



Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2019

On this day in 1790 1st US President George Washington delivers 1st state of the union address

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Dear Parents and Friends,

Happy New Year!

**CHRISTMAS** The year finished with parties and party food on the Thursday. We had a lot of fun! I was also able to add photos from the Christmas meal to the front page of the website.

**CLASSES 1 & 2 – ‘BORN IN A BARN’ NATIVITY.** DVDs of this delightful performance are available from the office at £3.00 a copy. Please ask for details.

**STAFFING NEWS** Congratulations to Miss Tyers who has been taken on to the Local Authority’s team of Year 2 moderators for Writing SATS. This is an opportunity to share her expertise with other teachers of Year 2 children in schools across the county, when the statutory assessments are made in May next year. She will, therefore, require a few release days, for training and moderating at intervals between now and then. She remains a full-time teacher at North Nibley!

**STAFFING NEWS** Mrs Shephard (Shephard ‘with an A’) has been in touch and she thanks everyone for their warm messages of support. She writes “We have set up a Precious Star fund in memory of Isaiah to support the work of the charity Bliss and the Southmead NICU who are both incredible organisations and we cannot thank them enough. There is definitely no expectation to give to this fund but we wanted to set up something positive that will hopefully help future babies and families. The fund will be open indefinitely so if people wish to pay their respects this is what we are guiding them to including our families. Here’s the link <https://isaiah-shephard.muchloved.com/> Mrs S Shephard has informed us that she wishes to return to work around May.

**CLUBS** Please talk to me at the earliest convenience if you’d like to help support a club in the next year.

- Gardening It would be great to see the gardening club reinstated in the new year. Our potting shed is nearly usable once again and we can imagine a number of exciting activities children might enjoy. We would require 2 or 3 adults to consider running this club (a safeguarding check would be required). Please see Mr Batchelor for details.
- Maths games. Also required for on-going support to the school, 2 parents to pick up the excellent work carried out last year in the management of the ‘school-to-home’ maths games. Please see Mr Batchelor for details.

**MUSIC LESSONS** – All start next week.

**POLICY UPDATE** The following policies and documents can be found on our ‘Policy Page’, at the bottom, <http://www.northnibley.gloucs.sch.uk/policies-1/> in the section “DRAFT POLICIES FOR CONSULTATION”:

- Home-School Expectations 2019 )
- Collective Worship Nov 2018 )- Your comments on all four are invited.
- Religious Education Nov 2018 DRAFT )
- NEW – Child Protection & Safeguarding 2019 )



### FORGIVENESS IS OUR CHRISTIAN VALUE IN FOCUS.

In the Lord’s Prayer we ask God to “forgive us our sins (or trespasses) as we forgive those who sin against us.” What a thing to ask! We are saying we wish God to treat us in the same way we treat other people! Forgiveness is the means by which damaged relationships are restored. It is an act of the will, motivated by love. Children and adults in school are helped to acknowledge that we all make mistakes and we all need forgiveness from God and each other.

#### We shall be considering the following challenges:

How does the school help all members of the community to make amends for their mistakes? How does the school celebrate the idea that God’s love is so great that forgiveness is always possible? How does the school foster the idea that forgiveness and acceptance of all builds the life of the school community?

**PRAYER GUIDE** Adults attending the Carol Service were given a copy of our new Prayer Guide. You can also find a copy here - <http://www.northnibley.gloucs.sch.uk/our-school-prayer/> The graphic sometimes doesn’t load, so refresh the page if you can’t see what you need!

**WARM COATS** All children should now be coming to school with a warm coat. Our playground is very exposed and we have noticed that some are poorly equipped to deal with the cold. Hats, scarves and gloves should all be named! On page 4 you will find our Closure Procedure should ‘the beast from the East’ threaten us with another closure caused by bad weather. PLEASE NOTE: Gloucestershire has a NEW closure website - <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/closures/>

DIARY DATES			
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> Jan	No after-school clubs this week.		
Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup>	CLOSING DAY FOR RECEPTION PLACES, SEPTEMBER 2019 Governor meeting for Parents re school premises, 7:30 p.m. in the school hall.		
Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup>	Reading & Writing evening for parents of children in Reception & Year 1 (+ other interested parents) 6pm		
Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> Jan	Village Hall Monday Lunch – Year 6 group to serve. Packed lunch required.		
Weds 30 <sup>th</sup> January	Governor's Leadership and Management Committee Meeting – 7:00 p.m.		
SATURDAY 2 <sup>nd</sup> FEB	Cross Country – Race 4 at KLB. 9:30 a.m. for 10:00!		
AUTUMN 2018 – Pupil days	SPRING 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 -

