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**L**earning, **A**chievement, **F**aith & **F**un!

# NEWSLETTER 307 – THE LOCKDOWN LETTERS

FROM THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC - JULY 2020

**For the Archives: Day 111 to Day 117**

Dear Parents and Friends,

DAILY UPDATE - DAY 111 – SATURDAY 11th JULY

EARLY CLOSING, FRIDAY

We have decided to close the Reception and Year 1 'bubbles' from 12:00 on Friday 17th July (rather than the previously announced 12:30). For the sake of 30 minutes, this enables mid-day staff to stay home, reduces 'kit' coming into and home from school and allows the teaching staff slightly longer preparation for the leaver's service. Do let me know if this change presents insurmountable difficulties for you.

REMINDERS – NEXT WEEK

Tuesday – Year 4 games and picnic, 10:30 – 12:30

Wednesday – Year 2 picnic and games – 12:30 – 2:30

Wednesday – New Reception intake (1st session) 1:30 – 2:00

Wednesday – New Reception intake (2nd session) 2:30 – 3:00

Thursday – Year 3 games and picnic, 10:30 – 12:30

Thursday – No 'critical workers' bubble

Friday – Reception bubble - closing at 12:00

Friday – Year 1 bubble - closing at 12:05

Friday – Leaver's Service starting at 1:30 (anticipated ending at 2:30)

SEPTEMBER

We have taken the decision to go 'sandwiches only' from day 1 (Thursday 3rd September) until the end of Term 1 (23rd October), unless the restrictions forcing schools to operate 'bubbles' significantly change. All those entitled to free school meals (FSM) (including 'universal FSM for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2) will be able to request a free packed lunch from Caterlink, the school caterers. This clear-cut decision makes simple the staffing difficulties I wrote about previously and reduces risk still further by eliminating the need for a shared dining hall.

Take care,  
Mr B.

DAILY UPDATE - DAY 112 – SUNDAY 12th JULY

VIRTUAL SUNDAY SCHOOL

Jesus walks on water. (Stepping out into the unknown)

/ being fearful)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wxUoedQYFo4>

#### SONG

Oceans. A long song, quite often playing in assembly over the time it takes the 4 classes to gather.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WFRRJ5nVhsY>

(Please supervise pupil access to YouTube.)

#### DID YOU SEE...

Saturday's update re special events next week and September.

Take care,  
Mr B.

#### DAILY UPDATE - DAY 113 – MONDAY 13th JULY

##### ASSEMBLY

Bob Hartman – author of much of the Open The Book material – tells 'Forgiven and Grateful!'

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pgcGrwiZAGQ&feature=emb\\_logo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pgcGrwiZAGQ&feature=emb_logo)

(Please supervise pupil access to YouTube.)

##### SEPTEMBER

The webpage

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

has been updated with information about school dinners in September and the draft Risk Assessment. I intend to populate this page with updates as they occur.

##### BLUE FOLDERS

Before the lockdown happened, we sent nearly every child home with a blue 'presentation' style book with plastic pockets. We'd love to have these coming back to school at the end of term (not before).

Please return these to one of the boxes we shall set out (in order to minimise the risk of transmission we won't access these until the Autumn, but it would be great to have these back now!)

##### SCHOOL KIT

If you have school sports kit (TEAM KIT) or similar at home (especially the Year 6 leavers!) now is the time to return it to school, in a sealed carrier bag please. Again, we'll safely unpack these in the autumn after an appropriate quarantine period has elapsed.

##### THIS WEEK

Tuesday – Year 4 games and picnic, 10:30 – 12:30

Wednesday – Year 2 picnic and games – 12:30 – 2:30

Wednesday – New Reception intake (1st session) 1:30 – 2:00

Wednesday – New Reception intake (2nd session) 2:30 – 3:00

Thursday – Year 3 games and picnic, 10:30 – 12:30

Thursday – No 'critical workers' bubble

Friday – Reception bubble - closing at 12:00 NO LUNCHES FOR RECEPTION or YEAR 1.

Friday – Year 1 bubble - closing at 12:05

Friday – Year 6 – attend in UNIFORM please. Leaver's Service starting at 1:30 (anticipated ending at 2:30).

Year 6 parents, an invitation is coming to you via email.

Take care,  
Mr B.

Two edits in the story above.

1) We are now NOT expecting work that has already been seen by staff to be returned. Do not go taking apart exercise books or printing computer work for us. (but please return the blue folders).

2) The kit pertains to school-owned team kit which you may have at home.

