

# NEWSLETTER 209

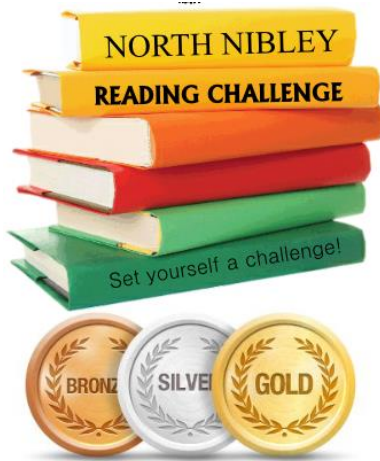
Friday 29th September 2017

ON THIS DATE IN 1829, the first of the London Policemen appear on the streets of the British capital.

Dear Parents and Friends,

## 5 Valleys Walk

At least 20 children, parents and staff (and 1 dog) from North Nibley (not all pictured) braved the hills on Sunday, those with smaller legs doing especially well up the steep hill to Minchinhampton. Several of us bowed out after 8 miles. One child, their parent and a dog managed 17 miles, whilst Mrs Dixon, Mrs Dickson, Mrs Shephard completed the 21 mile circuit! A lot of money was raised for the charity Meningitis Now and it was especially rewarding getting to know some in our community a little better. Perhaps next year you'll join us?



### RETURN OF THE READING CHALLENGE!

#### Readers are made on the laps of their parents!

As a staff we strongly believe that encounters with good quality fiction helps children grow. Stories feed the imagination. Rich vocabulary helps children to develop their understanding of the world, and in turn helps them to express themselves clearly. Ambitious sentence structures support their development as writers.

To support this learning we are running again the challenge we set in 2013. Reading 8 books will get you a bronze certificate, 16 books read earns a silver, and 25 books merits the gold standard. There is no time limit. The challenges are set at an age-appropriate level, with something of interest for everyone, from the youngest to the most mature of our young people. Dip into a picture book and devour a classic. Read, read read!

**ASSESSMENT & STANDARDS MEETING** On Wednesday I held a meeting to help parents understand some of the changes faced by all primary schools, regarding the new standards expected from your children. Slides from this presentation can be found on our website - <http://www.northnibley.gloucs.sch.uk/special-presentations/> though obviously without my commentary (and the good levels of interaction we had, including some online voting!)

The question "What about the most able?" was raised twice in recent Parent Surveys. The following table shows that in Reading, Writing and Maths we helped more children to reach the Higher Standard than was expected, given their individual starting points. We recognise that even though we have had some success with children who previously achieved high and 'middle' scores (in Year 2), now we have to concentrate on those who struggle with their learning. For this reason "Writing" and "Special Needs" are two of the priorities in this year's School Improvement Plan. "Subject Leadership" amongst the teachers is the third area, with "Safeguarding", "Pupil premium" and effective use of the "Sports Grant" are continuing as 'standing' priorities.

Cohort of 14 children	High Standard		
	Prediction (based on their starting points)	Actual (Year 6 SATS tests 2017)	Difference
SUBJECT			
Reading (R)	1 child	7 children	+ 6 children
Writing (W)	No children	2 children	+ 2 children
Maths (M)	1 child	5 children	+ 4 children
Higher Standard in ALL THREE (RWM combined)	No children	2 children	+ 2 children

**WELCOME TO MR WALKLEY** Mr Christopher Walkley is working in Class 4 for most of the school year and will become a familiar sight around the school whilst he completes his training as a teacher. In all respects he should be considered 'staff'.

PLEASE CAN ANY PARENTS LET ME KNOW IF THEY ARE NOT GETTING THE NEWSLETTERS EMAILED TO THEM?  
 DO THIS BY SENDING AN EMAIL TO [newsletter@northnibley.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:newsletter@northnibley.gloucs.sch.uk)  
 If you've already done this, and there has been no improvement, please see me directly!

**PARENT-TEACHER CONSULTATIONS** Appointment slips were put in the bookbags on Thursday. If you have not yet arranged a meeting, please do so at your earliest convenience.

**HOMEWORK** Coming home this week is a list of the 'non-negotiables' that we are expecting in written homework. The list is a starting point. Clearly once new concepts and skills have been taught, our expectations will rise (and we will republish this list!) We are preparing the children for a season of 'tough love' – clearly if the work is not good enough we do them no favours treating the work as acceptable. By informing you in this way of what we will (and will not accept) we put you in a stronger position to support your child's progress. Thank you for your help in this matter. It really makes a difference.