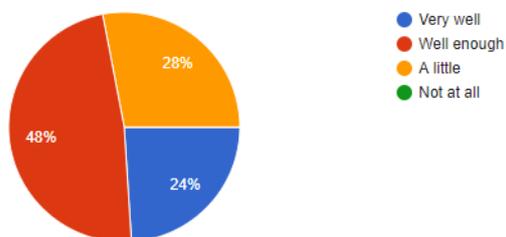
### PARENT SURVEY 2018 - The Head Teacher's Response

Many thanks to the 25 parents (one-third of our families) who completed the survey. 25 returns exactly matches the total completing the survey in 2017, so results will be interesting to compare. It is my intention this year to comment on each section on a regular basis, rather than do as I have done in the past, responding to the whole lot in one go! Governors, of course, have access to everything and will be taking stock during their next meetings.

In Our Parent Survey there was a section on the work of Governors, which produced the following results.

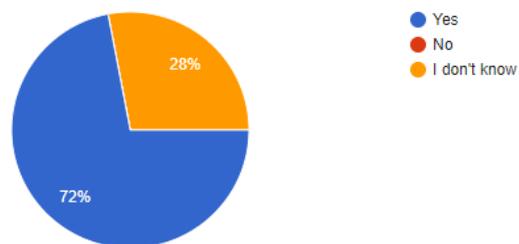
How well do you understand the work of the Governors?

25 responses



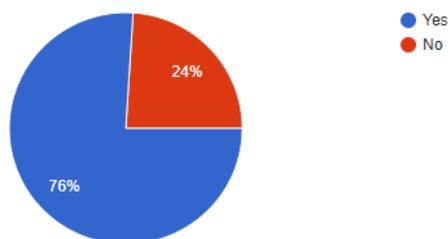
Do you think the governors support the school well?

25 responses



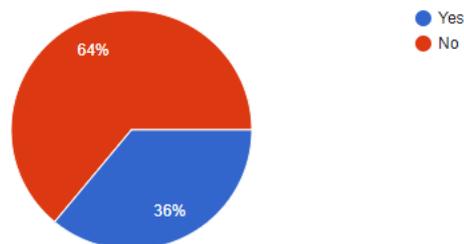
Has the termly Governor Newsletter been helpful?

25 responses



Have you looked at the School Improvement Plan on our website?

25 responses



When compared with 2017's survey, a drop is seen in the understanding of the role of the Governors and in the knowledge of their contribution to the school. Less see the Governor Newsletter as helpful. Governors will, of course, consider this carefully in the near future. In the comments section, several parents ask for information which is already on the school website, so we need to publicise the fact more regularly. Unless you have taken a close trawl through the website, you will have missed all the information schools are required, by law, to publish about each of their governors.

- Category of governor:
- Appointing Body:
- Term of office; FROM: TO:
- Committees served on:
- Any positions of responsibility:
- Any relevant business interests:
- Any other educational establishments they govern:
- Relationships between governors or school staff including spouses, partners and relatives:
- Actual attendance / number of meetings possible (2017-2018, all committees):
- Actual attendance / number of meetings possible (2018-2019, all committees):

You can find out about our governors and the committee structures under the 'About Us' tab,

You can also read their terms of reference (What each committee does)

Here: <http://www.northnibley.gloucs.sch.uk/governors-teaching-and-learning/>

Here: <http://www.northnibley.gloucs.sch.uk/governors-leadership-and-management/>

And here: <http://www.northnibley.gloucs.sch.uk/governors-finance-and-premises/>

As you might imagine, keeping on top of all this is time consuming. The importance of the School Improvement Plan cannot be understated and represents a huge amount of time, both in its construction (in August) and regular review in Governor's meeting throughout the rest of the year. It has recently been updated with the outcomes of the Local Authority Annual Safeguarding Audit being used to create a fresh action plan.

One respondent to the survey believed that governors should get to know the parents more. Half of our governors ARE parents (and another three have had children through North Nibley Primary). All three of our Associate Members are parents. 17% of all the families at school have a parent who is either a governor or an associate member, so perhaps the 'us-and-them' factor is not so great as is imagined? Governors will consider attendance at FONNS meetings and you have had advanced notice of the premises meeting on Tuesday 15th January, 2019, at 7:30 p.m. in the school hall.

