



NEWSLETTER 189

Friday 10th February 2017

The divisors of 189 are 1, 3, 7, 9, 21, 27, 63 and 189. For a team point, divisors are also known as...

North Nibley Church of England Primary School, The Street, North Nibley, Glos. GL11 6DL
Tel: 01453 542600
www.northnibley.gloucs.sch.uk
admin@northnibley.gloucs.sch.uk
Twitter: @NibleySchool
Head Teacher: Paul Batchelor

Dear Parents and Friends,

Charity work & 'Special Days'

One of our aims at school is to instil a feeling of community, and help children develop a sense of responsibility towards others. I strongly believe we do this very well, and we see this every day, in the classroom, at play and on the sports field. In the past we have been pleased to support a variety of charities, but it's not always clear which we are supporting, and when, especially since some charities run on a bi-annual basis. We thought it might be helpful to show a plan. We are particularly excited by two new opportunities, one being the Five Valley's Walk (September 2017) to support the charity 'Meningitis Now', and a spare slot which we have decided to make for the children's choice. More on how this will be chosen to follow.

School Year	Autumn	Spring	Summer
2016-17	Children In Need / McMillan Cancer relief	Comic Relief (Red Nose)	Pupil Choice (t.b.c.)
2017-18	Meningitis Now (Five Valleys Walk)	World Book Day (not a charity)	Pupil Choice (t.b.c.)

Congratulations to Year 4. Most of you have made 'faster-than-expected' progress in spelling in the 3 months since October. Keep up the good work!

Supporting Learning We are pleased to send home the latest of our small booklets on supporting learning. Although titled 'Teaching, Support and Special Needs' we believe that it is crucial reading for all our families.

On The Edge Watch out for this month's On The Edge magazine, which has a special article written by Class 3.

Parent's Evening We nearly caught you all! Please make an appointment soon if you were unable to see us this week.

NIBLEY FESTIVAL VILLAGE TICKET SALE - SAVE THE DATE!

As per 2016 we want to make sure all North Nibley School families and villagers get an opportunity to buy 2017 tickets before they go on sale to the general public. So on **Sunday 26th February 2-4pm** we will be selling Nibley Festival tickets for villagers and volunteers ONLY in **North Nibley Village Hall** (and serving tea and cake!). You will need to bring a utility bill to prove your village address (we will also allow families where the children currently attend North Nibley school or pre-school), and pay by cash or cheque (no cards). We will also allow villagers to purchase a reasonable number of additional tickets for friends and family - as per last year we want you to be able to enjoy the festival with people you normally invite to accompany you, but we ask you to be sensible with regards to the numbers of extra tickets requested).

This year the Festival will take place from Friday 30th June to Saturday 1st July, 2017. For full details and prices see our ticket page, <http://nibleyfestival.co.uk/tickets/> THANK YOU!

CLUB NEWS – Mrs A. Dixon will be unable to take Sports Club on Weds 1st and Weds 8th March, while she recovers from surgery. Mrs Lewis and Mrs N. Dickson are happy to 'run' the Thursday morning Running Club on those weeks. Thank you.

Diary Dates Our online diary can be found at http://www.northnibley.gloucs.sch.uk/?page_id=267

Friday 10th	FONNS DISCO Classes 1 & 2, 5:30 to 6:15 pm, Classes 3 & 4 6:30 – 7:30 pm Tickets £2 on the door and includes a drink and snack.		
Monday 20th	First day of TERM 4 – THIS IS A PUPIL DAY. Swimming for Years 1 & 2 continues. First day for Simone Shephard, Teaching Assistant in Class 3.		
Friday 24th	Miss Allen out, updating her Paediatric First Aid qualification.		
Wed 1 st MARCH	Class 1 & 2 trip to @Bristol. Due back at 3:00 p.m.		
Thursday 2nd	Training for cluster teachers at North Nibley – expect additional traffic. Pupil day as normal.		
Weds 5 th April	Experience Easter – in partnership with St. Martin's Church.		
THIS SPRING – Pupil days	NEXT SUMMER – Pupil days	AUTUMN 2017 – Pupil days	SPRING 2018 – Pupil days
Term 3 03/01/2017 – 10/02/2017	Term 5 24/04/17 - 26/05/17	Term 1 05/09/2017 – 20/10/2017	Term 3 04/01/2018 – 9/02/2018
Term 4 20/02/2017 – 07/04/2017	Term 6 05/06/17 - 19/07/17	Term 2 31/10/2017 – 15/12/2017	Term 4 19/02/2018 – 29/03/2018

Questionnaire (February 2017) on Mid-Year Reports – Results and Conclusions

The learning 'statements' as sent in January (for the Autumn Term).	Very helpful	Some use	A little use	No use at all
29 returns (over 1/3 of our families) (28 made a choice for this question)	25%	43%	21%	11%

What a variety of opinions we have! Some felt that the achievement 'statements' gave a good insight (especially as preparation for a Parent's Evening) or told them nothing new. One did not recognise the accuracy of the assessments. A good number of comments related to the lack of 'benchmarking', against which your child's learning gains can be compared. To be clear, there is NO published data for the end of Years 1, 3, 4 and 5, and nothing for any group 'within' the school year. Additional complications in providing this are –

- The 'thresholds' for the Year 2 and Year 6 expected standards are set AFTER the tests are completed.
- Each school has been required to invent their own assessment systems.
- We deliberately chose to withhold year group 'averages' since our groups are often too small to be representative or statistically significant. Self-esteem is vital to the learning process and reporting that half of all children are below average (because that's how averages are made) would undermine all our efforts to support those for whom learning is a challenge. Children learn at different rates and all go through periods of consolidation as well as sudden or steady growth.

What were we expecting parents to do with the information?

- Be reassured, progress IS being made.
- End of year objectives coloured orange were areas which required further development (and are typically to be expected this side of July). Support your child in these areas.
- End of year objectives which were coloured green have been reached early. Celebrate these achievements.

I am happy with the existing meetings and written reports (including the Autumn 'statements').	54%
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A good number of parents took the time to tell staff about their appreciation of the ease with which we can be contacted 'at the gate'. More than half thought the existing arrangements, supplemented by the new style 'Autumn statements', would be sufficient. Never-the-less, 52% is hardly overwhelming and I am aware that the following statement traditionally receives the lowest levels of agreement on 'ParentView' –

"I receive valuable information from the school about my child's progress."

This led us to wonder what other information you might find helpful. Parents were asked to rank the following in terms of importance.

(Low averages indicate popular choices, since "1" was awarded to your "most important" selection).		Average	Times chosen as MOST important	Times chosen as LEAST important
MOST POPULAR	Progress expressed as a numerical value (against their target for the year).	2.27	6	1
	Summative sentences – e.g. "Making fair progress."	2.27	3	0
	Detailed, individual reporting on objectives achieved (and those being worked towards).	2.75	7	4
	Targets / 'Next steps'	3.00	2	3
LEAST POPULAR	A grade for the effort being made	3.67	2	7

Effort grades were the least popular (with more '5's' than the other choices, giving a high average). Parents generally felt comfortable with a numerical representation of achievement. The actual objectives, as circulated in January, proved less popular with the scoring, but still attracted the most '1s'. Some felt that targets are best issued and explained by the teacher, face-to-face, ideally at Parent's Evenings. Twelve parents gave their names.

Our end-of-spring reports will be very different, and again your thoughts will be sought. Thank you. Paul Batchelor.