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Learning, Achievement, Faith & Fun!

# NEWSLETTER 318

Friday 13th November 2020

## SERVICE IS THIS TERM'S CHRISTIAN VALUE IN FOCUS.

We are sending home this term's Home-School Values sheet with its recap of the lead story (Queen Ester serves her people) and a number of other family-focussed items.

Dear Parents and Friends,

### REMEMBRANCE DAY

On the 11th day, of the 11th month, at 11'o'clock, the school gathered together in the playground (in our socially distanced bubbles) to remember the fallen. As the church bell chimed in the distance, prayers of remembrance were said for those lost or hurt, in body or in mind, and for their families. These were read by Ollie, Hannah, Zak and Olivia. 'The silence' ended with the playing of the last post. Finally, we prayed for ourselves. "Lord, help us, the children and friends of North Nibley School, to be peacemakers in our world." Amen!



The Poppy Appeal collection pots were described as 'Very heavy!'

### THANK YOU FONNS

FONNS have recently agreed the kind donation of funds into various curricular areas. One of the first purchases are these 'cute' programmable floor robots, called Bee-Bots. We now have sufficient for one each in Class

One, and they were being put through their paces this week. One Reception pupils said "I love them!"



### CAN YOU HELP?

One older Bee-Bot is reluctant to move, even when fully charged. It may be a loose connection, or something more permanent. Do we have any electronics hobbyists willing to have a look please?

## **DROP OFF**

We have moved our 'sanitizing gel' station backward to allow those in Class 1 & 2 to line up safely. There should be no need for anyone to step into the road if we use the space wisely.

Children waiting to enter Classes 3 and 4 can be left on the school site (but must be within the walls) once a member of staff is visible. This might also enable parents a speedier exit at the start of the day.

## **CHILDREN IN NEED**

We celebrated with PE star Joe Wicks, wore funny hats, dressed up and otherwise enjoyed the sunshine for Children In Need. Thanks to your generosity we'll be sending £168 to Children In Need.

## **ATTENDANCE UPDATE**

We continue to be a healthy lot, with school attendance running at around 98%. This compares with a Gloucestershire average of just under 90%.

## **NEW JOINERS' SURVEY**

Around this time of year we invite those who have recently joined the school, either as Reception or in other Year Groups, to complete a New Joiner's Survey.

This can be found online here -

<https://forms.gle/gGTPXuBSz8V5Bf9y7>

Governors will get to see the results anonymously and your feedback helps us to know how well we are doing.

## **'OLD' LEAVERS' SURVEY**

We have written to the parents of last year's Year 6 leavers, asking them to complete a survey too. Please ask if you've not had sight of this invitation. Year 7s get their own survey too, which is coming soon!

## **GOVERNOR NEWS**

Governors met virtually last week to carry out their statutory responsibilities. They had agreed the terms dates for 2021-2022 but these now need to be updated to account for the recently announced changes to the Bank Holidays in May & June 2022 when the country celebrates the Queen's Platinum Jubilee (which falls in the planned half-term).

Also newly agreed are the following policies;

- Admissions Policy 2022-2023 (yes, really!)
- Remote Teaching and Learning Policy 2020
- Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions, including Those Who Cannot Attend 2020

And in draft form for your comment:

- Children Missing Education (2020) – DRAFT
- E-Safety Policy (2021) – DRAFT
- Social Media Policy (2021) - DRAFT

You can find all of these on the following page -

<http://www.northnibley.gloucs.sch.uk/policies/>

## **SMILE!**

The recent school photos should be back by Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> November and available online after that.

## **MILD NOVEMBER... & JUMPERS**

Children are shedding their jumpers and coats etc and time is being lost reuniting them with un-named items of clothing. In particular, where a family is benefitting from a 'past down' item, please make sure the current child's name identifies the item of clothing, and that previous owners names have been removed!

## **CHRISTMAS IS COMING....**

Sadly, it looks like any mass gathering at the Church will be beyond us next month. Even if permissible (after this lockdown), many will personally find it a step too far / too soon. We are working towards a video of the Class 1&2 Nativity, and separately some Year 6 Christmas readings and a few more surprises. Watch this space!

The Local Authority (L.A.) advice is that schools should come up with an alternative to Christmas cards this year. With that in mind, I wonder if you might cooperate in the production of a virtual video 'Christmas Card'? The idea is that you gather as a household and video yourselves saying "Merry Christmas from the (?) family". Christmas jumpers, tinsel and a tree in the background are optional but possible as we inch into December. Send the video via Class Dojo and I'll stitch them together for public circulation. The deadline will be Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> December.

## **COOKED SCHOOL MEALS**

From Monday Classes 3 and 4 will work a longer morning to allow a staggered lunchtime as we continue to experiment with ways to maximise the safety of children and staff. I am very grateful to the Mid-Day Supervisors who are working flexibly to support this measure.

