



Friday 18th July 2019

On this day in the year 64, the Great Fire of Rome begins under the Emperor Nero.

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Dear Parents and Friends,

FONNS FUN DAY

The children had a wonderful time on Friday. The Friends Of North Nibley School organised a fun day with half a day at cattle country and half a day on a visiting climbing wall. Children were encouraged to conquer their fears and climb the 4m tower. For many children, the climbing was easier than the descent. Having the courage to let go was a real challenge. Thank you again to all those who raise money to allow special treats.



COUNTY CHAMPIONS - AGAIN! Nature Quiz Champions 2019

1. What colour is a stoat's tail?
2. What is the soft skin on a stag's antlers called?
3. What colour is a barn owl's face?
4. What is a dunnock?
5. What colour is the inside of a swallow's throat?
6. What colour is an oyster-catcher's eye?



These are the six favourite questions from the team who were recently crowned Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust County Champions. The bronzed owl trophy now bears the name 'North Nibley' twice – we've been runners up in the years when we didn't win. An extraordinary achievement for such a small school!

Once a week, Mrs Lampard and Ms Murphy arrived with bunches of flowers, grasses, feathers and photos to help the team identify specimens, study photographs in minute detail, determine patterns of behaviour of animals and reflect on the relationships between British wildlife. This long process – the competition starts in January – saw the completion of a cycle: When they started, the hazels had catkins on them and now the hazelnuts are maturing on the trees. We thank them for giving up so much of their time to the team.

Charlotte McAsey, Emily Shepherd, Delphie Locke, Claudie White, Catherine Shepherd and Meriel Hayles are all to be congratulated for their outstanding knowledge and presence of mind when put on the spot during the quiz. Now on to next year's competition!

P.S. For answers see below...

1. black
2. velvet
3. white
4. a hedge sparrow
5. yellow
6. red

HEALTHY SNACKS We have noticed that the proportion of 'healthy snacks' as a choice seems to be dwindling. We are not a school to say 'never' but would like to point out that over a week we expect to see a healthy balance in your food choices in school. Thank you to everyone who took part, and to our specialist teachers for bring the children on so well.

SEPTEMBER - SCHOOL UNIFORM We would like to start the Autumn Term with a renewed commitment to seeing children in school uniform as described in the schools Prospectus and Parent Handbook (you can find this here - <http://www.northnibley.gloucs.sch.uk/prospectus-and-parent-handbook/>)

In particular, socks should be white, grey, black and plain. Hair bands and other hair accessories should be simple and in school colours. Skin 'stickers', tattoos and nail varnish are not appropriate.

NUT FREE I would like to remind parents that we are 'nut free'. Please comply with this since there are children with allergies in the school, and this issue will be critical for two children on roll in September.

CLASS 1 & 2 SHOWCASE ASSEMBLY

Our youngest members acted, danced and sang their way into our memories with their showcase assembly. Based around their learning of how seaside holidays have changed over time, the children confidently shared a number of facts and mini-dramas before finishing with 'Under The Sea', from The Little Mermaid. Well done, everyone!



ANOTHER CLASS ACT

Actually, two classes. Classes 3 and 4 wow'd us with 'Robin and the Sherwood Hoodies.' The peasants may well have been revolting, the the children sparkled with enthusiasm, singing, dancing and punning their way into North Nibley folklore. Another legendary production and my grateful thanks to all of those who made the magic happen.



LEAVER'S SERVICE

The final assembly of the year is the Leaver's Service, from 9:15 a.m. in St Martin's Church on the last day of term, Friday 19th July. You are all welcome to join us in saying goodbye to a remarkable year group!

We will also be saying 'Goodbye to Mrs S Shephard, Miss Breen and Mrs Griffin in her role as Teaching Assistant this term.

Traditionally we also cover 'Summer Holiday' birthdays for any of our leavers. The rest have to wait until September!

PLAY LEADER'S SPORTS DAY

On Wednesday our amazing Play Leaders - the Year 6 who qualified for this nationally recognised award (and that's all of them!) - led the school in the 2nd of our annual Sports Days. Organising and running a carousel of activities, they managed behaviour and sportsmanship, reffing where needed and encouraging all through the afternoon.

