



NEWSLETTER 165

Friday 13th May 2016

The Blériot 165 was a French four-engine biplane airliner of the 1920s.

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,

FULL HOUSE AT FONNS FAMILY BINGO NIGHT

It was great to see the school hall full on Saturday night as families turned out in large numbers to support fundraising efforts and have fun. A good number of children acted as 'callers' and there were plenty of age-appropriate prizes. Timmy thought it was very good that all the children who wanted to had a go at calling out the numbers. George commented that everyone had fun. Harry explained that if you got a line on your card you got four chocolate eggs. Lara's favourite call was "jumping jive, it's 35!" Posie completed a line first and won a party bag including some "glasses which light up!" Thank you to everyone who organised and supported this evening. Together you raised just under £100!



Dance Day This Year's Tyndale Cluster Dance Day for Year 2 promises something a little different! Parents are asked to ensure that Y2 children have their PE kit at school on Tuesday 24th May. We will be hosting the event and children from 5 other schools will be joining us. We hope that Miss Wright will also be visiting!

Nut allergy Whilst we await the results of a test please note that there can be no peanuts or peanut products in school. Ensure that children wash their hands and faces if handling or eating such products before school.

Test week... Is over for Year 6's and we look forward to seeing how the government makes sense of these new assessment measures. The children have worked steadily and with an excellent attitude during these testing times. Those in Years 3 to 5 have a little longer to meet the 'Year-end' expectations since we have decided to approach these 'internal' progress checks later in the year.



A group of 8 children entertained those who attended the Church 'Summer' Fete on Saturday, singing songs from our recent performance at St. Mary's. I am very grateful for their willingness to contribute, and for Mrs Shepherd who led them. Unfortunately the event clashed with several other activities, and so numbers were down on previous years. Never-the-less the sun shone and everyone was happy.



A still image taken from our 'live' video feed of house martins nest-building on our school.

Here comes the sun! Water bottles, sun cream and hats! Please remember these essential items as the weather improves. I have led a session on sun safety with the children. Ask them about Slip, Slap, Slop, Seek and Slide!

STOP PRESS – Please be alert for impetigo infections.

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

Monday 16th	Mini-Tennis, Years 3 & 4	AND Table Tennis match at Cam Hopton	
Tuesday 17 th	Cricket taster day at Bristol	Cluster Head Teacher meeting	AND STEMWORKS prize day at Renishaw
Thursday 19th	Redwood day, Morning – Reception. Afternoon – Years 1 & 2 – PACKED LUNCH NEEDED PLEASE.		
Friday 20th	Experience Pentecost – St Martin's Church activity day		
SATURDAY 21 st	Formula Goblin (Race car) race		
Monday 23rd	Monday Lunch	6:30 SATS TESTS FOR PARENTS! Come and sit a Maths / Grammar / Reading test! See over.	
Tuesday 24 th	Year two dance day – Cluster event here at North Nibley AND Wildlife Quiz area finals against British School		
Friday 27th	Training day for some teachers and TAs. Last day of TERM 5		
THIS SUMMER – Pupil days	NEXT AUTUMN – Pupil days	NEXT SPRING – Pupil days	NEXT SUMMER – Pupil days
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 5 24/04/17 - 26/05/17
Term 6 06/06/16 - 20/07/16	Term 2 31/10/2016 – 16/12/2016	Term 4 20/02/2017 – 07/04/2017	Term 6 05/06/17 - 19/07/17

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

Headteacher: Mr Paul Batchelor N.P.Q.H.

Email: admin@northnibley.gloucs.sch.uk

Telephone: (01453) 542600

Website: www.northnibley.gloucs.sch.uk

13th May 2016

Dear Parents (of children of ALL ages),

The SATS tests for Year 6 are over for 2016!

Before the school receives the results (tests are externally marked) I thought I would share some of the concerns now being made public – concerns which might be puzzling you.

There is little doubt that this has been a year of unprecedented change for all schools, not least in the area of school assessment. Often these changes have been characterised by confusion.

