



Learning, Achievement, Faith & Fun!

NEWSLETTER 240

Friday 21st September 2018

On this day in 1937 J. R. R. Tolkien's 'The Hobbit' is published by George Allen and Unwin.

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Dear Parents and Friends,

WHERE IS THE TIME GOING? Next week our Reception children attempt their first 'full days' and we are fully into the swing of a new school year. We have time for only the most essential updates here today!

SOUTH CERNEY 2018 Our Year 6s were part of a group of 85 'messaging about on the water' in the Tyndale Cluster's annual water-sports day (a tradition which stretches back for over 20 years!) A splashing time was had by all. Everyone took part in two of the four activities on offer – raft building, kayaking, sailing and canoeing. One of the highlights the children look forward to is leaping into the lake at the end, and there are plenty of photos of this on our website. There is a link on the front page.



WINNERS! "Children at North Nibley were delighted to discover that their involvement in a national pollination project had been recognised by winning the prestigious "Best Environment Project" in the 2018 National Lottery Good Causes awards. Our school had been chosen as one of 260 schools to transform our outdoor space into a pollinator-friendly habitat. Supported by environmental and education charity, Learning through Landscapes, the project was up against 700 entrants in this category, beating six other finalists to scoop the winning prize for their youth-led initiative Polli:Nation."

Through our commitment to Polli:Nation, and led by Miss Allen, we have encouraged our pupils to protect pollinating insects, with a dedication to increase the number and diversity of these species around our grounds. As part of the three-year Polli:Nation project, our school is also participating in a UK-wide survey from OPAL Imperial College London. Each year, the school is observing and recording the numbers of pollinator species that visit the grounds, and will compare results before and after the project has been completed. Our findings will help scientists to develop an accurate understanding of the current state of the habitats for Britain's pollinating insects.

FONNS FUNDRAISER - CHRISTMAS CARDS There is a pack coming home today which includes full instructions for the creation of Christmas cards. Your cards MUST be back in school by Thursday 4th OCTOBER – no exceptions!

BOOK FAIR we are hosting a book fair in October. A flyer giving details was sent home this week. This is a good opportunity to explore current popular titles with your children (and perhaps make preparations for December 25th?)

HEAD TEACHER DROP-IN Today just one parent (and a pre-schooler) attended. As a result of our conversation, however, I have a number of questions I would like to explore through our annual parent questionnaire. Were you aware, we have a 'Bright Ideas' box by the front door. Do feel free to share your thoughts.



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.glocus.sch.uk/rock-bottom/>

STAFF NEWS Mrs Boles has kindly agreed to teach woodwind lessons for the Autumn Term.

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT Class Letters and Topic Plans have been sent home this week. Copies have been added to the website (under 'Learning → Curriculum') and you can also find 'example' timetables there. The timetables are not straightjackets but could be used to give you a prompt when asking "What did you learn at school today?" Never accept the answer 'Nothing much!'

PARENT MEETING – SHARING EXPECTATIONS. Please return your slips to the office to indicate your intention to attend our special meetings. Wednesday 26th September: Class 1: 6:30 – 7:00 , Class 2: 7:00 – 7:30 (concluded in time for FONNS AGM) & Thursday 27th September: Class 3: 6:00 – 6:30 , Class 4: 6:30 – 7:00

THE FRIENDS OF NORTH NIBLEY SCHOOL (FONNS) hold their first meeting of the year at 7:30 p.m on 26th September. in the staffroom. Please join us if you can. This meeting follows straight after the parent meeting in Class 2.

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING Class 4 will be hosting a coffee morning for ALL members of our community (so why not invite a neighbour?) in order to raise funds for people affected by cancer. Join us in the school hall, 9:30 – 11:30

FAMILY PHOTOS We take it in turns with North Nibley Pre-School to organise family photos. This year the pre-school have organised the event, which will take place on Saturday 13th October, 9:00 – 12:00, in our school hall. **PLEASE NOTE** this is an update of the event announced for later in October. School will not be organising individual photos in school uniform this term, and we encourage you to use the pre-school event if you are keen to have a photo of this type. You might even want to bring a change of clothing with you?

