

Dear Parents and Friends,

Oh yes we did (have a wonderful time!)

Our grateful thanks go out to all of you wonderful fund-raisers! Because your efforts have been so successful we are able to treat the children to special events like these. Far and away, the most popular character in this year's Pantomime, at Cheltenham Everyman Theatre, was Tweedy the Clown, once again playing the part of the comic lead. This time he was suspended from a ladder, soaked in icing and he burnt "his botty" in a juggling act that went wrong! He even chose one of our pupils to help him practise catching rats (not very successfully), and we all laughed and cheered and booed in all the right places. Elderly theatre goers, sat behind us, commented that visiting the panto with children made it all that more special to them. It was a great atmosphere. Thank you again for your support.

COATS I spent quite some time today doing up coats for little ones. Please help your children to learn this valuable skill, and save my poor, cold fingers! Hats and gloves are also highly recommended on our cold playground.



NEWSLETTER NEWS

From January we will count the emailed version of the Newsletter as our main copy, and cease the 'default' position of 1 paper copy per family. We will also provide a pile of paper copies by the front door and train the children of the few families who do not subscribe to take one on their way out. This change comes as a result of improvements to our internet connection, the response of parents to this question in our surveys and our desire to do more to support the environment.

Exercise Books From next week we are beginning the process of sending home some of the exercise books completed in the school year 2016-2017. Retaining them, for possible use in an Ofsted inspection, proved a very wise decision, since our topic-based approach meant that current evidence of certain subjects for some year groups was thin on the ground when the inspector came calling. Our 'history-based topics are succeeded by Science, or Geography after Christmas, as appropriate. Have you visited our Curriculum Wheel? This page shows the importance we give to ensuring that our curriculum is broad, balanced and rich. When showing around prospective parents for next year's reception this week, I was asked what I think our strengths are as a school. You can be sure that turning out well-rounded, caring and enthusiastic learners was top of the list. These are the outcomes of a planned curriculum, and clearly evidenced in pupil work since the inspector agreed!

Class 1 Putting aside the need to children to become increasingly independent, issues are arising at the beginning of the day when parents, needing to have a confidential chat with the class teacher, are prevented from doing so by regular 'non-urgent' traffic into the classroom. We would like to remind parents that the end of the day is the best time for non-urgent matters and children should now be taking their bookbags into the playground first thing in the morning, ready for lining up. Your compliance will help maintain parent-teacher confidentiality and support a more efficient time of preparation. Thank you.

Thinking about our value of Service - "The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others."
Mahatma Gandhi (Preeminent leader of Indian nationalism, 1869-1948).

Parent Survey

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 15th and Tuesday 16th 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. I have replied to the **TWO PARENTS** who I know have tried this. If you have tried, and had no reply, please tell me the system isn't working – that's partly what a test is for!



New Building Update

Thanks to the voting of a good number in our community we are one of the finalists in the Aviva Community Fund (in the category of 'Up to £5000'). As a consequence there are now a few more 'hoops' to be got through before judging takes place. We'll let you know what happens!

Music lessons next term – please return your forms and payment as soon as possible.

Swimming – All Years 1 and 2 children start swimming lessons on Monday 8th January 2018. Please return your permission slip and payment (via ParentPay please) before the end of term. We would also welcome volunteers to accompany them – please ask in the office.

Uniform Orders placed with Linela (www.linela.co.uk) can be delivered free of charge to the school on 4th January. If you would like to take up this service please place your order by 11th December.

CHRISTMAS DATES

MONDAY 4th DECEMBER

Classes 1 & 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.

TUESDAY 5th DECEMBER

Classes 1 & 2 Nativity – children **MUST** be at school at 5.30 p.m. for a 6:00 p.m. start.

MONDAY 11th DECEMBER

Carol Service at St. Martins, from 6:30. This joyous celebration is open to all our community. ALL children from Classes 3 & 4 are expected, children from Classes 1 & 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!

WEDNESDAY 13th DECEMBER - Christmas Lunch. Staff will serve.

THURSDAY 14th DECEMBER - CHRISTMAS PARTY DAY 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.

**DON'T FORGET YOUR
CHRISTMAS JUMPERS!**

LAST DAY OF TERM 2. FRIDAY 15th DECEMBER

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.

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

Sat 2 nd Dec	Cross-Country at KLB, 9:30 for a 10 o'clock start		
From Monday	Last Young Voices rehearsal. NO OTHER SCHOOL CLUBS THIS TERM.		
Monday 4 th	Year 6 serve Monday Lunch in the village. Nativity in the afternoon.		
Tuesday 5 th	Nativity in the evening.		
Friday 8 th	Boys Y5/6 County Cup football Finals at Oxstalls Park. 4-6pm		
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 -

- Linela school uniform

