



NEWSLETTER 218

Friday 15th December 2017

On this date in 1970 the Soviet spacecraft Venera 7 is the first to land on another planet (Venus).

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Dear Parents and Friends,

Countdown to Christmas (part two)

14 sleeps to go - Many of us woke on Monday to a Winter Wonderland. The folk of North Nibley showed plenty of resilience and only 2 children were unable to make it in due to their specific snow-induced difficulties. Even so, we made sure there was time at the end of the day to enjoy the icy conditions. There are some pictures on the school website for you to enjoy.

12 sleeps to go – The children enjoy a Christmas meal, altogether, with the staff on hand to serve, which is a lovely North Nibley tradition. The children all made their own hats, and spares were made for some staff too. Mine was a very fetching pink and purple crown, with a generous coating of glitter and 'fluffy' bits. Thank you, Daisy and Bea! There are more pictures on the school website for you to enjoy.

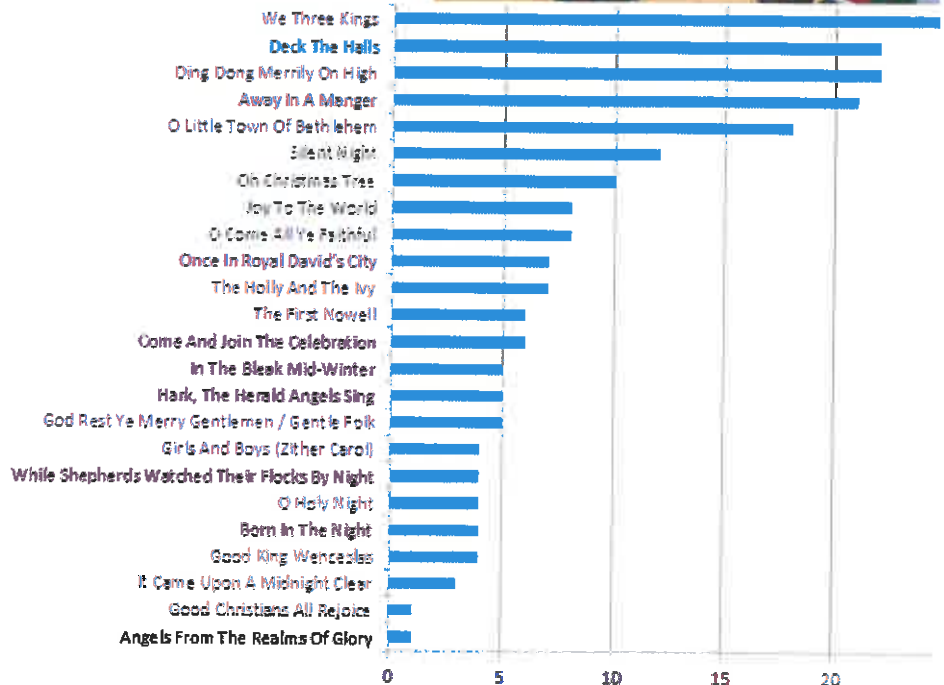
11 sleeps to go – Thank you so much for your generous contribution of food for the parties, and a special thank you to all those who remembered to draw attention to food containing traces of nuts. This made the process of keeping children safe much easier. Classes 1 & 2 began their party at 1:15, but at 2 o'clock the games stopped so we could welcome a very special visitor into the school – Santa! The children were allowed to open gifts to the classes early and were delighted with the surprises. Class 1 had been bought a huge (and heavy) farm set and Class 2 had a selection of wet play games, play dough and other art materials. Class 3 were excited to receive games and music, whilst Class 4 enjoyed a selection of games, music and magic tricks. Our thanks to the FONNS elves for all their generous support in making this possible.

10 sleeps to go – One of the highlights of my year is the Christmas Carol Service. It was such a disappointment to cancel Monday night's event, but the temperatures in North Nibley at the projected finishing time proved every bit as cold and potentially dangerous as had been feared.

As I write, I have no idea of the numbers of parents, relatives and other friends who will be able to join us, but I do anticipate virtually every child at school joining us, by virtue of the rearranged service. Sadly this was not something which could be guaranteed at any other time. My grateful thanks go to Peter Marsh, Wynne Holcombe and other church administrators, Sue Devine and a large number of others who were flexible enough to accommodate 'Plan B'. The results of the Favourite Carols Survey are shown in the graph.

Classes 1 & 2 Nativity Those placing orders should have been able to collect a DVD recording of Tuesday night's performance already. We are still taking orders (£3.00 with orders, please) for delivery next term.

Christmas Cards The school has used up the supply of Christmas Cards specially printed for the school at least 8 years ago! I would love to receive from children photographs with a Christmas / winter theme ready for next year.



