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Learning, Achievement, Faith & Fun!

NEWSLETTER 317

Friday 6th November 2020

SERVICE IS THIS TERM'S CHRISTIAN VALUE IN FOCUS.

"The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others."
Mahatma Gandhi.

Dear Parents and Friends,

TEACHING AND LEARNING

You might recall that the Government made available to all schools, funding specifically for the purpose of 'Catching Up'. This funding recognises that many children over the spring and summer lockdown will have made slower progress than expected ('slipped back'). Our experience at North Nibley is no different.

Having identified children who are no longer 'on track' to meet age-related expectations, or no longer 'on track' to exceed those expectations, we are starting this term a number of new programmes of support. We have increased the number of staffing hours available and invested in new resources. Where it has seemed sensible, we have added to these groups other individual pupils who might conceivably benefit from targeted support. Consequently, your child may report that they are working in new groups, and that these groups may meet inside or outside the classroom and at different times of the day.



The purpose of the catch-up programmes will be to help each child to regain the levels they had last autumn. It must not be inferred from any support your child receives that your child has a specific, or 'special' educational need (SEN). If we feel that a child has SEN we will fully involve you in our thinking before a decision is made to add your child to the school's SEN register.

Governors have always prioritised high staffing levels at North Nibley, even during these times of austerity, and we deploy our staff to benefit as many children as we can.

CHILDREN IN NEED

We are supporting this charity on Friday 13th November. Children need not come in school uniform. A collection will be taken in classes on arrival and you are asked to give generously if you can.

BARVEMBER

Maths specialists White Rose will be running their 'Barvember' challenges throughout November. Mrs Lewis, our Maths Subject Leader, will be sharing the challenges via Class Dojo. Why not work on the challenges as a family together?

POPPY APPEAL

The boxes of resources, poppies etc to help you support Armistice Day (Remembrance Day) are now in school. There are plenty of items with a suggested donation of 50p, if you want to support the appeal. The school will hold the annual 'silence' at 11 o'clock on Wednesday 11th November.



The children, with a lot of help from Mrs Kirby, created this wonderful window display. Thank you!

THE RETURN OF COOKED SCHOOL MEALS

As explained previously, we are trialling cooked school meals. Staff have worked hard to make this successful, but there are some issues to be resolved in order to be as safe as we want. Please bear with us as we 'experiment' further with layout and timings.

HORSES FOR COURSES

Congratulations to the school's equestrian team! On Wednesday 28th October, at Kings Equestrian, Bromyard the 'North Nibley Nibblers' rode a series of races.

Rupert's rider said "We rode in an area for a warm-up and there were some jumps there." Purly's rider said Purly "kept galloping at the jumps." Albut (the pony) "kept doing bigger jumps even though the jumps were smaller."

The girls together said "There was a horse riding competition. In the end we won! We got a big red rosette, a pen and some sweets." Our fourth rider competed later on in the day in two large classes, riding 2 'double clear' rounds, but unfortunately wasn't fast enough to be in the top placings. Mum said "A great supporting, fun (and long!) day was enjoyed by all!" Well done girls. Could the event have a larger team? Please ask at the office.

IT'S GETTING COLDER

Once again we are torn between keeping the ventilation in school 'flowing' to reduce transmission risks, and shivering in the classrooms. Staff recommend

an additional layer (t-shirt, jumper) and perhaps even extra socks!

PARENT EVENINGS

For this term we have decided that our Autumn Term parents' evening will be conducted by phone, for urgent cases only. If there is a key issue that needs discussing, please let your child's teacher know via Class Dojo. (And if a teacher has a similar need, they will contact you!) Otherwise you can assume that all is fine. Staff will use Class Dojo to negotiate with you a convenient time in the week beginning 16th November. Thereafter you should look out for a call close to the agreed time where the number used is 'unavailable' or 'withheld', since in the majority of cases staff will be calling from home.



THE ROTARY SHOEBOX APPEAL

"Imagine being in a place where your best Christmas gift was a roof over your head for the night, or a good meal. That doesn't mean a huge turkey with roast potatoes and carrots. It might just be the carrots! A lot of children in African countries don't even receive those things, the ones we take for granted. But now, thanks to the kind efforts of the school community, and the Rotary Club, there will be a lot more smiles this Christmas.

A pile of boxes full of toys, clothes and toiletries have been donated to the Rotary Shoebox Appeal charity. Thank you to everyone who took part in this event; from the donors to the sorters and to the organisers. It will help loads of children by sharing a little bit of happiness." (The author of this piece is featured in this photo. Thank you!)

BE PREPARED FOR ISOLATION OR LOCKDOWN

If you've not already done so, please complete the following survey – Remote Education: Barriers To Learning

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=h-Q3pwyCLkOPhVlvzQ_DvqiBNO-02pGqWBXaGmVHV9UMUJPT1pIT0s4S1FPNEtXWIRQM-FNTQzKxMy4u

Your answers will enable us to co-ordinate resources to help you if a second lockdown is put in place.

MATHS WEEK ENGLAND

Classes 3 & 4 are invited (and strongly encouraged!) to play on Time Table Rock Stars as much as possible from Monday 9th Nov. until Sat 14th (7:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m. only!) They will earn 'coins' which contribute to a class and school tables, as part of a nationwide competition. Last time we did rather well!

PROMOTING THE SCHOOL

The current high level of staffing we are able to employ to support your children is only possible because of our high 'number on roll' – the number of children that attend North Nibley. A full Reception is therefore a key priority for us. **PLEASE SHARE OUR OPEN DAY VIDEO ON EVERY PLATFORM YOU CAN.** Our Open Day video is now available to view – see our website, our Facebook page and this page here!