## **MATHS WEEK ENGLAND**

We hope to bring you some exciting news next week. However (and to maintain their position) Classes 3 & 4 are strongly encouraged to play on Time Table Rock Stars on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup>. The competition closes at 7:30 p.m. They will earn 'coins' which contribute to a class and school tables, as part of a nationwide competition. Last time we did rather well!

## **\_\_\_\_ REMINDERS \_\_\_\_**

### **BARVEMBER**

Maths specialists White Rose will be running their 'Barvember' challenges throughout November. Mrs Lewis, our Maths Subject Leader, will be sharing the challenges via Class Dojo. Why not work on the challenges as a family together?

### **ARE YOU PLANNING A 'TRIP' TO THE TIP (recycling)**

We have a number of small items near the main gate and would be grateful if you could add these to any pre-booked visit.

**FONNS RAFFLE TICKETS** – These are on sale now.

## **FONNS APPEAL**

The Friends of North Nibley School (FONNS) are collecting 'goodies' for the Christmas hampers. Please use the box on the wall for your donations.

## **FONNS ONLINE CHRISTMAS TREAT STALL**

Pre orders can be made via Facebook FONNS group & Nibley Parent, as well as on a sheet coming home.

## **PARENT EVENINGS**

For this term we have decided that our Autumn Term parents' evening will be conducted by phone, for urgent cases only. If there is a key issue that needs discussing, please let your child's teacher know via Class Dojo. (And if a teacher has a similar need, they will contact you!) Otherwise you can assume that all is fine. Staff will use Class Dojo to negotiate with you a convenient time in the week beginning 16<sup>th</sup> November. Thereafter you should look out for a call close to the agreed time where the number used is 'unavailable' or 'withheld', since in the majority of cases staff will be calling from home.

## **BE PREPARED FOR ISOLATION OR LOCKDOWN**

If you've not already done so, please complete the following survey – Remote Education: Barriers To Learning

[https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=h-Q3pwyCLKOPhvIVvzQ\\_DvqiBNO-02pGqWBXaGmVHV9UMUJPT1pIT0s4S1FPNEtXWIRQMFNTQzKxMy4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=h-Q3pwyCLKOPhvIVvzQ_DvqiBNO-02pGqWBXaGmVHV9UMUJPT1pIT0s4S1FPNEtXWIRQMFNTQzKxMy4u)

Your answers will enable us to co-ordinate resources to help you if a second school lockdown is put in place.

## **A WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY**

Previously I wrote... "Turn North Nibley into a Living Advent Calendar with windows throughout the village decorated and 'opened' each evening between 1 December and Christmas Eve." 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](mailto: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 20<sup>th</sup> November.

## **PROMOTING THE SCHOOL**

The current high level of staffing we are able to employ to support your children is only possible because of our high 'number on roll' – the number of children that attend North Nibley. A full Reception is therefore a key

priority for us. **PLEASE SHARE OUR OPEN DAY VIDEO ON EVERY PLATFORM YOU CAN.** Our Open Day video is now available to view – see our website, our Facebook page and this page here!

<http://www.northnibley.gloucs.sch.uk/open-days/>

The video has been downloaded 216 times so far!

**Our next Open Day 'Zoom' meeting has been scheduled for TUESDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER at 7:00**

Potential attendees need to contact [admin@northnibley.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:admin@northnibley.gloucs.sch.uk) with their email address. Please spread the word.



If anyone would like a copy of the poster for a public-facing window, please ask.

#### **FINANCIAL SUPPORT**

LONDON TRIP? The Pupil Premium can help with that.  
SWIMMING LESSONS? The Pupil Premium can help with that.

IN-CLASS SUPPORT? The Pupil Premium can help with that.

Children in ANY school year can benefit!

I understand that in these strange times many families are under financial stress. Last week I attached 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.

#### **OURBORETUM - FREE SEEDS, POTS AND COMPOST!**

This autumn BBC Radio Gloucestershire is inviting schools, organisations, families and individuals to join them to grow 2,020 trees from seed. They have received a donation of 3,500 pots and enough compost to fill them, and want to give them all away for free. As a school we have applied and we will keep you up to date.

Have a great weekend, Mr B



## FREE MONEY! (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>



## FONNS CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

Some Amazing Prizes on offer this year.....

1st Prize £100.00 gift voucher

2nd Prize £50.00 gift voucher

3rd Prize Luxury Hamper

Half an hour massage

MOT Voucher

Meat Pack

Cake Box Brownies

Lee Dunham motorcross voucher

More prizes to follow

£1.00 per ticket

Tickets will be on SALE soon

