



Dear Parents and Friends,

**CROSS-COUNTRY CHAMPIONS 2019** Congratulations to all those who took part in the final cross-country race of the season. As the runners crossed the line in each of the four races it became clear that we had maintained our momentum and achieved a very special set of results. Junior Boys - the North Nibley Team came first, with three of our boys collecting trophies for 1st, 2nd and 3rd places for their individual efforts over the season.

Junior Girls - this team came 3rd overall, with two collecting a medal for their places overall in the season.

Senior Girls - this team came first, with two of our girls collecting trophies for 1st and 2nd places overall.

Senior Boys - this team came first, with two collecting a medal for their places overall in the season.

One North Nibley child said "It was nerve-wracking at the start, but it was the last race and we needed to make the most of it." Two said "It was cold, muddy and wet." Another added "I really enjoyed it, doing my best for the team". A Year 4 boy thought the course was "challenging but we still made it." For one runner "It felt very close at the end of my race - it was intense!". Well done, to all the children and the staff. All those years of training and preparation have brought you to this point. Our value of perseverance is really shining through!



**STAFF NEWS** After a period of serious illness Lesley Hale, woodwind teacher, is making a good recovery. She has, however, decided that the time is right to bring to an end her work at North Nibley. We are grateful for the time she has spent injecting a new enthusiasm for music into the school, partly through individual and small group tuition, and partly through our first 'orchestra' and class teaching. In Christmas services and within school we have enjoyed hearing saxophone, clarinet, recorder, ocarina and, briefly, flute, and of course we have been thrilled by the progress our young musicians have made. We wish her well.

Alison Boles, who has stepped into the gap, has indicated her willingness to continue with the tuition, for which we are very grateful.

**GOVERNOR NEWS** (Amongst other items) the Leadership and Management Committee met to consider GDPR, the Parent Survey, staffing and workload.

The Admissions Committee met to rank those expressing a preference for North Nibley from September.

The Teaching and Learning Committee met to consider standards at the end of the Autumn Term, attendance and the School Improvement Plan.

All Committees are focused on the forthcoming SIAMS (Church School) inspection.

A renewed activity planner has been posted here - GOVERNOR COMMITTEE PLANNER

<http://www.northnibley.gloucs.sch.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/ALL-Committee-Planners-18-19-Working-document.pdf>

Policies reviewed/adopted include Spiritual, Mental, Social and Cultural Education (SMSC) and Mental Health.

Term 4 work includes:

Data Protection

Online Safety

Special Needs

Lettings

The budget - See below



**GLOUCESTERSHIRE SCHOOLS - FUNDING CRISIS** I am sending home a letter from the Gloucestershire Association of Primary Heads (GAPH) which details the difficulties schools in this county are facing. You can read online versions here... <http://www.northnibley.gloucs.sch.uk/funding-crisis/> together with a 'template' letter

which you may find useful if you wish to lobby MPs or the Department for Education. You may have heard the debate in Parliament on Wednesday last week -

David Drew MP secures urgent debate on school funding in Gloucestershire

You can watch the Stroud's Labour MP, David Drew, addressing the Minister for Education on video here -

<https://www.daviddrewmp.org.uk/> as well as read local case studies on the impact of rising costs and increased needs. You can read the whole debate here , <https://www.theyworkforyou.com/whall/?id=2019-01-30a.389.0#g398.1> including contributions from local MP Geoffrey Clifton-Brown, Conservative.

**FONNS DISCO** This is on Friday 1st March - Classes 1 & 2 5:45 - 6:30, Classes 3 & 4 6:45 - 7:45.

**FORGIVENESS IS THIS TERM'S CHRISTIAN VALUE IN FOCUS.** "When you forgive, you don't change the past, but you do change the future." Bernard Meltzer

**SCHOOL VALUES IN ACTION** This year the school will be participating in the Village Clean Up 'Day' - though our shift will be in school hours on Friday 22nd March. The Parish Council will be supplying litter-pickers and we have committed to tidying the playing fields, Lower House Lane and all the way down the path to the sharp bend at Dovert Brook. Adults (especially those DBS 'cleared') are welcome to join us. The value is SERVICE.

**WEBSITE UPDATES** Parent-Survey 2018 - results in full can be found here - <http://www.northnibley.gloucs.sch.uk/parent-surveys/> Governor pages are also undergoing edits and improvements. Find 'Our Governors' under the 'About Us' tab on the front page.

**SCHOOL WEBSITE - 130+ PAGES AND STILL GROWING!** Sometimes we are asked for information which we have already published. This page - <http://www.northnibley.gloucs.sch.uk/site-index/> - is a page-listing / site map showing you what is available online already. Do take a look.

**COUGHS AND SNEEZES** If you would be so kind, we are hoping for some donations of tissues and kitchen roll to tide us over this time of 'damp noses' and colds!

**DoodleMaths** In the week I received the following email: "Dear Mr Batchelor, You are receiving this email because some users from your class or school are still using an old version of the DoodleMaths app. This may be at home or at school. As you may know, v5 of DoodleMaths was superseded by v6 at the start of this academic year. From tomorrow, v5 will no longer be supported. Users will not be able to log in to the app, and if they are already logged in, their work will not be saved on our server. We are making this change to ensure that the data displayed on the teacher dashboard is consistent and accurate across all users."

