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Learning, Achievement, Faith & Fun!

NEWSLETTER 297 – THE LOCKDOWN LETTERS

FROM THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC - MAY 2020

For the Archives: Day 41 to Day 47

Dear Parents and Friends,

DAILY UPDATE – DAY 41 – SATURDAY 2nd MAY

CHANGES

Having established that children can't see the 'School Story' postings (including my daily updates), it seems they may have been missing out on some of the content I post. From Monday, quiz news, photo challenges and my computing tasks will go directly into their class stories, as well as appearing here. Don't mistakenly think the posts are identical, however. SERIOUS STUFF for adults continues here. Assemblies as well, stay in the 'School Story' since I believe that these are better as a shared experience. We are, even when remote, a special community.

SONG

This song was written specifically to encourage proactive listening and learning, with each verse featuring a different bird song. A simple, catchy tune with an appealing groove makes it great fun to sing along to. An activity sheet is attached.

<https://youtu.be/ebcDzNhrWCs>

Please supervise YouTube use.

APP RECOMMENDATION

At home, I recently installed Birdnet – a phone app which identifies birds from their song. We found it very useful in these quieter days, when out and about doing our permitted hour of daily exercise. With the Nature Quiz cancelled this year, North Nibley retains the trophy (Undefeated!) but we can make a start now, preparing to defend our status as County Champions in 2021. Actually, it's just a wonder to hear the birds, to learn something new and the app comes recommended.

SERIOUS STUFF

We have 116 parents connected through Class Dojo (Welcome, numbers 115 and 116, who joined last week!). The average readership for a DAILY UPDATE is 87 (and much higher on school days). It's always worth looking back a bit if you've missed a few days. Yesterday I wrote about monitoring the welfare of the children. Please read that now if you didn't catch it the first time.

Time to enjoy the sunshine.
Best wishes,
Paul

DAILY UPDATE – DAY 42 – SUNDAY 3rd MAY

SONG

A fast-paced, rockin' song describing the reasons we love each day – from Monday to Sunday. A great way to dance your way through the days of the week! Activity Sheet attached.

<https://youtu.be/G32pHBn10fU>

And if you want, you can learn the sign language version. The video is here:

<https://www.outoftheark.co.uk/video/seven-days-a-week-signing/>

If you've been following Nat, its time for...
Virtual Sunday School.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n5FKWEBg2Yk>

See you tomorrow!
Take care,
Paul

DAILY UPDATE – DAY 43 – MONDAY 4th MAY

SERIOUS STUFF – SCHOOL REOPENING

Once again there has been intense media speculation that schools will reopen to more pupils after May half term. Many teaching associations and unions are frustrated to read these reports in the press. They have reiterated to government this week that any return must be led by evidence of when it is safe to do so, not convenient dates in the education calendar. Safe for children, safe for parents, safe for staff and safe for the wider community. This has to be the starting point.

The Prime Minister made it clear last week that the government is considering how it might begin to relax the lockdown, and part of this is assessing if it is possible to expand the number of pupils attending school. The government has sought to reassure the nation that these decisions will be led by scientific and medical advice.

We know that any return, including a phased return, needs to also consider the wide range of logistical and practical challenges. Some believe that the government still has a lot of work to do in terms of building the confidence of not just the profession, but of parents too.

These latest press reports would appear to suggest that the Prime Minister is looking at some form of return next month, but we should also remember that only a couple of days ago at the Education Select Committee, the Secretary of State for Education stated that all schools returning on day one with a full complement of pupils would not be realistic. He also referred to a need to create "a safe environment for people to both work in and learn in as well."

So, a date remains unclear. I will of course, provide real information when it is made available.

ASSEMBLY

Tales From the Ark – The last chapter in 2 parts. Come back tomorrow for the final reading and thought.

https://northnibley-my.sharepoint.com/:v:/g/personal/head_northnibley_gloucs_sch_uk/EeQf_3Jo4JlIlos7ch34xyAB_2YeBs5YywSfBb_43x_cKg?e=IIBA98

SONG

Move-it Monday

What A Flexible Body!

This week's action song is a tongue and body twister! The actions let you act out what is sung. It's certainly silly but has lots of scope for serious discussion too. An activity sheet is attached.

<https://youtu.be/ys-z8Nbxajw>

RAINBOW REQUEST

I've asked children to use their digital 'painting' skills to put a rainbow in our assembly logo. You can find the template in the Class Stories.

QUIZ – Congratulations to this week's top 10/10 scorers – Austin, Ollie, Delphie, Cara & Thomas. A new quiz will be up later today.

BIRTHDAYS - 3 to celebrate this week over on Purple Mash. <https://www.purplemash.com/sch/north-gl11>

Until tomorrow,

Take care,

Paul



DAILY UPDATE – DAY 44 – TUESDAY 5th MAY

RAINBOWS...

