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Learning, Achievement, Faith & Fun!

NEWSLETTER 349

Monday 6th September 2021

FRIENDSHIP IS OUR CHRISTIAN VALUE IN FOCUS.

"My best friend is the one who brings out the best in me." Henry Ford.

Dear Parents and Friends,

Welcome back to school, and if you are joining us for the first time, welcome to you too!

Whilst much of life has been put on hold over the last 18 months, we are very excited to be starting out on a fresh new school year, and we are gearing up for a full year of activities and experiences that will make a lasting, positive difference to your children.

PREMISES UPDATE – OUTSIDE...

If you visited school in person this week, you cannot have missed the massive 'facelift' to the front of the building. Jules Miller (Parent and Governor) and Philipa Simpson (Parent) have worked wonders with local supporters Breakheart Quarry, their families and other parents, to replace the old planters with new flower beds, sporting the 4 key words from our vision, and seating. The beds have educational value too – as we will shortly demonstrate – and the plants were generously donated by local garden shops and nurseries. The money for the wood has been raised by the local community, donating via JustGiving, and it's not too late to make a donation as the amount raised falls just short of the target. Please donate if you can. https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/north-nibley-planters?utm_term=AzbXQwmeY



AND INSIDE...

Previously we reported how Fiona Yarrow (Parent and Governor) and the governors had successfully bid for funds exceeding £100,000 to replace the heating throughout the school. The excellent news is that the overwhelming majority of the work has been completed (as late as Friday evening, fully justifying the last minute change of term dates) and we now anticipate being toasty-warm when the weather cools. However, some of the 'new' radiators are temporary whilst our contractors

wait to source the intended radiators, due to a national shortage of pressed steel! The outstanding work will now be completed in the October half-term.

CLASS DOJO

Our free messaging app and online 'portfolio' tool has been 'reset' by Miss Parker (Class 3 teacher) to reflect the movement of children to new classes. Reception parents, we will be inviting you to join shortly. If you have any difficulties, please let us know.

LOOKING AHEAD

- Thursday - Sunflower competition deadline – photos please to FONNS@northnibley.gloucs.sch.uk
- South Cerney – Year 6 water-sports day with the Tyndale Cluster. 14th September
- 14th & 15th – Meet The Teacher! 4 virtual meetings about plans and expectations. More to follow.
- FONNS Meeting Tues 14th Sept. 7.30pm Black Horse
- iSingPop – see the attached letter. In-school 'learning' 20th & 21st Sept, concert 28th at 5:45 pm
- Friday 1st October – McMillan Coffee Morning. Everyone invited, IF there is no covid resurgence
- Swimming – Years 3 & 4 and selected others continue to swim every Monday.

FRIDAY ASSEMBLY

Something different! Friday's assembly will be held at the FRONT of the school, at 2:40, with all visitors leaning on the outside of the boundary wall. You are invited! The assembly will have a 'garden' focus!

PLASTIC OCEANS / OCEAN REVIVAL

Many of you were following the story of 'Uncle Matt' and the 'NY2L' (New York to London) rowing team, who completed 'the world's most dangerous row' on Wednesday 11th August, after 71 days rowing. "The Ocean Revival team safely reached their final destination, Tower Bridge, London where they were welcomed home by a crowd of family, friends, press and sponsors. They have become the first-ever rowing team to complete the 3,700-mile journey from New York to London." Our congratulations go to Matt and the team, raising awareness of plastic pollution



WELCOMING 'YEAR 1' AND OLDER JOINERS

The current Year 1 pupils and 2 others have yet to have their 'public' welcome service. If you are a parent of these, I invite you in for Friday 17th September at 2:40. Children need to find a special stone, add their name to it, and have it in school by Weds 15th September please. **(Reception, we hope to have your service on 1st Oct.)**

COVID-Related update

School has produced an 'Outbreak Management Plan' currently being reviewed by Governors. When adopted, you will be able to find this under the 'news' menu.