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 or eat anything that looks like a mushroom.

FRIENDSHIP IS OUR CHRISTIAN VALUE IN FOCUS: From Paul's letter to the Philippians (2, verse 3)
 "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves."



WELCOME SERVICE FOR RECEPTION. As has been our way for the last 4 years, we will hold a special 'moment' in our Friday Worship time (on Friday 5th October) when we fully welcome Reception into our school community. Each child is invited to bring a small stone or pebble, as unique as they are, for adding to our plate. We will also celebrate the birthdays of those who have turned 5 since 1st September.

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!)

FRIDAY ASSEMBLIES 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, so the next opportunity is FRIDAY 28th OCTOBER – next week! Assemblies start as close to 2:40 as we can manage - please join us.

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'.

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.

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			
Monday 24th	Year 6 (Group 1) serve a community lunch in the village hall		
Weds 26th	FONNS AGM, 7:30 p.m. School staff room.		
Friday 28th	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 3rd OCT	Arrival of a BOOK FAIR (for approx. 1 week). Details in book bags.		
Friday 5th	Welcome assembly for Reception – a more formal moment marking their arrival. Each needs a small stone.		
Sat 6th	FIRST Cross-country race of the year, KLB 9:30 for 10:00		
Mon 8th	Y6 Cycle training begins (All week). Parents' Evening. Details to follow.		
Tues 9th	Parents' Evening. Details to follow.		
Tues 16th	Harvest Service, St. Martin's Church, 2:15. All welcome. Details to follow.		
Fri 19th	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 04/09/2019 – 25/10/2019
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 04/10/2019 – 20/12/2019



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

- Book Fair flyer
- Family photo flyer
- CLASS LETTERS AND TOPIC PLANS
- Aspirations Letter

We are holding a Book Fair



Where : The Hall

Time : 3.15 – 3.45 daily

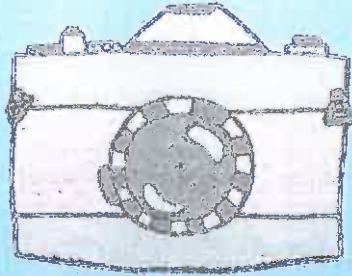
**Dates : Wednesday 3rd October
until Tuesday 9th October**

Payment by cash please

The school gets commission on the books you buy

Please come along and have a look

NORTH NIBLEY PRE-SCHOOL



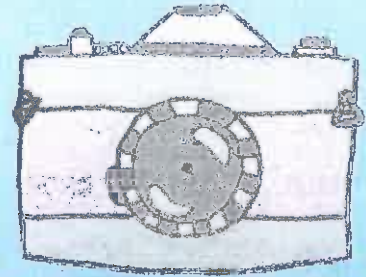
FAMILY PHOTO SHOOT SESSION

@ NORTH NIBLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL

**SATURDAY 13TH OCTOBER
9AM - 12PM**

TO BOOK A TIME SLOT
CONTACT JULIE DYER : 07817001421

NORTH NIBLEY PRE-SCHOOL



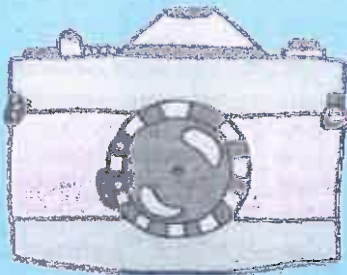
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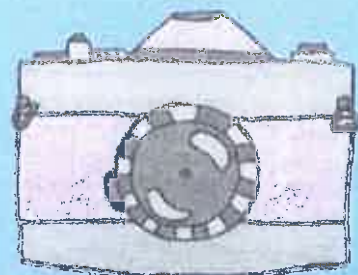
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9AM - 12PM**

TO BOOK A TIME SLOT
CONTACT JULIE DYER : 07817001421

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Class 1 and a new school year. We are so impressed with how our new reception children have settled into school already. Our topic this term is 'Why was London burning down?' This topic has a history focus. We will be finding out about Samuel Peeps who will teach us about what London was like 350 years ago. We will also be thinking about fire safety in the run up to firework night. We will also be looking at different seasonal changes as we creep in to Autumn.

