



NEWSLETTER 159

Friday 18th March 2016

159 is written CLIX in Roman numerals, spelling a word with many meanings

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,
Country Dancing



Well done to all the girls and their supporters who attended the Country Dance festival this week. Along with 15 other schools we packed Stratford Park Leisure Centre on Tuesday evening. The girls (and they were all girls – come on boys you really missed out here!) said “It was really, really fun and also tiring.” Joss said “I enjoyed it, especially the dance with all the clapping.” Sophie’s favourite dance was the Cheltenham Flyer. Cara enjoyed singing “I’ll want a banana, monkey nuts are not for me!”



Congratulations to the Hockey team for winning through to the County Finals.

Lost Property We have a large amount of lost property which we keep in the wicker basket just inside the lobby area. Now that the weather is improving, and children shed clothing readily, the problem only seems to get worse. Where we can, we return named items to the correct child. PLEASE clearly label all the children’s uniform. We will try to put the collection out at the end of a couple of days before the end of term.

Being Safe Online



Year 4 attended a fabulous ‘pantomime’ style presentation regarding online safety, held at Cam Woodfield Junior School. The audience of 150 pupils learned about sensible steps to take when faced with choices about information sharing, whilst

helping ‘Dotty’ to negotiate the super highway, aided by colourful characters such as ‘Icon’, Password’ and ‘Uh-oh!’ Freddie said “It was amusing and a good way of learning safety information.” Harvey learnt to be safe on the internet. Josh’s favourite character was Uh-oh. Ruby liked the play, thinking it taught you a lot about being safe. Arthur says “If you see something that worries you, you should tell an adult you know.” Fred said “We learnt about what bullying someone on line means and how it affects others.”



A fantastic effort from our Rugby players on Wednesday saw some excellent individual play and team work. It was a really enjoyable afternoon with both teams impressive on the field.

FORGIVENESS IS OUR ‘VALUE IN FOCUS’.

Please find attached this term’s Home-School Values activity sheet.

On The Edge Every month school contributes an article to the village magazine, “On The Edge”. This magazine is distributed around the village. If you’d like to receive an emailed copy please let me know and I’ll forward your details. (newsletter@northnibley.gloucs.sch.uk)

We live in interesting times! I know several of you will be intrigued by the implications for our school by the Chancellor's budget speech on Wednesday.

The headlines -

Every school will be an academy by 2022

- Every school in England will be an academy or free school, or be in the process of becoming one, by the end of 2020.
- The government has said this "will give head teachers more control over their budget and the curriculum they teach". The BBC, however, recognises that "Local authorities, in truth, have not "run" any mainstream schools since the early 1990s. They, instead, supervise them and offer them back-office services. The principal advantages to school leaders of academy status are that they are exempt from the national curriculum and the national pay regulations for teachers."

Others believe it has not been proven that academies in themselves raise standards and improve outcomes for children. Recently, the Ofsted chief Sir Michael Wilshaw criticised seven sizeable academy chains for failing to improve the results of too many pupils in their schools, while paying board members large salaries.

School funding

- The current system for funding schools will also be replaced by a "fairer national funding formula" from April 2017. Thank you all for supporting the petition we held last year. No doubt changes will be phased in, so any improvement in fairness between schools (whilst real cuts continue) could be slow to make a noticeable difference.

Double the funding for sport in primary schools

- From April 2018 soft drinks companies will pay a levy on drinks with added sugar. This will be applicable to those with total sugar content above 5 grams per 100 millilitres and a higher rate applied for more than 8 grams per 100 millilitres. It will not be applicable to milk-based drinks or fruit juices.
- This will be used to double the primary PE and sport premium (the additional money schools across the country have to spend on PE and sports) to £320 million a year. This actually represents a challenge for us! We currently meet all Government requirements and therefore have a higher proportion of high quality PE in our timetable than most schools (and doesn't it show!) so we will have to think carefully about the opportunities this additional funding represents.

Term Dates You can find term dates at the bottom of each newsletter and these have now been posted on our website.

Ukelele Concert Class 3 would like to show off their skills on Monday at 3:00 and you are ALL invited to watch.

Clubs As previously advised, there is no Country Dance club on Monday 21st and no sports club on Wednesday 23rd. All other clubs take place as usual.

Tissues We would really appreciate any donations of boxes of tissues (and even children each with a small supply of 'pocket' tissues) to help us help the children during this season of colds.

'Disqualified by Association' – If you have yet to return these self-disclosure letters, please do so by the end of next week.

