

Learning, Achievement, Faith & Fun!



NEWSLETTER 223

Friday 9th February 2018

On this day in 1555, Bishop of Gloucester John Hooper is executed for heresy.

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Dear Parents and Friends,

Staffing news I write to inform you that Mrs Lewis, Teaching Assistant and Midday Supervisor since April 2006, has decided the time has come to retire, and she plans to leave at the end of the Spring Term. Mrs Lewis has been a key member of staff around the school, guiding children in their learning predominantly in Class 2, alongside Mrs Ackerman, Miss Wright and Miss Tyers. She has been a significant figure in the life of the Running Club and Saturday Cross-Country races. She will be missed, but she has indicated a willingness to continue to support the running club after she leaves, for which we are very grateful. There will be an end-of-term assembly, to which you are all invited, at 2:40 on Thursday 29th March (since Friday is Good Friday that week, and the start of the Easter Holiday).



Governors have placed recruitment adverts online here (<http://ww3.gloucestershire.gov.uk/schoolvacancies/>)

Moon buggies This week Class 4 many children worked in small teams to develop elastic-band powered 'moon buggies' which carried an astronaut in the shape of an egg. "We had to design, build and test our buggies over uneven surfaces. We used the cobbles in the spiritual garden and outside classroom 1. The frame proved tricky to make and it was very funny when our egg got stuck inside our buggy! We learnt about the transfer of energy, forces and traction."



Deep thoughts, inspired by a picture of curry! (A morning 'quick write' from Classroom 4).

Crispy duck raps with hoisin sauce, they're my favourite, but someone from India may choose curry, or maybe not. People from different cultures have different tastes, spicy, sweet or even sour. Our differences make me 'me', and make you 'you'. Maybe you are an old man, or a young girl, but more than that you could have a temper, be feisty or maybe calm and collected.

Our differences can also make us the same, united, one. Some people, or nations, get picked on because of their differences. But everyone is different, and that makes us the same. Any of us could be victims of war, death, loss or bullying. But the truth is the one causing the pain is the one struggling.

By Fern.

Can we have our books back?

We are running up a large photocopying bill producing our Maths Passport help booklets. Please return the ones you no longer need. It would be good to see a number returned after the half-term break. Thank you.

Book reviews There has been a flurry of book reviews submitted over the last two weeks. Most have made it through the moderation stage, but there are a few left to process. Why not complete a book review of your own over the break. Book reviews are not limited to the reading challenge list. We'd love to read your thoughts on anything you are currently reading. (And it would also help to keep your writing skills sharp!)

Indoor athletics A good number of Class 4 also represented the school at the County Finals for Indoor Athletics. Pitched against much larger schools, we were very pleased with their overall performance. Mrs N. Dickson, who accompanied the children, said they were focussed and gave their very best. Children took part in the vertical jump, triple jump, 2 by 2, 4 by standing long jump, soft javelin, chest push and speed bounce.

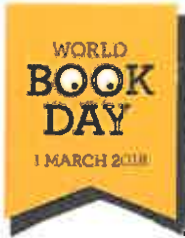


Website request Do we have amongst our community any experts in SharePoint or Microsoft Teams? This would be another step for our school into the 21st Century.

Sports Gold! Find out more about our recent accreditation with the Stroud News and Journal here - http://www.stroudnewsandjournal.co.uk/news/15863550.Stroud_schools_excel_in_sporting_competition_and_physical_activity/

Safeguarding update February has come around quickly, and it is time for our annual check on 'disqualification by association'. This means we require you to confirm that you are still eligible to work, or volunteer, at our school, by completing 6 "Yes or no" type questions. I do appreciate that for new volunteers it might seem like only last month you confirmed your answers, but since we have over 108 of these to compile we took the decision to do this once per year – and that time is now! Look out for your letter and return by Friday 2nd March. Thank you.

School Council News Elected representatives from the classes, under the guidance of Miss Tyers, have been working together to improve the school and organise events. Having recently carried out a survey to choose the best place for a new playground bin, they are currently reviewing the school's Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) for working online. Not quite finished in time for Safer Internet Day (Tuesday, this week) we hope it will soon be ready to send to the School Governors for official adoption.



World Book Day The School Council have also decided how we will be celebrating World Book Day, on Thursday 1st March. We will be dressing up as our favourite book characters. We are also asking children to bring in their favourite book. Older and younger children will be reading together, and to one-another, during the day. This year the organisers are asking families to donate £1 per child for dressing up. This money will go to "Book Aid International". Book Aid International have also produced free, online guides (and videos) to help you make 43 different costumes, if you are in need of inspiration!

Find out more here - <https://www.bookaid.org/support-us/world-book-day/world-book-day-dress-up/>

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. (In snowy, slippery conditions, we do of course expect you to make sensible and safe choices!)

Compassion is our Christian Value in Focus: "Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience." Colossians 3:12.

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>

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?

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. There will be no staff-run clubs on Monday or Tuesday, but Superstars continues as usual that first week back.

CLUB NEWS – NO SPORTS CLUB ON WEDNESDAY 21st. Country Dancing starts on Wednesday 21st.

e-Safety We have booked 'e-safety expert' Alan Mackenzie to run a parent meeting on e-safety awareness. Parents can join us here on **18th APRIL 2018**. The event starts at 6:30 p.m. and ends at 7:30 p.m. Since we are responding to a parent survey request I hope for a good turnout.

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

HALF TERM	Chinese New Year, Valentine's Day		
Monday 19 th	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 23 rd	Class 4 SHOWCASE assembly, 2:40 in the hall.		
Thurs 1 st March	WORLD BOOK DAY – See above		
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 -

- Compassion activity sheet
- Disqualification letters for our volunteers, staff and governors