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Learning, Achievement, Faith & Fun!

NEWSLETTER 281

Friday 7th February 2020

On this day in 1992 the Maastricht Treaty signed by 12 countries from the European Community (EC) to create the European Union (EU).

Dear Parents and Friends,

SORRY, BUT...

A number of observations in recent days need reporting. Unfortunately, this newsletter reads like a list of complaints! Of course, in school as elsewhere, the behaviour of the few does tend to spoil the excellent behaviour of the many, so thank you if you know you're not included here!

Everyone knows I love 'good' technology! But I'm having to instate a ban on 'smart watches' with recording/camera functionality and/or web access. The potential for children to use (or misuse) these, for example during changing for PE, is a risk none of us wants to take.

We know accidents happen. Sometimes devices find their way into school by accident – coat pockets, rucksacks etc. Our policy with phones has always been clear. Hand them over to the class teacher, or to Mrs Kirby and we will happily keep them safe. The law allows teachers to confiscate items as long as it is 'reasonable' in the circumstances. Our Behaviour Policy has been amended to allow us to search for 'prohibited items' which now includes smartphones and smartwatches.

Sadly, recent days have shown that personal items are not always safe in school, and that not all parents follow school rules. I understand some of these watches are 'programmable' and can be disabled in school hours, however we don't have the time to check each one individually. So if a mistake has been made, we'd rather the children were honest and hand them over for safe keeping.

BEDTIME – How sure are you that bedrooms are as tech-free as possible when bedtime comes around? From the BBC news this week: "More than half of children say they sleep with their mobile phone beside their bed, according to an annual survey of young people's use of media. The average time spent on mobiles by seven to 16-year-olds is three hours and 20 minutes per day.

Researcher Simon Leggett says mobiles can "dominate children's lives". When phones are always so close at hand, as a "private and personal

technology", Mr Leggett says it can be tough for parents to put limits on how children use them."

I was shocked, following a parent's disclosure last week, to read how easy it is (with just 3 clicks from within Tik Tok) to arrive at online porn. (I used the excellent 'Common Sense Media site' to read reviews by educators, parents and children. Common Sense rate this app as 16+, but we have 8 year olds using this.) Please review your policies at home.

SICKNESS

If your child vomits, they MUST be off school for 48 hours. This is the advice of the Health Protection Agency, and not a whim of the school. Re-infection is a problem. Some parents are sending children back to school too early and putting others at risk.

WELCOME – AND SAFEGUARDING

We are pleased to be hosting a number of trainee teachers this term – one per class, which is a first for us, certainly within the last 10 years. We are excited by the contribution they will be making. All volunteers, including governors, parent readers and student teachers, sign up to the same set of safeguarding criteria and you can read what these are on a brand new webpage –

<http://www.northnibley.gloucs.sch.uk/keeping-children-safe/>

Some of these requirements have been modified and re-issued. I am beginning a programme of 'catching people up' with the changes, as a condition of continued support.

TECHNOLOGY IN SCHOOL

Earlier this month a parent, a teacher and myself travelled to London to the famous BETT exhibition and conference – the British Educational Training and Technology show. We managed to secure a few good deals for the school (saving hundreds of pounds!) and see cutting-edge innovation in computing and technology-assisted learning. As we refine our strategy and shape our provision over the coming days we are excited about the possibilities – Watch this space!



Bee-Bot City!

TESCO TOKENS

Do keep collecting the supermarket tokens – my understanding is that we could be 'up' before Easter!

Introducing... the WISHLIST

We are pleased to publish an interactive wishlist, on our website, to capture the wishes of the community and utilise the limited funds to fulfil the needs of the school.

We would very much like parents, teachers, and governors to contribute to the list. Thoughts and ideas of things that may be needed around the school, in the curriculum or with our resources would be welcomed. These can be small or high value items. It is intended that by publishing this list and working transparently, the whole community can be unified in achieving the resource ambitions of the school.

You can find the wishlist here -

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

CORONA VIRUS - ADVICE FOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS

From the DfE "You should not be unduly worried about the possibility of your children catching the Coronavirus.

There is no reason why your children should not continue to attend their early years, school or further education setting as normal.

We recognise that some families or children may be planning to travel to China during the forthcoming half term period. If so, please refer to the FCO's latest travel advice via the links below. "

<https://www.gov.uk/foreign-travel-advice/china>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-and-avian-flu-advice-for-travel-to-china>

RESPONSIBILITY IS THIS TERM'S CHRISTIAN VALUE IN FOCUS.

"Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it."

The Bible - Proverbs 22:6 New International Version (NIV)

INDEPENDENCE REMINDER

Our systems have evolved over many years to help children develop their independence, and part of this is responding on a daily basis to the question "Do you have anything for the office?" You can support this development by reminding children if they have something to hand in. As an added bonus, you won't need to join the queue for the office!

PARENT-TEACHER CONSULTATIONS

We are looking forward to sharing updates with you at Parent's Evening next week. Please take a moment to read the booklet.

FONNS PUPIL DISCO – Friday 14th February

Classes 1 & 2 - 5:45 until 6:30

Classes 3 & 4 - 6:45 until 7:45

The disco is held in the School Hall. £2.00 per child to include crisps and squash. 'Glow-stick' bracelets will be sold on the door.

'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!

This week we received a whole-school assembly on the importance of recycling, with ladies from Wotton Climate Group and Stroud District 'Action on Plastic'. We were challenged to make at least one change to reduce our 'plastic footprint'.



Ideas included NOT putting bananas, oranges etc in plastic bags (they have their own packaging!), avoid 'cheap' plastic toys on comics and re-usable drinks bottles. We've heard of REDUCE, REUSE and RECYCLE. What can we 'politely' REFUSE?

As a school, from now on we'll only buy eco-glitter! What change could you make?

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

DIARY DATES

Fri 7 th Feb	Meeting with a Google Rep re Computing
10 th & 11 th	Parents' Meetings
Fri 14 th	FONNS Disco
24 th Feb	Swimming continues Netball Finals
Tues 25 th	Goblin Club begins

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**)