

# FRIENDSHIP

HOME SCHOOL VALUES

This term we will be focussing in school on the value FRIENDSHIP. We hope your family will find these ideas helpful as you explore the value and have fun together.

## TALK ABOUT FRIENDSHIP TOGETHER...

Learning to be a good **friend**, someone who can be trusted and is loyal, takes a lifetime.

Talk together about how **friends** come in all shapes and sizes. Some are young, some are old. Some are always there, some we see only occasionally.

- How do we choose our **friends**?
- What makes a good **friend**?
- Are we a good **friend** to others?

## THINK TOGETHER

### Words of Wisdom

"A good **friend** is worth their weight in gold."

Anon

That's a lot of gold!  
Why do you think that this is such a popular proverb?



## READ TOGETHER...

### Through the roof

Jesus reached a town called Capernaum and made his way to a house near the town gate. The crowd had gathered quickly and now even more people were pushing and squeezing into the small house, wanting to see him, hear him and touch him.

The excitement was infectious and four **friends** who lived in a street nearby soon heard the news. They met together and decided that they absolutely *had* to take their **friend** Joshua to Jesus. Joshua was paralysed and couldn't walk. They'd heard that Jesus performed miracles and could heal the sick. This was a chance they couldn't miss.

Wasting no time they carried their **friend** on his bed mat to the house, but jostling crowds blocked the doorway. They couldn't give up now. Their **friend must** meet Jesus. There was only one way. They carried him on to the flat roof of the house and carefully removed part of the roof to make a large hole.












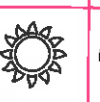


Knotting ropes to the corners of the bed mat they gently lowered Joshua down right in front of Jesus. Imagine the surprise of all the people looking on. But Jesus smiled kindly at Joshua. "Take up your bed, and walk" he said. Slowly, falteringly and hardly daring to believe it was happening, Joshua stood and took a step forward. He could walk. He could actually walk! Thanks to Jesus and his **friends**, Joshua's life was changed forever!

Bible story based on Mark 2:1-12



## QUIZ Picture puzzle

Take the first letter of each object to discover who helped the paralysed man.

			
			
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and			
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## FAMILY FOCUS

### Friends of the Family

This term's family challenge is to make a card or present for someone who is a **friend** to your whole family. You could add a gift tag saying...

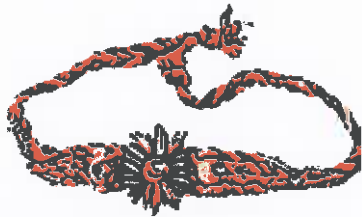




## FASCINATING FACTS

### Friendship Bands

**Friendship bracelets** are usually handmade and given to a special **friend**. According to American tradition you must wear the bracelet until the cords break and it falls off naturally. In this way you honour the love and hard work your **friend** put in to making it.



### Raksha Bandhan

One special type of **friendship** bracelet is a Rakhi. Each year, normally in August, many Hindus mark Raksha Bandhan. The festival is a celebration of family life and in particular the relationship between brothers and sisters. They remember and talk about special times together, and think about loyalty, closeness, trust and their everlasting **friendship**.

- Traditionally sisters tie a sacred thread, a Rakhi, on to their brothers' wrists.
- In response the brothers give their sisters a gift promising to help them whenever the need arises and to always protect them.
- Celebrations continue throughout the day with gifts of sweets and special food as families enjoy the time they share together.



## HOME-SCHOOL CHALLENGE

Use your imagination to make the best **friendship** bracelet ever – using knotting, threading beads, twisting ribbon, whatever you can think of. The more original the better!

or, if you prefer...

make your own large version of the picture puzzle (over the page), joining 5 or 6 words about **friendship**. Either draw pictures or cut them out of magazines.



## HALL OF FAME



### A dog is a man's best Friend

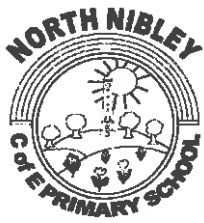
Near the village of Beddgelert in North Wales is a beautiful sculpture of a very special **friend**.

