



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

# NEWSLETTER 143

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2015

143 is used on a pager to say "I love you". A team point to the first child who tells me why.

North Nibley Church of England  
Primary School, The Street, North  
Nibley, Glos. GL11 6DL  
Tel: 01453 5426  
[www.northnibley.gloucs.sch.uk](http://www.northnibley.gloucs.sch.uk)  
[admin@northnibley.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:admin@northnibley.gloucs.sch.uk)  
Twitter: @NibleySchool  
Head Teacher: Paul Batchelor

Dear Parents and Friends,



## Outdoor Learning

Alice said "We went to Redwood last Friday and we went to learn about Stonehenge." George added "It was a large wood with a small meadow and some ponds." Jess "We made our own 'woodhenge' and we had to collect the logs" Clem thought the event was a load of fun." Timmy We completed a lot of different activities, including working out how to move the large logs together." The adults were particularly impressed with the way the children developed their team-working skills. Children were also engaged in problem solving, use of leavers and other practical skills.

## Fairer funding

Last week I wrote at length about the underfunding of ALL Gloucestershire schools. Fairer funding levels – putting us on an equal footing with schools in other authorities - would give our school governors significant options to consider when determining the budget. Whether in staffing, curriculum resources, IT or premises upgrades, you can imagine what a real difference £100,000 would represent. Please add your support.

I wish to thank all those who signed the petitions currently in the lobby of the school. If you missed the chance to do so, I will keep these available until Friday 16<sup>th</sup>.

## Harvest

Our Harvest Thanksgiving service is on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> in St Martin's Church, starting at 9:15. 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. St. Martin's will auction your donations at the Harvest Supper on the following Friday. If you would be so kind as to send your child to school on the 12th with an item, either fresh or packaged, we will make a grand presentation of all the donations during the service. If you wish to attend the Harvest Supper, it is on Friday 16th October in the Village Hall, at 7pm. Tickets are available from the village shop.



## District Champions!

Amelie said "North Nibley pupils split into two different rugby teams." Each team in the tournament (and there were 14 teams all together) represented a country in the Rugby World Cup. "Our teams were USA and Scotland." Freddie said USA came 8<sup>th</sup> overall, whilst North Nibley's 'Scotland' came first in their group and then went into the final against 'France' (Cam Everlands Primary). Mark remembers that he played in the forward position and scored a lot of tries. Oliver also scored a lot of tries and a favourite moment was when he scored the last try of the match taking his team to victory. "In the final we were cheering and George scored the only try of the match." This meant North Nibley pupils were the "District Champions" of 2015. Fantastic work everyone!

## We are all part of FONNS!

As such it is important that all parents and friends are kept up to date with the latest news. FONNS meeting minutes will be added to the 'Virtual Bookbag' (our online store of letters sent during the week) and emailed out to subscribers of the 'electronic' newsletter. Kerri Barber, Chairperson, asks us to "Please note the date of the Christmas Fayre which is 11 December between 5 and 7pm, here at school."

**ADVANCED NOTICE – THERE ARE NO SPORTS CLUB ON WEDNESDAYS 14<sup>TH</sup> & 21<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER AND 4<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER DUE TO SPORTING ACTIVITIES AT KLB. CHILDREN WILL NOT BE BACK IN SCHOOL UNTIL AROUND 3:40**

Sadly, it would seem that some parents have developed the habit of failing to read letters sent home. If you are reading to this, I might be 'preaching to the converted', but there are safeguarding concerns when children are presumed to be at a club which has been cancelled. During the widely publicised Parent's Evenings 8 children were unexpectedly left in the care of teachers who had other commitments.

## ParentView

It is now over one year since OFSTED inspected the school. Some time ago Ofsted introduced an on-line tool, ParentView, so that parents might have a way to capture their views outside the narrow band of time which an inspection represents.