REMINDERS –

- The new meals menu has been uploaded here - <http://www.northnibley.gloucs.sch.uk/school-meals-menus/> and we now begin on a Week 2.
- From September, Class 3's teacher will be referred to as Miss Parker.
- Mrs Roberts will be taking up additional hours in Classroom 3. These hours will become permanent after the 'Covid-Catchup' money runs out.
- Mrs Pullin will be taking up additional hours and working alongside Ms Surridge in Classroom 4. These hours will become permanent after the 'Covid-Catchup' money runs out.
- An important letter about a change to THIS SCHOOL YEAR's Term Dates went home at the end of July. You can also find this change online - <http://www.northnibley.gloucs.sch.uk/term-dates/>
- We will continue with a 'soft start' in each class. Children may arrive from 8:40, directly into their classes, but MUST be in by 8:55, when registers are taken swiftly and school meal orders placed. Later than this causes us to re-do registers and re-send lunch orders (effectively doubling our work), so please respect this 8:55 arrival time. Please enter at the front door. ('New' Reception have their own instructions for their first days). Teachers may therefore be unavailable first thing.
- Another thing we are retaining is the regular use of hand sanitizers. We were SO impressed with last year's attendance statistics, and believe that an increased focus on keeping clean has significantly reduced the number of sick days and lost learning time. 38 children achieved 100% attendance last year, when normally only 4 or 5 might be expected. Well done!
- All 'restrictions' linked to bubbles have been removed. There is no divided playground and no more staggered lunchtimes. We will all end the school day at 3:15 p.m.
- We are continuing with arriving at school in PE kit on PE days, as follows:
Classes 1 & 2 - 'Double' PE on Thursdays
Classes 3 – 'Double' PE on Fridays
Classes 4 – 'Double' PE on both Weds & Fridays
- From today, I reiterate that cycling shorts will no longer be acceptable for PE lessons. The exception to this is gymnastics lessons. For other PE lessons we require shorts that allow air to circulate.
- We will not be admitting parents or volunteers into the school buildings before October, when we will review 'the covid numbers'. Exceptions include

Swimming volunteers and invited parents for the Welcome assemblies (see above).

TERM DATES

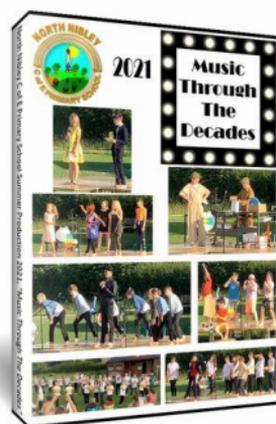
A reminder of the pupil days in the year ahead:

| | First pupil day | Last pupil day |
|---------|----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| Term 1 | Monday 6 th Sept | Fri 22 nd Oct |
| Term 2 | Monday 1 st Nov. | Fri 17 th Dec |
| Term 3 | Weds 5 th Jan 2022 | Fri 18 th Feb 2022 |
| Term 4 | Mon 28 th Feb 2022 | Fri 8 th April 2022 |
| Term 5* | Mon 25 th April 2022 | Fri 27 th May 2022 |
| Term 6 | Mon 6 th June 2022 | Tues 19 th July 2022 |

*May 2nd 2022 = Bank Holiday

SUMMER PRODUCTION 2021

What better way to 'spice up your life' than reliving the 'thriller' that was this year's summer production? Orders, with £5 cash, can now be placed (no cash, no order!) This year we are experimenting with a USB stick version, since mastering the DVDs is time consuming. Please pay at the school office.



NEWSLETTERS

From next week newsletters will revert to a Friday. They will be sent by email, Class Dojo and in hardcopy (pupil post!) You can also find them on our website here – <http://www.northnibley.gloucs.sch.uk/newletters/> Newsletters from 2018 will be deleted from the website shortly. Download your favorites now!



Didn't we have a lovely time at the FONNS SUMMER BBQ? An astonishing £578.14 was raised! Thank you to all those who gave practical help or supported financially.




FONNS FIREWORKS

Friday 22nd October

Gates open at 5pm
Firework display at 6.30pm

Held at North Nibley School
family of 4 £10.00
or £2.50 per person
Pre School Children FREE

Food & Drinks can be purchased
prior to the display