



Friday 27th February 2019

On this day in 2014, chaos erupts after the Swedish Public Employment Service mistakenly invites 61,000 people to a job interview!

North Nibley Church of England Primary School, The Street, North Nibley, Glos. GL11 6DL
Tel: 01453 542600
www.northnibley.gloucs.sch.uk
admin@northnibley.gloucs.sch.uk
finance@northnibley.gloucs.sch.uk
Twitter: @NibleySchool
Head Teacher: Paul Batchelor

Dear Parents and Friends,

MUSICAL YOUTH

On Tuesday North Nibley played host to international pianist Clare Hammond, who played a selection of classical pieces in front of the school. 'Flight of the Killer Bees' (a play on Flight of the Bumble Bees) was a favourite among the pupils, whilst staff preferred a more sedate piece which gave rise to images of falling asleep in a boat on a lake!



AFRICA DRUM DAY On Wednesday Classes 1 & 2 enjoyed a drumming workshop with a man called Alan. Luke thought the drums were "awesome because I liked Alan's playing. The big drums and the family of drums all made different noises".

ANIMAL DAY Following on from the School Council's election manifesto - to bring more animals into school - today we held a wild animal day, with a tarantula, a corn snake, a frog, an African snail, a gecko and a guinea pig! Children were allowed to hold the animals. Emily and Lucy were able to 'high 5' the tarantula! Lucy thought the spider's foot was quite soft and slippery. Fergus held the snake and Isabella held the giant snail. Zac held the corn snake and thought that it was quite slimy as it crept up his arm. The visiting keeper worked with each class separately. The children learnt various facts, according to their ages. Class 2 learnt that snakes have dry scaly skin whilst Class 3 learnt that when you hold a tree frog you have to have wet hands to keep the frog breathing. The class also learnt what nocturnal means, and the different habitats each animal preferred. Emily thought that the gecko's back felt "like velvet". Class 4 were learning about adaptation and classification. On leaving, our visitor declared North Nibley to be "One of the nicest schools I've ever been to. I've been well looked after!"



FOOTBALL All the (well) girls from Class 4 travelled to Brimscombe for the "Len Hutton" tournament. We were one of the few schools to field both an A and B team, and we played against larger and smaller schools, each squad playing 6 games. With only 1 substitute, rotated on and off, the work-rate was high.



Catherine's team came joint third, making it through to the semi-finals. She said "It was hard work but I found it fun playing in mid-field. Meriel's team lost most matches, but drew one and won one, which made them really happy. Poppy was in her first ever sports event, representing a school. She said "I was pleased with my games. I thought I played well." Congratulations go to all those involved.

INTERNET SAFETY: A number of parents have been in touch regarding the latest concerning online 'menace' - The Momo head/challenge. I shall be following the advice found on this site - <https://www.coldfall.haringey.sch.uk/?p=11222> and I advise concerned parents to do the same. Do this IN ADVANCE of the conversation taking place. This will make sure we are all saying the same thing.

GOVERNOR NEWS

Term 4 work includes (but is not limited to...)
Data Protection
Online Safety
Special Needs
Homework
Lettings
The budget - See below



GLOUCESTERSHIRE SCHOOLS - FUNDING CRISIS

UPDATE. Head teachers in the North East of England have done something amazing. By setting up a petition and encouraging thousands of teachers and parents to sign it, they've forced a debate in Parliament. Their demand is very simple: increase funding for schools.

So, on 4 March MPs will debate the funding crisis facing schools. Can you ask your MP to go along and talk about how children and staff in your area are being harmed by cuts to funding?

Please contact your MP, ask them to attend the debate – at 4.30pm on 4 March – and give them information about the situation in your school.

Despite the Government's denials, everyone working in education knows school funding is in crisis and even Tory MPs are speaking out against their Government's cuts. If you haven't already signed the petition, please do so – and share it with all your colleagues and friends – and help put pressure on the Government to change course.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE SCHOOLS - FUNDING CRISIS

I sent 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.

CLUBS In addition to the published clubs, Class 4 begin their 'Formula Goblin club' next week and Ms Breen is starting a gardening club on Friday lunchtimes. Our two trainee teachers are also wanting to start a lunchtime club on peace and mindfulness. Thank you to everyone who goes the extra mile to offer opportunities to the children.