#### **'NIBLEY GREEN' - Towards a greener school.**

Many of you have responded positively to our intentions to promote a better understanding of environmentally friendly issues, and to take action as a school to ensure that our children - and their children - enjoy a better world. So I'm adding a section to the newsletter of practical tips and ideas you may want to think about at home. Discuss these with your children too! Why not purchase food, like cereal, pasta, and rice from bulk bins and fill a reusable bag or container. You save money and unnecessary packaging. There is a shop in Stroud which will fill your containers. Products include dried fruit, grains, nuts and seeds, pasta, pulses, teas and coffees, salts and sugars and much more. You can find out more here - [www.looseplasticfree.co.uk/](http://www.looseplasticfree.co.uk/) Why not be real rebel and leave unwanted plastic packaging at the supermarket which supplies it? Many have started collecting packaging on site.



**WHAT ARE YOU READING? (WHAT ARE YOU WRITING?)** More book reviews have arrived, but children beware, I'm not publishing book reviews with spelling mistakes! Ask an adult at home to check before you send a review. See what children recommend here - <http://northnibley.weebly.com/book-reviews> . Parents, I've really enjoyed reading your comments (your own children as well as others) and I thank you for encouraging the children of the school.

**PARENT-TEACHER MEETINGS** will be held on Tuesday 26th and Wednesday 27th February. We have listened to your comments regarding online bookings. Find out more, and book a meeting, on this page... Book a meeting now! <http://www.northnibley.gloucs.sch.uk/appointments/>

**ADVANCED WARNING** Red Nose Day is coming - Friday 15th March. The School Council decided... Non-School uniform day (£1.00 + donation please) and "North Nibley's Got Talent". A show by the children for the children. After careful thought we have decided NOT to sell the Red Noses. Please pick your own! Another of Mr Batchelor's favourite jokes: There are 10 types of people: Those who understand binary, and those who don't.

#### **Music Festival Volunteers Wanted:**

As you know, the Music Festival is a major opportunity for fundraising, but FONNS need a lot of support. The 'sign-up sheet' is available now for you to choose your preferred 'slot'. Please help. Nibley Music Festival is Friday 5th to Sunday 7th July.



## Supporting the school:

Last time we told you about another idea which could raise a lot of money for the school - AmazonSmile. You can find all the information about using this FREE service reprinted on our website page here -

<https://smile.amazon.co.uk>

<http://www.northnibley.gloucs.sch.uk/pta-fonns/>



### DIARY DATES

Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup>	Piano Recital for the whole school.
Weds 13 <sup>th</sup>	African Drum Day for Classes 1 & 2
Weds 13 <sup>th</sup>	NO SPORTS CLUB (Girl's Football Match)
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup>	(Provisional - a FONNS CAKE SALE at the end of the school day.
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup>	Start of Term 4 - A pupil school day. Swimming for Years 1 & 2
Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup>	ANIMAL DAY! Parent's Evening.
Weds 27 <sup>th</sup>	Parent's Evening. Governor Meeting - strategy group.
Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> March	FONNS DISCO.
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup>	Governor Meeting - Finance & Premises
Weds 6 <sup>th</sup>	NO SPORTS CLUB

SPRING 2019 – Pupil days	SUMMER 2019 – Pupil days	NEXT AUTUMN 2019 – Pupil days	NEXT SPRING 2020 – Pupil days
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 3 06/01/2020 – 14/02/2020
Term 4 25/02/2019 – 05/04/2019	Term 6 03/06/2019 – 19/07/2019	Term 2 04/10/2019 – 20/12/2019	Term 4 24/02/2020 – 03/04/2020



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

In it this week - •

- Mojo Active
- Red Nose Day information
- How to help with... Spring Term Maths

## OLD NEWS

**LAST CALL! CLASSES 1 & 2 – 'BORN IN A BARN' NATIVITY.** 20+ DVD copies of this delightful performance have been sold, at £3.00 each. We are now taking orders for a second production 'run' (over half-term) so please place orders at the office. The final date for orders is Feb 15<sup>th</sup>.

**READING IN THE MORNINGS** In the Parent's Survey a quarter of the respondents thought that reading in school might help address some of the barriers they find at home. Teachers have kindly agreed to open up their classrooms at 8:40 on a Wednesday morning to create space for parents, who accompany their children, to read together. Please feel that you can drop in! This offer is open to ALL children.

UPDATE This will usually be held in Classroom 1, but please check 'on the door'.

## NEWSLETTERS and GDPR

We take your data privacy seriously, and for this reason we have not handed over your email addresses to MailChimp for distribution (though, with your consent, this is a possibility for the future). We are using our existing contact lists for circulation of the newsletter. You may, of course, choose to join the MailChimp list yourself, and supply your own contact details. Please read their Terms & Conditions carefully. There are implications for unsubscribing when the time comes to stop receiving these School Newsletters. If you have added yourself to MailChimp's lists, please follow their link to unsubscribe, otherwise, please follow the school's own link to contact our Administrator.

## ADDITIONAL FUND RAISING OPPORTUNITY

FONNS have been given the opportunity of a free pitch at Berkeley Show this year, Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2019. We are wanting to get some ideas together of what we can do within the tent based around Children, possibly something crafty for children to come and enjoy and raise money for FONNS. Please comment with any ideas and anyone able to come and help.