According to legend, the monument marks the resting place of the faithful dog, Gelert, who once belonged to the medieval Welsh Prince, Llewelyn the Great. A tombstone tells the story of a fateful day when Llewelyn went out hunting leaving the faithful hound, Gelert, to guard his young son. On his return Gelert sprang to greet his master, but Llewelyn noticed some blood on his fur. He rushed inside his house. To his horror the first thing he saw was his son's cot. It was empty!

The frantic father turned on the dog, thinking he must have harmed the boy. He killed Gelert there and then with his sword. At that moment a child's cry rang out through the house. Llewelyn searched and discovered his boy unharmed, but nearby lay the body of a mighty wolf which Gelert had killed before it attacked the small child.

Prince Llewelyn is said never to have smiled again and with tears of sadness he buried Gelert in this place, which became known as "the grave of Gelert", or in Welsh, Beddgelert.





Our vision – to inspire and celebrate learning, achievement, faith & fun!

# NEWSLETTER 141

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2015

Halley's Comet, visible from Earth every 75–76 years, appeared in AD 141. Next time? 2061

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Dear Parents and Friends,

## All in!



Our 'Welcome' Assembly, held last Friday for our new Reception, has been well-received and the 15 children were fascinated by the stone cairn that we have built together. This is the second year running of full uptake and school is now only 3 short of its notional capacity, though in our case the distribution is uneven and places remain available across the school. Please ask for details.

## News from KLB

At this term's ACADEMIC PRIZE GIVING -15th September 2015, we were pleased to note the on-going success of many ex-Nibley pupils.

Presentation of Head Girl Badge to **Ella Beales**

Prize for Attainment: Year 7 - **Giles Dakin**

Prize for Progress: Year 9 - **Jack Westlake**

Tuckwell Cup for Charitable Endeavour - **Isabelle Pain**

Drama and Music: Vera Conner Cup - **Sophie Chinner**

Drama Badges: **Benjamin Frith**

Musical Badges: **Max Yole-Smith, Tom Kinnear, Rebecca Marsh, Henry Aston**

**GCSE Awards:-** (each of these awards are for achieving the highest grade in whole school year in that subject)

Foundation Prize for Textiles: **Sophy Lawfull**

Whaley Geography Prize: **Benjamin Eames**

Prize For Japanese: **Holly Timbrell**

Outstanding Work Yr11 Graphic Art: **Holly Timbrell**

Cooper Prize for Outstanding Performance at GCSE

June 2015: **Henry Patterson** (jointly with another non-Nibley pupil)

My thanks goes to Mrs Lawfull for recording the details.

## Don't fall in!



"Yesterday we went to South Cerney. Some people were looking forward to it; others were a bit scared. First we dumped our bags in the Elliot building. There were 6 schools and we got into groups. Some people were excited; others weren't so sure. We built a brilliant raft and won our race. After that we had lunch and got ready to go kayaking. Some people got into wetsuits; others stayed as they were. It was a brilliant experience." This report includes selected highlights from the written work of Ella, Rosie and Sophie. You can see that they have been practising their use of semi-colons and "some ; others" sentence types. Some of the photos are now available on our website (front page).

## School Improvement Plan 2015-16

Each summer the school staff and governors evaluate the impact of the previous year's plan and formulate the next. The 'drivers' are a combination of inspection outcomes, national developments (e.g. implementing the new National Curriculum), test results, self-assessment and local opportunities. For the following year you can expect us to be focussed on the following priorities, whilst maintaining our usual high standards across the school:

1. Ensuring the Christian vision drives strategic planning
2. Raising the Quality of leadership in R.E.
3. Accelerating progress for the most able
4. Increasing the cross-curricular use of ICT
5. Improving pupil attainment results in Writing
6. Extending good practice in the teaching of phonics and spelling into Key Stage Two
7. Developing opportunities for Outdoor Learning
8. Establishing effective programmes for progression in Mental Maths & Problem Solving skills
9. Achieving outstanding levels of safeguarding

