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Learning, Achievement, Faith & Fun!

NEWSLETTER 278

Friday 10th January 2020

On this day in 1839, tea from India first arrives in U.K.

Dear Parents and Friends,

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Just before we launch ourselves into a new decade, I wanted to thank you all for a lovely Carol Service, where the children were magnificent!



I thought you might also appreciate photos from the Christmas meal and class parties.



A special 'Thank you' goes to Santa and all the elves that supported the school with the generous gifts of wet-play games.

NEW YEAR RESOLUTION?

Many children have told us that they have not read to parents over the Christmas holiday. That children can 'slip back' is a proven educational fact (popularised in the phrase 'Use it or lose it'). I would love to hear of New Year's Resolutions that commit to hearing your child read every day. As I wrote in September...



KEY MESSAGES

Reading with your child is the most important (and fun) thing you can do to support learning.

And in December...

"research tells us that if young children are to flourish in school, there is no better platform than sustained daily reading with their parents."

Our Parent Guides to supporting children (or all ages) can be found here –

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

RESPONSIBILITY IS THIS TERM'S CHRISTIAN VALUE IN FOCUS.

With great power comes great responsibility." Peter Parker / Spiderman.

DIARY UPDATE

Do your family calendars and diaries reflect the changes made to May? Many were printed before the government MOVED the May Bank Holiday to FRIDAY MAY 8th. School will be closed to pupils and staff on this day (and open on Monday May 4th when your child is expected!)

CHARITY UPDATE

Somehow our 2-year programme of support has become 'derailed' and our plans to support Red Nose Day has fallen on a year when RND does not take place! Instead we will be looking at ways to mark 'Sport's Relief' and details will follow shortly.

The Royal British Legion have written to us to thank us for raising £91.64 in their annual 'Poppy' appeal to commemorate Armistice Day.

COMMUNICATING WITH SCHOOL

Can I remind parents that whilst ClassDojo and Facebook are useful tools to share school news, reports of pupil absence MUST be shared with the school office (contact details above). Class teachers are far too busy supporting your children during teaching time to go to apps on the off-chance there might be a message waiting!

CLUBS

Last call for potential 'Club Leaders' to contact the office about what you might be willing to offer. The 'sign-up' sheet will be sent home next week, ready for a MONDAY 20th START. **Young Voices, however start on MONDAY 13th and Running Club on THURSDAY 16th.**

YOUR OWN SECURITY

People are being reminded not to shorten the '2020' date to '20 (on cheques, legal documents etc) as there is the potential for fraudsters to alter the date (for example to read '2018).

MORE WAYS TO HELP

From time to time teachers ask 'Do we have a parent who is (e.g.) a ship builder, vet, electrician or astronaut.' Officially we don't collect parent professions or qualification, but there are times when such an 'expert' could be a useful visitor to our classrooms, supporting topic work. If you feel you might have something to offer please speak to your child's class teacher, and we'll endeavour to keep a list against a future opportunity. Thank you.

CONSULTATION

In the new year we will be consulting on the introduction of a new compulsory subject – PSHE. This includes 'Relationships' and sex education. In order to 'set the scene' I have posted a quick link to the Department for Education's Q&A from our Learning >

Curriculum page here -

<http://www.northnibley.gloucs.sch.uk/our-curriculum/>

TESCO TOKENS

Do keep collecting the supermarket tokens (and saving them at home) – my understanding is that we could be 'up' before Easter!

WELCOME...

to Mrs Tracy Gage, who started as a new Mid-Day Supervision this week, taking over lunchtime duties previously held by Mrs Chapman.

STRANGER DANGER REPORTS

Over the past few months the Local Authority has reported a number of incidents to schools via their 'stranger danger' emails. These instances have mainly involved pupils being approached by a person or persons they do not know, and includes both Primary and Secondary pupils. Where contact is made with a student, either verbal or physical, these need to be reported to the Police in the first instance. Whilst these occurrences are thankfully still very rare, schools are expected to have procedures in place to talk through examples of what to do should an incident occur. With the darker mornings and evenings fully upon us, it is vitally important that parents reiterate the advice North Nibley is giving next Monday:

- When you are not with an adult you trust, don't Talk to Strangers
- Keep your distance and never go anywhere with someone you don't know.
- Don't believe what strangers tell you.
- Don't accept gifts treats, or lollies from a stranger.
- Never tell a stranger your name or address.

I have found some additional and sensible advice here <https://www.mirror.co.uk/lifestyle/family/7-life-saving-stranger-danger-8697136> which I recommend you read and share as appropriate to the age of ALL your school-aged children.

PARENT-TEACHER CONSULTATIONS

We have set Monday and Tuesday 10th and 11th February for the Spring Term meetings. Watch out for booking forms coming home nearer the time.

EMERGENCY CLOSURE

Also keep an eye open for the emergency closure plan which we are circulating soon.

CENSUS DAY and SCHOOL MEALS

It really helps the school's finances if there is a substantial uptake of school meals on Thursday 16th January. Watch out for the flyer coming home, and remember you can place your order on the day itself. School dinners are free for those in Years Reception, One and Two, and children in receipt of the Pupil Premium.

'NIBLEY GREEN' - Towards a greener world.

Practical ideas 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 tips and ideas you may want to think about at home. Discuss these with your children too!

In Monday's Assembly children learnt about 'Epiphany'. Christmas cards featuring the visit of 'the three kings' also illustrated the importance of REUSE (converting used cards into 'tags' for next year, so keep the inside cover clean!)

And RECYCLE (paper recycling schemes are widespread). Children learn that cards with glitter can contaminate a recycling batch, so exclude these types).

We also thought briefly about REDUCING the number of cards being sent next year, but that will be a decision for the School Pupil Council.

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

DIARY DATES

Sat 11 th	Cross-Country @ KLB, 9:30 for 10:00
Mon 13 th	FIRST Swimming for Years 1 & 2 Young Voices Club CONTINUES
Tues 14 th	Guitar and woodwind lessons resume
Weds 15 th	& Thurs 16 th – Violins resume
Friday 17 th	Young Voices at the NEC

For the latest Term Dates 'Poster' - visit

<http://www.northnibley.gloucs.sch.uk/term-dates/>

SPRING 2020 – Pupil days

Term 3 06/01/2020 – 14/02/2020

Term 4 24/02/2020 – 03/04/2020

SUMMER 2020 – Pupil days

Term 5 20/04/2020 – 22/05/2020 (**May Day 8th**)

Term 6 01/06/2020 - 17/07/2020 (**INSET 3rd July**)

NEXT AUTUMN 2020 – Pupil days

Wednesday 2nd September to Friday 23rd October

Tuesday 3rd November to Friday 18th December

NEXT SPRING 2021 – Pupil days

Tuesday 5th January 2021 to Friday 12th February

Monday 22nd February to Thursday 1st April

NEXT SUMMER 2021 – Pupil days

19th April to 28th May (**May Day 3rd**)

7th June to 20th July (**INSET 2nd July**)