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

# NEWSLETTER 324 – THE LOCKDOWN LETTERS

FROM THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC - JANUARY 2021

**From the Archives: Days 1 to 4 – What did you miss?**

Dear Parents,

## Day 1

Several hours later than intended, I have now sent the email with further details regarding accessing a place at North Nibley within our "Key Worker, Plus" group.

Thank you to the staff who worked so hard to get things ready. Keep talking to us - what works, what doesn't. I am entirely optimistic about our ability to wrestle the best from a difficult situation.

The day has been busy. Severn Trent Water, as I write, are trying to reconnect us and other buildings in the area to the mains water grid. If they are unable to succeed before tomorrow, we may yet have to announce a fully closed school! Watch this space.

All those who've booked places tomorrow - your places are guaranteed. But don't rush away until we've checked the water situation. Please supply full water bottles, and remember very warm clothing!

## Day 2 - TWO IMPORTANT UPDATES

- 1) Your Class Dojo Comments and questions, and data protection
- 2) Booking a 'Critical Workers Plus' space in school

Please remember, scroll backwards through the 'School Story' every now and then, to see if you've missed an earlier message! This can happen, for example, if Mrs Lewis posts a Time Table Rock Star message after me. I then get inundated with questions to which I've already given answers! Thank you.

- 1) From a GDPR (data protection) point of view - you all need to be clear that the comments in response to SCHOOL Stories will be visible to everyone.

The comments you make in response to CLASS stories will be visible to all parents in that class. Please, therefore, consider sending PRIVATE messages to a teacher when responding to class work, e.g. children's successes and struggles, since this ought not to be public.

Children do not see any part of the 'School Story' unless you choose to share it with them. From time to

time I will ask you to do that, for example as we revert to celebrating birthdays 'online' with the birthday blogs. Invitations to Friday assemblies will also appear here, as will many of the activities I introduce. (I am sure you will appreciate that posting the same item in 4 different classes takes up time which is better spent in other areas at this time!)

2) Critical Workers Plus – Parents are now using the online booking system to reserve their places. We have not reached capacity on any day currently open for booking (up to Friday 15th) in either the older or younger group, so parents who have booked so far do not need individual confirmation. The default position is that the place booked IS available, unless we call to say otherwise.

#### AMENDMENT

In the Consent document you signed (thank you) it stated that should demand exceed capacity, places will be given according to a stated priority.

I now need to amend that list, which now reads –

1. Children with TWO critical worker parent/carers (or ONE critical worker parent, in the case of lone-parent households)
2. Children with ONE critical worker parent/carer
3. Children in receipt of the Pupil Premium
4. Invited pupils ('those with other needs')

That's what comes of working at speed - mistakes creep in!

In the case of invited pupils, teachers have made the decision to invite pupils for a variety of reasons. It may well be that 'full time' attendance in the Critical Worker Plus group is not appropriate. Teachers will have that discussion with individual parents.

The first day has gone well. Some teething problems, but overall I'm very pleased.

Keep smiling and keep safe. Mr B.



**Day 3** - As you might expect, a lot has been happening 'behind the scenes' today. I will attempt to keep these updates to the point. Encourage everyone to check these updates DAILY (only 82 out of 123 yesterday) since you might miss something important!

Today's key messages.

Both bubbles (on different days) are approaching capacity next week. It is vital that ALL of the Key Worker Plus group confirm their booking online, to avoid potentially difficult scenes at the school gate, should demand exceed capacity. I would hate to turn anyone away...

I am working on contingency plans, but any more staff on site will have an adverse effect on remote learning. Gavin Williams suggested you might want to complain to Ofsted. Can I suggest that you send your praises there too, if you feel we are working miracles in impossible circumstances?

Tomorrow – Friday

The BBC is forecasting possible snow in the GL11 area. We will use Class Dojo and existing systems to declare a closed school. See

<http://www.northnibley.gloucs.sch.uk/emergency-closure-information/>

Friday Assembly

I will be attempting a 'live' assembly tomorrow at 1:30, via Zoom. This is very much a dry run – please don't expect a polished, media-standard presentation. I want to establish likely demand, discover whether we have the broadband capacity and what 'works'. Teacher certificates and birthdays for children NOT on site will have to be postponed until Friday 15th.

## Day 4

### What a week!

At least we avoided the closure due to water works, and later, snow.

Governors continue to carry out their statutory duties. When we met on Wednesday evening, the Remote Teaching and Learning Policy was re-adopted. Other renewed policies include the annual update to the Child Protection Policy, a new Social Media Policy, and a policy on children missing from education. You can find these on the policy page of the website - <http://www.northnibley.gloucs.sch.uk/policies/>

The annual Safeguarding Audit has been completed. With our responsibilities for safeguarding firmly in mind, the following procedure sets out the expectation of the staff for keeping in touch with you and your children during the lock down.

Work continues to be submitted ...	This counts as regular contact with their teacher
At the end of the 1st day with no contact	At the end of the day a quick "Everything OK?" message will be sent.
At the end of the 2nd full day of no contact	Teacher will make a phone call (Use 141 to shield home numbers). Teacher alerts Head Teacher
During the 3 <sup>rd</sup> day	Regular attempts via online and phone
At the end of the 3rd full day of no contact	Head Teacher alerted
During the 4 <sup>th</sup> day	Head Teacher also attempts to make contact
At the end of the 4 <sup>th</sup> day with no contact	Plans made for 2 members of staff to visit the child's home (s)
Visit unsatisfactory	School engages with Social Services

We reserve the right to escalate action if we have specific or background concerns.

If we call you, please be aware that "Number withheld" may very well be displayed.

## **FONNS UPDATE**

FoNNS will be holding its AGM on a Zoom meeting on Wednesday 27th January at 7.30pm. An invitation link will be posted on the FoNNS Facebook page for you all to join. Alternatively if you email [FONNS@northnibleschool.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:FONNS@northnibleschool.gloucs.sch.uk) we can send a link directly to your e-mail address. Please do let us know if you will be joining us. Many thanks

## **NEWSLETTER**

I'm attaching a 'Newsletter' (of sorts) – it captures all of this week's 'School Story' with space on the end for items you might have missed at the end of the Autumn Term. – As follows

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## **SCHOOL CHRISTMAS SERVICE**

Given the unusual circumstances of 2020, we are pleased to bring you a somewhat 'different' Christmas Service. This is available for download from the following address -

<http://www.northnibley.gloucs.sch.uk/christmas2020/>

This includes your 'video' Christmas card' to the community, which exceeded my expectations. Well done! We hope it fills you with the joy of Christmas.

## **ADVENT WINDOWS**

All the windows can be explored on our website here - <http://www.northnibley.gloucs.sch.uk/advent/>

## **LAST CALL FOR... DVDs**

If you are passing, or have pupils on site, and you did not collect your Prickly Hay DVD, please alert the office. Mrs Kirby is in most mornings.

## **BOOK REVIEWS**

Come on, all you readers young and old. Make a recommendation here –

<http://northnibley.weebly.com/book-reviews>

**(This site is working fine!)**