## Spellings

You might have noticed that the Teacher's Class Letters (sent this week and available on Friday in the 'Virtual Book Bag' online) were short on detail regarding the learning of spellings. We have noticed that words learnt for a test are often spelt incorrectly in independent work. As a staff we are not convinced that (solely) testing pupils is the best way of helping children learn, though we do acknowledge that many parents feel able to support their children in this way at home. We now have 9 phonics and spelling groups across the school, for three 30-minute sessions a week. We are allowing each group to implement a number of different strategies. This may include 'traditional' lists of words, but may not. These words might be sent home before or after a study-unit, and these words might be based on errors demonstrated in their written work, or be entirely new patterns. Some will require dictionary work, and ensure that meanings are also understood. The 9 groups have very different needs and have been carefully arranged following a whole-school audit, including the children's current understanding, to ensure we further 'personalise' the children's learning.

## Parent Governor Nominations

No nominations were received for this important role. Please ask Roly Brown, re-elected as Chair this week, or Paul Batchelor for details if you might still be consider this option. We would be particularly pleased to hear from anyone with financial experience.

## Can you help?

- In preparation for another learning initiative, we have been working the photocopier and laminator from dawn until dusk! However this takes time away from the children. If you have an hour to spare to help, please see Mrs Wright.
- We have several 'high up' jobs that require the use of a scaffold tower. These are expensive to hire, and our cluster 'handyman', Mr Glew, is insured to use one if we can perhaps find one to borrow. Please see Mr Batchelor for details.

- Following the improvements to the staffroom we have two wooden cupboards which require breaking up and transporting to the recycling centre.

## Reading Meeting

Following your feedback in the last Parent Questionnaire, we have moved our annual meeting on how reading is taught to earlier in the year. All parents interested in the development of phonics and reading skills are therefore invited to a meeting on **Monday 28th September**, starting at 3:30. We will run a crèche in Class 1 to allow you to fully engage with the meeting.

## Operation 'Christmas Child'

After a break of several years, we are pleased once again to support the Christmas charity shoebox appeal. You can read more about this charity here –

<https://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/>

We would like to receive your shoeboxes here at school ON Monday 2nd November. Planning and packing these boxes together with your children gives a real opportunity to talk about those in need, which has a particular urgency at this current time.

## Our Christian Value - Friendship

"...encourage one another and build each other up..."  
The Bible (1 Thessalonians 5:11)

## FONNS – From Rachel Stewart

*"As the outgoing chair I am writing to all of you as **we are short of a Chair for this year's committee** and we need to fulfil this role to allow the continuation of the charity which benefits all children, including yours.*

*You are by default all members of FONNS, by selecting to send your children to North Nibley you are automatically part of the parents and teachers association."*

You can read more in a letter sent home this week, and online (including our 'Virtual Book Bag'). Please give serious consideration to this issue, since the work of FONNS is invaluable and irreplaceable in the life of the school, and the children's within it. There is a meeting on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> October at 7:00 in the staffroom. Please join us.

**Diary Dates** Our online diary can be found at [http://www.northnibley.gloucs.sch.uk/?page\\_id=267](http://www.northnibley.gloucs.sch.uk/?page_id=267)

Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> Sept	After-school meeting for parents about learning to read. For all who are interested.	3:30
Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> October	FONNS Meeting at 7:00 in the staffroom	
Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> October	Class 4 trip to Redwood, morning. Please return permission slips promptly.	
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> October	Open Morning – watch out for, or ask for, a poster!	
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> October	AND TUESDAY 6 <sup>th</sup> – PARENT/TEACHER EVENINGS. Slips have been sent home.	
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> October	Class 3 trip to Gloucester Museum. Thank you for returning the slips promptly.	
Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> October	Harvest Festival at St. Martins, 9.15 All welcome.	
Weds 14 <sup>th</sup> October	– through to Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> October, Year 5 and 6 Residential in London	
Weds 21 <sup>st</sup> October	Last day of TERM 1	
THIS AUTUMN	NEXT SPRING	NEXT SUMMER
Term 1 03/09/15 - 21/10/15	Term 3 04/01/16 - 12/02/16	Term 5 11/04/16 - 27/05/16
Term 2 02/11/15 - 18/12/15	Term 4 23/02/16 - 24/03/16	Term 6 06/06/16 - 20/07/16
		Term 1 05/09/16 – to be confirmed