DAILY UPDATE - DAY 114 – TUESDAY 14th JULY

iSingPop lead us in a reflection on Kindness. iSingPop assemblies are packed full of energy, laughter and dancing!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p0KDjz6vc3g>

(Please supervise pupil access to YouTube.)

URGENT REQUEST

Does anyone have an external DVD-Writer I can borrow please, since mine is failing and I had hoped to burn off the Y6 Summer production DVDs before Friday. I can collect!

READING BOOKS

Please can school reading books come back to school as soon as possible, for quarantining over the summer. Please return these to one of the boxes we shall set out (in order to minimise the risk of transmission we won't access these until the Autumn, but it would be great to have these back now!)

BLUE FOLDERS

Before the lockdown happened, we sent nearly every child home with a blue 'presentation' style book with plastic pockets. We'd love to have these coming back to school at the end of term. As above, please use the boxes.

IN SEPTEMBER...

The webpage

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

has been updated with information about the deployment of teachers and mid-day staff. I intend to populate this page with updates as they occur.

I am planning a sequence of 'updates' this week, with a final letter in late August to pull all the advice and measures together. If you have a 'September' question, post it here (or send it to [head@northnibley.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:head@northnibley.gloucs.sch.uk) for an anonymously reply) and I will respond for the benefit of all.

UNIFORM

I have been asked about school uniform. In September we will return to wearing school uniform. The guidance does NOT recommend more frequent washing of uniform. Nor does it say that special washing procedures are required. However, children in classes 3 and 4 are reminded that regular washing

is part of normal good hygiene!

Children will need their PE Kit on PE days (to be finalised soon). This needs to be clean on that day and worn all day. Children will not come in uniform on those days. Kit needs to be washed before it returns to school.

## MASKS

The guidance does not recommend the use of masks in school (unless, for example, we are treating a sick child close-up for a prolonged period of time.) If you choose that your child should wear one to school, there are two options of which to be aware. For single-use (disposable) masks, we require you to take these home and dispose of them yourselves. Re-wearable masks should be sealed inside a plastic bag, and the bag should be placed inside your book bag, before your child enters the building. There are plenty of online sites and videos informing you of the correct way to put on, handle and remove masks. Simple rules include:

- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth at all times
- Store used face coverings in a plastic bag until you have an opportunity to wash them
- Wash a face covering regularly - it can go in with other laundry, using your normal detergent.
- The government advises washing your hands or using hand sanitiser before putting on and after taking off face coverings.

Wearing a mask does not give you a licence to ignore social distancing measures!

## THIS WEEK

TODAY! – Year 4 games and picnic, 10:30 – 12:30

Wednesday – Year 2 picnic and games – 12:30 – 2:30

Wednesday – New Reception intake (1st session) 1:30 – 2:00

Wednesday – New Reception intake (2nd session) 2:30 – 3:00

Thursday – Year 3 games and picnic, 10:30 – 12:30

Thursday – No 'critical workers' bubble

Friday – Reception bubble - closing at 12:00 NO LUNCHES FOR RECEPTION.

Friday – Year 1 bubble - closing at 12:05 NO LUNCHES FOR YEAR 1.

Friday – Year 6 – attend in UNIFORM please. Leaver's Service starting at 1:30 (anticipated ending at 2:30).

Year 6 parents, an invitation is coming to you via email.

YEAR 6 parents should also find some messages within their own 'class story'. (Posting today).

Stay safe,

Mr B.

## DAILY UPDATE - DAY 115 – WEDNESDAY 15th JULY

### ASSEMBLY

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

This time 'God Wants Me to Forgive Them!?!' – a lesson in forgiveness.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rtBjdlO4AnI>

(Please supervise pupil access to YouTube.)

#### READING BOOKS

Please can school reading books come back to school as soon as possible, for quarantining over the summer. Please return these to one of the boxes we shall set out (in order to minimise the risk of transmission we won't access these until the Autumn, but it would be great to have these back now!)

#### THIS WEEK

TODAY – Year 2 picnic and games – 12:30 – 2:30

TODAY – New Reception intake (1st session) 1:30 – 2:00

TODAY – New Reception intake (2nd session) 2:30 – 3:00

Thursday – Year 3 games and picnic, 10:30 – 12:30

Thursday – No 'critical workers' bubble

Friday – Reception bubble - closing at 12:00 NO LUNCHES FOR RECEPTION.

Friday – Year 1 bubble - closing at 12:05 NO LUNCHES FOR YEAR 1.

Friday – Year 6 – attend in UNIFORM please. Leaver's Service starting at 1:30 (anticipated ending at 2:30).

Year 6 parents, an invitation is coming to you via email.