**FLU VACCINATIONS** A reminder that you are strongly encouraged to respond to this treatment opportunity online.

**CENSUS DAY / SPECIAL MENU** On the Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> October we hold our annual census day. It supports the school to have as many meals as possible on that day, and Caterlink provide a special menu. On the 5<sup>th</sup> the choices will be Sausage in a roll with onion, or cheese and tomato pizza.

**WRAP-AROUND CARE** Jon from Superstars, the Wrap-around care providers, was in school today and they will be able to confirm a start date as soon as Ofsted have agreed. Hopefully straight after October half term. We have created a page on our website - <http://www.northnibley.gloucs.sch.uk/wrap-around-care-breakfast-and-after-school-care-club/> which links to the Superstars site. All updates leading to the commencement of the service will be posted there.

**PHOTO COMPETITION** I've been inspired by the sunflower photos coming in from the children. I wondered how we might extend this interest. I'd like to set a challenge. I'm after some stunning autumn photographs to use as backgrounds to the songs that we sing in worship time. Landscape photos will work best if they feature similar colours or tones throughout, so that contrasting text can be overlaid. See what you can do, and email entries to [newsletter@northnibley.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:newsletter@northnibley.gloucs.sch.uk)

**HARVEST FESTIVAL – WHOOPS!** Our service is on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October, starting at 2:15 (that bit was right). As well as a 'thought for the day' and a song or two, we would like to make a presentation of items of food, either fresh or in tins/packets, which St. Martin's will auction at their annual Harvest Supper. If you could be so kind as to send your child to school on the 10<sup>th</sup> (corrected) with an item, either fresh or packaged, we will make a grand presentation of all the donations during the service. (That'll teach me to reuse a paragraph from a previous year!)

**DIARY DATES HAVE BEEN ADDED TO THE SCHOOL WEBSITE. SEE <http://www.northnibley.gloucs.sch.uk/school-diary/>**

Tues 3 <sup>rd</sup> AND Weds 4 <sup>th</sup>	Parent / Teacher meetings. Children welcome too. WE DISTRIBUTE SIGN-UP SHEETS LATER <b>Tues – NO TEXTILES CLUB, NO TABLE TENNIS CLUB, NO ART CLUB</b> <b>Weds – NO HAMA BEADS CLUB, NO SPORTS CLUB</b>		
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup>	Meeting straight after school for parents of children attending the London Residential		
Saturday 7 <sup>th</sup>	Cross-Country Race at KLB, 9:30 for a 10:00 start PERMISSION SLIPS ARE NEEDED IN PLEASE		
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup>	OPEN DAY – join us for the morning and find out why we love our school!		
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup>	Harvest Festival, 2:15 in St. Martins		
Weds 11 <sup>th</sup>	FONNS AGM 7:30, School Hall. Drinks and nibbles and a discussion about the future!		
Weds 11 <sup>th</sup>	Annual 'Reception' photo for publication by the Gazette		
Weds 11 <sup>th</sup> to	Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> OCT London Residential <b>NO BLOGGING CLUB</b>		
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup>	Extended staff meeting, so NO YOUNG VOICES CHIOR Deadline for Linela Uniform order		
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup>	More staff training! <b>NO TEXTILES CLUB, NO TABLE TENNIS CLUB, NO ART CLUB</b>		
Weds 18 <sup>th</sup>	Class 3 trip – watch this space!		
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup>	Last day of TERM 1. <b>TERM 2 BEGINS ON TUESDAY 31st OCTOBER – NOT MONDAY!</b>		
AUTUMN 2017 – Pupil days	SPRING 2018 – Pupil days	SUMMER 2018 – Pupil days	NEXT AUTUMN – Pupil days
Term 1 05/09/2017 – 20/10/2017	Term 3 04/01/2018 – 9/02/2018	Term 5 16/04/2018 – 25/05/2018	Term 1 decided in Autumn 2017
Term 2 31/10/2017 – 15/12/2017	Term 4 19/02/2018 – 29/03/2018	Term 6 4/06/18 – 24/07/2018	Term 2 decided in Autumn 2017