



Learning, Achievement, Faith & Fun!

# NEWSLETTER 215

Monday 24th November 2017

On this date in 1895 Swedish chemist Alfred Nobel's will establishes the Nobel Prize.

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Dear Parents and Friends,



## “This school continues to be good.”

**Our Ofsted Inspection Report is published today and I encourage you to read it in full. Celebrate with us that so many of our strengths are acknowledged, and work with us to support our drive for higher standards, especially in Writing. Talk about it with friends, especially those choosing a place for their children in years to come.**

Sue Bradly-Jones, our Chair of Governors, writes “The inspection report gives the school grounds for confidence and self-congratulation. The report recognises that the areas for improvement pointed out are ones already identified by the school. This is a good platform on which to build further progress and from which to maintain the school's high standards in so many areas.”

**SPECIAL REQUESTS FOR FRIDAYS** – Please remember that Year 6 require the ‘first’ row of chairs. Can everyone else please ‘budge up’? We have odd spaces appearing in the middle (since I added an additional row) and yet some visitors are still forced to stand. Those with younger children can feel confident that the school would fully support their early exit from assembly if children are creating a disturbance.

Thinking about our value of Service - “As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace.” The Bible, One Peter, Chapter 4 Verse 10. What are your gifts?



**DID YOU KNOW?** Each year we ask parents and carers of ‘new joiners’ (Reception or older) to complete a survey which helps us to understand better your experiences of joining North Nibley. Please watch out for this if you fall into this category, and please return it as soon as possible. It really does make a difference.

**Can you help?** At present teachers spend several lunchtimes a year co-ordinating parent-evening ‘slots’ and I wondered if these could be automated. I have put such a facility on our website - <http://www.northnibley.gloucs.sch.uk/appointments-demo/> (You can find ‘Book a Teacher Meeting’ under the Parents tab). I have set up two ‘fictitious’ parent-evening dates, Monday 15<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> January, and I invite you to test the system to check it works. If successful we will use it ‘for real’ with the February Parent Evening dates next term. Please set up mock appointments with several teachers. If it all works, booked slots will not be available to you.

**Thank you to FONNS for our new jumper!** You couldn't have missed all the staff in matching ‘North Nibley’ hoodies and zipped-up tops on Friday. It's more than just a garment – it says “I'm proud to be associated with this school, this community and with one another.”

**Take care on the pavement** outside the pavilion. I've asked Gloucestershire Highways if there are any official markings which can be made to warn children that cars cross the pavement to the car park. The response is “No, but school and parents can educate children, in the same way that we have to teach that cars cross pavements to reach private, residential drives. Pedestrians must be wary.”

**LOST PROPERTY** Please keep your eyes open for jumpers etc which may not be yours. Several parents are now missing key items of pupil clothing. Before the end of term (and earlier than usual) we will be setting out numerous garments taken off by the children when weather was warmer, and now languishing in the lost property box. Please help reduce this stack.

**MISS ALLEN REQUESTS** that if your Tapestry login no longer works, please contact her directly.

**WRAP-AROUND CARE** Please consider registering, even if you do not regularly plan to use the service. If they hold your paperwork, SuperStars will be able to cover in rare circumstances, such as the closure of the M5 resulting in your delayed journey home. As part of the selection process, Governors made it a priority to appoint an experienced and fully independent provider, so that the management of the service would not impact on the running of the school. For this reason all bookings, cancellations and illness notifications should be run directly through SuperStar's own phone numbers and email addresses. Call: Jon (MD): (07896) 796363 or Kristy (Director) (07817) 612995 Email: Info@superstars-activityclub.co.uk

It will help the school considerably if you could remember that the management of this service should be completely 'self-contained'. Illnesses etc which effect the school day should additionally be shared with the school as normal. We have created a page on our website - <http://www.northnibley.gloucs.sch.uk/wrap-around-care-breakfast-and-after-school-care-club/> with all the times and prices.

