



Learning, Achievement, Faith & Fun!



NEWSLETTER 249

Monday 14th January 2019

On this day in 1690 the clarinet was invented, in Nurnberg, Germany.

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Dear Parents and Friends,

In 2018 we launched a consultation to find out which experiences you thought essential for a healthy, well-rounded childhood. There were many hundreds of suggestions which, over the Autumn Term, the School Pupil Council whittled down to an

essential '100' – grouped by the four key themes of our school vision. You may choose to use it as a family, as individuals or not at all. Be rigorous, be spontaneous or be save it for a raining day, but at school we believe in living "life in all its fullness." These rich experiences may inspire you to try something new. They will not be used as a checklist by staff, this is not additional homework, completion will not be 'rewarded', but of course we would be interested in children talking to us about their experiences and we commend it to you as a resource to encourage the development of well-rounded and resilient pupils. How will you use yours?

Download your copy here - <http://www.northnibley.gloucs.sch.uk/essential-experiences/>

100 ESSENTIAL EXPERIENCES

Essential Experiences vs Activity Passport

Oh dear – it turns out the Department for Education was working on something similar which it launched over the Christmas break. (Great minds think alike?) The DfE has clarified "The activity passport is a resource that is being provided to schools to use voluntarily. It is to support structures already in place in schools to inspire character and resilience in children. As part of the initiative, Secretary of State Mr Hinds is calling on families to ditch gadgets and resolve this new year to spend time together pursuing new interests. He said: "When I first became education secretary, almost a year ago, I went around asking everyone I met what they wanted for their children. The instinctive answer that came back was never about the curriculum or qualifications, vital as these are – what they wanted first and foremost was for their child to be happy and healthy."

Matt Hyde, chief executive of the Scouts, said: "We know how much young people get out of enrichment activities like these: broadening their experiences, having fun and developing skills for life. Not everything can be taught in a classroom, so it's great to see DfE recognising the value of extra-curricular activities and encouraging young people to build confidence, resilience and get involved in their communities as well."

RECYCLING Those of you in the assembly on Friday would have seen me introduce an action to help the children reduce their plastic waste. This came after children earlier in the week had commented on the BBC's Blue Planet TV series which identified so many problems with plastic ending up in our oceans. One day each week we will save, wash and dry all our crisp packets. Already a third of the children have signed up – from Reception to Year 6 – to help with the work. We will let you know how we get on.

SMILE! Many of our visitors comment on the photos displayed in the lobby. These have recently been updated to include the Christmas nativity, parties and meals.

TABLES TESTS In May 2020 Year 4 pupils nationally are required to take a tables test. There are plenty of publishers now creating free content online to match the test specifications. Why not have a go and see how you do?

<https://tablestest.co.uk/times-tables-test-simulator/> OR my favourite -

<https://mathsframe.co.uk/en/resources/resource/477/Multiplication-Tables-Check>

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.

STAYING SAFE From time to time we are alerted to a 'Reported Stranger Incident', when a school in the area becomes concerned about the behaviour of a member of the public (often reported by pupils on their way to or from school) and shares this with the police. Gloucestershire Constabulary promote the NSPCC guidance documents for child safety, the link can be found here: <https://www.gloucestershire.police.uk/staying-safe/safety-advice-for-children/childrens-safety/> Schools and parents are encouraged to reiterate the stranger danger safety message.

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.

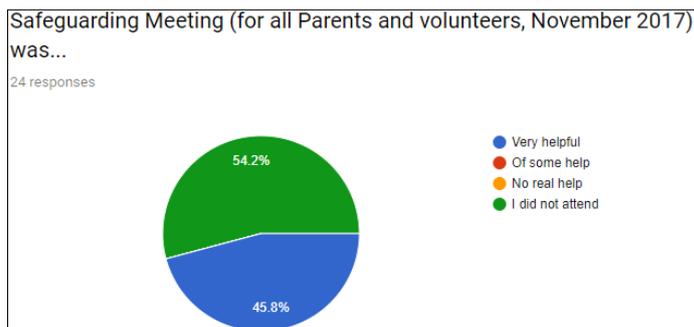
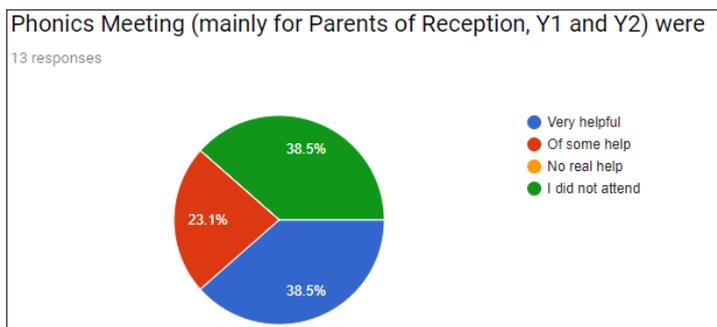
CLUBS The Clubs menu sheet went home last week. There are still opportunities to create new clubs if you had not responded in time.