- The Department for Education (DfE) have published assessment resources late, resources which have been open to misinterpretation, causing further delay
- The DfE accidentally published on-line the Year 2 Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling Test paper (leading to the scrapping of this test)
- Parents have held a 'pupil strike' over SATS, including the appropriateness of the content being tested, its difficulty and 'labelling' of children
- The Reception Baseline tests introduced by the DfE in 2015 have been abandoned
- The DfE has declared its intention to manipulate test thresholds to control the numbers of schools deemed to be failing (and by definition, the number of those who are not)
- There has been a U-turn on forced academisation, and belated recognition that small rural schools such as ours require special protection.

This is also the first time this new curriculum, with its higher expectations, has been tested. Until the Year 6 tests are marked we have no clear indications of what the pass marks might be, and no clear understanding of who might have reached the required standard. In Reading, Grammar and Maths tests this actually makes sense because, for the first time, the pass mark will be set using the actual results of all the children taking the test. However it does make progress impossible to predict. In the assessment of writing it is recognised that the different methodology used can distort school results when cohorts (such as ours) are small.

These tests are mainly about school accountability, and since the stakes are high and outcomes public, schools are very concerned. Schools share parental concerns about the new way these tests label pupils and the impact this could have on their confidence going forward. We will find out how to report on results later this month.

There is no immediate end to the changes. This year's standards are described as 'interim' and therefore we might have a different set of standards for summer 2017. We will continue to place each child at the centre of our work. Please support them and ask us questions about any aspect of what we do.

As a team we have worked hard to implement the required changes. I know that at North Nibley we have a curriculum which makes sense, is measurable and is being used to design lessons which deliver the learning that our assessments tell us is needed, at school, class, group and individual levels. Through my 'quality assurance' activities as Head Teacher I have every confidence that high quality teaching and learning is happening in our school, and that no child has been disadvantaged as a result of these changes.

Just how hard are the tests? We invite you to experience a Year 6 SATS test - for real!

You can mark your own and there will be no requirement to share results, but it could be a real eye opener! If you are up for this, do join me in the hall on Monday 23rd May at 6:30 p.m.

Best wishes,

Paul Batchelor,
Head Teacher

NORTH NIBLEY C OF E SCHOOL

13/5/16

Dear Parents /carers,

The much anticipated race day for our Goblin Car is at Renishaw's New Mills site on Saturday 21st May. Please arrive at 9.00am and use entrance B. The event will take place in the staff car park.

There are 11 races, the event is expected to finish between 1.00 and 2.00pm. Please provide your own refreshments both food and drink. We have boiler suits for the drivers which will provide protection for arms and legs, but do come prepared for the weather!

Priority for drivers will be Year 6 (we hope to enter again next year!) , but the whole class is welcome to come offer support, for part or all of the morning . We do need a parent to stay with each child.

Please fill in the slip below to indicate whether your child is able to attend so that we can pre allocate drivers to races.

Ms Surrige

Class Teacher.

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Saturday 21st May _ Goblin races Renishaw- New Mills

My child..... will /will not be able to attend

Signed.....

NORTH NIBLEY C OF E SCHOOL

12/5/16

Dear Parent,

On Tuesday 17th May your child has been invited to Renishaw PLC for a company tour, a talk from some of their engineers and a small 'challenge' .

Light refreshments will be served to the children. This experience follows the in school DT day where they were the ' winners ' in the design and build challenge.

Mrs Gordon has kindly agreed to take the children and will stay with them during the visit. They will be leaving school at about 9.10am and return by approx. 12.15pm.

Could you please complete the attached slip and return by Monday.

Ms R Surridge

Class Teacher

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RENISHAW VISIT –Tuesday 17th May

I give/ do not give my permission for my child.....to visit Renishaws on Tuesday 17th May and travel in a parent car with the appropriate restraints, licence, insurance and DBS.