If your child is new to reception they will shortly be bringing home reading books, as well as a 'phonics sound' book and 'tricky word' lists. Year 1 children will continue to bring home reading books and will also be bringing home phonics books containing the alternative sounds they have been learning in phonics.

It is essential to your child's education that you work in partnership with us and reading at home is a great way to get involved. Children should be reading their school reading book every night and we highly recommend that you read each book more than once. Not only does this help with children's ability to recognise words but it also helps to develop confidence and fluency.

School reading books should not replace sharing books together at home, for example, at bedtime. The school reading scheme provides a progressive approach to learning to read which allows children to apply the skills they are learning in phonics, however, a real love of reading, comprehension, inference skills and expression comes from listening to and sharing books with adults.

I will be holding a reading meeting for parents of children joining the school (and any other parents who would find it useful) in which I will explain how phonics works and how you can support your child with reading at home. In the past, many parents have commented on their limited understanding of phonics and this is a great opportunity to increase your understanding.

As well as this, to support your child with writing you can help them practise writing the sounds they are learning in phonics. For reception children this can be writing them in gloop, shaving foam, sand or gel pens, try to keep it interesting, however, it is important to insist on correct letter formation from the beginning, as it helps to stop bad habits forming. It is also important that when your child is writing or colouring that you try to encourage a correct pencil grip.

In Class One lots of our learning is facilitated by play and often this can be outdoors. We do have full waterproofs but inevitably children can still get messy. Please try to see that this means your child has had a great day of learning! If your child is one which gets particularly messy, please feel free to send in spare clothes for use outside. If you have any spare wellingtons which you no longer use in sizes which might fit our 4-6 year olds we would be grateful of any donations as ours are beginning to look a little worn out and holey!

It is my intention to make 'Forest School' a regular learning opportunity for Reception and Year 1 but without regular volunteers this will not be possible. If this is something you feel you could support, please come and speak to me!

The school runs on a Week A/B cycle. The week beginning 3.9.15 was a Week A. On Week A we have PE on a Thursday and Week B Thursday and Friday. Please ensure PE kits are kept in school on children's pegs and **ALL** items are clearly labelled. Please help children by tying back long hair on these days and avoiding difficult clothing such as button up shirts. **Children will need a pair of shorts as well as a pair of long trousers for the colder weather. Please make sure children also have a pair of trainers.**

It would be helpful if parents could donate a box of tissues and kitchen roll at the beginning of each term if possible. We also need lots of things for our creative area. We have many boxes for the moment but we are looking for some more unusual items such as tubes, pipe cleaners, old calendars for chopping up etc.

We are very grateful for any form of parental help that is offered. If you feel that you can help then please let us know. We often need help with reading or if your profession relates to our topic then we always welcome visitors to speak to the children. You will need a DBS check and to fill in a volunteer helper's form if you decide you can help. We can arrange this easily.

If you have any queries or concerns about your child or school please do not hesitate to come in and see me after school.

Thank you,
Miss Allen

Communication, language and Literacy

Year 1

Traditional tales
Stories with repeating patterns
Phase 4 and 5 phonics
Newspaper reports
Firework Poetry
Reception
Phase 2 phonics
Story telling
Home corner role-play
Show and tell
Responding to simple instructions

Why was London Burning?



CLASS 1

AUTUMN 2018

Physical Development

Moving and handling
Show appropriate control in large and small-scale movements.
Using a range of small and large equipment
Health and self care
Dresses with help being encouraged to manage changing without support
Understands the benefit of eating healthy food during snack time
Reception and Year 1
Developing fundamental games skills.
Gymnastics – increase range of basic skills.
Dance – creating and performing a class dance.