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. "I don't forgive people because I'm weak, I forgive them because I am strong enough to know people make mistakes." - Marilyn Monroe.

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 Doverte Brook. Adults (especially those DBS 'cleared') are welcome to join us. The value is SERVICE.
UPDATE. Children will need coats, gloves and wellies/strong boots if you have them. We are also keen to have as many of our DBS-cleared volunteers as possible support us, as small groups dispersed over a large area will be more effective. Please register your interest at the school office.

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.

IMPROVING PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT

Over half-term a lot of time was spent looking at apps which might be suitable for sending alerts to parents on their phones. Specifically, I was looking for apps with 'push' notification facilities which would alert you when a message was sent (instead of just sitting there waiting for you when you next happened to visit). Back at school I realised we had already been promoting Class Dojo - which does exactly that! 48% of Class 1, 89% of Class 2, 78% of Class 3 and 20% of Class 4 were already connected. If you haven't signed up yet, please do. Additionally, Class Dojo has other options to keep you up to date with what's happening in the classroom, and of course you'll get all the latest team point information too!



SCHOOL WEBSITE - UPDATED!

This week I've fixed a broken link (do report them if you find them!) and updated the school menu page.

<http://www.northnibley.gloucs.sch.uk/school-meals-menus/>

RAGS TO RICHES Please save up your unwanted clothes and other items for a Clothes Recycling collection. This will take place in May so don't bring them in yet. School receives 50p per kilo for good quality clothing. Details of what can be recycled is on the window.

PARENT-TEACHER MEETINGS

Many parents have made positive comments about the new booking system, appreciating the email confirmation and reminders we built in. However, from school's point of view, considerable time has been lost when parents tell us they have changed their minds and made an alternative booking WITHOUT DELETING the original slot, which still reads as booked online. This reduces opportunities for other parents. Please use the facility, included in your confirmation email, to cancel and manage your own bookings.

MUSIC LESSONS

We have some spaces for violin and woodwind lessons - please ask in the office if your child is interested before 8th March.

Year Six SATS There is a helpful YouTube video on the format of this year's Year 6 SATS tests here - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2H2D1UI4pjE> which some may find helpful.

Here are other changes for which we are preparing!

2019: Reading + Maths Teacher Assessment removed at Year 6 SATS

2019: New standards replace P-Scale assessments 5-8 & interim Pre-Key-Stage Standards

2020: First national Reception Baseline Assessments implemented

2020: Year 4 take the first national Maths Tables Check

2020: 7 aspects of Communication and Language replace P-Scales 1-4

2020: First progress measures available for Year 6 (tracking from new Year 2 SATS)

2023: Removal Year 2 Teacher Assessments

2027: First progress measures available for Year 6 (tracking from Reception Baseline)

'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!

This one's really simple - stock up on some paper bags which are strong enough to survive several trips to the supermarket. Weigh your potatoes, peppers, mushrooms etc loose (because the bag can add 3p to the cost!) and stick the price sticker to the outside of the bag. Don't forget to remove the sticker later on, before your next shop! (Even reusing plastic bags from last time will reduce the amount going to waste!)



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.

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: I wouldn't buy anything fixed with velcro. It's a rip-off!

FONNS CAKE SALE The cake sale on the last day of Term 3 raised £92.30. Thank you for your support.

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.

FORGIVENESS IS THIS TERM'S CHRISTIAN VALUE IN FOCUS.

"It takes a strong person to say sorry, and an even stronger person to forgive. (Anon)"



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	
Weds 27 th	Parent's Evening. Governor Meeting - strategy group.
Friday 1 st March	FONNS DISCO.
Monday 4 th	Governor Meeting - Finance & Premises
Weds 6 th	NO SPORTS CLUB
Monday 11 th	Wildlife Quiz - Round 1
Thursday 14 th ?	'Minty the Sheep' - running behind schedule!
Friday 15 th	Red Nose Day - NON-SCHOOL UNIFORM - See above
Monday 18 th	Serving the Village Lunch - Year 6 group.
Weds 20 th	Riddiford 5-a-side Football Finals Full Governing Body meeting
Friday 22 nd	Village Tidy - See above

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 - • Northing this week!