The Ofsted survey asks questions about our school which we do NOT duplicate in our own annual survey. I am therefore asking you to respond online to the following 12 questions:

- My child is happy at this school
- My child feels safe at this school
- My child makes good progress at this school
- My child is well looked after at this school
- My child is taught well at this school
- My child receives appropriate homework for their age
- This school ensures the pupils are well behaved
- This school deals effectively with bullying
- This school is well led and managed
- This school responds well to any concern I raise
- I receive valuable information from the school about my child's progress
- I would recommend this school to another parent

Respondents choose between 'strongly agree', 'agree', 'disagree', 'strongly disagree' or 'don't know'.

Our school governors believe that ParentView has an important part to play in helping us to run the school, and especially so if the summary fairly reflects the opinions of a large number of parents. Currently only 11 views are represented (since responses are deleted after 1 year), so if you have never used this tool, or haven't done so for over a year, please follow the link [www.parentview.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.parentview.ofsted.gov.uk) to the Parent View site and click on the 'give your views now' icon.

## Thank you FONNS...

Painting the staffroom / music room / store room (etc!).

At the time of writing the volunteers are getting stuck in with a first ceiling coat complete and the walls underway.

## Our Christian Value - Friendship

"Friendship is the hardest thing in the world to explain. It's not something you learn in school. But if you haven't learned the meaning of friendship, you really haven't learned anything."

– Muhammad Ali

## 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.

## 'Flora Tubs For Tablets'

Tescos are running a promotion at the moment giving away a Tablet for every 50 special Flora silver tops. Please send in these tops if you can so that we can continue to develop the school's IT resources.

## Do you come here often?

Once again attendance at school made the national headlines this week. High levels of attendance are crucial if children are to derive maximum benefit from the learning planned by class teachers. On Tuesday this week every child on roll was present in school. Well done, you healthy and enthusiastic pupils!

**Please note the tea-towel project is a FONNS fundraising project. Cheques must be made out to "FONNS". Thank YOU.**

**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 12 <sup>th</sup> October | Harvest Festival at St. Martins, 9.15 All welcome. Can we politely request that any donations coming in to school is able to be carried by a child? Bags will be most helpful. |                            |                                   |
| Weds 14 <sup>th</sup> October   | ALL Year 1s and 2s – Trip to the Fire Station, Stroud.                                                                                                                         |                            |                                   |
| Weds 14 <sup>th</sup> October   | Years 3 & 4 Multiskills at KLB – afternoon – THOUGH NOT FOR SOME CHILDREN WITH MUSIC TUITION                                                                                   |                            |                                   |
| Sat 17 <sup>th</sup> October    | – through to Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> October, Year 5 and 6 Residential in London                                                                                               |                            |                                   |
| Sat 17 <sup>th</sup> October    | Pre-School – Christmas Photographer here – please see flyer                                                                                                                    |                            |                                   |
| Weds 21 <sup>st</sup> October   | Afternoon – Year 5 & 6 Sports Experience at KLB<br>Last day of TERM 1                                                                                                          |                            |                                   |
| Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> Nov      | First day of TERM 2                                                                                                                                                            |                            |                                   |
| Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> Nov   | Open Football Tournament, KLB – Afternoon                                                                                                                                      |                            |                                   |
| Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> Nov      | Friendship day – creative arts day on our value for the term                                                                                                                   |                            |                                   |
| Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> Nov     | Classes 1 & 2 to Redwood. Some children will need a packed lunch. Final details have yet to be confirmed.                                                                      |                            |                                   |
| Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> Nov     | Class 3 to Redwood (Morning)                                                                                                                                                   |                            |                                   |
| THIS AUTUMN                     | NEXT SPRING                                                                                                                                                                    | NEXT SUMMER                | NEXT AUTUMN                       |
| 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 1 05/09/16 – to be confirmed |
| Term 2 02/11/15 - 18/12/15      | Term 4 23/02/16 - 24/03/16                                                                                                                                                     | Term 6 06/06/16 - 20/07/16 |                                   |



## NORTH NIBLEY CofE PRIMARY SCHOOL GOVERNORS' NEWSLETTER

**Welcome** to the latest Newsletter which the Governors of North Nibley School are hoping will help communicate information about the Governors work with the School.

