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Learning, Achievement, Faith & Fun!

NEWSLETTER 399

Wednesday 14th December 2022

RESPECT IS THIS TERM'S CHRISTIAN VALUE IN FOCUS.

"I speak to everyone in the same way, whether he is the garbage man or the president of the university."

—Albert Einstein

Dear Parents and Friends,

What a start to the week! I think I can honestly say not many of us saw that coming! There's no business like snow business!

EXPERIENCE CHRISTMAS



On Thursday 8th December a team of 5 from St. Martin's led the children sequentially through the events of the first Christmas. In 14 small groups they learnt about the prophecies made

regarding the coming saviour and the difficult journeys made by the earthly parents of Jesus at a time of great hardship.

Iola, Primrose, Jack and Oliver said, "Mary and Joseph went to Bethlehem on a donkey." "The inns were full so Jesus was born in a stable." "The shepherds were leading their sheep when an angel came." "Gold, frankincense and myrrh were presents given by the kings."

My grateful thanks go to those friends of the school who have made this 'experience' so memorable – Sue Devine, Peter Hall, Rosie Casken, Sue Bradley-Jones and Dawn Shepherd. Well done all.

BOOKS FOR AFRICA

Mrs Shepherd continues her amazing support for the Books for Africa scheme and the latest donation of 12 boxes – from community and school - are packaged ready for collection. Thank you.

DOORS AND 'LIGHTBOXES'

As you may have seen, work on our doors and windows continues and 2 of the 4 'main doors' have been replaced. The other two hope to be completed before Christmas, along with the front windows. Class 1 now have an external handle too! Many thanks go to Fiona Yarrow who continues to oversee arrangements on behalf of the school.



You may be wondering about the stained-glass windows. These will be mounted on 'lightboxes' and moved to the main wall to the left. They should look spectacular! (Pupils made these in 2005. Were you one of them?)

NATIVITY VIDEOS

The first two videos are available to download now. Please return to this page regularly for the final, evening performance, which I now won't be able to prepare until the weekend (sorry!) -

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

GOV MINUTES

Minutes of recent meetings have been posted here – <http://www.northnibley.gloucs.sch.uk/governor-minutes/>

STAYING SAFE

Pupils should remember me dressing up in high viz for the weekly safety message (I've shown Mr Hodgkinson where it is kept!) One regular 'winter' reminder is that children stay off frozen ponds, lakes, rivers and streams. It's very tragic circumstances that brings to mind how important it is that we continue to PREVENT accidents with timely reminders.

WELLINGTON BOOT REQUEST

Our wellington boot 'tree' has many boots on it (some even in pairs!) but many are now perished or full of spiders! If you have a spare pair, that perhaps your children have outgrown, please donate them. The younger classes would use ours more if they were usable!

WHEN THE RED, RED ROBIN...

Mrs Pullin recently set an art challenge, and the standard of the competition was very high, as you may be able to tell from this photo. Certificates for Commended, Highly Commended and Overall Winner were presented to children from many year groups – from Reception to Year 6 - in assembly last week.



MUSICAL CHESS CLUB?

Are there members of our community that might be interested in supporting the children in a lunchtime or after-school recorder or chess club? We have all the kit and would welcome additional opportunities to enrich the pupils' lives. The usual safeguarding principles would apply, but please talk to us if you are interested.

NIBLEY GREEN

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!



RECYCLE YOUR...BOTTLE-BAGS

Many manufacturers now attach TWO labels to a bottle bag. The expectation is those lucky enough to receive a bottle can re-use the bag (after removing the first tag!) So, buy those if you must buy new.

OR

Use a pre-used bag and find a new way to attach a homemade label.

OR

Take a bundle of bottle bags to a charity shop – they can sell them on and benefit their charities.

Send me your tips for this regular item - newsletter@northnibley.gloucs.sch.uk

CHRISTINGLE GIVING

For everyone's information – St Martins Church are registered for official Christingle services and they are encouraging online donations, this year – see <https://www.childrensociety.org.uk/christingle/st-martins-church-north-nibley>

CAROL SERVICE

Despite a postponement and the inevitable clashes of events in this busy season, a good number attended St. Martin's Church last night. Hopefully, it was a Carol Service to remember – fully exemplifying my own preference for (managed) chaos – a joyous mix of reverence and exuberance: Truly, **L.A.F.F. out loud!**

- L**earning - We learnt a new carol
- A**chievement - Especially for those playing, singing or speaking to a large audience
- F**aith - "God's Love came down at Christmas"
- F**un! - The boisterous 12 Days of Christmas.

Thank you for your support and kind words.

PARTIES

Tomorrow! Watch Class Dojo for any updates on Thursday and Friday, especially regarding lunches, as often the food donations feed us all for a second day!



THE STAFF REMAIN UNANIMOUS in believing that reading regularly with your child is the single best thing those at home can do to support learning. Our 'easy questions to ask' guides, which encourage comprehension skills, can be found online here in TWO formats, one for younger and one for older readers. Both fiction and non-fiction books are catered for. Will you be giving a book this Christmas?

<http://www.northnibley.gloucs.sch.uk/supporting-learning-publications/>

CHRISTMAS COUNTDOWN

School finishes with a Friday assembly at 2:30
Fri 16th - LAST DAY OF TERM. Finish at the regular time.

Find **DRAFT TERM DATES** for 2023 – 24, and 2024 – 25 here <http://www.northnibley.gloucs.sch.uk/term-dates/>

	First pupil day	Last pupil day
Term 2	Tues 1 st Nov	Fri 16 th Dec
Term 3	Weds 4 th Jan 2023	Fri 17 th Feb 2023
Term 4	Mon 27 th Feb	Fri 31 st March
Term 5	Mon 17 th April	Fri 26 th May
Term 6	Mon 5 th June	Fri 21 st July
Term 1	TBC (New Head Teacher)	

THE FUTURE

Several parents have asked if children can keep in touch. I will always be interested in their achievements, but safeguarding guidance strongly advises against me (and all staff) from sharing phone, email and social media contact details. However, Mrs Kirby has said she will be willing, from time-to-time, to forward the latest news. I will remain an avid reader of the newsletter!

Mr Hodgkinson has so much to look forward to, and much to learn, but he is keen and ready. With your support and encouragement, I am sure you are all in for an exciting time. Look after each other.

399 down, 1 to go. My top 20 memories, in full, on Friday.