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**L**earning, **A**chievement, **F**aith & **F**un!

# NEWSLETTER 339

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2021

## PERSEVERANCE IS OUR NEW CHRISTIAN VALUE IN FOCUS.

"Perseverance is the hard work you do after you get tired of doing the hard work you already did." Newt Gingrich

Dear Parents and Friends,

### BEHAVIOUR ONLINE

Class 4 have written this report on the visit of PC Mark Weedon, who spoke to the class about the risks of unsafe behaviour online.



"On Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> May, Class 4 received a colossal surprise when a police officer walked into the class. CSO Mark Weedon from SchoolBeat had come to talk to us about internet safety.

He showed us through multiple slides and scenarios which helped us understand him better and more about online safety. He was very good at explaining the importance of internet safety, and how you can look after yourself online.

He told us about, PEGI, the age rating for games and showed us ratings for popular games and apps. The age limits surprised us all - especially WhatsApp being a 16. He reminded us how dangerous it can be to share private information online but also how we can make our accounts safe and secure.

He also explained some of the possible issues around sharing photos of yourself and even your house!

He taught us what is okay to tell other people and what is not. E.g. your personal information.

We thought it was great having an expert come and tell us all about internet safety and we now feel a lot safer on our apps (like Roblox and Fortnite) and we can't wait for him to tell me more.

Overall we found the experience enlightening and look forward to his next visit."

## **YOUR CHILDREN NEED YOUR SUPPORT**

In recent days I've been asked to respond to growing concerns about 'social media nastiness'. Adults in school were already aware of these concerns and, as far as we are able, we were dealing with them. However, it is clear that our guidance and advice is all but forgotten in the excitement of feeling 'grown up' and relevant (the fear of missing out), now that children have almost unlimited (and in too many instances, unsupervised) access to 'their own devices'.

Schools, and 'Schoolbeat' Officer, PC Mark Weedon, believe that recent lockdowns have reduced the weariness with which we ought to be viewing technology.

At North Nibley we have an entire E-Safety curriculum which I have been delivering for the last 5 years (updated as required). Parents can see this here – <http://www.northnibley.gloucs.sch.uk/curriculum-design/> . My Class 4 lesson last week was directed specifically at telling children how they should behave online.

Whilst supporting the mental health and emotional state of children in school will always be part of our role, our powers are limited.

**If parents continue to allow children access to social media which they are ill-equipped to manage (socially and emotionally), including WhatsApp WHICH HAS A 16 YEARS+ AGE RATING, some 'fall-out' must be expected.**

It is a shame that classroom time is lost, and friendships strained, as a result of the children's natural inability to deal with these complex issues and behaviours. Many adults can't master it ("Sporting bodies begin a four-day boycott of social media to tackle abuse and discrimination" - BBC website 03/05/2021) so why should we have this expectation of children?

MY OWN PERSONAL VIEW IS...

- Respect the rules. If you won't do that...
- At the very minimum PARENTS should INSIST on being part of each and every group.
- Parents should insist on having the latest passcode to children's devices and the right to view.
- No one should be admitted to the group unless everyone knows them face-to-face, and agrees in advance.
- The right to impose 'off-line' time (grounding) for breaking rules should be clear and transparent, and enforced.
- Devices should be collected in at bedtimes.

In the past I have recommended the website <https://www.net-aware.org.uk/> . Part-funded by the NSPCC, it lets you know all the risks, but is best checked IN ADVANCE when a child suggests they get a new App. Being wise after the event can be a miserable experience.

Net-aware includes loads of great advice about being safe and working together as a family. Topics include:

Explore WhatsApp together  
Show them how to block other users  
Change the group chat settings  
Change who can see personal information  
Talk to your child about what they're sharing  
Let your child know they can talk to you

I also look for guidance to

<https://www.commonsemmedia.org/>

One powerful feature of the 'Common Sense' site is the parent and children reviews, where each group suggests an age rating. Currently (and in a challenge to UK Law) parents rate WhatsApp as a 14+ app. Children significantly younger. Don't believe the 'everyone's doing it' argument!

Social Media Nastiness is real and if left unchecked can lead to life-changing and even tragic outcomes. I urge all parents who feel they might not have understood the risks to check chat history and choose a good time to have any necessary conversations with their children. Always be open to talk to your children when they share their online concerns.

New Apps are appearing all the time, and risks are not limited to children in Class 4. If you discover an unknown app, check online advice sites for known risks.

Ultimately, being part of a group chat is not compulsory. If the behaviour of others continues to cause upset, walk away. Delete the app. Your children managed perfectly well before they had this access. They'll be OK if they take a break. And their REAL friends will totally understand!

## **FONNS Sunflower Competition** **Summer 2021**

Non school Uniform day Friday 14th May 2021  
In aid of FONNS.

Children can come into school in non-school uniform - Fun Colours (dressed sensibly & appropriately) and make a donation of £1.00 to FONNS.

In return, everyone will receive an entry pack for our FONNS Sunflower competition!