Understanding the world

Great fire of London
The life of Samuel Pepys
Map work
Food – How has it changed?
Fire safety

Art and DT

Making bread
Tudor houses
Fire work art

Music

Exploring beat and rhythm, historical songs and chants connected to the Great Fire of London.
Visit – To a fire station for Year 1, visit to school for Reception!

Independence

During this term we really begin to encourage children to become independent learners. You can help at home with this by encouraging children to carry their own book bags, practise changing for PE and in preparation for the cold weather, putting on their own coats and managing the zip!

Numeracy

Year 1

Counting to 20 ensuring 1 to 1 correspondence.
Matching quantities to the correct numeral.
Counting backwards from 20
One more/one less
Comparing and ordering numbers using equal to, more, less, fewer, greater
Addition and subtraction to 10 and then 20
Naming 2d and 3d shapes – talking about their properties
Writing numbers 1 - 20

Reception

Counting to 10 reliably using one to one correspondence
Recognising numbers 1 – 10
Recognising 2d shapes – talking about their properties
Recognising coins
ordering numbers to 10
Simple addition and subtraction to 10.

Our topics this term

This term we will be learning about 'The Great Fire of London!' We have set up a 'Pudding Lane Bakery' role play area in the classroom for the children to explore and imagine what life was like back in 1666. We will be putting our aprons on a lot for this topic as it consists of model making, designing, baking and lots of painting! We will also take a trip to the Fire Station where we will learn more about how they fight fires today compared with how fires were fought in the 17th Century. We will research the famous event using a range of historical sources and then create our own newspaper report imagining we were there at the time!

Parental support

We are very grateful for any form of parental help that is offered. **We currently need more adult readers to come in to hear our fantastic readers!** If you feel this is something you can help with you will need a DBS check and to fill in a volunteer helpers form. This can easily be arranged by visiting Mrs Kirby in the School Office and she can begin the process.

Reading

I cannot express how crucial it is for your child to read every day, whether this is a school reading book or one of your own from home. Please remember reading books will be changed as and when they are put in the changing tray, **we highly recommend that you read each book more than once.** This helps the vocabulary stick in children's minds for the future, it also builds children's reading confidence as they will find it much easier the second time, which lends itself to opportunities to start thinking about fluency and expression.

Year 1 homework

- Read at least 4 times a week for 5 minutes.
- Parents/Carers to read to their child every week.
- Recap the newly learnt phonics sounds from their red Sound Books (which should always be kept in their book bags).
- Learn to read and spell the 200 High Frequency words sent home in a plastic wallet.
- Continue to work through Maths Passport home booklets.

Year 2 homework

- Read at least 4 times a week for 5-10 minutes.
- Parents/Carers to read to their child every week.
- Complete weekly spelling homework and practise these at least 4 times a week (**Given out on a Monday and due in the following Monday for the spelling test**).
- Complete Maths or English Homework given out on a Friday and **due in for the following Friday**.
- Continue to work through Maths Passport home booklets.

P.E

We have PE on a Thursday and Friday on Week A (First week back) and on a Thursday on Week B. Please ensure PE kits are kept in school on children's pegs and **ALL** items are clearly labelled.

Show and Tell

Show and tell is a valuable way of developing children's speaking and listening skills. It is useful if you spend some time preparing your child's show and tell before they bring it in.

Welcome back to a new school year! I hope you feel well rested after the summer holidays and are ready for our first term back. I look forward to another exciting year with lots of new learning opportunities. If you have any comments or concerns about your child's learning, please do not hesitate to make an appointment to see me so we can discuss it further.

Thank you for your support. Miss A. Tyers

Literacy

- Traditional tales – 3 Little Pigs
- Instructions
- Poems with a Christmas theme.
- Year 1 – Focusing on Phase 5 phonics
- Year 2 – Focusing on Phase 6 spelling scheme

Physical Development

Moving and handling

Holding our pencils with the correct pencil grip.