Are a theme today.

ASSEMBLY

The final part of the Ark story features one, as does today's song.

https://northnibley-my.sharepoint.com/:v:/g/personal/head_northnibley

gloucs.sch.uk/EU-if86pq39BrKCW-JuQwAABciH6n508P_RwsFD1k_QjCw?e=6HDdph

SONG

Sing Of A Rainbow

A fabulous song for introducing the colours of the rainbow and their order!

https://youtu.be/eoHh_3AOVgM

I also viewed this inspirational song from a school in Birmingham, performed in 'lockdown'.

<https://vimeo.com/412881668/c727412703>

QUIZ

Yesterday was May the Fourth (be with you) – international Star Wars day.

This week's quiz is therefore – Star Wars themed!

<https://forms.gle/Eehhbxn8DXaM1i8j7>

Children (of all ages) are welcome to play – it's just for fun!

See you tomorrow, take care,
Paul

DAILY UPDATE – DAY 45 – WEDNESDAY 6th MAY

ASSEMBLY

MESSAGE EDIT - Fiddlesticks! I uploaded Thursday's assembly by mistake!

Here is WEDNESDAY'S

https://northnibley-my.sharepoint.com/:v:/g/personal/head_northnibley_gloucs_sch_uk/EelmTnzNxlIPhFAJivcwC9IBPXNNvKUua_cfvipeMyqHEIQ?e=TE3c7W

SONG

Wellbeing Wednesday

Change And Grow

A very popular song in schools to help us move forward through the changing seasons in life. There's a time for everything, For everything must change and grow. Activity Sheet attached.

<https://youtu.be/LGXvaGPyxsU>

AND A SIGN LANGUAGE VERSION TOO!

<https://www.outoftheark.co.uk/video/change-and-grow-signing/>

BIRTHDAYS - 3 to celebrate this week over on Purple Mash. <https://www.purplemash.com/sch/north-gl11>

FRIDAY ASSEMBLY

I've been keeping careful track of the children who have had work / learning 'celebrated' in the Friday assemblies. By Friday 15th I hope to have featured something from every child. If you've not yet seen something of yours, make sure there is plenty available from which I can choose!

SERIOUS STUFF

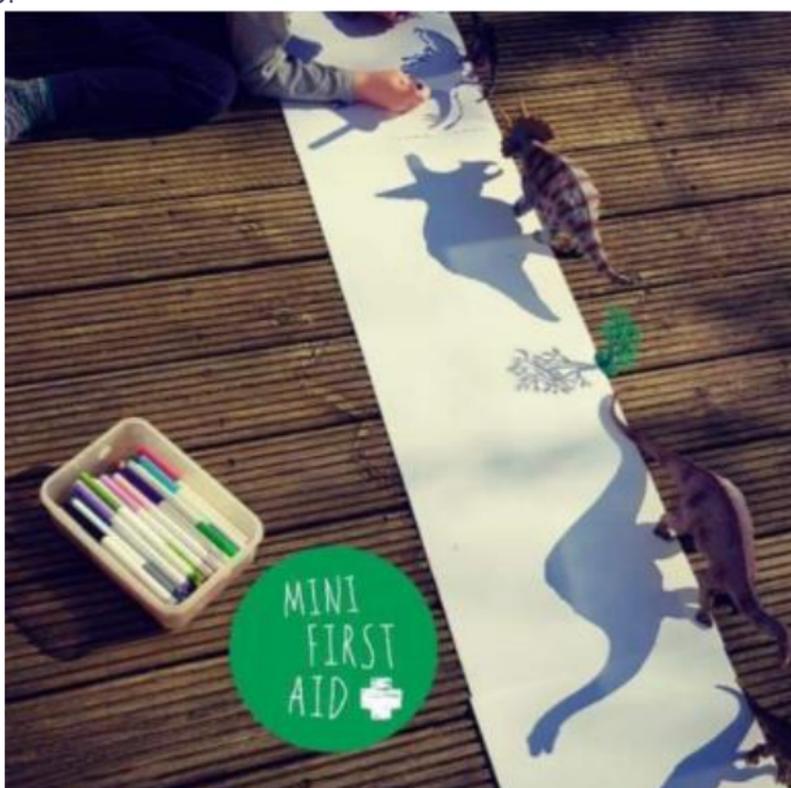
BANK HOLIDAY

School staff will be taking it easy on Bank Holiday Friday (8th May) and parents are asked to reduce

their expectation for a speedy turn-around of questions, answers and feedback. Working online is more than a full day, and a rest is desperately needed. This goes double for the days we've been providing child care in school!