#### SUMMER BREAK

The Local Authority writes "Schools should ask parents this week to notify them if their child tests positive for COVID19 in first couple of weeks of summer holidays so that school can notify other children and staff."

You should do this via email:

head@northnibley.gloucs.sc.uk. Given the Herculean efforts made over the last 115 days, staff will understandably be taking a break from Class Dojo, direct messaging and emails for a while!

#### 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.

#### IN SEPTEMBER...

#### SOCIAL DISTANCING

Like all of the steps we are taking in school, the planned and staggered arrival / departure times are designed to reduce (not eliminate) risk, and you are urged not to linger unnecessarily. Those with children in both bubbles will obviously be around for a little longer, but you should not be forming close, little groups outside the school. We do not expect more than one adult to drop off a child/siblings, and if it can be avoided, pre-school children should not be brought along. You are encouraged to walk the journey / part of the journey if you can.

#### WHEN WE RETURN

We will no longer be allowing parents (and other carers) to accompany children into the playground (other than Reception children whilst they become familiar with the site.)

## CHANGE OF NAME

I have been asked to pass on the following information, from Mr and Mrs Potter.

"Dear All,

We are in the process of changing Xavi's name to Ginny by deed poll. This is something that she has been talking about since her initial transition, and a decision that we as a family we support unconditionally. Above all else her mental well-being is our top priority. We thought we would formalise this in a letter to you all. This will also make it easier for Tillie, who once again, has been amazing. Thank you for your ongoing understanding. Andy, Grace, Ginny and Tillie."

## 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.

## MASKS – UPDATE

Here is a great website for advice on putting on, wearing, and managing masks.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-53395513>

## DVDs



Copies of the Year 6 Summer Production are beginning to roll off the production line, thanks to speedy intervention by the Rea family! Orders are being taken now, with Y6 as the priority customers!

Stay well,  
Mr B.

DAILY UPDATE - DAY 116 – THURSDAY 16th JULY

## ASSEMBLY

iSingPop lead us in an assembly all about Reconciliation.

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

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zDRYITMaRR8>

(Please supervise pupil access to YouTube.)

#### FONNS LOTTERY DRAW RESULTS (Drawn by Year 5)

May 1st prize Laura Rea

May 2nd Laura Hendy

June 1st Paula Kirby

June 2nd Suzanne Prosser

July 1st Mel Holland

July 2nd Paula Kirby

Congratulations to all the winners!

#### TOMORROW (LAST DAY)

Friday – Reception bubble - closing at 12:00 NO LUNCHES FOR RECEPTION.

Friday – Year 1 bubble - closing at 12:05 NO LUNCHES FOR YEAR 1.

Friday – Year 6 – attend in UNIFORM please. Leaver's Service starting at 1:30 (anticipated ending at 2:30).

Year 6 parents, an invitation is coming to you via email.

#### HOLIDAYS

Yesterday's UPDATE (number 115) included important information about your family holidays. Please check back if you've not read this.

#### BIRTHDAYS

We will recognise Ellie, Harriet and Claudie's birthday tomorrow – the latter in the Leaver's Service ('last North Nibley birthday'). Birthday blogs for the three are open now (sorry for the delay) and you can post your good wishes here on the Purple Mash birthday blogs. <https://www.purplemash.com/sch/north-gl11> Other July and August birthdays will be celebrated in September.

#### IN SEPTEMBER...

Just in case it had not been made clear, the guidance issued by the DfE on 2nd July 2020, makes is very clear that attendance is mandatory for all children from the beginning of the Autumn term 2020.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools>

The guidance states that 'from this point, the usual rules on school attendance apply, of specific note:

- parents' duty to secure that their child attends regularly at school where the child is a registered pupil at school and they are of compulsory school age;
- schools' responsibilities to record attendance and follow up absence
- the availability to issue sanctions, including fixed penalty notices in line with local authorities' codes of conduct' (p21)

#### SUPERSTARS

The school is in conversation with the management of Superstars, reviewing the possibility of opening in September, maintaining bubbles and minimising risk.

Parents are asked not to assume full opening from day 1.

#### PEANUTS!

Peanuts were found in school today on the floor – the leftovers of someone's snack! We are a NUT-FREE school. This is a matter of critical importance for a number in our school. Please plan your snacks with this in mind.

#### OPPORTUNITY – FROM FOREST GREEN ROVERS

"Good afternoon,

I hope you and everyone at North Nibley C of E Primary School are doing well in these challenging times. Like most CCO's we would normally run soccer camps during the school holidays, but due to recent events this isn't physically possible.

