



Dear Parents and Friends,

**Staffing – Update** I am delighted to inform you that Geraldine Breen has been appointed to work as Teaching Assistant with Classes 1 & 2 for the final term of the year. Mrs Chapman will also be working in Classroom 1. This gives us some 'breathing space' so that we can arrange a more permanent solution in readiness for September.

**PERSEVERANCE IS OUR CHRISTIAN VALUE IN FOCUS:** "Perseverance is the hard work you do after you get tired of doing the hard work you already did!" Newt Gingrich

### Class 3 'step back in time' to the Victorian Era

On Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> May, Class 3 visited the Black Country Living Museum in order to learn more about their history topic based on the Victorians. 90% of the buildings in the village were real buildings from the Victorian Era that had been taken down brick by brick and rebuilt (like a Lego set) to create this village. We studied the lives of two real Victorian children. Their names were Harry and Lillian. We got to go into their houses and see what they would have looked like. In Lillian's house we even saw her favourite teddy bear.

Miss Parker's group enjoyed visiting the Chemist and they found out about how medicines and tablets were made in the Victorian times and saw the invention that rolled and cut tablets. Mrs Shephard's group enjoyed seeing the steam invention working for real and how it was able to lift a big bucket of coal.

We all participated in a Victorian school lesson taught by a Victorian teacher called Mr Griffiths. He was dressed in smart trousers and a double-breasted waistcoat and jacket. He held a cane in his right hand and never let go of it! He swung it through the air so we could hear the big 'swoosh' it made. He told us how this would be repeatedly done, either to punish children or just for no reason other than to scare them. Caning would only be done on your left hand as the Victorians believed that the devil sat on the left hand side. In the school we had to recite the 2 and 3 times tables as well as the alphabet backwards from memory! The final thing we learnt was that Victorian children wrote letters using 'hooks and hangers'. The only letter that cannot be formed using hooks and hangers is 'O' – well done to Abby who correctly answered this question in the school! Overall, we had a great day and nearly all of us would love to go back again!



### SATS Week

It's testing time again at school, and for the Year 6 especially this can feel like a critical moment in time. Parents can help children prepare for next week by revisiting the papers looked at in recent weeks and reminding them of strategies that work in areas where they feel less secure. Key to a successful week, however, is plenty of sleep, comments that boost confidence and plenty to drink. A 'wet brain' is much more efficient when learning and recalling all that has been learnt before. Clubs take place as usual.

**SATS** It really helps children to know that their parents are informed and supportive. If you missed last week's SATS meetings for parents & carers of Year 2 and Year 6 pupils, you can download our information booklets here – <http://www.northnibley.gloucs.sch.uk/supporting-learning-publications/> Look for 'Parent Guide to SATS.'

### Moderation

From time to time over the next few weeks teachers of Year 'R' (Reception), Year 2 and Year 6 from across our cluster of schools (Coaley, Hillesley, Kingswood, Slimbridge, Stone-with-Woodford and ourselves) will be gathering to compare samples of writing from their classes and agree judgements. School-to-school moderation has taken place like this for just over twenty years, but is possibly a little known fact of school life. In this way teachers are kept aware of how schools compare with one another, judgements are challenged or validated and it is a great opportunity to share good practise.

### All the fun of the Fayre

The Church is requesting kind donations of unwanted toys and games for a stall on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup>. Please bring any along on the day, from 2pm. The Spring Fayre is and organised by FONNs and St Martin's. The advertising banners are now up at the Village Hall and on the main road and preparations are well in hand!

**Reuse, recycle and RENAME** It is a fact of life that school uniform in good condition gets handed down, or along, and we support this entirely. However, it would make life far easier for school if the lucky recipients of pre-owned clothing could also RENAME the items, to speed the process of matching child to item when something gets lost (and this is increasingly likely given the improvements in the weather). Otherwise we have to play a guessing game, and invariably we get it wrong!



### EDUCATION IN THE NEWS

“Pupils face punishment for using plastic bottles”

In a national first, Brighton College has banned single-use plastics like water bottles, plastic straws or non-biodegradable cups as 'anti-social' and barred them from school premises. The move is part of radical new measures brought in by headmaster Richard Cairns as part of an environmental drive at the private school in East Sussex.” *Daily Mail, Page: 32 The Daily Telegraph, Page: 6 The Independent The Times, Page: 12 The Guardian, Page: 10 The Sun, Page: 23 Daily Star, Page: 22*

At North Nibley we have been doing our bit for the environment, but I suspect we could all do more. Asking you to think about your packaging is a start. I don't bring my lunch to school in sandwich bags any more – an old ice cream tub has proved equally sufficient! I want eco-champions to take responsibility for light switches around the school and I challenge parents to consider carefully the way that some leave their car engines running after dropping off or prior to collection. If you have any ideas on what more we could do, I'd be happy to receive them.

### NEWSLETTER

One unexpected consequence of becoming 'greener' and reducing our carbon footprint is that children seem to be missing out on school news, even to the extent that they don't know when their work features in a newsletter. We will rectify this by having just a few 'hardcopy' newsletters for the classroom, but I encourage you to share headlines with your children at home.

**CAN YOU HELP?** Last term I listed a number of ways that our community might be able to help us save money in these increasingly difficult times.

- Do we have parents or contacts who might be able to help us tune our piano?
- Do we have parents or contacts who might be able to help us with a new photocopier contract?
- Do we have amongst our community any experts in SharePoint or Microsoft Teams?
- We are looking for someone with good DIY skills to help make a repair or two around the school.
- We would be very pleased to received donations of boxes or tissues since colds seem particularly 'popular' at the moment. Thank you.

Superstars Activity Club, **our Wrap-around Care providers**, are looking for an extra pair of hands from time to time to help us out. It will be on the odd occasion when we are requiring cover. If you would be interested or know someone that would, please send Emma an email at: [northnibley@super-stars.co.uk](mailto:northnibley@super-stars.co.uk)

Kind regards, Emma White (Superstars Club Manager) Tel: (07983) 979877

### Appeals

We have posted on our website that those wishing to appeal to our Governors for a place in Reception (2018-19) should wait for the outcome of the Local Authority reconsideration/waiting list process. Governors will meet on the 5<sup>th</sup> June to consider appeals.

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

Monday 14th	Key Stage Two (Year 6) SATS tests begin today. CLUBS AS USUAL!		
Thursday 17th	Full Governor's Board meeting		
Friday 18th	Class 4 post-SATS picnic. Details to follow.		
Saturday 19th	Spring Fayre – see above		
Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> Ma	Monday Lunch – a Year 6 group at the Village Hall. Packed lunch needed.		
Weds 23rd	Class 4 – First Aid Training Quad-Kids Y3&4 @ KLB NO SPORTS CLUB TODAY		
Thursday 24th	Nature Quiz Area Finals, here at 3:30, against Stone-with-Woodford Last day for Mrs Dommatt		
Friday 25th	Last day for Mrs Green		
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> June	Class and School Photos, including 'Year 6 Leavers'. Be smart, bring a hair brush!		
SUMMER 2018 – Pupil days		AUTUMN 2018 – Pupil days	
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 5 23/04/2019 – 24/05/2019
Term 6 04/06/2018 – 24/07/2018	Term 2 30/10/2018 – 20/12/2018	Term 4 25/02/2019 – 05/04/2019	Term 6 03/06/2019 – 19/07/2019



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

- Families Magazine
- Floppy Hat letter