<http://www.northnibley.gloucs.sch.uk/open-days/>

Obviously a video is 'second-best' to an actual tour, but in these days of limited opening, this is the best tool at our disposal to generate interest in our school for the September 2021 intake.



If anyone would like a copy of the poster for a public-facing window, please ask.

A WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY

Previously I wrote... "Turn North Nibley into a Living Advent Calendar with windows throughout the village decorated and 'opened' each evening between 1 December and Christmas Eve." If you:

- live in a house that has a window that can clearly be seen from the street without people coming on to your property
- are happy to keep the window illuminated each evening after it is 'opened' until after Christmas and
- are interested in participating or are prepared to act as a standby if we have problems recruiting enough people, please let me know (email head@northnibley.gloucs.sch.uk) with:
 - your name and address
 - your email address and
 - any preference you have about dates

Please be aware that in agreeing to participate you are also agreeing to have your address identified on the website and map so people can look for your window. No names or email addresses will be shared without your permission. We look forward to hearing from you. Please let us know by 20th November.

ARE YOU PLANNING A 'RUN' TO THE TIP? (recycling centre)

We have a number of small items near the main gate and would be grateful if you could add these to a pre-booked visit.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

LONDON TRIP? The Pupil Premium can help with that.
SWIMMING LESSONS? The Pupil Premium can help with that.

IN-CLASS SUPPORT? The Pupil Premium can help with that.

Children in ANY school year can benefit!

I understand that in these strange times many families are under financial stress. Last week I attached important information about the different types of 'Free School Meals' available. School is granted over £1000 for any child entitled (whether they take the actual meals or not!) and this goes to support your child in numerous ways (all 'invisible' to the child.) If there is even the smallest chance you may now qualify, I urge you to do what other families are doing, read the letter and find out.

OURBORETUM - FREE SEEDS, POTS AND COMPOST!

This autumn BBC Radio Gloucestershire is inviting schools, organisations, families and individuals to join them to grow 2,020 trees from seed. They have received a donation of 3,500 pots and enough compost to fill them, and want to give them all away for free. As a school we have applied and we will keep you up to date.

Have a great weekend, Mr B



FREE MONEY! (RAISE MONEY FOR FONNS!)

Here's an idea which could raise a lot of money for the school, especially in the build up to CHRISTMAS – Amazon Smile. You can find all the information about using this FREE service on our website page here - - <http://www.northnibley.gloucs.sch.uk/pta-fonns/> Basically, if you nominate North Nibley School PTFA as our chosen charity, Amazon will donate 0.5% of the net purchase price!

amazonsmile

You shop. Amazon gives.

<https://smile.amazon.co.uk>

FONNS RAFFLE TICKETS – These are on sale now.

FONNS T-TOWELS

The order forms have gone home. Orders need to be received before the Friday 13th November to ensure a Christmas delivery.

FONNS APPEAL

The Friends of North Nibley School (FONNS) are collecting 'goodies' for the Christmas hampers. Please use the box on the wall for your donations

FONNS ONLINE CHRISTMAS TREAT STALL

Pre orders can be made via Facebook FONNS group & Nibley Parent, as well as on a sheet coming home.



FONNS CHRISTMAS RAFFLE
Some Amazing Prizes on offer this year.....

1st Prize £100.00 gift voucher
2nd Prize £50.00 gift voucher
3rd Prize Luxury Hamper

Half an hour massage
MOT Voucher
Meat Pack
Cake Box Brownies
Lee Dunham motorcross voucher
More prizes to follow

£1.00 per ticket
Tickets will be on SALE soon

LONDON'S BURNING!

Class 1 have completed these wonderful collages of the great fire of London (1666) as part of their topic work.

THE FIREWORK CODE

Only adults should deal with setting up firework displays, the lighting of fireworks and the safe disposal of fireworks once they have been used. Follow these top 10 tips for a safer fireworks party:

1. Plan your firework display to make it safe and enjoyable, and check the time you can legally set off fireworks
2. Only buy fireworks which carry the CE mark, keep them in a closed box and use them one at a time
3. Read and follow the instructions on each firework using a torch if necessary
4. Light the firework at arm's length with a taper and stand well back
5. Keep naked flames, including cigarettes, away from fireworks
6. Never return to a firework once it has been lit
7. Don't put fireworks in pockets and never throw them
8. Direct any rocket fireworks well away from spectators
9. Never use paraffin or petrol on a bonfire
10. Make sure that the fire is out and surroundings are made safe before leaving.





We are asking for each family to try and sell a book of Raffle Tickets for FONNS Christmas Draw.
£1.00 per ticket

If you can sell the book of tickets, please return the ticket stubs with contact details back in envelope with
Money.

If you are not able to sell the tickets, please return the un-sold tickets in the envelope to school.

There will be a Post box on the school wall by main school gate which you can post back your envelope.
You can pay via cash or Bank Transfer, bank details below: If paying by BACS please ensure you place your
surname as reference so we can match it up to payment, and by writing on the envelope you have paid by
BACS.

Bank details: Account Name: Friends of North Nibley School, Account no: 25314122 Sort code: 55 61 38

Please can we have all sold & un-sold tickets returned to the post box by Friday 20th November.



Please follow FONNS on face book to keep up to date of all the activities and fundraising we do to help raise
money for the school & children.

We appreciate all your help
Kind regards, Mel & Beck

**Enclosed is also the order form for you to purchase some Christmas stocking treats. Order forms can also be
placed in the post box outside school gates.**