SCHOOL DINNERS MENU The menu for the Spring Term has been added to the school website – <http://www.northnibley.gloucs.sch.uk/school-meals-menu/>

FONNS UPDATE - Mark Bargewell, the treasurer of FONNS, writes "The totals for the Christmas Fayre are:
 Children's Arts and Crafts £265.41
 Children's Plate Auction £111.50
 FONNS Stalls £808.37
 Giving a grand total of **£1,185.28**

The raffle is still going but so far we have just over £600 raised." Brilliant news, thank you everyone!

Thinking about our value of Service, Jesus said of himself "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." Mark's Gospel, Chapter 10 verse 45.

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 few 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.

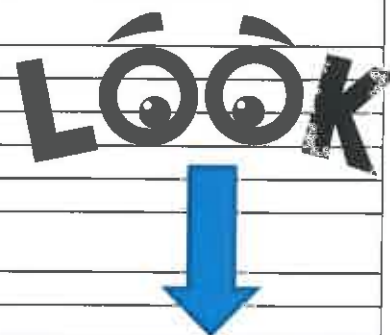
BECOME A VILLAGE HALL REP! School traditionally has a representative on the Village Hall Committee. If you would like further information on taking up this post please contact David Earle to discuss the requirements, which I think is a minimum of 1 meeting a year! David can be contacted on 01453 546659.

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. Thank you to all those who have volunteered to support these off-site trips.

Christingle – We have lots of collecting 'candles' available for children or families. Service on Christmas Eve, 6:00.
Stamps – please save your stamps for our charity box in the foyer.

DIARY DATES HAVE BEEN ADDED TO THE SCHOOL WEBSITE. SEE http://www.northnibley.gloucs.sch.uk/school-diary/			
Tues 2nd JAN	STAFF TRAINING (INSET) – No children required.		
Weds 3rd	STAFF TRAINING (INSET) – No children required.		
Monday 8th	First swim for all Year 1 and Year 2 children. Mixed Strings – special instrument lessons for Class 3!		
Tuesday 9th	First Violin lessons of the term (have you returned your forms?)		
Weds 10th	First Woodwind lessons of the term (have you returned your forms?)		
Friday 12th	Young Voices choir to Birmingham		
Monday 15th	Governor meeting (Teaching and Learning Committee)		
Weds 17th	Governor meeting (Finance and Premises Committee)		
Monday 22nd	Monday Lunch (Year 6 pupils serving community meals) Hi 5 Netball – 3:30 – 5:00 Further details to follow.		
Weds 24th	Governor meeting (Full Governing Board)		
Saturday 27th	Cross-country – Race 3 – KLB, 9:30 for a 10:00 start		
SPRING 2018 – Pupil days		SUMMER 2018 – Pupil days	AUTUMN 2018 – Pupil days
Term 3	04/01/2018 – 9/02/2018	Term 5	16/04/2018 – 25/05/2018
Term 4	19/02/2018 – 29/03/2018	Term 6	04/06/2018 – 24/07/2018
		Term 1	04/09/2018 – 19/10/2018
		Term 2	30/10/2018 – 20/12/2018
		NEXT SPRING 2019 – Pupil days	
		Term 3	07/01/2019 – 15/02/2019
		Term 4	25/02/2019 – 05/04/2019



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

- Letter re Non-Closure, 11th November •

On behalf of the staff and governors, I wish you all a very special Christmas and a peaceful new year.



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

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Monday 11th December 2017

Dear Parents,

Thank you for your support today. Over 97% of children were able to make it to school, with the roads around the school all easily passable. Clearly parents had to be mindful of their own drive ways etc, and make sensible decisions based on their own assessment of the risks, and they should feel that they have the school's support.

As you might recall, school lunches are cooked off-site. There was a delay in finding out whether the caterers would be working, and pressure to make a decision earlier rather than later. For this reason I was in contact with 4 near-neighbours and 4 members of our community from further afield, from 6:30 onwards, to collect as much information as possible. I decided not to wait for clarification from caterers. As it turns out, 'production' of the meals was switched from one venue to another, and transportation routes revised etc. As you might appreciate, arrangements can be quite complex. Never-the-less, I want to reassure you that all children would have been fed irrespective of the caterer's decisions. Thank you to all those who offered to bring extra!

With such a high turnout of children, teachers were able to advance their teaching plans, and children will have been learning and making progress across the day. This is the primary focus of our school and in this we also look to you for support. We are not oblivious to the attractions of playing in the snow, but mindful not to have children sat in wet clothing for hours on end. We therefore decided to allow them on to the field from 2:30.

Temperatures are predicted to be -5 tonight when we would be leaving the church. In view of this we have decided to postpone the Carol Service. We have rescheduled this for 1:30 p.m. on the afternoon of Friday 15th December. I am sure that if you are a working parent or friend of the school, and unable to attend, this is a disappointment to you. However, given the number of commitments our children have outside of school hours this week (swimming, brownies, guides, tutoring, piano, gymnastics and football were mentioned!) any other evening would see us much depleted in number.

Again, thank you for your understanding in challenging circumstances.

Best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Paul Batchelor

Head Teacher.