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Learning, Achievement, Faith & Fun!

NEWSLETTER 306 – THE LOCKDOWN LETTERS

FROM THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC - JULY 2020

For the Archives: Day 104 to Day 110

Dear Parents and Friends,

DAILY UPDATE - DAY 104 – SATURDAY 4th JULY

WORK CONTINUES APACE

- Reports
- New Reception intake September 2020
- Class Structures
- Opening for ALL PUPILS in September
- Year 6 Summer production (yes, really!)
- Year 6 Leaver's Service

And I'm very aware Friday's assembly (part two) has yet to be completed!

BIRTHDAYS

FOUR birthdays to celebrate next week. Abby, Nathan, Luke and Hamish have their birthday blogs 'open' and ready for your good wishes.

<https://www.purplemash.com/sch/north-gl11>

As is our custom, the final assembly (online) will catch up with any July birthdays, plus any Y6 'summer break' birthdays. Those with birthdays in August need to wait until Term 1.

YESTERDAY...

I posted a number of important pieces of news. If you missed it, do please go back and check.

NEW QUIZ

Inspired by some recent work in school by Year 5 – a quiz on collective nouns (like a HERD of cows, a PACK of wolves or a FLOCK of birds).

<https://forms.gle/oM7CmNUu8YBFFkMt5>

Multiple attempts are fine; in fact they are positively encouraged! We make mistakes, we adjust, we improve and we call this 'learning!' If you look at the quiz response after submitting, you can see where your answers were wrong. Einstein said "Anyone who has never made a mistake has never tried anything new."

Enjoy the weekend!

Mr B.



READING

Libraries open again on July 13th – and the Summer Reading Challenge is back!

For full details see

<https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/>

We will be pleased to celebrate participants and award certificates whenever normality resumes.

Virtual Sunday School

This week, David takes on Goliath

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RhF0S4rcZA8>

I found a new song too – Slingshot!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OJfPxaq3XTY>

Or if you prefer the one we sing in school,

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F2r_7O2OmHI

And a lyric version featuring the vegetables from VeggieTales!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QpAx0s7raeY>

(Please supervise pupil access to YouTube.)

Stay well,

Mr B.

Dear Parents,



I have received notification that a child in the Reception 'bubble' will be taking a coronavirus test tomorrow because they have displayed some symptoms. If you have a child in this bubble, please think about your child's health over the last 5 days. Have they been displaying any of the symptoms?

NHS:

"The main symptoms of coronavirus are:

- a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

Most people with coronavirus have at least 1 of these symptoms."

If your child is displaying symptoms they should NOT attend tomorrow. You are urged to arrange a test AND INFORM THE SCHOOL that a test has been arranged. In time, we also need to hear from parents the results of the test.

Government guidance is as follows:

GUIDANCE:

"staff and children or young people should not attend if they have symptoms or are self-isolating due to symptoms in their household"

GUIDANCE:

"Staff and pupils in all settings will be eligible for testing if they become ill with coronavirus symptoms, as will members of their households. A negative test will enable children to get back to childcare or education, and their parents to get back to work. A positive test will ensure rapid action to protect their classmates and staff in their setting."

The guidance "Coronavirus (COVID-19): implementing protective measures in education and childcare settings" makes it clear that sending home a class / group is dependent upon a positive test result. Whilst we wait (for up to 48 hours) the class bubble will remain open, as per the guidance.

However, you are being put on alert that you may be required to collect your child at a time other than the end of the school day, and make appropriate plans to isolate your child for 14 days (though no one else in your household will be required to self-isolate unless your child shows any of the symptoms listed above.)

GUIDANCE:

"Where the child, young person or staff member tests positive, the rest of their class or group within their childcare or education setting should be sent home and advised to self-isolate for 14 days. The other household members of that wider class or group do not need to self-isolate unless the child, young person or staff member they live with in that group subsequently develops symptoms."

Please continue to be alert, and remember we have a duty to protect each other at this difficult time.

Mr Batchelor.

DAILY UPDATE - DAY 106 – MONDAY 6th JULY

CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

As previously stated, school staff are stretched as thinly as we dare, with a good number needing to take extra precautions to keep safe members of their own households, as well as taking additional risks when being in school with your children. We do need to hear as early as possible any concerns you have over your children's health. DO NOT DELAY in informing us if your child becomes unwell. Any delay is unacceptable.

ASSEMBLY

Bob Hartman – author of much of the Open The Book material – tells 'The Promised One'

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i8zn2KEaz4o&feature=emb_logo

(Please supervise pupil access to YouTube.)

SCHOOL NEWS

It's always worth checking back over the past few days, to see if you've missed anything on Class Dojo!