FONNS have placed the **Music Festival 'job list'** in the school lobby window. Please sign up for a slot before they all disappear. Over £6000 was made for the school last year at this event, so your continuing support in an active role is much appreciated.

HELP US WRITE A PRAYER

You might recall (in 2013) you helped the school community decide upon the Values we wanted to place at the heart of our school. Now it's time to ask for your help again. As a Church Of England School we'd very much like to have a school prayer. How should it start? How much should we look inward, and how much outward to our needy world? How long should it be? Perhaps you had a prayer at your own primary school which means something special to you, or you recall choice phrases which inspired you? Children, parents, governors and staff your ideas will be most welcome. Please email your thoughts and ideas to newsletters@northnibley.gloucs.sch.uk

The Easter Break Coming home this week are a variety of flyers with ideas about how you might spend your time. MOST LIKELY there will be no newsletter next week, which finishes ON THURSDAY, so the team here wish you all a very Happy Easter.

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

Monday 21st	Village Hall Monday Lunch – those involved need a packed lunch 3:00 Ukelele Concert by Class 3 in the hall. All are invited.		
Tuesday 22 nd	Wildlife Quiz – second round, here at school 3:45 – please support us! Easter visit from Nursery and Pre-School 9:30		
Wednesday 23 rd	Netball – County Finals (for which we qualified!) AND Hockey finals AND Dance Festival		
Thursday 24th	Redwood visits - Classes 1 & 2 ALSO LAST DAY OF TERM 4.		
THIS SPRING – Pupil days	THIS SUMMER–Pupil days	NEXT AUTUMN – Pupil days	NEXT SPRING – Pupil days
Term 3 04/01/16 - 12/02/16	Term 5 11/04/16 - 27/05/16	Term 1 05/09/2016 – 19/10/2016	Term 3 03/01/2017 – 10/02/2017
Term 4 23/02/16 - 24/03/16	Term 6 06/06/16 - 20/07/16	Term 2 31/10/2016 – 16/12/2016	Term 4 20/02/2017 – 07/04/2017

FORGIVENESS

HOME SCHOOL VALUES

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

TALK ABOUT FORGIVENESS TOGETHER...

Everyone makes mistakes, it's part of being human. Sometimes our mistakes hurt others and then we need to say sorry. Sometimes mistakes made by other people hurt us. When this happens we need to be able to **forgive**. **Forgiveness** can be difficult and costly but without it a new start is impossible.

Talk together about:

- A time when you needed to say sorry
- A time you didn't say sorry but wish you had
- A time when you had to **forgive** someone who had hurt or upset you
- How it feels when you are given a new start because someone has **forgiven** you

THINK TOGETHER ABOUT WORDS OF WISDOM

"Without **forgiveness** there is no future.... If you can **forgive**, then you can move on and even help the person you are forgiving to become a better person"

Desmond Tutu



HOME-SCHOOL CHALLENGE

Maze

Design your own version of the maze tree in the story of Zacchaeus.

You can either draw it on paper or use other materials to create it. It's up to you! Take it to school to display in the Challenge Gallery.



READ TOGETHER...

Zacchaeus the Tax Collector

Zacchaeus was a little man. He was a tax collector and had become rich by making others pay lots of money in taxes to the Romans and to him. He didn't have many friends.

When Zacchaeus heard Jesus was in town, he wanted to see him. But Zacchaeus was short and Jesus was always surrounded by a crowd. So Zacchaeus decided to run ahead of the crowd and climb a sycamore tree. From there he could watch for Jesus. As Jesus drew closer, he held his breath excitedly until Jesus stopped right beneath his tree. Jesus looked straight up at him! "Zacchaeus," said Jesus with a smile, "come on down. I want to stay at your house today!"

Zacchaeus hopped down. "You are welcome at my house, Jesus," he said with a huge grin.

But others grumbled, muttering to each other. "Why does Jesus want to go home with the rich, cheating tax collector? He isn't good enough for Jesus to come and stay at his house."

Zacchaeus heard what the people were saying about him and he wanted to put things right. He turned to Jesus and said, "Master, here and now, I promise to give half of my money to the poor. If I have cheated anyone in taxes, I will pay them back four times that amount."

Zacchaeus wanted to turn over a new leaf because Jesus believed that everyone deserved a new start and now Zacchaeus believed it too!