## CHRISTMAS DATES

<p><b>THURSDAY 30<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER</b> We are attending an afternoon performance of Dick Whittington in Cheltenham. We expect to be home around 5:30 ish. No Blogging Club and no Sports Club either! Thank you, FONNS for this amazing treat!</p>
<p><b>FRIDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER</b> <b>Classes 1 &amp; 2 nativity</b> <b>Dress Rehearsal, younger children, Pre-School and Nursery 9:30 a.m. TRADITIONALLY WE ALSO ALLOW adults who, for one reason or another, are unable to make main performances.</b> FONNS Christmas Fayre, in school from 5 p.m.</p>
<p><b>MONDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER</b> Classes 1 &amp; 2 Christmas Nativity – starting at 2 p.m. The post box will be in operation from this date and Class 4 'elves' will be delivering the contents soon after. ALL cards must go through the post box, since this eases several difficulties that can occur in the playground and classes.</p>
<p><b>TUESDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER</b> Classes 1 &amp; 2 Nativity – children MUST be at school at 5.30 p.m. for a 6:00 p.m. start.</p>
<p><b>MONDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER</b> Carol Service at St. Martins, from 6:30. This joyous celebration is open to all our community. ALL children from Classes 3 &amp; 4 are expected, children from Classes 1 &amp; 2 are asked to sit in a class group under their own teacher's supervision. All children in school uniform please, though festive 'enhancements' are allowed/encouraged!</p>
<p><b>WEDNESDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER</b> Christmas Lunch. Staff will serve. Parents are asked to return the pre-order by Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November.</p>
<p><b>THURSDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER - CHRISTMAS PARTY DAY</b> We ask that the following is donated for our parties – Class 1 – Fruit (Satsuma, grapes etc) Class 2 – Small cakes or chocolate biscuits Class 3 – Pizza (small pieces) or sausages or cheese Class 4 – Bags of crisps or small savoury snacks. School will provide sandwiches and the children will play party games in the afternoon.</p>
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> <p><b>DON'T FORGET YOUR CHRISTMAS JUMPERS!</b></p> </div>
<p><b>LAST DAY OF TERM 2. FRIDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER</b> Going on previous years' experience we anticipate that food left over from the day before will still be 'good', but will let you know if this is not the case. Staff will make fresh sandwiches. There will be no cooked dinners provided. Assembly at 2.40 as usual, to include the draw of the FONNS Hampers. School will close at 3.15pm normal time.</p>

## DIARY DATES HAVE BEEN ADDED TO THE SCHOOL WEBSITE. SEE <http://www.northnibley.gloucs.sch.uk/school-diary/>

Weds 29 <sup>th</sup>	WOODWIND lessons are ON!		
Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup>	PANTO (Oh yes it is!) Back around 5:00 p.m.		
Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> Dec	Classes 1 & 2 nativity. Dress Rehearsal, younger children, Pre-School and Nursery 9:30 a.m. TRADITIONALLY WE ALSO ALLOW adults who, for one reason or another, are unable to make main performances. FONNS & ST. MARTINS' COMBINED CHRISTMAS FAYRE		
Sat 2 <sup>nd</sup> Dec	Cross-Country at KLB, 9:30 for a 10 o'clock start		
From Monday	<b>NO MORE SCHOOL CLUBS THIS TERM.</b>		
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup>	Year 6 serve Monday Lunch in the village. Nativity in the afternoon.		
AUTUMN 2017 – Pupil days	SPRING 2018 – Pupil days	SUMMER 2018 – Pupil days	NEXT AUTUMN – Pupil days
Term 1 05/09/2017 – 20/10/2017	Term 3 04/01/2018 – 9/02/2018	Term 5 16/04/2018 – 25/05/2018	Term 1 04/09/2018 – 19/10/2018
Term 2 31/10/2017 – 15/12/2017	Term 4 19/02/2018 – 29/03/2018	Term 6 04/06/2018 – 24/07/2018	Term 2 30/10/2018 – 20/12/2018



