Parents,

Let Every Light Shine

International partnership
Through the British Council we have found a partner school in Western Kenya. The school is called Gemeni SA Comprehensive school, and it is situated in Hamisi, an area of Kenya not far from the banks of Lake Victoria. The children are really excited to find out more about the school and connect with the children who learn there. Swallows and Kingfishers have already done a great job at writing letters to students at the school. We are communicating by email in the first instance as it's a good bit quicker and cheaper than the post!

I will scan our letters and send them over, using our School Council email address. We will then wait for the replies! In the medium term, we are hoping to set up joint curriculum projects where children from both schools are able to share their work and ideas. This could include gardening, story telling and art. We could also link up our choirs and, if the technology is up to it, assemblies! We will look for grant funding from the British Council should the project develop further.

We will let you know when we get some letters back!

Kingfishers class
As you are aware, Mrs Green is retiring after half term which is resulting in a bit of shuffling of adults. From June, Mrs Godbold and Mrs Fisher will be supporting Mrs Eland and Kingfishers class. Mrs Chapman and Mrs Johnson are extending their hours so that Robins class maintain their current arrangement of two adults in the morning and one in the afternoon. Mrs Godbold will return to her Fridays in Owls class.

SATS
SATS are done for another year. We are really proud of the way that year 6 have tackled them and they have been celebrating with a few treats in school today! Well done everyone and thank you to all the adults who have supported this week, especially Mr Stowers and Mrs Fisher. Like always it has been a real Alpington team effort!

Diary

May 2026		
Every Tuesday	AM	Yr4 Swimming Lessons
18th-20th May	AM-PM	Yr6 Residential Trip
W/C 25th May	H/TERM	Half Term
1st June	AM	Reception Dental Survey
3rd June	AM	Class Photographs
4th June	AM/PM	Yr6 Forensic Day – Hobart High (TBC)
5TH June 12th June	Am	Yr6 Forest Schools
5th June	PM	School Disco KS1 3-4pm. KS2 4.15-5.15pm.

Next Half Term 25-29TH May

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

Contact Details:

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office@alpington.norfolk.sch.uk

How Hill
Year 6 are off to How Hill on Monday! Come to school on Monday dressed for the weather and with all your kit – you have had a list. If you have not returned your medical form, you MUST bring it with you on Monday.

Sports days
As per the calendar, sports day is planned for Wednesday 17th June. Should the weather be totally terrible, we will go for Monday 22nd June in reserve. We will try to give you as much notice as possible should we have to change the date, but we are subject to the vagaries of the Great British weather so it may be necessary to change plans at short notice. KS1 have plans for an animal themed sports day, starting at 9.30. This usually lasts about an hour, maybe a little longer, with presentations at the end. KS2 will start at 1.30 and usually runs to the end of the school day. Please bring your own chair / picnic rug and come and cheer the children on.

Dates
There is an updated version of the calendar attached to this newsletter. Please take a minute to have a scan over it as it is the time of year where there is quite a lot going on! We will continue to add reminders to Compass of upcoming events. We have added times to events now we know them.

Royal Norfolk Show
We are delighted to have been allocated a singing slot at the Norfolk show on Wednesday 24th June. Details have gone out via compass for all children in KS2. If you intend to collect your child after the singing to go round the show you MUST let us know in advance.

Summer term weather and other reminders.
Assuming we do get some summer at some point, please could children bring a hat for outside play. Apply sunscreen at home please – it should generally last the day. If children really need to bring sunscreen to school, please name it and hand it to the class teacher. Thank you.

A polite and gentle reminder about wrapper free snacks please. We are doing really well and there is a noticeable lack of litter around school, which is lovely. There is fruit available in school if that helps.

As the weather warms up, a reminder to keep water bottles sensible please.

If the children must bring "Squishes" to school, please could we stick to 1 of a reasonable size! They will need to be kept in bags or trays during class time – we have fiddle toys available in the classroom for all children to use if this helps them to concentrate.