A group of Class 3 girls were interviewed, and they said:
Grace: It's really fun. We got to go around lots of different activities and find out what amazingly creative Year 6 have dreamt up for us."

Isabella said "We played games such as football, bouncy-hopper-stick-in-the-mud and obstacle course and handball."

Hannah said "At the end we had refreshments, which was good because it was hot."

Amelie said "I want to thank FONNS for the drinks and yummy biscuits, and Year 6 for setting it all up."



SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS

A large proportion of Year 5 children paired up and put themselves forward for election to the posts of Chair and Vice Chair of the School's Pupil Council.

We held hustings and speeches were made. Posters outlining their manifestos have decorated the corridors for a week. All children, from Reception to Year 5, were allowed a vote, whilst Year 6 acted as election officials. As much as we could, we followed the protocols acted by adults. Along the way we learnt a lot about how our democracy functions. Bess was detailed as reporter. She writes "Straight after assembly the receptions started voting and everything went into action. After Reception, Year 5 voted and then the rest of the school. We were ticked off the electoral roll. Our voting booths were divided so you couldn't see who the person next to you was voting for. The last people to vote were Year 4 and soon the voting ended. Next the votes were counted. Four Year 6s had then long job of counting all of them. Once they had finished, another group of four year 6s double checked the counting of the votes. Once we knew who had one we had to keep it secret for a whole hour whilst interacting with the candidates! It was so hard!"

Ellie was our Returning Officer. She said "I, Ellie, returning officer for the North Nibley Primary School Constituency, hereby declare the results of the School Council Elections, 2019." She then read out all the results, ending with "I hereby declare that Joss and Poppy have been elected Chair and Vice Chair of the school council from September 2019."

Well done to ALL who took part. You have to be brave to make yourself vulnerable. The campaigns were fair and very well thought through, so don't be surprised if aspects of another parties manifesto appear in school life next year.

SPECIAL REQUEST

A representative of the Playing Fields committee has asked us to remind PARENTS of children playing on the fields after school that children SHOULD NOT be climbing on the goal posts, netball/basket ball 'muga' or the cricket apparatus. Please ensure that the children do not continue to upset our neighbours!

HOPE IS THIS TERM'S CHRISTIAN VALUE IN FOCUS.

This is a verse which reminds us that we are still 'works in progress!' This can give us hope for the future. "Be confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ." From the Bible - the Letter to the Philippians, chapter 1 verse 6.

MUSIC LESSONS

We have some spaces for children wanting to take up woodwind instruments after the summer holidays. Please refer to the yellow music note sent home last week, which explains more or ask at the school office.

We are also exploring opportunities to allow for parent-funded guitar lessons, on the same basis as existing violin and woodwind lessons. These lessons will happen on Tuesday afternoons and will start next term.

ILLNESS

Can I remind parents that children MUST be kept from school if a period of 48 hours after sickness and diarrhoea. This is to keep all other children from coming down with the same.

LONDON 2019 / NIBLEY NIBBLES

Current Year 4 and 5 children are looking forward to their residential in October.

You will be please to know that Nibley Nibbles has raised £396 profit which is used to subsidise the costs (and allow for some small 'extras'). Our huge thanks to all those who cooked with the children, served or otherwise supported. Thank you to all the children for their fantastic manners whilst 'working' the cafe. (Year 3, or course, will benefit when they are Year 6 in 2021!)

THE WRITE STUFF

The final 'Write Stuff' magazine has been published. Staff have kept lists and we know that every child has been published, so it is sad to hear that some children have not seen their work in print. We send home hard copy (paper) specifically to enable this to happen at home. We believe that the sharing of work at home has the potential to inspire and motivate, so perhaps opportunities have been missed? Over the summer I will attempt to upload copies to the website, but it won't 'feel the same.'

<http://www.northnibley.gloucs.sch.uk/the-write-stuff/>

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FACEBOOK

Longer text items posted on Facebook have text hidden behind a 'See more' link. As the administrator of the school's Facebook page, I have been very interested to see the number of parents who click 'Like' without clicking 'See more'. Do we really know what we are 'liking'?

CHANGES COMING YOUR WAY SOON.

