



North Nibley Church of England  
Primary School, The Street,  
North Nibley, Glos. GL11 6DL  
Tel: 01453 542600  
[www.northnibley.gloucs.sch.uk](http://www.northnibley.gloucs.sch.uk)  
[admin@northnibley.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:admin@northnibley.gloucs.sch.uk)  
[finance@northnibley.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:finance@northnibley.gloucs.sch.uk)  
Twitter: @NibleySchool  
Head Teacher: Paul Batchelor

Learning, Achievement, Faith & Fun!

# NEWSLETTER 288

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2020

## THANKFULNESS IS THIS TERM'S CHRISTIAN VALUE IN FOCUS.

Thankfulness is one of the values we will be focussing on this term. The apostle Paul tells his readers to be thankful in all circumstances (1 Thessalonians chapter 5 verse 18). Even during lockdown, can we find things for which we can give thanks? Yes!

Dear Parents and Friends,

I hope this email finds you and your loved ones well.

During this difficult time of school closure, the staff have moved learning 'online'. Using Purple Mash and Class Dojo amongst other more age-specific resources, we've done our best to continue to provide learning opportunities which keep your children learning and moving forward.

Not only have staff been sending home daily lessons, using videos and worksheets, we've also been in daily communication with the majority of our parents. In week one, seven hundred messages were exchanged and over one thousand, one hundred photos and videos were sent (don't worry, you don't have to read them all!) Most of these were children sending back photos of their work, but there have also been sports videos, jokes, assemblies, school updates and birthday celebrations, all of which help to cement our sense of belonging to a community during this time of isolation. I am also convinced that our children are developing skills which will set them up well for 21st century living.

Of our 75 families, around 65 have engaged with the programme, and we want to assure you of our thanks. Because of your efforts, your children will maintain a momentum in their learning. They will be making progress and this in turn supports their mental well-being.

So if you've not joined us yet, you are missing out.

More importantly, if your children have not joined in, then they will be falling behind.

If you or your children are too ill to take part, we understand and wish you the speediest of recoveries.

If you have lost passwords, please contact me for resets.

## OUR EXPECTATIONS

Our expectations for Term 5 remains the same; that, unless ill, children will attempt 1 piece of English and 1 piece of maths per day. Certainly the older children should be capable, and independent enough, to understand that we expect them to attempt this work without constant adult support or supervision – a relief I know for those of you working at home.

Our expectation of adults is that you reinforce these routines. We are working harder than ever to compensate for these difficult circumstances. For children who are well, non-engagement is not an option that we can support. If you need to, send a message to a class teacher to explain why your child is reluctant and we can arrange a phone call by way of 'encouragement!'

Although we have now 'found our feet' with remote teaching, due to the complexity of the work and the limitations of home working, parents should not routinely expect replies from Class Teachers outside the hours of 9:00 to 4:30.

I hope all of you found ways to relax over the Easter break. We begin Term 5 in earnest today and are excited to see where this new way of teaching and learning can take us. Be part of the adventure!

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North Nibley Music Festival Committee have confirmed the cancellation of this year's festival. (See <https://nibleyfestival.co.uk/info/coronavirus/> )

Thank you to everyone who was willing to work to raise funds for the school.

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A special word of thanks from the staff and governors to those proactive members of FONNS who have already put so much time into making preparations.

You are stars!

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## REMINDERS -

### **PARTIAL OPENING FOR CHILDREN OF KEY WORKERS**

We have provided guidance for parents on how the school may be used to enable KEY WORKERS to keep doing their valuable work. We are now taking bookings on our child care service for the children of key workers. Please note, this has to match your shift patterns, so part-time key workers who do not work every day cannot count on school caring for their children Monday to Friday.

You can book sessions at school for when there is no alternative, by sending a TEXT to 07939443778. Wherever possible we expect places to be booked by 2:00 p.m. the day before, so that we can ensure appropriate staffing levels, safeguarding cover and first aid cover.

Please note, you'll also need to add your child's name to the text message so we know who you are! We

anticipate your child-care needs may change daily, therefore it will be important to book places on a day-by-day basis.

**UPDATED - We are asking ALL parents to provide a packed lunch for their child. Please let me know if this causes difficulties for you.**

### **For children coming in to school**

#### **IN ORDER TO HELP KEY WORKERS TO STAY WELL**

#### **the following measures/precautions must be taken:**

- Own clothes (NOT school uniform) to be worn which are fresh on – we recommend putting clothes straight in the washing machine once returning home from school to minimise and control the spread of infection. (Please bring, each day, appropriate PE & outdoor wear (inc. footwear) into which children can change).
- We must register your child in and out of the premises by somebody who either has parental responsibility or has been nominated by yourselves, as long as you are all fit and well and not showing symptoms of coronavirus.
- Up to date contact details for family members must be available within school and emergency contact details should your child become poorly/exhibit symptoms of contracting coronavirus. We will be asking 'on the door', on a daily basis, about the best contact details for that day.
- If you become unwell with coronavirus symptoms, you must immediately contact school and arrange for collection of your child.
- Social distancing must be enforced whilst your child is not in school if we are to prevent/minimise the spread of infection.
- School must be informed if you no longer fall within the key worker list, if you have been asked to self-isolate or if someone else in your household falls ill
- Thorough hand washing to take place just before leaving the home.
- Children must be dropped off from 8:55 am and picked up at 3:15 pm.
- For Key Workers that need an extended day, please call Jon (Managing Director) of Superstars (07896) 796363 so that he can gauge the viability of holding wrap-around child care sessions.

**All these measures are, of course, dependent on us having staff well enough to attend. Should we at any point determine that we are not 'fit to open' we will communicate this through 'Class Dojo', along with any alternative arrangements which we have been able to make.**

We will get through this. Stronger together. Stay well,  
Paul Batchelor, Head Teacher

**COVID-19 REMINDERS:** Please share with the children. How to wash your hands properly:

Wash your hands more often for 20 seconds with soap and hot water. Watch this short NHS film for

guidance: • <https://youtu.be/bQCP7waTRWU>

Teach young children how to wash their hands with the NHS handwashing song:

• <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S9VjeIWLnEg>