Alpington Wellbeing Service
"Let Every Light Shine"

My Nanny King was born in 1898, and I can remember whenever I'd visit her home, I was amazed she had an outdoor loo, (with no light and plenty of spiders) a kitchen sink with only a cold tap, (hot water had to be boiled in her whistling kettle) and a mangle to squeeze water out of her washing, (that she'd hand washed in her kitchen sink). You'd think she'd never have the time to do the things she enjoyed doing because the basic tasks would take so long compared to how we live now. However, she would often talk about meeting up with her friends and neighbours for endless pots of tea, and she'd always have a selection of cream cakes from her walk to the bakery. Thinking about my Nanny King has made me wonder why our lives feel relentlessly busy, (take a look at my next newsletter entry for what I believe to be the main culprit!), even though we have things to help save us time and energy, such as kettles, washing machines, cars, laptops, and phones etc. This week, I've been purposefully exploring different ways to slow down. For example, simply sitting and looking out the window; cuddling up to one of my dogs while reading; savouring a cup of tea before launching myself into my to-do list. I'd like to invite you and your family to do the same thing...choose some novel ways to take your foot off the accelerator and experience the benefits of some slow living.

Best wishes, Claire Cookson - Pupil and Parent Support Advisor (psa@alpington.norfolk.sch.uk)
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New play equipment sponsored event.

A Huge thank you to everyone for supporting the sponsorship event over the Easter Holidays. At the last count we raised almost £900 which is amazing and gets us ever closer to the amount we need to get started! You biked, walked, scooted, ran, swam and hiked a total of almost 500 miles which would get us all the way to Norway!

Another grant application has gone in this week which we await the outcome of. Our current total stands at around £23 000, which includes £13 000 of grant funding, school fundraising and a contribution from school's capital funding. The quotes we have are coming in around £27 000 - £30 000 including VAT. We are nearly there!

FRIENDS of Alpington & Bergh Apton VA Primary School

School Disco – Friday 5th June
Our next school disco will be taking place on Friday 5th June and this time we will be joined by Nick from Moore Madness who is always a hit at birthday parties. KS1 disco will be from 3pm-4pm, followed by the KS2 disco from 4.15pm-5.15pm. KS1 children will change in their class before going over so please send a change of clothes to school with them.

To book a place for you child, please complete the quick form below, and pay £5 into the Friends of Alpington bank account, with the child's name as the reference.
https://forms.gle/BCHEmPqW8kCum77k7

Boost our fundraising for the colour run! 🌈✨

The wonderful team at Winkworth have been kind enough to give £5 to every house willing to have a board outside their house promoting our events.
You don't need to do anything, other than provide your address below. Their team will collect the board after the event.
Please add your details when signing up to the colour run, or add your address to this dedicated form:
https://forms.gle/TRWQExwefF5dnDaT6

COLOUR RUN SIGN UP - Friday 3rd July, 4.30pm-7.30pm, Alpington Primary School

Don't forget to get your name down for the colour run.
This is a lively and colourful experience for children (and adults!) and every participant earns a finisher's medal, making it a feel-good experience they won't forget.
Food and a bar will be available on the night.
https://forms.gle/pHKmwchDBEGELz866
Exact run times for each participant will be emailed closer to the event, along with full details of the event—including handy tips like how to wash colour from clothing afterwards.

Events
Please find attached information about all sorts of holiday events including Mr Colbeck's summer sports camp.

Attendance
Attendance this term is 97.3%. Thank you everyone.

Thank you also for making such an effort to be on time for school – it is very much appreciated. We have a whole staff meeting on a Thursday morning. We will make every effort to get the gate open just before 8.30, but there may be the odd occasion where we over run by a few moments. Thank you for your understanding.

Best wishes

Rosie Welch and the Alpington Team

Attachments:

- Sports camp Information – Mr Colbeck
- Information from Friends
- Activities for Half Term at Sandringham
- School Calendar Dates Poster
- Nature Reserve Pond Dipping Activity Poster
- Norfolk Snowsports Poster