Despite a large number of the parents responding to the Parent Survey, saying they read the school e-newsletter as much, if not more than the paper based one, it is clear from calls to the office and questions at the gate that many parents are missing important pieces of information, and the children rarely get to see their own school's news (including that to which they contribute). So expect a return to a paper-based letter in September, with downloadable .pdf to match.

SCHOOL WEBSITE

Weeks before a school is aware that it has been scheduled for an inspection, inspectors are visiting the site looking for the legally required content and getting a feel for the ethos of the school. Knowing we were approaching 'the inspection window' for SIAMS, significant development work on the site was suspended, just in case I accidentally changed something irreversible! I had plans to make some big changes and these will now be happening over the summer. Don't be surprised if you are greeted with a 'work in progress' during the break.

'MONEY MAKES THE WORLD GO AROUND'

To the parents of Year 6 Leavers - please ensure your ParentPay balances are settled before Friday 12th.

SUMMER BUILDING WORKS

As you will have seen, our breakout space building (it needs a better name!) will be going ahead and construction is due to take place in the summer holiday. The school grounds are strictly off-limits during the break

PREVIOUSLY -

Exciting news from the Governors. Please make sure you read their newsletter which you can also find online here - <http://www.northnibley.gloucs.sch.uk/governor-newsletters/>

STAFF NEWS - UPDATE

After a little delay, I can confirm the name of Claire Pullin, who has been appointed to the role of Teaching Assistant in Classroom 3 from September 2019. I am sure you will make her welcome.

GOVERNOR NEWS - UPDATE

The Full Governing Board met last week. Much of the discussion centred around outcomes for Year 6, Year 2, Year 1 and Reception. The current School Improvement Plan was reviewed and priorities selected for 2019-20. Admissions, policies and the new build featured. Governor committee structures, end-of-year review and school self-evaluation were also discussed, and we said 'goodbye' to Chris Huxley-Reynard who is stepping down from his Governor role.

Ned Hussain has also stepped down, so we are on the lookout for new governors.

North Nibley School is always keen to hear from anybody who thinks they might be interested in being a governor here. This voluntary role comes with a serious commitment but also the chance to play a part in the life of this happy, successful village school. It's an excellent way to feel part of the community and get to know people if you are a newcomer to the parish. The involvement isn't onerous, but if you want to find out more go to the school website for more details (<http://www.northnibley.gloucs.sch.uk/governor-succession/>) or talk to any of the governors listed there. We're a friendly crowd and we would be really pleased if the crowd were a little bigger!

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2019-2020

Last year we took the step of publishing a parent version of the School Improvement Plan. I hope you found this interesting and/or helpful. Governors use the results of inspections, surveys, test results and internal monitoring to determine priorities for the next year. These have now been determined and they are as follows (though at this stage the wording is in draft format):

Articulating our Spiritual Journey. This is one of the areas for development from our recent SIAMS inspection. See <http://www.northnibley.gloucs.sch.uk/inspection-reports/>

Sustaining Improvements in Writing. Despite writing results being the best in 4 years (attainment AND progress - see <http://www.northnibley.gloucs.sch.uk/school-results/>), we want to continue to work in this area to ensure the steps already taken are fully embedded in our work.

Supporting those making slower progress. We have identified individual pupils whose rate of progress is slower than their peers (not limited to those with Special Educational Needs). In the Annual Reports to Parents every child has been set targets / next steps which we hope you will act upon. In the Autumn we will provide more information about how you can support them further.

Improving outcomes in Science. We will be looking carefully at the curriculum to make sure the opportunities we provide give a structured progression to science knowledge and skills. We will then be assessing how well we achieve our intentions in the classroom.

Weaving through these priorities will be an action to improve the way that technology is used to enrich learning. In due course you will be able to see the main actions we are taking here -

<http://www.northnibley.gloucs.sch.uk/improvement-plans/>

FONNS NEWS

FONNS have worked tirelessly on behalf of your children, and in doing so raised a huge amount of money. Most recently the Music Festival. Thank you so much if you were part of the team of volunteers (and if not, please put yourself forward next year - it's great fun too!) On their Facebook Page they write

"TOTAL AMOUNT RAISED from the NIBLEY FESTIVAL ★ ★£8,725.00 ★ A massive Thank you to all those that helped set up, serve on the bar, cook breakfasts and serve breakfasts. We really are so grateful for the time everyone put into the weekend. Without your help we wouldn't have been able to raise this figure...

