

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.

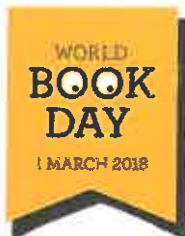
Website request Do we have amongst our community any experts in SharePoint or Microsoft Teams? This would be another step for our school into the 21st Century.



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

Dear Parents

SPRING TERM CLUBS -

ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITY

As previously indicated, we are able to run a Country Dance club in the second half of the Spring Term, and into the Summer Term, in preparation for the Spring Fayre, Saturday 19th May from 2pm til 4pm

My grateful thanks to Mrs Ciotti and Ms Hemmingway (plus supporter!) for their help.

Please complete the slip and return tomorrow, Friday or Monday 19th February at the latest.

PLEASE NOTE THE EARLIER-THAN-USUAL FINISH TIME.

Assume your child definitely has a place UNLESS THE NOTES BELOW INDICATE THAT A ROTA OR OTHER ARRANGEMENT BECOMES NECESSARY. If this is necessary we will contact you with details.

Please reply by Monday 19th February (school hours)

IMPORTANT DATES –

Other 'CANCELLATIONS' will be published as soon as we know of them!

Monday 19th February – Parent's Evening – No staff-run clubs. Superstars as usual.

Tuesday 20th February – Parent's Evening – No staff-run clubs. Superstars as usual.

Wednesday 21st February – No Sports Club – First Aid training for Mrs Dixon

THURSDAY 29th March – Last day of term. No clubs.

Day	CLUB	For	Run by	Times	Where	Notes
Wednesday	Country Dancing	Year 1 Upwards	Ms Ciotti and Ms Hemmingway	3.15 – 4.00 pm	Hall	

THERE ARE OPPORTUNITIES TO ADD LUNCHTIME CLUBS, E.G. CHESS, 12:30 → 1:00. Please ask if you think you can help!

Thank you for your co-operation. Please retain this page for your own information.

Please note that all helpers will need to be DBS checked by the school.

Yours sincerely, Mr P Batchelor, Head Teacher

AFTER-SCHOOL CLUBS

Commitment

Children who join clubs are expected to attend regularly. Please respect this since valuable time is lost worrying about missing pupils who have decided to drop out without telling anyone. Parents **MUST** notify the adult in charge of the club if their child is unable to attend for any reason. Registers are kept and absences are followed up so it is really helpful if teachers know at that time if a child is not attending. We also expect that children will be collected when the club ends, unless your Class 4 child already has permission to walk home. Please let us know if your usual arrangements need to change.

Kit

Children taking part in sports clubs will be expected to wear sports kit appropriate to the activity. If a club member cannot wear adequate kit, including footwear, then they may be a safety risk to themselves and others, and they will have to miss out.

Behaviour

We recognise that clubs, whilst not run on the same lines as formal schooling, nevertheless need to operate in a safe and orderly fashion, and we have clear expectations that the normal standards of behaviour and respect will be maintained. All children joining and taking part in clubs are expected to behave well, listen carefully and follow instructions straight away. The rules and expectations are the same as those during the school day. Children coming along should understand these expectations.

Please write your child's name against each club to which they are making a commitment.

Day	CLUB	For	PLEASE ADD PUPIL(S) NAMES BELOW
Wednesday	Country Dancing	Year 1 Upwards	

SIGNED

Please send reply slip in by **Monday 19th February** to enable registers to be completed on time.

Assume your child definitely has a place UNLESS THE NOTES ABOVE INDICATE THAT A ROTA OR OTHER ARRANGEMENT BECOMES NECESSARY. If this is necessary we will contact you with details.
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PLEASE RETAIN PAGE ONE SINCE IT INCLUDES IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY.

TALK ABOUT COMPASSION TOGETHER...

Compassion is about 'standing in someone else's shoes' when they are having a hard time. In other words, trying to understand how they might be feeling and doing our best to try to help.

Talk together about:

- how we can show **compassion** and kindness to one another at home
- recognising when friends at school need us to listen and act with **compassion**
- stories in the news demonstrating how strangers show **compassion** in times of natural disasters
- how nations show **compassion** to other nations at times of disaster or need by sending money or volunteers to help



THINK TOGETHER
Words of Wisdom

"No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted."
Aesop



READ TOGETHER...

