Newsletter 4th September 2026

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 and visitors have already commented on the lovely atmosphere and the beautiful behaviour form all the children.

From Monday we are looking forward to welcoming our new Robins, starting school for the very first time!

There is a lot of information in this newsletter and I'm sorry it is all a bit wordy and formal! Please take a minute to read it through, including the attachments where necessary as it will make sure everyone has the information they need going forward. Thank you!

Over the next few days classes will post their curriculum and class newsletters on the website. This will include day to day information about timetables, homework and reading and also information on what your children will be learning this term. We will notify you when these are ready. Swallows and Owls Classes have already shared some of this information via Tapestry.

This year I am changing the "in action" sections of the website. Each class with have a termly feature as part of a Newsletter, sharing information and photographs about their learning and class activities. This will also be posted on the "Class Focus" page of the website. Robins class will be the feature for the next newsletter on Friday 18th September.

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 Miss Grant in the office 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

Diary

Sept 2026		
9th	Pm	Hobart Headteacher Visting Eagles
22nd	AM	Flu Immunisations
23rd	AM	Sch Photos Siblings & Individuals
30th	AM	KS2 Cross Country at Langley
		.

October Half Term Friday 23rd- Friday 30th October (Friday 23rd extra day this year as inset).

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

eagles@alpington.norfolk.sch.uk

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

Back to school reminders

- Please Park and walk, using the pub and the village hall, especially at the end of the day to keep everyone safe.
- Check your child has appropriate school uniform – school shoes and "proper" school shorts please, or a skirt or dress over leggings or PE shorts.
- Trainers or wellies for playtime – store in the cubby holes
- A normal water bottle, avoiding anything huge, expensive or flavored
- Healthy snack for KS2 – preferably fruit or veg and wrapper free if we can
- Name everything!

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. Your permissions are held on your child's record on Compass. 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. A form for parents starting in Reception will be sent out in the next few days.

Safeguarding

Safeguarding children is central to everything we do at Alpington. All our staff and volunteers have undertaken safeguarding training this week and we have updated our safeguarding policy in line with the latest government guidance "Keeping Children Safe in Education 2026". Our new policy will be available on the website from next week.

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, please could you read it.

As always, please let us know.

Reception children starting school, reminder of arrangements:

Monday 7th – Friday 11th 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 14th – Friday 18th 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 and Breakfast club

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. 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. You will need to top up your Compass account and payment will be taken each time your child has lunch. If it runs out, we will order your child lunch anyway and contact you to remind you to top up.

Bookings and payment for Breakfast club are also via compass. If you pay via the government scheme, your Compass account will be topped up once we receive payment into our account. You will then need to use the Compass App to pay for your breakfast club sessions. Any queries, please contact the office.

Allergies in school.

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.

Parents of children with allergies have to send them to school every day knowing that the contents of someone else's lunch box could have unthinkable consequences for their child. As with so much at Alpington if we can apply our rule "treat others as we would like to be treated" and pack our lunchboxes as if our child had the allergy, everyone can feel a little bit safer.

All staff and volunteers have undertaken training in line with the new Benedict's Law. Our Anaphylaxis policy has been updated and will be available on the website from next week.

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. The rules have recently changed, so even if you have applied before you may now find that you are entitled.

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

Attendance
We all know how important school is, for children's emotional and social development and their academic achievement. The attendance policy is attached and is taken from the model policy for all Norfolk Schools. It is a very long-winded way of saying please make sure your child is in school every day on time, please let us know if they are poorly and send them back as soon as you can and please please please don't book term time holiday.

Please take a moment to read the short attendance guide for parents and the information about fixed penalty notices (which you won't need if you don't take term time holiday!)

School Calendar 2026 / 27
We have attempted to put together all the dates for the academic year to give you as much notice as possible. We will only change them if we really have to and will try to give you as much notice as possible. Information, permission and payment for school trips will appear on Compass. Again we will try to give you as much notice as possible.

New Intake 2027!
Believe it or not we are starting to think about the children who will be joining our school in September 2027! 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 2027, 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
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

Guitar lessons
Lessons will start again on 18th September as Mr Cooper has training next week. There are still a couple of spaces left for anyone who's interested. Contact Miss Grant in the school office for more information.

Church cycle ride
More information is attached, but a great opportunity to get out and about on your bikes.

Parent support information
There are several leaflets attached with offers of support and information for parents in all kinds of ways, including for Dads. Take a minute to have a look through and see if there is anything that might be of use. Our very own Claire Cookson is also available and ready to help. You can contact her on psa@alpington.norfolk.sch for a meeting or telephone call.

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