If ever you would like to know more details about who the Governors are, what they do or what it means to be a Governor then do please approach a Governor to ask!

The North Nibley Governors are:

Miss Allen  
Mr Batchelor  
Sue Bradley-Jones  
Roly Brown  
Sarah Aston  
Emma Frith  
Peter Hall  
Di Hay  
Chris Huxley-Reynard  
Dawn Shepherd  
Tassos Stamatopoulos  
Sandy Revie

### **Contacting Governors**

Governors are readily contactable.  
Email Roly Brown - [chair@northnibley.gloucs.gov.uk](mailto:chair@northnibley.gloucs.gov.uk) or send a letter or message via the School Office. Any Governor will be happy to help you.

### Raring to go!

The Governors have been busier than usual in this first Autumn term. The first Full Governing Board meeting was held towards the end of September. This meeting always turns out to have quite a full agenda and this year was no exception. The Chair and Vice-Chair are elected on an annual basis and Roly Brown and Sarah Aston were elected to stand in those roles respectively for another year which will provide some good continuity. The make-up of the sub-committees (Teaching & Learning, Finance & Premises, Leadership & Management) is also agreed. A significant part of the meeting was reviewing and formally agreeing the School Improvement Plan. This is an annual Plan which is put in place to ensure that we are continually striving to be as good as we can be and usefully focusses us on some individual areas. This year the content has been driven by staff input to a greater extent than normal which we think is a very healthy approach. Each identified priority has an individual Governor monitoring it in order to help out with progressing it.

What has made the month particularly busy is the added initiative of a strategic review of the School which the Governors are undertaking. More on that over the page.

### Goodbye, Thank You and Hello!

We were sad to see Philippa Burrows leave us as a Parent Governor just ahead of this term but are very grateful for all of the work that she did on behalf of the Governors. At the same time, we are delighted to welcome Dawn Shepherd on to the Governing Board. Dawn is a parent but is coming on board in the role of Foundation Governor having been nominated by the Parochial Church Council. Dawn is a trained teacher and her contribution will be very welcome.

This still leaves us with vacancies for Parent Governor and Co-Opted Governor but we hope to have these formally filled by the time of the next Governor Newsletter.

Our Vision is to inspire and celebrate Learning, Achievement, Faith and Fun!

## NORTH NIBLEY SCHOOL IN THE NEWS

North Nibley village has a monthly newsletter called 'On The Edge'. In last month's edition, this little article caught our eye for obvious reasons. It was submitted by David & Sheila Chapman who have given permission for it to be reproduced here.

Very few of the current Governors can take credit for the journey that the Chapman's children enjoyed at North Nibley School so this isn't intended to be self-congratulatory! However, occasionally it is nice to share un-prompted positive thoughts about the School and 'celebrate Learning, Achievement, Faith & Fun', all of which are mentioned in the Chapman's article.



### **Out of Little Acorns.....**

*In September 2004 we left our young off-springs in the capable hands of Mrs Freeman and her staff at North Nibley School. Little did we realise what a marvellous start this would be for our youngsters, or indeed how quickly the years would pass.*

*There are lots of fond memories of Nativity plays, and as the years went on of wonderfully entertaining Summer school productions!*

*Although the children had mixed abilities they were always encouraged to do their best in a loving, gentle and consistent environment. Florence often talked with fondness and respect of Mrs Hopkins taking a small group to the staff room for some coaching in Maths....."but it was great because we all had nice drinks and biscuits.....and it was our secret!"*

*All too soon Senior school has come and gone and although the Students have more change ahead, their foundations from North Nibley have prepared them admirably for the next stage....plus the amazing academic results they have achieved.*

*At Florence's Celebratory Evening Mr Alexander said "any academic results can only be achieved through years of teamwork". By that he meant family, friends, community including spiritual support, primary school, senior school, the wonderful volunteers and governors.*

*Thank you Mr Batchelor and Staff for the safeguarding and sustaining of such a unique and special part of our community.*

*Congratulations to the Students on their amazing results, a true reflection, that North Nibley School remains a successful and an integral part of our village life.*

*Good Luck to all our wonderful Students, past present and future, and a School who has given our society so much with unconditional professionalism.*



Thank you, David & Sheila!

