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Learning, Achievement, Faith & Fun!

# NEWSLETTER 331 – THE LOCKDOWN LETTERS

FROM THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC – FEBRUARY 2021

**For the Archives: Day 49 to Day 53**

Dear Parents and Friends,

DAILY UPDATE – DAY 49 – MONDAY (86 views)  
BACK TO LEARNING! TERM 4 begins!

MID-DAY SUPERVISOR – Please head to  
<http://www.northnibley.gloucs.sch.uk/vacancies/> for  
details of our staff vacancy. The deadline for applications  
is Friday 5th March 2021.

## MONDAY ASSEMBLY

Once again iSingPop bring us a joyous, music-filled  
assembly. Episode 5 on the theme of 'Respect' (one of the  
school's values) can be found here:

<https://vimeo.com/497676323/9a33d050e6> As before,  
the password is spring .

## MORE ABOUT BOOK REVIEWS

Yesterday I wrote about the new book review site. There  
may well be some other changes coming, but the site is up  
and running. As well as being able to search by pupil  
name, visitors to the site can now add their comments  
without needing to be logged in. What an excellent way to  
encourage one-another! (Comments will be moderated  
before they appear!)

To celebrate the re-launch of our book review site, this  
week's family quiz is based on the covers of children's  
books. Can you identify the book from the image I've  
shared? Access the quiz here -

<https://forms.gle/GhijTL5NZEj6tei39>

## TIPS ON LEARNING SPELLINGS - 1

Some people are natural spellers. I'm not! There are a  
number of powerful techniques to support those who  
have to work at it. Perhaps the most often used method is  
the SACAWAC method – as follows -

See the word (it helps to read it out aloud too)

And

Cover the word

And

Write the word (from memory)

And

Check

(SACAWAC reads downwards, the first letter of each line.) The check is crucial of course. If you've made a mistake identify what's gone a bit wrong and repeat the SACAWAC process again. This is most usually completed with pencil and paper, but it is the basis of the approach used by many computer programmes too.

ICYMI (In Case You Missed It) Mrs Dixon's letter about the Beijing challenge is attached again.

BACK TO SCHOOL?

We wait to find out more about the plans for easing lockdown, announced officially around 7:00 p.m. tonight (we believe).

Take care, Mr B.

DAILY UPDATE – DAY 50 – TUESDAY (90 views)



Yesterday the Prime Minister outlined the 'road map' for a return to normality, and this included the provision for schools to open to all pupils on Monday, 8th March. At North Nibley the staff and I broadly welcome the move, but we are determined not to rush back to 'school normal' as it was pre-pandemic days. We will continue to operate in two bubbles – an approach that worked so well for us last time, balancing as it did the opportunities for education and well-being – at least until the Easter break. Other measures familiar from the Autumn Term will continue (for example a restriction on visitors and a staggered lunch break) and in due course we will provide further details such as drop-off and collection arrangements, music tuition and hot school meals. Keep smiling, everyone, and keep up the excellent work. Less than 2 weeks to go!

ASSEMBLY – Join Bob Hartman (the author of Open The Book) as he dramatically tells the story of.... "The Promised One"

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i8zn2KEaz4o&feature=emb\\_imp\\_woyt&safe=true](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i8zn2KEaz4o&feature=emb_imp_woyt&safe=true)

As always, please supervise the use of YouTube.

QUIZ ANSWERS

The answers to the Flags quiz were as follows:

La Rojigualda

New Zealand

Brazil

Ukraine

George Cross

Libya

Ireland

Denmark

TRUE

Cedar

There was a lot of interest in this one, but only one team scored full marks. Congratulations to the Blogg family!

This week's family quiz is based on the covers of children's books. Can you identify the book from the image I've shared? Access the quiz here -

<https://forms.gle/GhijTL5NZEj6tei39>

Can you beat 17 out of 20?

### SPELLING WELL

What makes a word 'stick' in a learner's brain? Practise tests are very ineffective methods of learning. You have to put new spellings in before you can expect the knowledge to come out in a test. SO here is today's tip... a variation on SACAWAC (see yesterday's post!)

Write out each word on a piece of paper. Ask someone to hold it in front of you and stare at it for 10 seconds. Turn the paper over and repeat it out loud from memory. Better still write it down. Then check it – and take note of any mistakes.

Keep smiling, and carry on! Mr B.

DAILY UPDATE - DAY 51 – WEDNESDAY (85 views)



### WEDNESDAY WORSHIP

The following song has been requested by one of our children.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XjWvbV6ohVc&safe=true> As always, please supervise the use of YouTube.

### WORLD BOOK DAY (Advanced notice)

Sadly, this year's World Book Day (Thursday 4th March) will fall before we are due to return fully to school. However, we still wish to celebrate the power of the

books, and therefore we are holding the following activities -

Dressing Up – at home only please (for reasons of fairness, everyone will be at home at some point on this day). Send a photo via Class Dojo by Thursday evening and we'll share these on the Friday assembly. If possible, be holding the book your character is from).

Remote lessons – Teachers will plan something on the day itself, book themed

Celebrity Story Tellers – parents OR children – YOU are invited to submit a video where you read a short story. We'll create a video 'library' from which you can browse. This needs to be done in advance please, by Weds 3rd) with careful consideration of your location, background, content and target age-group. Ultimately, school will decide whether your story gets into the library. (Submit via Class Dojo or other online links such as OneDrive / Dropbox etc).