The Virtual Bookbag <http://www.northnibley.gloucs.sch.uk/virtual-bookbag/> is updated late on Friday. In it this week -

- Term Dates for 2018 - 2019
- OFSTED report

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23 November 2017

Mr Paul Batchelor  
Headteacher  
North Nibley Church of England Primary School  
The Street  
North Nibley  
Dursley  
Gloucestershire  
GL11 6DL

Dear Mr Batchelor

### **Short inspection of North Nibley Church of England Primary School**

Following my visit to the school on 31 October 2017, I write on behalf of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills to report the inspection findings. The visit was the first short inspection carried out since the school was judged to be good in June 2014.

#### **This school continues to be good.**

The leadership team has maintained the good quality of education in the school since the previous inspection. You have worked effectively with newly appointed staff and, as a result, you have improved subject leadership across the school. Consequently, teachers' planning of lessons is better. You have developed computing skills within subjects. However, you know that pupils still need to engage in extended writing in more subjects. Similarly, they need to be challenged in mathematics lessons. You have also worked well to increase the participation of pupils in after-school events. In particular, you have increased the number of sports available.

Changes in the governing body include a new chairperson and several new governors. Governance continues to be a strength following extensive skills audits. Governors have received training on providing effective challenge to the school's leaders.

The strong relationships and mutual respect between teachers and pupils results in engagement and enthusiasm in learning. Pupils are supportive of one another. They are very welcoming and respectful of visitors. They are proud of their school. One pupil informed me that 'I like this school because the teachers know us so well and they make the work hard but enjoyable.' This view was typical. Pupils enjoy the wide range of sporting activities and trips.

Parents feel very positive about the school's development under your leadership. Parents commented that the school is 'all about the child'. They like the close community ethos of the school.

### **Safeguarding is effective.**

Safeguarding is effective. The leadership team has ensured that all safeguarding arrangements are fit for purpose. Records are detailed and of high quality. Staff carry out thorough checks. The school is a safe place. Reports from the governing body highlight pupils' safety as an ongoing priority.

Every member of staff and volunteer is aware of their responsibilities. They receive regular training and support. Staff know the pupils well. Vulnerable pupils are monitored carefully.

Pupils feel safe at school. They support one another if they have a concern or worry. They know that staff in school will help them too. Pupils spoke of how the school supports them to stay safe online.

All parents who responded to Ofsted's online questionnaire, Parent View, said that their children are safe in school.

### **Inspection findings**

- My first key line of enquiry explored how the curriculum supports the progress and attainment of pupils across subjects in different year groups. Pupils explore subjects through topic work. Visits to cities broaden pupils' experiences effectively. They understand different cultures and religions. Pupils make good progress in many subjects.
- My next line of enquiry explored the progress and attainment of pupils in writing. Pupils have not done well in the end of key stage 2 tests in writing. Staff have moderated pupils' work with other schools. This ensures that they assess pupils' work accurately. They have had training on their teaching of spelling methods. There is an improved assessment scheme in writing.
- Pupils' success in reading supports the development of pupils' writing. You have produced reading lists. You make sure parents understand the role they have in supporting their child's learning.
- You have introduced talking about topics before writing about them to engage pupils, especially boys. It helps pupils to appreciate the effects and impact of different techniques and styles. More recently, you have introduced blogs for pupils. In addition, some pupils write a diary regularly. As a result, pupils, especially boys, are making greater progress in their writing. This is an area that the school needs to develop further. Enabling pupils to write for specific audiences and purposes remains a key focus for you.
- My next line of enquiry explored the progress and attainment of pupils in mathematics. Results in the end of key stage 2 tests in 2017 showed a dip in performance. You were quick to analyse the issues. You have provided support

swiftly for teachers and pupils. You have explored methods for teaching ratio and proportion. Teachers have greater expertise now. Targeted, individual sessions on the specific learning needs of pupils have improved progress. Pupils have a greater mastery of key mathematical concepts. Pupils' interest and enthusiasm are better. However, some mathematics work does not sufficiently challenge pupils, including the most able.