Take care,
Mr B

DAILY UPDATE - DAY 107 – TUESDAY 7th JULY

SEPTEMBER INSET

Following a governor meeting last night, we have agreed to bring forward an INSET day from later in the year to the beginning of September, in order to be fully prepared for the return of ALL CHILDREN to school. This is the first time in 16 years of headship that I have moved an INSET day – not a step I take lightly, but unprecedented levels of preparation are required including the physical layout of furniture etc, the design and planning of the curriculum and the 'unknown' welfare and behavioural needs of the children. I know you would want us to get this right and will be understanding of this measure.

AS A CONSEQUENCE, all children will now return to school on THURSDAY 3rd SEPTEMBER. (This change of plan also applies to our new Reception intake.)

ASSEMBLY

iSingPop lead us in a reflection on – Patience! It's worth the wait!

iSingPop assemblies are packed full of energy, laughter and dancing!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l4kOk7uz8A8>

(Please supervise pupil access to YouTube.)

BOOKINGS FOR THE WEEK BEGINNING 13th JULY

Critical workers can now book places for this group, for the week beginning 13th July, from this page:

<http://www.northnibley.gloucs.sch.uk/reopening-school/>

Please note, this week we will be curtailing school at lunchtime on Friday, to allow for a Year 6 Leaver's

Service. Weather being good, we hope to hold this in the playground!

(CURRENT) YEARS 2, 3 and 4

Don't forget to contact Mrs Kirby in the office to book your place(s) at the Year group (Socially distant) picnics. 01453 542600

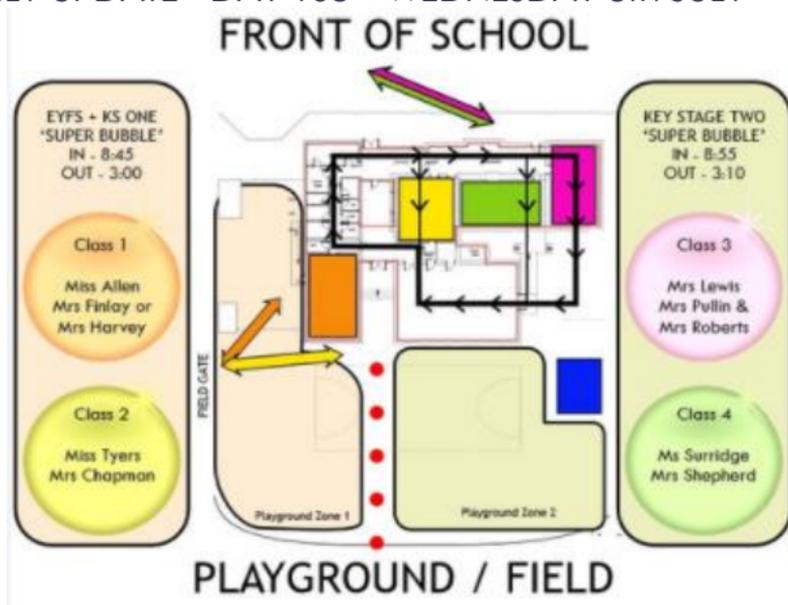
THE NEW RECEPTION

There is an online meeting with the Reception Intake 2020 tonight.

Miss Allen has met one third of the group. We are planning two other face-to-face meetings next week.

Take care,
Mr B.

DAILY UPDATE - DAY 108 – WEDNESDAY 8th JULY



SEPTEMBER, SCHOOL FOR ALL CHILDREN

In September we believe we can return to our traditional 4 class structure, but with some modification to the day-to-day running of the school to avoid cross-contamination. In broad terms, the school will operate in two separate 'halves' (or 'super-bubbles') and each half will be comprised of two classes, in the arrangement with which we have operated successfully for many years. This will allow (for example) phonics to be taught across the younger two classes, as appropriate to each child's development, with Year 1s mixing as required. There will be two playtimes, two times to drop off (10 minutes apart) and two times to collect your children (again, 10 minutes apart), and a staggered lunchtime. Complications arise with staffing. Each member of staff will be assigned to a single 'super-bubble', so specialist teaching, subject leadership opportunities and other instances of cross-class support will be limited, as will assemblies (unless I learn how to live stream from the hall to the classrooms!) The one exception to this is Mrs Dixon in her PE role. Staff are permitted to attend more than one super-bubble, IF a sufficient break occurs in between (for example to return home and change clothes). I am structuring the timetable to ensure that Mrs Dixon is only required to teach in one super-bubble per day. We have many issues still to address, but this information is offered to prevent needless (and potentially damaging) speculation.