With this year being capped on the Bar takings we are thrilled to have raised this amount of money.

Thank you once again for all the support to FONNS." The FONNS Facebook page can be found here -

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/351692605004997/>

You can apply to access the closed group on this page too.

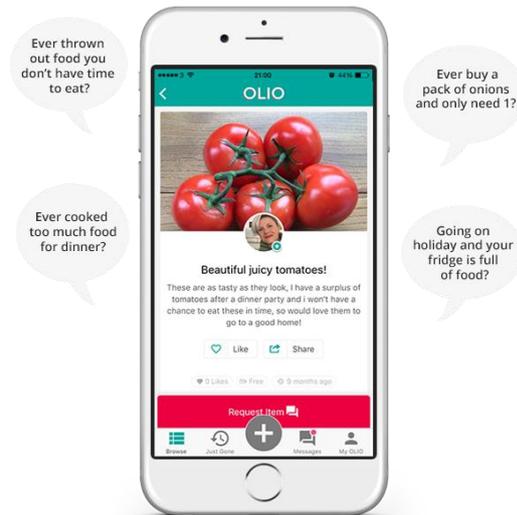
Thank you for a fab year supporting FONNS and raising money for the children and the school.

'NIBLEY GREEN' - Towards a greener world.

Another item in 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!
I spotted this on a shop wall. Do you think it true?

"There is no such thing as waste, just MISPLACED RESOURCES"

With that in mind, I've also discovered a phone app - OLIO.
"If you love food, hate waste, care about the environment or want to connect with your community, OLIO is for you. OLIO connects neighbours with each other and volunteers with businesses so surplus food and other items can be shared, not thrown away.
If food waste were a country it would be the 3rd largest emitter of greenhouse gases (after China & the USA)
In developed countries, over half of all food waste takes place in the home."



Who knows? If this isn't an option for you, it may be for someone else, so please feel free to share - <https://olioex.com/>

If you have a suggestion for inclusion in this part of the newsletter, we'd love to hear from you!

DIARY DATES	
SEPTEMBER Monday 2nd	INSET - STAFF TRAINING and PREPARATION NO PUPILS TODAY, THANK YOU!
Tuesday 3rd	INSET - STAFF TRAINING and PREPARATION NO PUPILS TODAY, THANK YOU!
Weds 4th	FIRST PUPIL DAY for all children, including Reception.
Weds 11 th & Thurs 12 th	Meet the teacher - A chance to learn what's in store for the year, and how you can support. Weds 11th Class 1 AT 6:00 Class 2 AT 6:30 Thurs 12 th Class 3 AT 6:00 Class 4 AT 6:30
DECEMBER Wednesday 4th	YEAR 7 (currently Year 6!) Mince Pie Feedback. Watch out for the annual questionnaire
NOTE CHANGE – WEDS 18TH	CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE 6:30 at St. Martin's Church

For the latest Term Dates 'Poster' - visit <http://www.northnibley.gloucs.sch.uk/term-dates/>

AUTUMN 2019 – Pupil days	NEXT SPRING 2020 – Pupil days	NEXT SUMMER 2020 – Pupil days	NEXT AUTUMN 2020 – Pupil days
Term 1 04/09/2019 – 25/10/2019	Term 3 06/01/2020 – 14/02/2020	Term 5 20/04/2020 – 22/05/2020	TBC
Term 2 04/10/2019 – 20/12/2019	Term 4 24/02/2020 – 03/04/2020	Term 6 01/06/2020 - 17/07/2020	TBC

CORRECTION TO MAILCHIMP EMAIL - THE LAST PUPIL DAY OF TERM 3 NEXT SPRING IS FRIDAY 14th FEBRUARY (and not the 4th!) For the latest Term Dates 'Poster' – visit <http://www.northnibley.gloucs.sch.uk/term-dates/>

Supporting the school:

Here's an idea which could raise a lot of money for the school - AmazonSmile.
You can find all the information about using this FREE service reprinted on our website page here -



<https://smile.amazon.co.uk>