- I looked at leaders' actions to secure the progress of the most able and middle-ability pupils. Assessment is more secure. Work is targeted at the appropriate ability level. Teachers encourage pupils to be aspirational. The most able pupils achieved better than others nationally in the end of key stage 2 tests in 2016/17. Currently, this group of pupils is making rapid progress.
- My final line of enquiry focused on how leaders' actions have been successful in improving attendance. You have tackled this issue by working closely with families. You have educated them about the importance of attendance. For example, you demonstrated the impact low attendance has upon future educational success. You liaised with other agencies when necessary. Strong, supportive leadership has improved attendance for all groups in the current academic year so that it is at least in line with the national average.

### **Next steps for the school**

Leaders and those responsible for governance should ensure that:

- pupils engage in extended writing for a range of purposes and audiences across the curriculum
- pupils are challenged to develop their reasoning and problem solving in mathematics.

I am copying this letter to the chair of the governing body, the director of education for the Diocese of Gloucester, the regional schools commissioner and the director of children's services for Gloucestershire. This letter will be published on the Ofsted website.

Yours sincerely

**Matthew Shanks**  
**Ofsted Inspector**

### **Information about the inspection**

During the inspection, you joined me in observing learning in classrooms. Together, we looked at pupils' books. I held meetings with senior staff and five governors, as well as speaking to staff during the school day. I scrutinised a wide range of documentation, including the school's self-evaluation and development plans, governor minutes and visit notes. I looked at safeguarding and child protection

records and the school's assessment information. I spoke with a member of the local authority with responsibility for supporting the school.

I talked with pupils in lessons as well as breaktime and lunchtime. I met with parents before school and took account of the views of 53 parents who responded to Parent View, and 11 staff and 30 pupils who completed Ofsted's online surveys.

**NORTH NIBLEY C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL - PRESS RELEASE**  
**OFSTED INSPECTION, OCTOBER 2017**

The governors and staff at North Nibley C of E Primary School are pleased to announce the release of the Ofsted report relating to the short inspection of the school on 31st October 2017. This school, the report says, "continues to be good". In particular we are heartened to see that our rich and stimulating curriculum is judged to support children making good progress in many areas. Other strengths were identified in safeguarding, behaviour, enthusiasm and leadership.

Inspector Matthew Shanks describes leadership as "strong and supportive", observed that teachers "encourage pupils to be aspirational" and noted that every member of staff plays their part in keeping children safe. Pupils feel safe at school and supported by the adults who work with them. Shanks also recognised the high level support given by the parents of children at the school.

Shanks found that the school had responded well to the two challenges presented by the previous inspection (June 2014). Computing skills had been developed within different subjects. Of the target to support the more able, he noted that these pupils "achieved better than others nationally at the end of key stage 2 tests in 2016/17. Currently, this group of pupils is making rapid progress.

Whilst attainment is broadly in line with the National benchmark in Reading and Maths (with more able children making faster progress) the school is keenly aware of the challenge to improve progress in Writing. The inspection found that we have been "quick to analyse the issues" through our rigorous self-evaluation procedures.

Sue Bradly-Jones, our Chair of Governors, stated "The inspection report gives the school grounds for confidence and self-congratulation. The report recognises that the areas for improvement pointed out are ones already identified by the school. This is a good platform on which to build further progress and from which to maintain the school's high standards in so many areas."

Head Teacher, Paul Batchelor, said "We can feel very proud of our efforts to ensure, at a time when there is concern over a narrowing curriculum, that this school is 'all about the child'. We recognise that there are improvements to be made. Nevertheless, we have received a great validation of our work. We are on the right track, and will continue to press forward, confident in the support we have from our community and from the pupils themselves. This is an exciting time to be at North Nibley C of E Primary."