However, as a charitable trust we have been successful in securing some funding to help us deliver virtual online soccer camps this summer FREE of charge to anyone who would like to take part.

We will run 3 days a week for the last three weeks of August, where we look to cater for two age groups (4-9 years and 10-14 years). More information can be found on the flyer attached."

#### COUNTY COUNCIL PRESS RELEASE

Please find this attached.

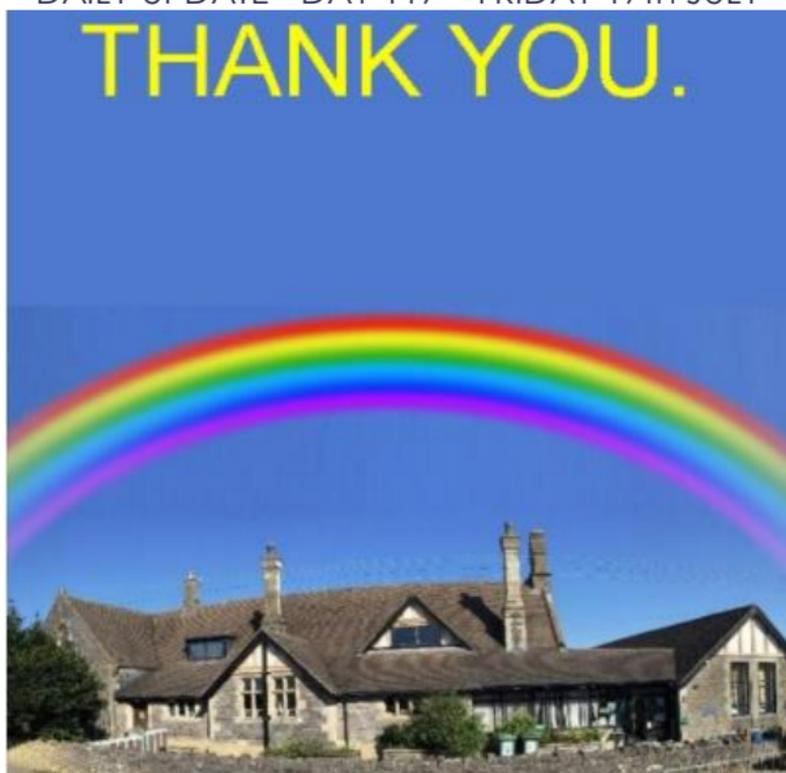
Nearly there!

See you in post 117 tomorrow.

Take care,

Mr B.

DAILY UPDATE - DAY 117 – FRIDAY 17th JULY



I know for many of you, a daily update has been too much. But for some of the families of the 53 children still 'at home', it has been a lifeline, and I have no regrets about the efforts school has made to maintain a sense of community across the pandemic period. We are all in this together! Please read to the end today. It's the last one for a long, long while!

## ASSEMBLY

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

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ayHCB7RiAzE>

(Please supervise pupil access to YouTube.)

## REPORTS

By the end of the day we will have handed out all the reports of children/parents we have seen face-to-face. Others we will try and deliver at some point over the summer. Reports included a response sheet. Whilst September is a great time to bring these back to school, I recommend writing them soon whilst your memories are still fresh.

## DVDs

I believe I informed everyone buying a Y6 DVD, but just in case... in the burning process I was experiencing around a 50% failure rate. If there are DVDs that need replacing, please don't hesitate to let me know and I'll get on this over the break.

## SUPER STARS BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

Super stars will not be opening from early September. We are in discussion with Jon, the manager, to try and resolve a number of logistical difficulties which derive from the restrictions we are forced to observe. We will keep you posted.

## FAMILY HOLIDAYS

Make sure you've read yesterday's update about YOUR family holidays.

## FINAL THOUGHTS.

That's me just about done. What a year! Thank you to you, the parents, for sticking with us and the home-learning programme. Thank you to the children who have shown remarkable resilience since March 21st. It has been a joy to see many of you back for the picnics. And of course the children are the reason we do what we do. They make every day special. Most of all, however, my thanks go to my inspirational colleagues, many of whom have now worked continuously for 117 days, in one way or another. They took on critical worker children, and at a later date, over 50% of the school. (Compare this with the 21% County average!) A good number of them continued to work, even though at personal risk. (You know who you are!) They adapted their teaching overnight and developed new strategies to keep your children making progress. Throughout, they maintained an incredible positivity and passion for the job. If ever a summer break was deserved, this is it.

I will write again mid-August, with any substantial updates, and again on the weekend preceding the full return to school, for all pupils, with reminders and updates. Have a wonderful summer.

Stay safe and well,  
Mr B.