



Friday 3rd July 2015

NEWSLETTER 136

The factors of 136 are 1, 2, 4, 8, 17, 34, 68 & 136. First to explain why will get a team point.

Term 6	01/06/15	-	17/07/15
Term 1	03/09/15	-	21/10/15
Term 2	02/11/15	-	18/12/15
Term 3	04/01/16	-	12/02/16
Term 4	23/02/16	-	24/03/16
Term 5	11/04/16	-	27/05/16

North Nibley Church of England Primary School, The Street, North Nibley, Glos. GL11 6DL www.northnibley.gloucs.sch.uk
Head Teacher: Paul Batchelor B.Ed (Hons), N.P.Q.H. 01453 542600 admin@northnibley.gloucs.sch.uk

This term's value in focus is 'Service' ~ keep your eyes open and look out for ways to make others smile!

Dear Parents and Friends,



So close! Our Wildlife Quiz team came second in the COUNTY QUIZ final this week – by a single point! The team battled hard, drawing on their considerable knowledge of animals and plants, but they lost out to Chalford Hill Primary. The team said “The questions were very hard.” “I was very pleased with how we did.” “Some of the specimens this time were especially hard.” “From the start I had a feeling we might come second, and we did!” So the ‘runners up’ owl returns to our school, having been on display here in 2009 and 2011. Well done team, well done supporters and well done to Mrs Meyer and Mrs Bailey for all their help.

County Finalist Again (Take 3!) (See newsletter 134)

Congratulations to the Year 3 & 4 Cricketers who took part in the district tournament last week and won through to play in the COUNTY FINALS next week. My grateful thanks goes to all the staff, Governors, Pre-school and Nursery who have changed their timetables to allow these children to take part. I hope to have a full report next week, complete with results and quotes! We have seen our teams do phenomenally well this summer. Our District Sports teams won both District Field events AND District Track events, our Cricketers and Tennis players have reached County Finals, our Y5 Orienteering team won their event and we still have our swimming gala and



pupil-led Sports Day to come!

And successes in the classroom too!

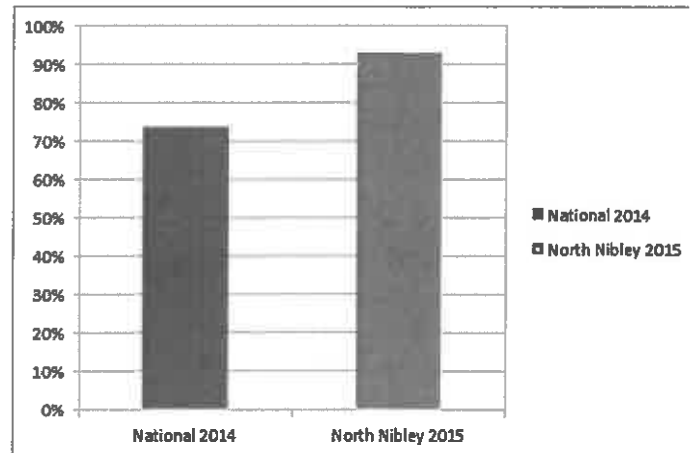
We continue to see a strong performance from our Year 1 children. This year they have achieved the highest result for the school since the phonics check was introduced four years ago.



Whilst we have yet to see the national averages for 2015, we have every confidence that a great job is being done to help our youngest readers make good progress.

Phonics Screening at Age 6

What proportion of children are reading at the expected level?



IMPORTANT LETTERS We have sent home this week two important letters; one is about school funding, and how the limits set by the Government for all of Gloucestershire schools, including KLB, Rednock, Marling and Stroud High, directly affect your children. The other letter concerns plans for accommodating larger classes. I am urging all parents to read both and respond appropriately. Please download copies from the ‘virtual bookbag’ on our website if you have not received them.

Farewell, and “Thank you!” Mr Baker has completed his final teacher training placement with us over the last 8 weeks and has been a great support to the children in Class 4, as well as demonstrating an excellent capacity as a ‘team player’ for the staff. We also say goodbye to this year’s Swiss students, Dominic and Pascal, who have provided invaluable help in the classroom, and in the hall where their talented work will be visible throughout the run of the Junior School musical – ‘Aladdin Trouble’.

Wimbledon here we come! County Tennis Finals Congratulations to the Year 3 & 4 tennis team. The team said... "We played in 6 matches". "There were 12 teams." "We played at Oxstalls tennis centre in Gloucester." "We didn't come in the top 3 but we really enjoyed it." Bea won an award for playing with passion, Harry was nominated for 'determination' but lost out to another player. Well done all.