There are two prizes to be won:

-  One for the tallest sunflower
-  One for the largest head

To enter the competition, you will need to submit a photo - with a ruler/metre stick so we can verify the height/width to [fonns@northnibley.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:fonns@northnibley.gloucs.sch.uk) **by 1st September 2021.**

We would love to see photos of you planting and growing your sunflowers, so please do post your photos over the coming weeks, EITHER on the FONNS Facebook page or for those who would rather not, email photos to [FONNS@northnibley.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:FONNS@northnibley.gloucs.sch.uk)

Good luck everyone! Happy Growing 

**SUPERSTARS** is up and running and places can be booked through the details on the card –

Email [northnibley@super-stars.co.uk](mailto:northnibley@super-stars.co.uk) or call 07983 979877

### **HAVE YOU DONE THIS YET?**

And if not, why? Stephen Fry, no less, gives it his backing to this strategy **PROVEN** to improving children's reading on a regular basis. It costs **NOTHING**, takes just **SECONDS** and could make a **LIFETIME** of difference to your children!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l-zlSnJ-oao&t=5s>

### **CAN YOU HELP?**

Do we have any friends of the school (parents, capable relatives / neighbours who might be willing to undertake some light maintenance work around the school (paid or unpaid)?

Do we have any contacts in the world of outdoor notice boards, who might cut us a deal?

Please ask Mr Batchelor for details.

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

Our regular series on the actions we can take to ensure that our children - and their children - enjoy a better world. Here are some practical tips and ideas you may want to think about at home.

Discuss these with your children too!

A Blister pack is a term for several types of pre-formed plastic packaging used for small consumer goods, foods, and for pharmaceuticals. Our good friends in 'The Hub' (Village Shop) in North Nibley have started to collect these for recycling, and school cleaner Mary Isgar is happy to act as a go-between, so do make use of our enthusiasm for recycling by saving your blister packs here. Please make sure that the packs are completely empty before dropping in your donations. (no bottles or boxes, no unwanted medicines please).

### **NEXT WEEK – SMILE PLEASE!**

11<sup>th</sup> May – Class groups and Leavers' Photos.

Hairbrushes at the ready?

### **STAFFING UPDATE**

We have been pleased to extend Jules Miller's role in school to include some additional hours supporting individuals in Classes 1 and 2.

### **SCHOOL TEAMS & THE 'TOKYO' CHALLENGE**

Don't forget – having 'reached Tokyo' once with our exercise challenge, we are attempting to repeat the challenge, but as individual school teams. You'll need to select the right team when you log on to record your exercise. Adults can 'play along' too and add their walks, swims, rides and runs to the pupil teams.



## WISHLIST

You may recall that we host a wish list on the school website. I had cause to update this recently and was pleased to see the progress we had made against a good number of the ideas you have contributed. You can still add new ideas and comment on existing ideas if you wish.

(<http://www.northnibley.gloucs.sch.uk/wishlist/> )

## ADVANCED NOTICE – CLOTHES RECYCLING

The next opportunity to recycle unwanted clothing is 24<sup>th</sup> June.

## LOOKING FORWARD

New dates and events (as ever, **subject to Government restrictions**). We currently are planning the following:

From:

- **UPDATE** Monday 21<sup>st</sup> June all children may arrive after (not before) 8:40 and before 8:55 (our 'old' arrival time) and enter through the front main door DIRECT TO THEIR CLASSES. All staff are finding the 'soft start' window beneficial in setting the climate for learning.
- We welcome the end of bubbles, segregated play and staggered lunchtimes.
- Whole school end-of-day collection time returns to 3:15 p.m.
- **NEW EVENTS** Friday 25<sup>th</sup> June (and Fridays 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> July) – the return of 'Nibley Nibbles Café. Come early and stay for... "The first 'Whole School' Assembly (since Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2020!) Adult visitors welcome!

### IF THIS FEELS TOO SOON FOR YOU, WE UNDERSTAND. THERE IS NO EXPECTATION FOR YOU TO ATTEND.

- Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> JUNE – HAPPY 'UN-CHRISTMAS' – a rescheduled Christmas Dinner!
- Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> July – The 'new/current' Reception Welcome service. Get those pebbles ready! Visitors welcome! Why not come early for Nibley Nibbles?
- **NEW EVENT** – 7<sup>th</sup> July (to be confirmed – TBC) – Competitive Sports Day.
- **NEW EVENT** – Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> July "For one night only..." An evening event for ALL of Key Stage Two... (TBC)
- **NEW EVENT** – Weds 14<sup>th</sup> July – Play Leader's Sports Day (TBC)
- Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> July – Leaver's Service in St Martin's Church.

## TERM DATES

A reminder of the pupil days in the year ahead:

	First pupil day	Last pupil day
Term 5	Mon 19 <sup>th</sup> April *	Fri 28 <sup>th</sup> May
Term 6	Mon 7 <sup>th</sup> June	Tues 20 <sup>th</sup> July
Term 1	Thurs 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sept	Fri 22 <sup>nd</sup> Oct
Term 2	Tues 2 <sup>nd</sup> Nov.	Fri 17 <sup>th</sup> Dec
Term 3	Weds 5 <sup>th</sup> Jan <b>2022</b>	Fri 18 <sup>th</sup> Feb <b>2022</b>
Term 4	Mon 28 <sup>th</sup> Feb <b>2022</b>	Fri 8 <sup>th</sup> April <b>2022</b>

\* May 3<sup>rd</sup> = Bank Holiday