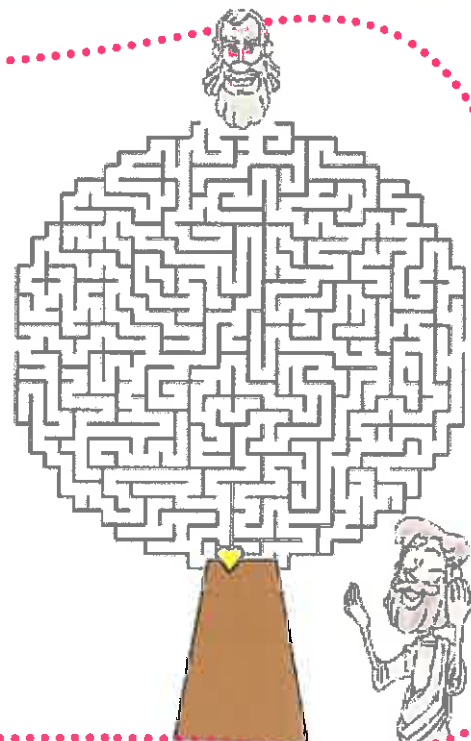
Bible story based on Luke 19:2-10



QUIZ

Tree Maze

Help Zacchaeus find his way down from the top of the tree, to meet Jesus.





HALL OF FAME

Desmond Tutu

Desmond Tutu was Archbishop of Capetown from 1986 to 1996. Throughout his life Desmond Tutu worked tirelessly against apartheid in South Africa. Apartheid was a system that treated people differently because of the colour of their skin. People who were non-white were not given the same rights in the country as white citizens. For example they had to live where the government told them to, they were not allowed to vote, had to use separate transport, go to different beaches and use separate sports facilities.

There was much violence and oppression in South Africa during the years of apartheid, and when it finally ended in 1992 some people were left feeling bitter and angry and wanting revenge. In order to give everyone a chance to talk about the things that had happened to them Desmond Tutu set up the 'Truth and Reconciliation Commission'. Many people who had behaved badly could hear from those they had hurt. There was the chance to say sorry and sometimes receive **forgiveness**. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission helped to provide an opportunity for a new beginning for South Africa, a chance to build what Desmond Tutu called a 'Rainbow Nation' in which everyone had the same chance in life no matter what the colour of their skin.



FASCINATING FACTS

Crosses across the world

The cross is a very special symbol for Christians it reminds them of Jesus' death on the cross which brought **forgiveness** for the world.

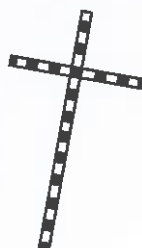
Different shapes and designs of crosses reflect different traditions and communities across the world.

Maria Gomez was a Christian Primary School teacher in El Salvador. She angered the authorities in her country because she campaigned for the rights of poor people. Eventually she was murdered. Later a local artist was commissioned to paint a wooden cross with scenes showing her life and her work among the poor women in the rural villages of El Salvador.



The Celtic cross originates from Ireland. St Patrick described the circle on the cross as symbolising the endless love shown by Jesus. The cross is decorated with natural shapes and animals to remind us of God's creation.

The Black and White cross comes from South Africa and was designed during the time of apartheid. The Bible teaches that people are equal in God's eyes, no matter what their background or the colour of their skin.



The Jewish New Year Tradition

New Year for Jews normally falls during September. On the first afternoon of the new year, the festival of Rosh Hashanah is celebrated. Families visit a nearby stream, river or even the sea for the ritual of Tashlich (in Hebrew, the language in which the Jews' holy book the Torah was written, Tashlich means throw away).

After a celebration meal Jewish families gather left over breadcrumbs. These crumbs represent the words or deeds that each family member feels sorry about. When the crumbs have been thrown into the water, fish eat them or they are washed away. This symbolises the way that God **forgives** the bad things that people have done and washes them away so that there can be a fresh start for the New Year. During the ceremony the following words from the Torah are read aloud, "You (God) will again have compassion on us; you will tread our sins underfoot and hurl all our transgressions into the depths of the sea." Micah 7: 19

NORTH NIBLEY C OF E SCHOOL

18/3/16

Dear Parents,

Unfortunately the Level 3 hockey competition at Cheltenham on the 23rd March requires the children to wear gum shields and shin pads. Although shin pads were a requirement of the previous tournament, the need for a gum shield suggested that the hockey at this level involved hitting, rather than pushing the ball.

Having contacted the organisers to clarify the situation it seems this is the case, which is not suitable or safe for our children who only push the ball under Level 2 rules.

I am sorry to say that we have had to withdraw from the tournament as a result. I have explained this to the children and hope that both they and yourselves, understand that the safety of the children must come first,

Mrs A Dixon

Class Teacher.