Newsletter 2nd October 2026

ALPINGTON & BERGH APTON
Church of England VA Primary School

Matthew 5 v 16

Dear parents

Learning focus – Reading

The start of a new school year is a great time to get back into good habbits and reading at home is one of them! Reading is well underway in school.

All our KS2 children are in guided reading groups, with key children also reading daily with an adult. Guided reading take place at least twice a week and provides a great opportunity for children not only to read aloud but to discuss the story with their friends and an adult. The reading they are set for homework ensure that they are doing some independent reading and that the whole group shares the story together. We love the fact that every child in KS2 reads whole chapter books to their conclusion, often giving children access to more challenging books than they could sustain alone. Thank you for supporting the children with their homework. Reading regularly at home is key to our reading strategy and makes an enormous difference.

I have been loving teaching phonics to reception! It is so exciting to be in at the start of their reading journey – I am always amazed to see how quickly they pick up the sounds and we are already beginning to sound out simple words. New sounds come home each day in their red sounds books – please have fun spotting sounds in the environment and have a practice forming letters in any way you can think of. Paint them, write them in the steam on the shower screen, practice with water and a paint brush on the patio or with a stick in the mud. We have a phonics meeting on Tuesday at 2.30 where there will be lots more information.

KS1 children are at the stage where little and often is the key. Most of the children are reading in a group in school where they will read a book matched to the phonics they are learning in school. They will bring home a reading book at the same level to read at home. These can be changed

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
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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

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daily in school – both classes have slightly different systems for changing books, check with the class teacher if you are unsure.

We are really proud that children leave Alpington not just able to read, but as readers. They know what kinds of books they love, read independently and for pleasure and set off for high school able to read for research and for information. This is a real team effort and your contribution as parents is key – thank you so much for your support.

Staffing

We are delighted to be welcoming 2 new TAs to our Alpington Team. Mrs Heelas will be joining us after half term, working mostly across key stage 2. Miss Bryce will be starting on Monday, based mostly in Key Stage 1. Both will be supervising the children at lunchtimes.

We are sadly saying goodbye to our amazing Mrs Godbold, who has got a new job closer to home. Mrs Godbold has been an invaluable member of our team and we are so sad that she is leaving. Her gardening expertise and love of the outdoors has supported and engaged so many children over the years. Her nurture sessions have taken amazing care of children when they have felt at their most wobbly and I know how much art club will be missed. We will say a proper goodbye closer to the time – Mrs G will be with us until half term.

They are not easy shoes to fill, but we will make sure that all of Mrs Godbold's roles around school are filled before she departs at half term.

Cross country

We were SO proud of all our KS2 children who took part in the Cross Country run at Langley on Wednesday. Every child took part and there are some amazing photographs – I am updating the website tonight. The children showed fantastic resilience and determination and there were so many successes, from children who came 1st in their year groups to children who over came their nerves to take part to those who ran the whole way without stopping. The children were amazing at supporting each other and cheering each other on. Thank you to the sports leaders from Hobart High school who did a great job at supporting and encouraging.

Harvest Festival

Our harvest festival will be on Thursday 8th October. During the course of the day all the children will be visiting the church and taking part in harvest activities. Donations will be given to the Salvation Army Food bank. If you are able to, please send your child to school with a packet or a tin on the day, which will be added to the church collection. Please check use by dates carefully. Thank you.

Choir

On Saturday 28th November Charlotte Cork is running a joint concert with her adult Choir and our Alpington Children's Choir. Charlotte's singing club are also involved. Event details are now available on Compass- we would love the children to take part. I know it seems early but please sign up so we can plan for who is coming.

Parent teacher meetings
Appointments will be available on Compass from Monday afternoon. Please log in and sign up to a time that suits you. Bookings will close at 3pm on the Friday before and you wont be able to make changes after this date. This is to allow teachers to plan. If your child has SEND and the class teacher feels it necessary they will be in touch over the coming days to make a separate appointment so we can talk about your child's needs in more detail. You don't need to make an appointment through compass. If you are unsure if this is you, give us a ring and we will check.

Scooters on the playground
We have had a couple of unfortunate accidents with adults falling over small people on wheels on the playground at the end of the day. Our Alpington children are generally really good at hopping off bikes and scooters once they reach the gate. Please could we ask that you keep a close eye on little brothers and sisters and stick to legs rather than wheels on the playground so we don't have any further bumps. Thank you.

Parking
I have had no further complaints about parking since our last newsletter. Thank you for being considerate of each other and our neighbors. I will be popping out at the end of the day again next week to see how it's all going.

Alpington Wellbeing Service
"Let Every Light Shine"

I hope you all had a lovely summer holiday and had the chance to relax and recharge. Now that my daughters are young adults, my school holidays feel very different. I'm no longer trying to find a balance between the busyness of family days out and the calm of pottering around the house together.

Instead, this summer I've been busy creating blog posts offering simple approaches to the most frequent headaches and heartaches parents and carers share with me.

Here's the link if you have five minutes to take a look: Resources Hub
If you have another five minutes after that, I'd love to hear your honest feedback and suggestions for future entries.

Best wishes to you all,

Claire - Parent Support Adviser
(psa@alpington.norfolk.sch.uk)

Trips and events
Please check compass and sign up as required!
KS2 – Time and Tide
Christmas Choir concert

Yr 6 – Visit to Hobart.

Attendance
This has taken a wobble this week. I know there are lots of bugs about and it is inevitable that at the start of a new term we will all be growing our immunity! Could we try to keep days off to a minimum – the vast majority of children will be ready to return to school after 1- 2 days.

Best wishes

Rosie Welch and the Alpington Team

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