On World Book Day we'll open up 'the library' and you can take your pick!

Transform a potato into a book character! Use your creative skills, coloured pens, material, card, paper and whatnot to transform a potato into a character we will recognise. Submit photos of these via Class Dojo (and provide the answer too – just in case we don't know the book!)

The regular Bafflers Quiz from the Daily Updates will have a book theme.

Vouchers. We have applied for the annual World Book Day Voucher, which will be distributed electronically this year.

Take care, Mr B.

DAILY UPDATE - DAY 52 – THURSDAY (85 views)

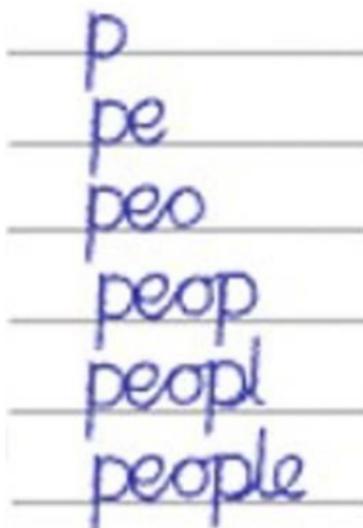
### SPELLING WELL

What makes a word 'stick' in a learner's brain? Practise tests are very ineffective methods of learning. You have to put new spellings in before you can expect the knowledge to come out in a test. Here is today's tip... the 'Spelling staircase'.

Concentrate hard on a tricky word by building it up bit by bit, a letter at a time (say the letters and read the part-word/word out aloud on each line to make it memorable).

Say the word out loud at the end.

In the end the word makes a staircase!



## TODAY'S SONG - Brighter Day Tomorrow

This aspirational track addresses the issue of impacting tomorrow by the simple choices we make today. "There's no telling what a difference we can make. This world's waiting for the colours we're yet to create." How true!

[https://youtu.be/pDt\\_39G8214](https://youtu.be/pDt_39G8214)

As always, please supervise the use of YouTube.

## TONIGHT!

For the final time! Bookings for places in school next week close this evening. Please check for the automated acknowledgement before booking the same child for the same slots in the same week – a fifth of parents do this and it creates extra work!

## BIRTHDAYS

Get your birthday messages on Purple Mash this evening to ensure inclusion in tomorrow's assembly.

## FRIDAY'S ASSEMBLY

Topic: Friday Assembly 26/02/2021

Time: Feb 26, 2021 01:30 PM London

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/3905430376?pwd=UWRQU1VubCs4SDFabW9VSjdiTORlZz09>

Meeting ID: 390 543 0376

Passcode: BEIJING

We are allowing cameras ON today (but please stay 'muted' until asked to join in!)

You may share the link with wider family if you wish, but please no further. If we are 'zoom-bombed' by anything offensive, I will terminate the broadcast with immediate effect and apologise later!

## INNOVATION!

I am attempting to make certain parts of the assembly 'interactive'. A second internet-connected device such as a phone could be helpful, not for the assembly itself, but for... well, that would spoil the surprise!

NEXT WEEK WORLD BOOK DAY – see yesterday's update. 'See' you tomorrow. Take care, Mr B.

DAILY UPDATE - DAY 53 – FRIDAY (80 views)



## FRIDAY'S ASSEMBLY

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## SPELL WELL!

What makes a word 'stick' in a learner's brain? Practise tests are very ineffective methods of learning. You have to put new spellings in before you can expect the knowledge to come out in a test. Here is today's tip... Anagrams. Give the learner all the right letters to spell a word – written down one letter on each piece of paper, using fridge magnets or individual letters torn from newspapers – but muddled up. Announce the word and time how long it takes to rearrange the letters to give the correct spelling. Keep a record. Try to improve your time each day.

## ADVANCED NOTICE

Class teachers have been granted some 'non-contact' time on Friday 5th March in order to re-work their planning, from remote teaching and learning to face-to-face, in preparation for our return to being fully open.

Consequently, the 5th will be a school-light work day. Use this time to continue the World Book Day work, submit a book review, (

<http://www.northnibley.gloucs.sch.uk/book-review-index/> ) continue your sporting challenges

## BACK TO SCHOOL

The government have made it clear that "the usual rules on school attendance apply, including:

- Parents' duty to secure their child's regular attendance at school (where the child is a registered pupil at school and they are of compulsory school age).

- The ability to issue sanctions, including fixed penalty notices in line with local authorities' codes of conduct."

Attendance is therefore expected for all pupils, other than those diagnosed as clinically extremely vulnerable. If you are in this group, you will previously have received a letter from the NHS or from your GP telling you this. Children who live with someone who is clinically extremely vulnerable should still attend school or college.

Information for parents is available from the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health.

#### UNIFORM

Some parents have mentioned to me that shoes/trousers/jumpers etc which fitted before Christmas might be a little 'snug' (or uncomfortably tight) by March 8th. With limited opportunity for shopping, school will take a relaxed attitude to this until after Easter. Obviously do your best if you can, but please don't let this be the cause for additional anxiety!

'See' you later,  
Mr B.