Forming our letters correctly beginning to use joined handwriting. Managing scissors.

Physical Education

Football and handball skills

Religious Education

This term we will be learning about who Muslims are and how they live their life. Our value this term is 'Friendship' so we will explore religious stories that represent this value.

Great Fire of London! Class 2 Autumn 2018



Computing

- Sequences of instructions
- Simple coding for routes and problem solving
- Some typing and perhaps a blog or two
- 'Seesaw' app to show off our work

Numeracy

Year 1

- Count to ten, forwards and backwards, beginning with 0 or 1, or from any given number.
- Count in multiples of two.
- Count, read and write numbers to 10 in numerals and words.
- Given a number, identify one more or one less.
- Represent and use number bonds and related subtraction facts (within 10).

Year 2

- Count in steps of 2, 3 and 5 from 0 and in tens from any number, forward and backward.
- Read and write numbers to at least 100 in numerals and words.
- Recognise the place value of each digit in a two digit number (tens, ones).
- Compare and order numbers from 0 up to 100; use <, > and = signs.
- Use place value and number facts to solve problems.
- Add and subtract; a two digit number and tens; two two digit numbers; adding three one digit numbers.

Topic

We will learn:

- About events beyond living memory that are significant nationally.
- Know where the people and events fit within a chronological framework and identify similarities and differences between ways of life in different periods.
- Ask and answer questions, choosing and using parts of stories and other sources to show that we know and understand key features of events.
- Ask relevant questions to extend their understanding and knowledge.

Our activities will involve researching, painting, model making, bread making, designing buildings, reading diaries, a visit to the Fire Station and writing a newspaper report.

Dear Parents,

I am pleased to welcome you to the new school year and to Class 3! Before half term we will be exploring 'Our Local Area' and after half term be learning about 'Spain'. Our first topic will cover mostly geographical aspects of North Nibley which is outlined on the topic web. However, it is also really interesting to learn about the history of North Nibley and how it has changed so if you (or family/friends) have stories or information to share with us, please let me know. I understand that the children have a range of objects they would like to bring into school to share with the rest of the class however unless these are special items that relate to a visit or trip they have recently been on, I would appreciate it if they could remain topic related to avoid an influx of 'Show and Tells'.

Your child will be sent home with a reading book every day. They also have a Reading Diary in which they should write a short review about each book they read. Once children have done this, they are able to change their book independently the following morning at school. Please ensure your child has their reading book and diary in their book-bag every day. We are always **very keen** to have volunteers to hear children read so if you have any free time to do so it would be **hugely appreciated**.

On Fridays, your child will bring home a piece of homework reflecting work we have been doing in class, or in preparation for an upcoming topic. It is an opportunity for your child to share what they have been learning about. This should be returned by the following Wednesday. As homework is not a test, sharing this activity with your child is encouraged. However, if you feel your child had great difficulty or would benefit from more work on the homework topic, please feel free to write me a comment on there so I know that this is something I can look at again with them

Your child will bring home a dictation passage on a Friday which will contain some focus words from relevant spelling lists. They should practise writing out this passage regularly at home over the course of the week to help improve their handwriting skills, fluency and speed of writing as well as their spelling, grammar and punctuation. This dictation passage will then be read aloud to them the following Friday for them to write out.

Friday will also be multiplication test day! Your child will be aware of what times table they should be learning or revising as they will be given a sheet with these multiplication facts on it. Once your child has secured a result of 12/12 for at least two weeks, they will move onto the next times table.

Until Christmas, your child will be having PE lessons on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, so please ensure your child has their full PE kit in on these days. This should include trainers for outdoor PE and all items should be named. Please also remember that Class 3 will be going swimming on Monday afternoons, so your child needs their Swimming kit on a Monday morning. The last swimming session will be on Monday 19th November.