Signed.....parent/carer

11/5/16

Dear parents/carers,

As you may already know, we are currently learning the story 'Tiddler' by Julia Donaldson as part of our story-telling unit. Over the last week, the children have been learning this story using actions, role-play and a story map. The class story map has been sent home with your child if you wish to practice it with them. Reciting a story is a great way to learn the structure and understand new vocabulary.

We would like to invite you to learn our actions and story map on Tuesday 17th May at 2.30 in Class 2. This session will be approximately 30 minutes and will mainly be child-led, including a small group performance. So it's a chance for the children to teach you about our learning. Story-telling is an essential part of the curriculum and if adults at home can learn the story together with their child, it will certainly benefit their writing.

We hope that you can join us in our learning journey!

Thank you.

Miss A. Tyers

NORTH NIBLEY C OF E SCHOOL

The Redwood Outdoor Centre - Halmore - Year I and Year 2

11/5/16

Dear Parents,

On Thursday 19th May we will be taking the year 1's and 2's to use Redwood outdoor centre to work on curriculum activities, using the outdoors to support our Science lessons we will be looking at classifying habitats or mini beasts.

This outdoor learning consolidates and enhances classroom learning and is encouraged under the new curriculum.

We will be travelling by coach and will need to ask for a voluntary contribution towards the cost of transport of £2.50. per child.

We will leave school about 12.00pm and return for the end of the school day.

ALL CHILDREN WILL NEED A PACKED LUNCH.

Please ensure all children have their water bottles with them.

As the time will be spent working in the forest, the children will need long sleeved tops and trousers to protect them from stinging nettles, ticks etc. Please make sure they have waterproofs and wellies depending on the day! All children need their school tops.

Miss Tyers and Miss Allen

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Year 1 and 2 Outdoor Learning Redwood – Halmore. Thursday 19TH May

I do /do not give my permission for my child.....to travel to Halmore by coach.

I have enclosed my contribution towards the transport cost of £2.50

Signed.....

NORTH NIBLEY C OF E SCHOOL

10/5/16

Dear Parents,

On Thursday 9th June we hope to take our Year 6 to the Leavers Service at Gloucester Cathedral, travelling in staff cars.

We will be leaving school at about 11.15am so could you please ensure your child brings a packed lunch that day.

The theme for this years' service is 'Making a difference', a celebration of the inspirational contribution Her Majesty the Queen has made to our country.

The charity collection this year will be for 'The Peace and Hope Trust' which provides lavatories for children at school in Nicaragua.

Could you please send in your contribution of £2.00 a head to support this cause.

I have had several parents enquire if they could attend this service. It is just for the leavers themselves, and there are no public seats available.

Could you please sign and return the permission slip below

Thank you

Mr P Batchelor

Head Teacher

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The Leavers' Service Gloucester Cathedral Thursday 9th June

I do / do not give my permission for my child.....to travel by staff car with the appropriate restraints, licence and insurance, to attend the leavers service.

I have enclosed my donation of £2.00.

Signed.....

NORTH NIBLEY C OF E SCHOOL

The Redwood Outdoor Centre - Halmore - Reception. Thursday 19th May

9/5/16

Dear Parents,

On Thursday 19th May we will be taking Reception to use Redwood outdoor centre to work on curriculum activities, using the outdoors to explore transient Art, (art based on natural materials).

This outdoor learning consolidates and enhances classroom learning and is encouraged under the new curriculum.

We will be travelling by coach and will need to ask for a voluntary contribution towards the cost of transport of £2.50. per child.

We will leave school about 9.15 and return by lunchtime. Please ensure all children have their water bottles with them.

As the time will be spent working in the forest, the children will need long sleeved tops and trousers to protect them from stinging nettles, ticks etc. Please make sure they have waterproofs and wellies depending on the day! All children need their school tops.

Miss Allen
Class Teacher

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Reception - Outdoor Learning Redwood – Halmore. Thursday 19th May

I do /do not give my permission for my child.....to travel to Halmore by coach.

I have enclosed my contribution towards the transport cost of £2.50.

Signed.....