



Learning, Achievement, Faith & Fun!



NEWSLETTER 239

Friday 7th September 2018

On this day, 1251 BC, according to legend, a solar eclipse mark's the birth of Greek Heracles.

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Dear Parents and Friends,

Welcome (or 'Welcome back!')

The staff, governors and I are excited about this coming year, and hope that you are too! There's lots to be done (of course) but batteries are charged and plans are laid. The children are here (with some new faces in Reception, Year 3 and Year 5, so please make new families welcome) and we are raring to go.

SCHOOL RESULTS In the SATS tests of 2018, a larger proportion of last year's Year 6 attained the expected standard in the Reading test, in the Maths test and in the 'Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling' test than the average across all schools. Overall, a higher proportion attained the expected standard across Reading, Writing and Maths (combined) than was achieved nationally.

Early indications are that the children of Year 6 made faster progress than elsewhere, in Reading and in Maths.

This is a good set of results and a tribute to the hard work of the children, the staff and of course the parents who have supported us along the way. Thank you – you are making a positive difference to the life-chances of our young learners.

HOWEVER... Less children than they should have attained the 'Higher Standard' (or 'Greater Depth') in each subject, and our writing is below average, both in terms of attainment and progress. For this reason, 'Writing' and 'Higher Attainment' are two of the three key priorities in this year's School Improvement Plan. More on this later...

HOLIDAY DIARIES The staff and I have been fascinated by the diaries we have read so far. Obviously it takes time to read them all, but there will be a personal response to each child in due course. Thank you to the parents who have supported this drive to ensure that standards do not slip over the summer break.

HEAD TEACHER DROP-IN, 21st Sept 9:00 – 10:00, for any who want to share time with other parents and myself over a hot drink and a biscuit! We will meet in the staffroom.



ROCK BOTTOM A DVD of our summer musical is available from the school office, at £5.00 each, if you placed an order in July. All profits get carried forward into next year's props and costumes budget, so thank you for supporting this important part of our school's work. You can also view a gallery of photos here - <http://northnibley.gloucs.sch.uk/rock-bottom/>

STAFF NEWS Mrs Hale is unable to take autumn's woodwind tuition. We are making alternative arrangements and hope Mrs Hale is back with us in the Spring. Details to follow.

CONGRATULATIONS to Mrs Lewis and her husband, who married in the holiday. We are all struggling with the name change (away from Miss Parker) and I expect it will take some time before we are all getting this right.

ESSENTIAL EXPERIENCES

Thank you if you contributed an idea (or 10!). We are no longer accepting responses, and the School Council will have their work cut out for them reducing the many hundreds of submitted ideas (including lists we have at school) down to a manageable 100. You can find many of the submitted ideas here - <http://www.northnibley.gloucs.sch.uk/essential-experiences/> We will be publishing the results in due course.

REMINDER: We need to be a NUT FREE SCHOOL. This includes all snacks, packed lunches and cooked lunches too. This is a health and safety requirement of the HIGHEST PRIORITY for a school child.



PLEASE HELP We have some wild mushrooms growing in our grounds. Please reinforce the message that children should not pick and eat anything that looks like a mushroom.

FRIENDSHIP IS OUR CHRISTIAN VALUE IN FOCUS:

"My best friend is the one who brings out the best in me." Henry Ford.
Who was Henry Ford? Team points for a good answer!

P.E. KIT Please make sure every child has a P.E. kit in school every Weds, Thurs and Fri (ideally ALL WEEK if possible!)

PARENTAL SUPPORT: Encouraging a love of reading I would be happy to receive 'selfies' (and similar) of children reading in interesting places (but not in bed, or undressed please!) If you'd like photos shared in assembly, send them to newsletter@northnibley.gloucs.sch.uk.

FRIDAY ASSEMBLIES We've changed Friday's celebration of learning every year, giving some items a rest, or introducing something new. This year sees a return of 'Certificates earned elsewhere' and children are invited to bring in cups, rosettes, belts and badges achieved outside of school on the FINAL 'SCHOOL' FRIDAY of each calendar month. There is a box in the hall where items can be placed in the days leading up to the assembly. Also look out for new items, Head's Highlights and 'Spot The Value!' Assemblies start as close to 2:40 as we can manage - please join us.

BAGS AND PENCIL CASES Children should be bringing their school books in to school in Book Bags, which are designed to prevent damage to books. Increasingly there is a tendency to use large ruck sacks which are causing us real problems in our corridors. Children are not required to bring pencil cases to school. If they do, however, they should be small and practical. There has been an outbreak of large (and unstable) pencil cases which more closely resemble toys or fashion accessories. Please help us by thinking carefully about the choices children make.

REMINDER: BLUE TESCO TOKENS I have been stock piling my blue Tesco tokens against the possibility that one day they accept our request for support with the planned 'outbreak building'. A meeting about planning permission takes place next week.

PARENTAL SUPPORT "Well done!" The encouragement we give our children can make SUCH a difference. That's why I was particularly pleased to post online comments made by adults who'd taken the time to read the book reviews which the children have posted. Each child-author is thrilled when their work is recognised, commented on or raises a question. Why not visit <http://northnibley.weebly.com/book-reviews> and share a thought or two about the 105 reviews posted so far.

MILK Can I remind parents of Reception children that the 'free' milk your child enjoys comes to an end on their 5th birthday. Please either choose to continue the milk by paying for it yourselves or help us by preparing your child for disappointment!

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. In the next parent survey I will be asking you to help us judge the success of this measure, which began around Christmas time 2017.

STAMPS – please save your stamps for our charity box in the foyer.

CHRISTMAS SHOE BOXES Advance notice that we shall be supporting this charity once again.

DIARY DATES			
Tues 11 th Sept	Governors meeting the Diocesan Officer for Buildings (Breakout space)		
Mon 17 th	South Cerney Outdoor and Adventurous Water Sports – Year 6 trip 1 st Violin lessons		
Friday 21 st	9:00 – 10:00 Head Teacher Drop-in. All are welcome. See above.		
Monday 24 th	Year 6 (Group 1) serve a community lunch in the village hall		
Weds 26 th	1 st FONNS meeting of the year, 7:00 p.m.		
Friday 28 th	MacMillan Coffee Morning – Class 4 are preparing something special, 9:30 – 11:30. Watch this space! Special guest in assembly. Starting early – more details to follow.		
Weds 3 rd OCT	Arrival of a BOOK FAIR (for approx. 1 week). Details to follow.		
Friday 5 th	Welcome assembly for Reception – a more formal moment marking their arrival. Each needs a small stone.		
Sat 6 th	FIRST Cross-country race of the year, KLB 9:30 for 10:00		
Mon 8 th	Y6 Cycle training begins (All week). Parents' Evening. Details to follow.		
Tues 9 th	Parents' Evening. Details to follow.		
Tues 16 th	Harvest Service, St. Martin's Church, 2:15. All welcome. Details to follow.		
Fri 19 th	Class 4 Showcase Assembly – a window into the learning taking place in Autumn Term 1. LAST DAY OF TERM.		
AUTUMN 2018 – Pupil days	NSPRING 2019 – Pupil days	SUMMER 2019 – Pupil days	NEXT AUTUMN 2019 – Pupil days
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 1 04/09/2018 – 25/10/2018
Term 2 30/10/2018 – 20/12/2018	Term 4 25/02/2019 – 05/04/2019	Term 6 03/06/2019 – 19/07/2019	Term 2 04/10/2018 – 20/12/2018



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

- Taekwon-do flyer
- FONNS Christmas shopping evening
- Rednock Open Evening