It is my intention to publish the items of planned business a term in advance. This will take additional time and lengthen newsletters (repeating information which is on the website). I would be interested to find out how helpful you find this.

TERM 3			
	LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE	TEACHING AND LEARNING COMMITTEE	FINANCE AND PREMISES COMMITTEE
STANDING ITEMS	Apologies Declaration of Interest Update Approval of last meeting Minutes Safeguarding Monitoring School Improvement Plan Chairs of TLC and F&P report on any issues relevant to L&M Governor Succession Update Governor's Register of Interests & Meeting attendance data Confirm next meeting date	Apologies Declaration of Interest Update Approval of last meeting Minutes Safeguarding Monitoring School Improvement Plan Monitoring Governor Visits Confirm next meeting date	Apologies Declaration of Interest Update Approval of last meeting Minutes Safeguarding/School Security Monitoring School Budget Priorities Administrator and Finance Officer Report: Finance: (including monthly accounts?) Premises (inc. Accident Report & rolling maintenance programme) Review Capital Planning Review Staff Training (costs) Review Sites Visits schedule Confirm next meeting date
MEETING-SPECIFIC	Updates from Strategy Group Single Central Record (Safeguarding) – Receive report Monitor provision of statutory information to parents & public inc. Website New Joiner's Survey – to note and respond Lead update of Governor Skill Audit	End of Autumn performance data shared (Head's Report) SEN Policy & Information Report (prior to FGB)	Budget Review (9 month) and look at Clawback / surplus issues Potential grants & bids Discussion re draft budget Review quotes obtained for all insurance costs
	FULL GOVERNING BOARD	ADMISSIONS COMMITTEE	OTHER COMMITTEES / ACTIVITIES
STANDING ITEMS	Prayers Apologies Declaration of Interests Approval of last meeting Minutes Safeguarding Head Teacher's Report - Verbal Reports from committee chairs Governor Visit reports Governor Training Chair matters	Apologies Declaration of Interest (if any) Approval of last meeting Minutes Safeguarding Governor Succession AOB Confirm next meeting date	PAY (Not meeting this term)  HEAD TEACHER'S PERFORMANCE REVIEW (Not meeting this term)  HEALTH & SAFETY WALKABOUT (to schedule)
MEETING-SPECIFIC	Review of Safeguarding Audit Policy Review Child Protection	Oversight of Admissions Ranking process Governor self-evaluation reporting: committees' and governing body's end of year report (to be based on Terms Of Reference)	



## SEVERE WEATHER AND THE PROCEDURES FOR EMERGENCY SCHOOL CLOSURE – PARENT COPY

January 2019

In the event of severe weather, the Head Teacher will consult with residents local to North Nibley, and decide on the course of action to adopt, in the interests of the safety and education of the children and the safety of staff. Wherever possible, a decision to close will be communicated via the media listed below, by 7.30 a.m.

When the school is closed parents and carers can receive notification by:

- accessing THE NEW Gloucestershire Schools closure site  
<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/closures/>
- accessing our school website [www.northnibley.gloucs.sch.uk](http://www.northnibley.gloucs.sch.uk)
- accessing FONNS' Facebook page – [www.facebook.com/groups/351692605004997/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/351692605004997/)
- via Twitter @NibleySchool AND @Glos\_schools
- listening to local radio

A new decision will be made for each day of school closure.

Information on the school's status will be updated using the Local Authority web site and Facebook will be updated on a regular basis. Even if school is 'open', staff and children should only travel if it is safe to do so.

### EMERGENCY SCHOOL CLOSURE DURING THE SCHOOL DAY

If, in the interests of safety, a decision is made to close the school during the working day, staff will do their utmost to ensure that information can be obtained via the above media. Phone calls will be made from the school office, so **please ensure that your contact details are correct**. We will always have sufficient staff at school to supervise children who are late being collected, but parents are advised that our 'local' circumstances may be very different from those where you work. In advance, parents should discuss their wishes with older children who already have permission to walk home alone, especially if a closure means that there is no supervision at home.

If the school does close, this is counted as an authorised absence for children. Families may wish to access the 'Snow' pages hosted on our own website, if they are short of an idea or two on how to use the time purposefully!