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Learning, **A**chievement, **F**aith & **F**un!

NEWSLETTER 314

Friday 9th October 2020

SERVICE IS THIS TERM'S CHRISTIAN VALUE IN FOCUS.

"Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms." 1 Peter 4:10

Dear Parents and Friends,

NEWSLETTER 314?

I decided to take all my 117 Class Dojo updates from the lockdown period (March 21st to July 17th) and convert them into weekly newsletters, to provide a more permanent record of what we went through. So that brought us to 308 and we've had 5 weeks of term since. Should you feel so inclined, you can find these in the Newsletter section of the website!

CHANGES AT SCHOOL

After much debate we have agreed that Class 2 can return to the 'grouping' of tables, bringing them into line with existing practice in both the 'dining hall' and providing equity with the Year 1s in Class 1. Years 3 and upwards will remain in rows. As the weather has deteriorated, the teachers have been forced to decide between good ventilation and keeping warm. Common sense will prevail if pupils are seen to be too cold to learn!

RAGS TO RICHES

FONNS stands to make around £180 from your clothing recycling this time. Thank you very much.

BAGS TO BENCHES

Nearly £90 has been raised from the collection of crisp packets, enough to buy this smart storage bench, which volunteers from class 4 put together one lunchtime. Do keep recycling!



ROTARY SHOE BOX COLLECTION

After last year's trial, we are happy to continue to support this Christmas charity. However, to ensure delivery in time these need to be back at school by 4th November! Please request a box from the office.

SMILE – AND RAISE MONEY FOR FONNS!

Here's an idea which could raise a lot of money for the school, especially in the build up to CHRISTMAS – Amazon Smile. You can find all the information about using this FREE service on our website page here - -

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

Basically, if you nominate North Nibley School PTFA as your chosen charity, Amazon will donate 0.5% of the net purchase price!



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

THANK YOU...

To Izzah's parents for their visit to the recycling centre on our behalf. The front of the school looks much nicer!
To Rufus' mum for another set of lyrics. I am SO missing singing with the children!

To Harvey and Trudy's parents for the gift of the books around which last year's Leaver's Service was based.
To a large group of parents who tackled the planters at the front of the school, and to Kitts Green for the kind donation of irises to brighten our day.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

I understand that in these strange times many families are under financial stress. I attach important information about the different types of 'Free School Meals' available. School is granted over £1000 for any child entitled (whether they take the actual meals or not!) and this goes to support your child in numerous ways (all 'invisible' to the child.) If there is even the smallest chance you may now qualify, I urge you to do what other families are doing, read the letter and find out.

WHAT'S THIS?



I'm inordinately exciting by this latest innovation in school, though you may have to wait a while before you see it in use! Watch this space – literally!

CHRISTMAS ALREADY?

Amidst the uncertainty, one plan is coming together! We are very much hoping you'll join with us in turning North Nibley into a Living Advent Calendar with windows throughout the village decorated and 'opened' each evening between 1 December and Christmas Eve. In order to ensure everyone knows their date in good time to plan, we need to be clear by 20th November that we have enough participants so we would be very grateful for VERY QUICK responses.

You can see what has been done in another villages on this website -

<https://www.helmdonparishcouncil.gov.uk/advent-windows-archive.html> and if you Google 'Advent windows' you can find the wide range of ideas and ways that people have decorated their windows elsewhere. There is no 'theme', other than 'Christmas' and the aim is for each window to be a surprise as it is revealed. We would like to include windows through the whole village and hope to show photos of the windows on the school website and other local sites too.

If you:

- live in a house that has a window that can clearly be seen from the street without people coming on to your property
- are happy to keep the window illuminated each evening after it is 'opened' until after Christmas and
- are interested in participating or are prepared to act as a standby if we have problems recruiting enough people

please let me know (email

head@northnibley.gloucs.sch.uk) with:

- your name and address
- your email address and
- any preference you have about dates

Please be aware that in agreeing to participate you are also agreeing to have your address identified on the website and map so people can look for your window. No names or email addresses will be shared without your permission.