IMPROVEMENTS TO THE STAFFROOM

Exciting news! We have secured a significant amount of money from a different Government 'pot'. Over the years the staffroom has become an invaluable teaching space, for support and extension groups, for the teaching of music and cooking, as well as doubling as a meeting room, staffroom and storeroom! In recognition of this, the Governors applied for special funding to support improvements to the building. The improvement project is due to take place over the summer (we hope). Although the money is for improvements to the walls and windows only, we are hopeful that we can use the opportunity to improve the usage of the room, and this will have direct implications for the teaching space available from September. Parents are asked if they might be available at some later date (to be confirmed) to help move the contents of the staffroom to the hall, in the last week, to allow the work to take place over the summer? Please check with the office for details.

Website update

I have added a 'subscription' option to our website which will automatically alert you to any new content added to the newsfeed section. I have continued to transfer historic stories from the old website to the new. The old site expires in July, so if there is a feature that you are missing, please let me know whilst I still have access to the content.



This week's snack idea! Raw sugar snap peas are a good choice because they are naturally sweet and crunchy. If you have a great idea to add, please let me know. Email newsletter@northnibley.gloucs.sch.uk with your ideas (and get the newsletter by email every week!)

"NIBLEY NIBBLES" Our Nibley Nibbles Café, run by Year 5s & 6s opens again, raising money to support October's London residential trip and providing parents with an ideal start to the weekend. Hopefully the sun will shine! Starts at 2:00 pm.

School Meals The new providers, Caterlink, have released the menu for the Autumn Term. A copy has been posted on our website here - http://www.northnibley.gloucs.sch.uk/?page_id=408 - with a download available.

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

Monday 6 th July	Swimming Gala Governor Visit looking at impact of Values education and school ethos
Tuesday 7 th July	Aladdin Trouble! Performance for Nursery and Pre-school and all at school.
Wednesday 8 th	COUNTY FINALS for Y3 & Y4 Cricketers NEW
Thursday 9 th July	Aladdin Trouble! Junior musical production – first production all welcome and younger visitors under Yr 3
Friday 10 th July	Rednock Induction Day for Year 6 NIBLEY NIBBLES CAFÉ, 2:00
Monday 13 th July	Monday Lunch for final Y6 group. Aladdin Trouble! Junior musical production – evening performance 1
Tuesday 14 th July	Aladdin Trouble! Junior musical production – evening performance 2
Thursday 16 th July	Sports Day (2) – Afternoon - The Play Leaders from Class 4 take responsibility for this event!
Friday 17 th July	Final day of the year. 9:30 am – Leavers service at St Martin's Church, North Nibley. FONNS End-of-year barbeque – see flyer for details.

SEPTEMBER DATES (as far as they are known!)

1 st & 2 nd September	Staff training days, including Reading and First Aid
Thursday 3 rd Sept	School starts for ALL pupils. See the top of every newsletter for all the pupil dates for the coming year.
Monday 7 th Sept.	Swimming starts for ALL Years 3 and 4
Tuesday 15 th Sept	Year 6 South Cerney day – with the Y6 of the Tyndale Cluster
Tuesday 22 nd Sept	Violins start
Weds 14 th October	Year 5 and 6 Residential in London – through to Friday 16 th October.
Weds 21 st October	Last day of TERM 1

NORTH NIBLEY C. OF E. (AIDED) PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Dear Parents,

School places, class arrangements

As many of you have noticed, North Nibley Primary is becoming increasingly popular as a school of choice for families in our area. This has led to numerical growth to which we have to plan a response.

One of the factors which inhibits our ability to plan strategically is the unexpected movement of pupils in or out of the school. The Local Authority, in particular, made special mention of this when a school place appeal was brought to them for their judgement. The panel decided that as our infant numbers (classes 1 and 2) remain below the legal limit of 30, then they were happy for the school to exceed our stated intake number.

In time, of course, this leads to pressure on Classes 3 and 4. Governors and staff are currently looking at a range of options for the large Year 3 & 4 Class (2015-16). Options include

- Creating a 3rd 'Junior' teaching group for up to 5 days a week, mornings only
- Employing additional Teaching Assistant time (as well as deploying existing support staff differently)
- Considering, in partnership with parents, the early move of a group of next year's Year 4s into Class 4 (full time) or perhaps for Maths only
- A combination of the above measures.
- The purchase / hire of additional indoor space for teaching purposes

All of these options require school to dig into its financial reserves, perhaps compromising future developments. This could be offset by increasing pupil numbers and we have a healthy and growing waiting list – but the children currently requiring spaces match our existing larger year groups.