Whilst a number of 'unknowns' are still in a state of flux, parents may wish to familiarise themselves with the webpage

<http://www.northnibley.gloucs.sch.uk/autumn2020/>

This will serve a similar purpose to the 'Reopening School' page, as a repository for information regarding Autumn Term. I intend to populate the page with updates as they occur.

ASSEMBLY

More stories from those silly talking vegetables – it's VeggieTales!

Dave and the Giant Pickle is a retelling of the bible story of David and Goliath. (A story about self-esteem).

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mz1LYWM00zA>

(Please supervise pupil access to YouTube.)

SONG – Nothing's Too Big

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8bsEgggn344>

And if you want to learn the actions:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yopo6DvV9Z8>

(Please supervise pupil access to YouTube.)

Take care, stay alert.

Mr B

DAILY UPDATE - DAY 109 – THURSDAY 9th JULY

ASSEMBLY

iSingPop lead us in an assembly all about EQUALITY. iSingPop assemblies are packed full of energy, laughter and dancing!

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

(Please supervise pupil access to YouTube.)

SONG ABOUT EQUALITY - "Everyone Is Different"

I don't have the words, but the video is quite powerful.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=158&v=-QSLIEt_LJY&feature=emb_logo

(Please supervise pupil access to YouTube.)

BONUS SONG ABOUT EQUALITY! "We All Laugh in the Same Language"

<https://youtu.be/mtaGMjVBUSE>

(Please supervise pupil access to YouTube.)

RELATIONSHIPS AND SEX EDUCATION POLICY

Following a period of public consultation, the above policy has been adopted without alteration. It can be found here:

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

VACANCY

As we look to open as widely as possible in September it is clear that a full complement of Mid Day Supervisors is required. If you - or someone you know – feels they could make a valuable contribution, even in the short term, please let Mrs Kirby in the office know. Full details can be found on the GCC Vacancies website (search for

Gloucestershire school vacancies) and on this page <http://www.northnibley.gloucs.sch.uk/vacancies> . We are indebted to all the staff who have covered this vacancy in the meantime.

Stay safe and well,
Mr B

Update.

BOOKINGS FOR THE WEEK BEGINNING 13th JULY

An incorrect setting prevented bookings from being made. The setting has been corrected. Critical workers can now book places for this group, for the week beginning 13th July, from this page:

<http://www.northnibley.gloucs.sch.uk/reopening-school/>

Please note, on this week (beginning 13th) we will be curtailing school at lunchtime on Friday, to allow for a Year 6 Leaver's Service. Weather being good, we hope to hold this in the playground!

DAILY UPDATE - DAY 110 – FRIDAY 10th JULY

FAMILY HOLIDAYS

If you are on holiday, abroad, at the end of August, and are expected to quarantine upon your return, then your children are expected to quarantine too. Please confirm non-attendance of your children IN ADVANCE.

YEAR 6 LEAVERS – LEAVERS SERVICE

Following yesterday's announcement that "Outdoor performances with social distancing can resume from July 11" I have no reservations about inviting the families of Y6 to a position around the perimeter of the playground to watch The Leaver's Service (subject to good weather!). Whilst you are on public land (the field) I have limited control but I do urge you to social distance and respect the 2 metre 'zones' we will set out.

YEAR 6 LEAVERS – SHIRT SIGNINGS

We are advised that shirts can be worn over normal clothes, for signing by others from within their bubble only.

ASSEMBLY

Part 1 – Includes today's SONG

https://northnibley-my.sharepoint.com/:v:/g/personal/head_northnibley_gloucs_sch_uk/EVgn3XUPp5llnpqQDxD2KhMBGQmHUkA-Ksp8foGzDq1Saw?e=KIRFzp



ASSEMBLY

Part 2 – Includes World Premier of the North Nibley Socially Distanced Orchestra 2020, with special thanks to parent (and Governor) Mrs Miller, who writes "I hope you enjoy this - they have all worked really hard with no help from teachers other than a tutorial video from me at the start."

https://northnibley-my.sharepoint.com/:v:/g/personal/head_northnibley_gloucs_sch_uk/Eav6BeBf0XxEncqle2uxhF8BTAJ38oI0xOLhMMG7Bt3VYg?e=6aHpnf

ORCHESTRA

If you would prefer a purer version of the video (definition and sound quality) there is a sizable download available here:

<https://onedrive.live.com/?cid=d66dea9f0708b13c&iid=D66DEA9F0708B13C%21426&authkey=%21AHDII9PXIdcXHSA>

CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

It has been over 96 hours since the test was taken by a child in our Reception bubble, and still we have no update for you. It is suspected that the test / results has been lost. However, on Monday it will be 7 days since symptoms ended, and therefore parents who have held off can, according to the guidance, return to school.

Take care,
Mr B.