## Strategic Review

The Government have put much more emphasis on Governors setting the strategic direction of their schools. Part of the new OFSTED inspection guidance expects us to demonstrate how we have an ambitious vision for the School.

In the last newsletter, this strategic approach was mentioned and you may remember how the School Vision was reached and agreed with stakeholders – i.e. not just by the Governors. The Strategic Review process was therefore started last year by reviewing various aspects of the School and how we govern it.

This term has started with additional meetings because it became obvious that, in order to be strategic, we had to allow ourselves the time to be strategic. The usual process of Governors meetings can be full of other very important things to deal with so we felt it important to set extra time aside for the strategic perspective to develop. The beauty of having a diverse range of Governors is that we all have different perspectives on the school and we have used that to develop a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities & Threats) analysis. We found that most of the individual points raised in that process (and there were many!) boiled down to a list of about 14 key areas. Some of those are already covered in the annual School Improvement Plan (see first page) because they can be acted on immediately and some of the areas need to guide our overall approach rather than being specific actions. The remainder are eight areas that we wanted to go away, research, analyse and then come back to agree on a plan of action. Individual Governors or small teams took responsibility for different areas and will be going away to do what they can to take it forward.

Fortunately, there are some very good resources of information: last term's parent questionnaire; existing staff knowledge and experience; school inspection reports; looking in to how other schools do things; asking Governors, parents and other stakeholders. We therefore have plenty to get on with and don't be surprised if a Governor asks for your opinion on something!

Don't panic though; we have no plans to turn the School upside down! The reason for doing the SWOT analysis was not just to establish what improvements can be made but also to identify what the current strengths are. We plan to protect and improve on the strengths, tackle the weaknesses, seize the opportunities and mitigate against the threats. One thing is for sure though, the moment we sit back and think this school is perfect, no matter how good it might be, is the moment that we will have failed as Governors. The pursuit of continuous improvement is a fundamental part of what we must do and that will only be of benefit to the children, parents, staff and the whole school community.

Our Vision is to inspire and celebrate Learning, Achievement, Faith and Fun!

NORTH NIBLEY C OF E SCHOOL

9<sup>th</sup> October 2015

Dear Parents,

We have been invited to an 'Experience of Sport' at KLB on Wednesday 21st October and we would like to take all our Yr 5's and 6's. This will not include those children who take a woodwind lesson during the afternoon.

We will be leaving school at 12.30 pm finishing at KLB at approx 3.00pm. We may be back at school a little later than usual end time.

We will need parent helpers to transport the children, both to and from the event. There is, however, not a facility for parents to stay and watch this event.

Please make sure the children have their PE kit in school, if it is cool or wet please dress accordingly.

They will also need a snack and their water bottles.

Could you please sign the permission form below and indicate whether you will be able to help transport on the day. **Please return your slip by Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> October.**

Thank you.

Mrs A Dixon

Teacher

.....

**Yr 5 and 6 ' Sports Experience' KLB - Wednesday 21st October - KLB**

I do/do not give my permission for my child.....to attend the activities day at KLB.

I will /will not be able to help transport children there and back and I have .....spaces available. Leaving school at 12.30 pm

I understand the children will be transported in staff and parent cars, they will have the appropriate child restraints, licence, CRB/DBS and insurance.

Signed .....parent /carer

**NORTH NIBLEY C OF E SCHOOL**

5/10/15

Dear Parents/Carers,

Could you please note that the children who have paid for woodwind lessons will not be able go to the Multi skills at KLB on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> October. We are looking ahead to see if there is flexibility for future clashes but this time we have been unable to make other arrangements.

Mr P Batchelor

Head Teacher

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**Dear Parents,**

**Could you please note that due to a Yr 4/5 Rugby world cup tournament at Stinchcombe which does not finish until 5.00pm, there will be no sports club this Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> October.**

**Mrs A Dixon**

**Class Teacher**

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