What are we asking for?

From time to time families decide to move from one school to another. The reasons are varied and always relate to individual circumstances – aspirations, difficulties, house moves etc.

It would help the school to plan strategically if we knew in advance if parents have any long-term plans for removing their children. From this we could better predict class sizes and staffing requirements. We could then spend the budget on areas from which your children would derive the most benefit.

So if, for example, you know now that your child will be leaving at the end of a particular Year, I am inviting you to have an open and honest conversation with myself, in confidence, so that I can consider those on the waiting list, invest in additional staffing or start building work (for example).

Our over-arching focus is always to make the best decisions for your children. With your help and communication we can plan the best way forward for the children of the school, both now and in the future.

Best wishes,

Paul Batchelor
Head Teacher.

Dear Heads & Chairs of Governors of Gloucestershire Schools,

Fairer National Funding

In the last week, f40 delegations have met with officers at the DfE and also with the new Minister for Education & Childcare, Sam Gyimah. Both meetings went well, and while there have not yet been any firm commitments, we feel optimistic that the Government intends to push ahead with its manifesto and Queen's speech commitments to:

- Baseline the 2015/16 additional funding
- Move towards fairer national funding for schools

In order to add 'energy' to the process, we need to use our collective voices to press for fairer funding to be introduced as soon as possible. When we talk about fairer funding we mean that children with similar needs should have access to similar levels of support where ever they live, so that every child has the same opportunity to achieve their potential.

On the 14 July, the new f40 Conservative Vice Chair, Graham Stuart MP, will be leading a special MP's Briefing on fairer funding at the House of Commons, and he will be asking MPs to sign a joint letter to the Prime Minister urging action for 2016. Graham also hopes to coordinate a petition to the Government from each of the affected constituencies. The petitions - which would ideally be coordinated by local MPs - would then be presented en masse in Parliament at a date in the autumn to emphasise the depth of public support for a fairer settlement.

Please use your voice to encourage our MPs to attend this important event and arm them with the evidence to show that, in spite of the national pledge to maintain per pupil funding, in reality we are under a great deal of financial pressure, which is already affecting the support we can give our pupils and students.

Please can you copy your email to your MP to the Minister (ministers@education.gsi.gov.uk) and also to Stewart King at Shire Hall (stewart.king@gloucestershire.gov.uk) and he will arrange for all the replies received to be collated so we have a county picture.

Meanwhile, f40 will provide examples of some of the cross-border anomalies and also the impact of feeding low funded school profiles into higher funded authority funding formulae.

Please do this now: this may be our best chance to mobilise action in some while.

With best wishes,

Gillian Hayward
Chair, Gloucestershire Schools' Forum

Gloucestershire MPs email addresses.

Gloucestershire - Cheltenham	Alex Chalk	Conservative	alex.chalk.mp@parliament.uk
Gloucestershire - Forest of Dean	Mark Harper	Conservative	harperm@parliament.uk
Gloucestershire - Gloucester	Richard Graham	Conservative	richard.graham.mp@parliament.uk
Gloucestershire - Stroud	Neil Carmichael	Conservative	neil.carmichael.mp@parliament.uk
Gloucestershire - Tewkesbury	Laurence Robertson	Conservative	robertsonl@parliament.uk
Gloucestershire - The Cotswolds	Geoffrey Clifton-Brown	Conservative	cliftonbrowng@parliament.uk

NORTH NIBLEY C OF E SCHOOL

Yr 5 - Language taster day KLB – Friday 3rd July

23/6/15

Dear Parents,

Yr 5 have been invited to attend a Languages taster morning at KLB school on Friday 3rd July at 9.15 – 12.00pm.

We will be travelling in staff and parent cars with the appropriate licence, seatbelts, DBS, disclosure forms and insurance.

Could all children please bring a packed lunch that day.

The children will be able to take part in a variety of different sessions and activities involving a range of the languages offered at KLB including Chinese, Japanese, Spanish, Latin and French.

We will need parent help with transport if we attend, so please could you fill in and send back the permission slip attached and indicate if you can help with the transport. We will need to leave school at 9.15 and return at 12.00 from KLB.

Ms Surridge

Class Teacher

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KLB Language taster morning – Y5 –Friday 3rd July

I do/ do not give my permission for my child.....to attend the language taster session at KLB.

I am/am not able to help with transport leaving school at 9.00am picking up the children at KLB at 12.00 and havespaces available. I have signed the volunteer driver form, have the correct licence, child restraints and insurance, DBS and disclosure form.

Signed.....parent/carer.

