

Dear Parents and Friends,

Third Year, Running!



North Nibley have retained the Small School shield for Cross Country, making it 3 years in a row. Arthur said "In cross country we raced against other schools from our district at KLB. It was firing but it felt good to participate". Joss really enjoyed it. "All my friends were really supportive and it encouraged me to try my hardest. I came first out of all of the Junior Girls competition." Mark added "Three of our boys were in the top 10 in the Senior Boys competition." Freddie: "We came first out of all the small schools, winning 3 of the 4 events in the season." Emily and Catherine felt very happy. "Everyone got to hold the shield in the end." Oliver, in Year 6, completes our story. "I enjoyed the cross-country because it's nice to get out really early on a Saturday morning and run for my school. I'm glad I got a trophy in my last year."



We've Struck GOLD! On Thursday Mr Jeffery, representing the School Games, arrived at school to present our newly re-certified GOLD award for participation in the school games, our achievements, and all that we are doing to promote healthy life styles in the P.E. and Sport curriculum. He told us that of the 70-80 schools in the area, only 5 had qualified at the gold level, so we all felt really proud of ourselves and the work we do. Mr Jefferies also told us about the importance of 'sportsmanship' –our willingness to play by the rules and mutual encouragement to be our best. North Nibley children certainly have that quality in abundance. One of our number received the award on behalf of the school and then we awarded the running certificates for the Thursday morning run. The numbers participating were truly impressive. Thanks, as ever, to Mrs Dixon and all those who support her in creating these special opportunities for the children.



Smile! The offices at the front of the school and the entrance lobby were built in a pre-Dunblane era and we have always been aware that visitor entry needs to be carefully managed. The ability of staff to respond to 'the buzzer', when visitors call, has been greatly enhanced by the addition of a small camera which relays images to the school office. In this way we are able to add an extra dimension to our site security and work to keep your children safe.



Are your children as safe as they could be? It is an absolute priority for the school to have accurate contact information for each pupil. If you have moved house, changed phone numbers or email address please let us know, preferably the day after the change!

Lateness Can I remind you that the playground is supervised from 8:40, the bell is rung so that lining up happens at 8:55. By 9:00 registers are nearly complete, the teachers are teaching and the children are learning. Please make every effort to reverse bad habits that might be creeping in.

Broken Boiler The heating to Classroom 2 and the hall has been restored!

Intercession We've been invited to submit a prayer for inclusion in the Diocesan Calendar of Intercession, which should be published in mid-April. You can download a copy from this web page.

<http://www.gloucester.anglican.org/about-us/christian-faith-what-we-believe/calendar-of-intercessions/>

Bookbags We have noticed that an increasing number of children are adorning their bookbags with toys on keyrings. These are causing problems in the playground when toys become detached / lost / found and argued over. There are delays in the classrooms, when queues of children develop at the class drawer units. Each successive child struggles with putting the bulky bag in the drawer, or removing a wedged bag from an over-filled drawer. Sorry, but we will be limiting bookbag adornments to a single keyring item per child. Your support in this would be most welcome.

Uniform UPDATED I have noticed that standards of appearance is dropping, with non-standard (shocking) socks and overly large footwear becoming common. This week I have also noticed an outbreak of large 'jo-jo' bows. I would imagine they would look good in school colours! Please ensure that the school's good image and reputation is upheld with your choices.

Compassion is our Value in Focus: "No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted." Aesop

Children enjoyed the return of '**Welly Wednesday**', an opportunity to enjoy a bracing walk around the school field at lunchtime. Please note, wellies MUST be named AND in a named carrier bag AND left neatly in a line by the back steps or 'map room' if children want to take part (rain permitting!)

CAN YOU HELP?

It's 'old news' now, but schools are still enduring the cuts to spending on public services which started in 2010, and costs only ever go up. The music festival is the major fundraising event of the year, and many of the special items your child enjoys in school have been provided as a result of the fundraising efforts in the past. Please give serious, and immediate consideration to supporting FONNS over the festival weekend, starting Friday 6th July to Sunday 8th. A sign-up sheet where you can volunteer has been placed in the corridor, but FONNS are also giving parents and friends the option to use an online sign-up sheet as an additional way to capture as many people as possible. <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/GK5CVLC>

e-Safety UPDATED We have booked 'e-safety expert' Alan Mackenzie to run a parent meeting on e-safety awareness – and in particular how this applies to children and young people. This will be a Tyndale Cluster event so parents from other local schools will be joining us here on **18th APRIL 2018**. I can confirm the start time as 6:30 p.m. **AND THE FINISH TIME AS 7:30!** Since we are responding to a parent survey request I hope for a good turnout.

Can you help? We are looking for someone with good DIY skills to help make a repair or two around the school. Please contact us using the information above. Also, could a qualified volunteer PAT test two appliances please?

Website Request Do we have amongst our community any experts in SharePoint or Microsoft Teams? This would be another step for our school into the 21st Century.

Parent's Evening The staff have taken the decision, after our 'trial run', to go with the electronic appointment booking system for Parent's Evenings on Monday 19th and Tuesday 20th of February. Booking is now open. Please report any problems you have as soon as possible. This will give plenty of time to try again, via pieces of paper, if the system fails us.

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

Monday 29th	Swimming for Years 1 & 2 – See above Sports event – Cheltenham Ladies College – letters have already been sent. County Finals!		
HALF TERM	Chinese New Year, Valentine's Day		
Monday 19th	Parent & Teacher Meetings – no after-school clubs (this does not affect SuperStars – open as usual)		
Tuesday 20 th	Parent & Teacher Meetings – no after-school clubs (this does not affect SuperStars – open as usual)		
Friday 23rd	Class 4 SHOWCASE assembly, 2:40 in the hall.		
Thurs 1 st March	WORLD BOOK DAY – Watch this space		
SPRING 2018 – Pupil days	SUMMER 2018 – Pupil days	AUTUMN 2018 – Pupil days	NEXT SPRING 2019 – Pupil days
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 3 07/01/2019 – 15/02/2019
Term 4 19/02/2018 – 29/03/2018	Term 6 04/06/2018 – 24/07/2018	Term 2 30/10/2018 – 20/12/2018	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 -

- Headlice letter! (Sorry!)
- Parent / Teacher meetings – booklet.