We look forward to hearing from you. Please let us know by 20th November.

This was the school window last year!



NEWSLETTER QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS

1. My preferred method of receiving news from school is

[More Details](#)

- A newsletter (.pdf file) by email 11
- A newsletter (.pdf file) via Clas... 10
- Frequent (small) updates via C... 7
- Regular (i.e. weekly/fortnightly... 8
- A paper copy via the bookbags 6



2. I would be happy with any of these (click all that apply)

[More Details](#)

- A newsletter (.pdf file) by email 28
- A newsletter (.pdf file) via Clas... 36
- Frequent (small) updates via C... 29
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42 of you expressed your preferences in our survey. The results are in, and as I suspected, I'll have to combine three methods to meet the 'first choice' of more than half of you! I will think on. However, it's a .pdf Class Dojo download on Thursday or Friday this week! Newsletters are also downloadable from the school website - <http://www.northnibley.gloucs.sch.uk/newsletters/>

We also received the following text comments (edited for anonymity)

- 1 Easier to track back to find stuff with regular newsletters . . .
- 2 You're doing a great job
- 3 A regular day to expect the newsletter helps us to know we haven't missed any updates.
- 4 Regular Dojo updates with relevant information are useful and probably most appropriate at the moment; a longer newsletter with all the interesting "others" and repeats of key info are additionally appreciated. Personally I prefer reading from physical paper but having the info repeated in digital format is handy.
- 5 We do not get notification of your postings on Class Dojo (although we do in respect of the class teacher) - can this be changed please (either by us or by you)? Thanks.
- 6 Thanks!
- 9 Don't really mind but do love a paper copy on the fridge - can always print at home though.
- 11 Missing assemblies too. Perhaps occasionally these could be uploaded to Class Dojo as another method of receiving updates/information.

I'm interested in whether other families have a similar issue to comment 5. (This is the only one of which I've heard). Please comment or let me know if this is a widespread problem. Perhaps an uninstall / reinstall would help? Is it perhaps an Android or Apple setting you have to 'allow'?

CLASS DOJO 'PUSH' NOTIFICATIONS

We are back to 100% of our children being connected via Class Dojo, including our 6 new families. Thank you. However...

Now 3 parents have stated that 'School Story' notifications do not show. I contacted Class Dojo for some advice. 'Hannah' wrote back, stating

1. Double-check that push notifications are turned on, on the device (since they're receiving Class Story notifications this likely is not the culprit.)
2. Have them make sure they are staying logged in to their account when they close the app and don't sign out of their account completely
3. Delete/ reinstall the app
4. From there, if they are still having trouble, can you please have them reach out to us at hello@classdojo.com? We can then help them directly as push notification issues can be quite tricky from that point."

I hope that helps!

REMOTE LEARNING

As you might expect, we have been preparing for the possibility that there is a further period of lockdown, during which, schools are expected to maintain teaching and learning remotely.

We have published a policy on our webpage

<http://www.northnibley.gloucs.sch.uk/covid-19/>

The National Curriculum is a legal entitlement for every child of school age, and we are accountable for the success of the measures we put in place. We have therefore agreed to add the following.

"During any partial or full lockdown, including the isolation of individual families, school will undertake the following measures in order to maintain our duty of care.

1. We expect daily contact from all families, primarily through Class Dojo, though email and phone remain possibilities. This will usually include returned schoolwork, photos or other media clips. If the above is not possible, we expect a valid explanation about the absence of pupil school work.
2. If we have not heard from you, on the second day a member of the school staff will send a message to check all is 'O.K.'
3. On day 3 the Head Teacher will attempt to make contact. This could be online, by phone, email or other channel as appropriate.
4. On day 4 the school will attempt home visits. Where safeguarding concerns exist, school MUST contact the relevant social services department.

FONNS CHRISTMAS T-TOWELS

Children will be completing the template in school, with order forms to follow after half-term break.

Have a great weekend,
Mr B.