I look forward to seeing you on Thursday 27th September at 6.30pm for our 'Meet the Teacher' evening. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to come and see me at the end of the school day to talk or to arrange a more convenient time.

Thank you,

Mrs Lewis

English

Diary writing (using The Diary of a Killer Cat)

Persuasive advertisements

Stories in familiar settings (using Mr Majeika)

Poetry

Maths

Place value up to 1000

Addition and subtraction (mentally and using written methods)

Multiplication and division (mentally and using written methods)

Local Area



Geography and History

We will be comparing a European Country (Spain) to our local area.

Where in the world?

Map reading skills

Cities, towns and land use

Lifestyle

Festivals and Traditions

Spain



PE

Football

Handball

Swimming on Mondays

Art

We will look at the work of Picasso and Gaudi to inspire our own art work.

DT

Clay monuments

RE

What do Christians learn from the Creation story?

How do festivals and family life show what matters to Jewish families?

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to the new school year, I hope both you and your children had a relaxing summer break and that they are looking forward to working hard throughout the next year.

Our topic foci for the year up to Christmas are: 'Brazil' and 'Ancient Greece'. As you will be able to see from the attached planning there are some exiting activities planned.

Homework Reminder

It is expected that children will read on a regular basis and will begin to keep their own reading log. Please encourage them to complete some book reviews on the school website.

Children are also encouraged to continue practising the times tables in order to increase the speed of recalling them and related division facts.

In addition to the above your child/children will also be given up to 3 pieces of work a week, a piece of literacy, maths and a task that relates to the wider curriculum. I anticipate that each piece should take between 20-30 minutes. All three pieces will be sent home on Mondays and should be returned on Fridays. I expect children to complete all tasks to the standard that I expect in class. Should they have any difficulties please feel free to support them, discuss it with me or make a note on the homework.

Occasionally an extra piece of research work may also be given to support learning in various areas of the curriculum.

PE

Children have PE or Games on Wednesdays and alternate Thursdays and Fridays and need in school clear and practical PE kit and appropriate footwear. Once in a while it would be good practise for the kit to be taken home for washing!

If you feel able to offer your support with any area of the curriculum, I am particularly keen to here from anyone willing to support with cooking. Please let me know if you can spare some time.

Please feel free to pop in to discuss any concerns.

Ms R Surridge

Maths

Multiplication and Division facts up to 12×12 –focusing on increasing speed of recall
Place value— understanding numbers to at least 10,000,000
Multiplying and dividing numbers by 10, 100 and 1000
Addition and subtraction using column method
Converting between different units of measurements
Algebra—using simple formulae e.g if $3x + 2 = 17$ what is x

Literacy

Persuasive writing—posters, leaflets, letters and reports.
Class Novels—'The Explorer'—Katherine Rundell
'Who Let The Gods Out' - Maz Evans
Focusing on proof reading and editing work.
Using connectives to link ideas within sentences
Using commas to punctuate complex sentences
Spellings - prefixes and suffixes

ART

Pottery—
Focus Artist is Clarice Cliff
Children will explore the work of Clarice Cliff and compare this to clay pots from Ancient Greece. They will work with different media, including clay.

SPANISH

Lifestyles: words and phrases related to daily life, including food and drink.



Brazil Ancient Greece Class 4, Autumn 2018

PE

PE will be taught by Mrs Dixon on Wednesdays, Thursdays and alternate Fridays. It will include games focusing on attacking and defending skills and team play in football and netball.
Gymnastics
Year 6 working towards Play leaders certificate.
Year 6 Bikeability

ICI

Using the Internet for Research
Multimedia Presentation – using multimedia programmes to incorporate images, sounds and text.

Computing

- 1) Inputs, outputs, motors and sensors. Sequencing and debugging code.
- 2) Spreadsheets—formulae, formatting and fun!

RE

Why do Christians believe God is Holy and Loving? How does this effect their daily lives.