- Gardening. 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.

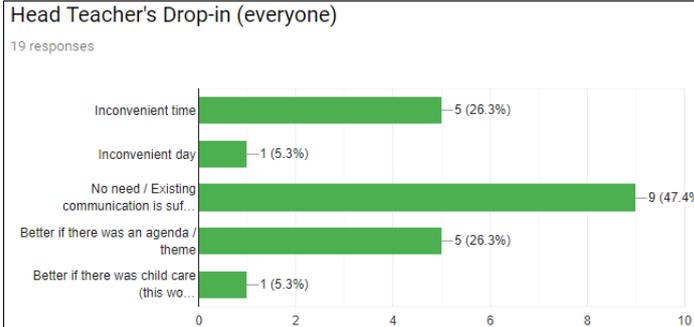
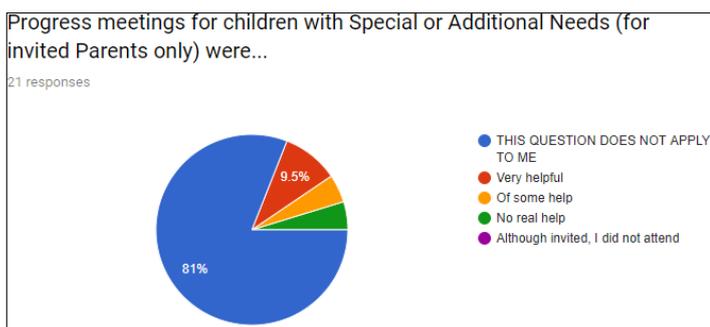
EMERGENCY CLOSURE: Gloucestershire has a NEW closure website - <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/closures/>

PARENT SURVEY 2018 - The Head Teacher's Response

Many thanks to the 25 parents (one-third of our families) who completed the survey. 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 meetings held by the school, which produced the following results.



Once those "not attending" are discounted, never less than half describe meetings as 'Very helpful', which is gratifying.



I have traditionally scheduled the head teacher drop-ins at the beginning of the school day. In the light of these results the next one (11th Feb) will be at 2:00, and conclude in time for pick-up. 5 of the 25 felt an agenda would be helpful. When asked what topics would be good for information evening, the topics suggested include an overview of the Governors, how the school supports pupils who require stretch teaching, Reading and writing (of relevance to what our child is learning at the time), Maths and bullying. Watch this space.

READING IN THE MORNINGS A quarter of the respondents thought that reading in school might help address some of the barriers they find at home. Miss Allen has kindly agreed to open up her classroom at 8:40 on a Wednesday morning to create space for parents and children to read together. Please feel that you can drop in!

DIARY DATES			
Tuesday 15 th	CLOSING DAY FOR RECEPTION PLACES, SEPTEMBER 2019 Governor meeting for Parents re school premises, 7:30 p.m. in the school hall.		
Weds 16 th	NO SPORTS CLUB.		
Thursday 17 th	Reading & Writing evening for parents of children in R and Y1 (plus other interested parents). 6:00 p.m.		
Monday 21 st Jan	Village Hall Monday Lunch – Year 6 group to serve. Packed lunch required.		
Friday 25 th Jan	Key Stage 1 Cricket World Cup 3:30 – 5:15 – details to follow		
Weds 30 th January	Governor's Leadership and Management Committee Meeting – 7:00 p.m.		
Friday 1 st FEBRUARY	FONNS Disco – Classes 1 & 2, 5:45 – 6:30, Classes 3 & 4 6:45 – 7:45		See flyer
SATURDAY 2 nd	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 -

- Christian Value of Forgiveness activity sheet
- FONNS DISCO
- Meal request Thursday
- Invite to Phonics evening
- Essential Experiences