The good Samaritan

When someone asked Jesus the question, "Who is my neighbour?" he told a story that surprised everyone who heard it. The hero was from Samaria but those listening were mainly Jews. (Jews and Samaritans usually kept well away from each other.)

"A man set out on foot from Jerusalem to a town called Jericho", said Jesus. The crowd murmured and exchanged knowing glances. They knew this was a lonely, dangerous road, a favourite place for robbers to attack travellers. "As the man reached a rocky and desolate place, a gang of robbers leapt out and beat him. They took all that he had and left him bleeding and bruised. To the man's relief, he saw in the distance a priest from the temple. A priest is bound to help me, thought the man. He waited until the priest came a little closer and then called out, 'Thank goodness it is you. Please Sir, take me to safety.' But to his amazement the priest hurried past pretending not to see or hear him.

As the poor, injured man grew weaker and weaker in the burning midday sun, he once again heard footsteps. Looking up he saw a Levite, another of his own people. 'Please Sir, please help me', he called out. Surely this Levite would take pity on him, but to his horror the Levite just kept on walking.

The man had almost given up hope when he felt a gentle touch on his shoulder. A stranger, a Samaritan, had bent down beside him and was bandaging his wounds and giving him sips of water to drink. The Samaritan helped the man on to his own donkey and slowly, carefully took him all the way to an inn. There he paid the innkeeper to look after the man until he was well. The man never forgot the **compassion** and kindness of the Samaritan stranger."

"Who do you think was a good neighbour?" asked Jesus.

Bible story based on Luke 10:29-37



QUIZ The Stranger on the road was kind....

Change one letter in the word to answer the next clue.

- The traveller was attacked as he walked along the **ROAD**
- Watching from the rocks was a small creature like a frog -----
- The Samaritan ____ the innkeeper to look after the man -----
- The Samaritan acted with courage. He was ____ -----
- We sometimes talk about the ____ of friendship (rhymes with pond) -----
- Wrap tightly with a bandage (rhymes with find) -----
- The Samaritan in the story was -----



FAMILY FOCUS

Random Acts of Kindness

Kindness is often appreciated most when it is offered at unexpected times.

Choose one week this term for your family to have "a random acts of kindness" week, and do something kind for someone each day. Try to do it without telling people it was you!



www.randomactsofkindness.org



HOME-SCHOOL CHALLENGE



Helping hands

As well as being kind and showing **compassion** in what we say, it is often what we *do* that other people remember.

Draw and cut out the shape of each person's hand in your family. Decorate it with all the random acts of kindness that they have shown. Mount the hands of each member of your family on some paper so they look fantastic and ready to be displayed.



FASCINATING FACTS

What a difference **compassion** and kindness can make!

Numerous charities help people who have been hurt, are ill or suffer through lack of resources. Below are just 3:

- **World Vision** encourages individuals and groups to 'Sponsor a Child' in an area of the world where food, health and education cannot be taken for granted. For just 75 pence a day the life of a child, in for example Uganda or Bolivia, can be transformed by providing help to grow food, source clean water, improve health services and pay for education.

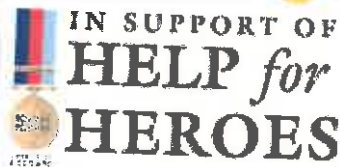
www.worldvision.org.uk

- **Help for Heroes** was set up after many British soldiers returned from war zones in Iraq and Afghanistan. By giving to this charity the public show their **compassion** for the soldiers and their families and recognise the service they gave on behalf of us all.

www.helpforheroes.org.uk

- **Help the Hospices.** Sometimes when people become very ill they go to a hospice which will provide them with care and **compassion**. Often hospices are maintained by donations from people who admire and value their service or who have had a relative who has been helped by the hospice.

www.helpthehospices.org.uk



HALL OF FAME

A famous bear with a spotty scarf



Pudsey Bear became a national mascot in 1985. He was designed by Joanna Ball and she named him after the small town in Yorkshire where she lived and went to school for many years, Pudsey.

When we see Pudsey Bear we immediately think of Children in Need. This charity has grown enormously since it began and raises millions of pounds every year. Thanks to people all over the country, children in the UK and across the world have come to know real kindness and **compassion**, made possible by generous donations to the charity. www.bbc.co.uk/pudsey

**Your Village
and your FONNS
needs You !**

FONNS
Food, Nutrition and Nourishment



BREAKFAST

SNACKS

DRINKS

BURGERS

**COFFEE
& TEA**