Cross Curriculum Topic

Geography Focus—Brazil (1st half term)
Children will develop their understanding of maps and the skills involved in interpreting maps.
They will compare urban and rural settlements and some differences between the rich and poor. We will also investigate the main industries of Brazil.
History Focus—Ancient Greece (2nd half term)
Children will develop their understanding of chronology and how we find out about the past from primary and secondary sources.
We will look at how many Greek inventions have influenced modern day life.

NORTH NIBLEY C. OF E. (AIDED) PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Street
NORTH NIBLEY
Nr Dursley
Gloucestershire
GL11 6DL



Headteacher: Mr Paul Batchelor N.P.Q.H.
Telephone: (01453) 542600

Email: admin@northnibley.gloucs.sch.uk
Website: www.northnibley.gloucs.sch.uk

18/09/2018

Dear Parents,

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN and PARENTAL ASPIRATIONS

School Results

We recently wrote about the standards achieved by our Year 6 pupils in their SATS. Positive results in Reading and Maths (both Attainment and Progress) tell us that we are doing a good job in these areas. Good though this is for the year group, fewer children than they should attain 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.

The third area is centred around parental involvement in pupil learning. Over the course of last year, it has become apparent that, in terms of pupil learning, we are not getting the levels of support we used to get. When it comes to cooking and trips, or fund raising, good will and the relationships between staff and parents, when it comes to feedback and positive endorsements, then we are truly blessed! But we have noticed some trends in the number of parents who are willing (or have the capacity) to support pupil learning at home, and this concerns us. It is the school's professional view that the attitude 'as long as they are happy' does little to prepare children for their further education. Only in true partnership will children fulfil their potential. I am sure that we all want the children to be happy AND successful.

Obviously, there will be parents who do not recognise themselves in this, and know they do as much as they can. Thank you. Staff want you to know that it really does make a difference. But we have decided that we can do more to support you in your role as a partner in the education of your children, and thereby raise expectations across the school.

The purpose of this letter is to invite you to an evening meeting in each class where teachers will outline ways in which you can support learning and pupil progress. We consider it vital that as many parents as possible attend and hear first-hand how your support can make a difference.

Additionally, this letter outlines a number of ideas (detailed in our School Improvement Plan) to build even better partnerships with you, for the sake of all the children.

Measures the school is taking

- We will hold 'book-share' sessions in school to give you time to understand your child's learning journey.
- We are re-writing our home-school expectations document, making it more clear what we expect from home.
- We are publishing further guidance on presentation in Writing and Maths, and re-printing our 'Supporting Learning' series of booklets to help you further.
- We are extending opportunities for you to get involved in school - 'monster-point' notifications can be delivered to your phone, we will be sharing pupil work remotely via the SeeSaw app.
- We will be publishing work from every child in a new monthly 'Magazine', and pointing out the strengths of each piece.
- We will invite you to special evenings to learn about Reading, Writing and Maths.
- We will share information about the software we plan to use to teach computing, hoping you can 'play along' at home. We will share information about the programme of e-safety measures your child learns.
- We will show you how to make comments on submitted book-reviews, and hope you embrace our 'Essential Experiences' initiative for a well-rounded childhood.
- We hope to develop the website in ways that keep you informed of progress towards pupil targets.
- We will share a version of the School Improvement Plan with you
- We will invite you to suggest other ideas that could improve the effectiveness of your support.

The staff will be making a significant investment in building better partnerships, on behalf of children. Please make every effort to respond positively. The children deserve nothing less!

'Understand the expectations'

Wednesday 26th September

Class 1: 6:30 – 7:00

Class 2: 7:00 – 7:30 (concluded in time for FONNS)

Best wishes,

Thursday 27th September

Class 3: 6:00 – 6:30

Class 4: 6:30 – 7:00

Paul Batchelor,
Head Teacher

I am able to attend the meeting with my child's teacher.

CHILD's NAME _____ CLASS _____ YES / NO

CHILD's NAME _____ CLASS _____ YES / NO

CHILD's NAME _____ CLASS _____ YES / NO

Signed _____