SCHOOL REOPENING

The Prime Minister (as we understand it) will be sketching out a possible scenario for schools in his Sunday briefing. I and other heads will be looking at our local response to this on Monday. I will be discussing this virtually with staff next week. There are huge issues that need to be resolved, and opening will be much more problematic than closing. The partial/phased nature of this compounds the issues. UNTil we have a better idea, keep safe and stay well, Paul



DAILY UPDATE – DAY 46 – THURSDAY 7th MAY

ASSEMBLY

WEDNESDAYS' (in case you missed it!)

The start of a brand new set of stories. Join us for 'Ignatius Goes Fishing (and more beastly tales).'

https://northnibley-my.sharepoint.com/:v/g/person/head_northnibley_gloucs_sch_uk/EeImTnzNxllPhFAJivcwC9IBPXNNvKUua_cfvjpeMyqHEIQ?e=TE3c7W

TODAYS' ASSEMBLY

https://northnibley-my.sharepoint.com/:v/g/person/head_northnibley_gloucs_sch_uk/EUCCzesX08lDm80bepM3_OkB53pKaQ_JDBgAgAWVB7E0m4g?e=Disfbh

SONG - Thinking Thursday

The Doubling Song (I'm Clever!)

A great song to teach children about doubling, using hands as props!

<https://youtu.be/l4pJiHOIAgE>

MRS KIRBY'S CHALLENGE

Shadow drawing.

Line up animals or objects so they have a shadow and draw around the shadow. What happens if you do this / repeat this at a different time of the day? See the picture above! We'd love to see your results!

STAR WARS QUIZ -

See earlier post for details. This one's a challenge!

3 BIRTHDAYS TOMORROW.

Leave your wishes over on Purple Mash.

TOMORROW -

The assembly is 'in the can' with 5 guest presenters and the premier of 'The Battling Challenge' video! Can't wait!

SERIOUS STUFF FOR PARENTS

Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP)
Education Resources

The ThinkUKnow team at CEOP have released their 4th activity packs for children and young people. (Packs 1 to 3 are available at the same site). These are short activities, approx. 15 minutes each, that parents can work through with children, to learn about managing potential risks when working online.

For 4-5 year olds – click

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/Support-tools/home-activity-worksheets/early-years>

For 5-7 year olds - click

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/Support-tools/home-activity-worksheets/5-7s>

For 8-10 year olds – click

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/Support-tools/home-activity-worksheets/8-10s>

For 11-13 year olds – click

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/Support-tools/home-activity-worksheets/11-13s>

For 14+ - click

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/Support-tools/home-activity-worksheets/14-plus>

Stay safe and well,

Paul

This is rather special - Andy Serkis is to read "The Hobbit" nonstop to raise money for the NHS. Find out about this 12 hour livestream online event, an epic read, starting at 10 on Friday.

<https://www.theguardian.com/film/2020/may/07/andy-serkis-to-read-the-hobbit-nonstop-for-charity-nhs>



DAILY UPDATE – DAY 47 – FRIDAY 8th MAY

ASSEMBLY

This is a WHOPPER! 5 presenters, a new song, the Batting Challenge video, 3 birthdays, a new 'Rainbow' ident and a mountain of learning to celebrate. It must be Friday!

This week's tech 'fail' has been the video conversion process, meaning that although the 'raw' assembly worked fine, the post conversion compilation shows that we've lost the images that went with Open The Book (OTB) and the song (the audio parts to both remain intact). I and the team are bitterly disappointed, but I've run out of time to correct this in the master copy.

So –

ASSEMBLY – ALL PARTS including all audio but without OTB images and song images

https://northnibley-my.sharepoint.com/:v:/g/personal/head_northnibley_gloucs_sch_uk/ETWRiOjISL5MiYxb-538W_sBcNReKkHVHMz8AVk-GNEC0g?e=fV4v1M

OTB – Video with images

https://northnibley-my.sharepoint.com/:v:/g/personal/head_northnibley_gloucs_sch_uk/EfFleNbxWL5KnTU9GUWOhYIB2-smgl8r-sE6CRNGumLSTw?e=PKYrHo

SONG - Video with images

https://northnibley-my.sharepoint.com/:v:/g/personal/head_northnibley_gloucs_sch_uk/EZkAqc9rLetMufcebXqEtEQBazfpjgLIB3FUNNcvg_SmwQ?e=NJlgMs

LOTTERY

The FONNS lottery draw can be found here – thank you for supporting the school.

https://northnibley-my.sharepoint.com/:v:/g/personal/head_northnibley_gloucs_sch_uk/EcnKHGxy3e5EIGQQ9gvtussBYsySfh-ZYu9sLW-ugfuP2g?e=kgF7jb

BONUS SONG -VE Day

Keep Calm And Carry On!

Taken from a World War II musical, Treachery At Traitors' Quay, this song commemorates the 75th anniversary of VE Day with poignant lyrics still very relevant to us today.

<https://youtu.be/HnuxWdesxI0>

Have a great weekend,
Paul