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Learning, Achievement, Faith & Fun!

NEWSLETTER 332 – THE LOCKDOWN LETTERS

FROM THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC – FEBRUARY 2021

For the Archives: Day 54 to Day 60

Dear Parents and Friends,

DAILY UPDATE - DAY 54 – SATURDAY (78 views)



CLASS 2 CHILDREN - your room is finished! Thank Mrs Harvey when you see her, for a brilliant job.

QUIZ - I can't believe the small number of participants in this week's quiz – guess the children's book title from its cover. Give it a go - <https://forms.gle/GhijTL5NZEj6tei39>

ASSEMBLY worked well – up to 25 participants interacting, voting and sharing thoughts as the assembly progressed! I have NO NEW 'Happy Birthday' videos left for next week. PLEASE HELP (a child of any age!)

SONG REQUESTS - Do you have any requests for an assembly song this week? It's your last chance!

TOKYO CHALLENGE – we are SOOOOO close! Keep pushing, everyone. Let's do this before we all return to school!

TIMES TABLE ROCK STARS – Keep up the excellent work, Team Nibley!

VIRTUAL SUNDAY SCHOOL will be available on YouTube tomorrow. I'll be back on Monday. Have a super weekend

and enjoy the clear blue skies!
Mr B.

DAILY UPDATE - DAY 56 – MONDAY (82 views)

Dydd Gŵyl Dewi Hapus Happy St David's Day



IT'S MONDAY! (which means it's worth checking back over the week end's updates to see if you missed anything!)

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.

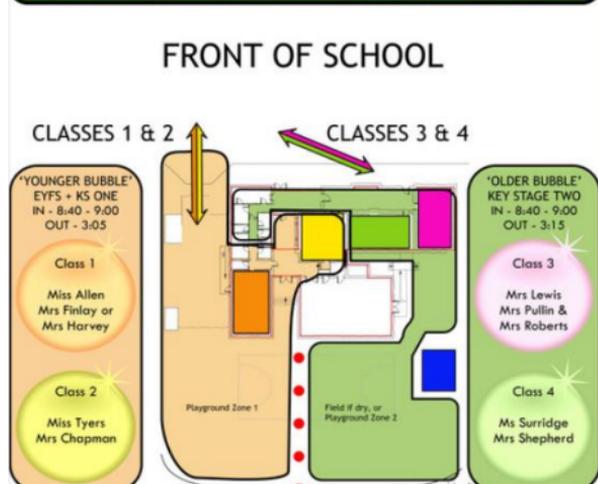
MONDAY ASSEMBLY Once again iSingPop bring us a joyous, music-filled assembly. Episode 6 on the theme of 'Respect' (one of the school's values) can be found here: <https://vimeo.com/497680868/3016fb6b28> As before, the password is spring .

QUIZ – Since my gentle 'push' on Saturday, a large number of families have tried this week's quiz – guess the children's book title from its cover. Everyone has got over half marks. My posts here don't get through to the children unless parents pass it on, so what are you waiting for? Give it a go - <https://forms.gle/GhijTL5NZEj6tei39>

Not long now. Take care, Mr B.

DAILY UPDATE - DAY 57 – TUESDAY (82 views)

New Start & End Times!



RETURNING TO SCHOOL

I have been asked to remind the school community “that the return to school does not mean a relaxation in restrictions and that both staff and students should continue to adhere to procedures such as hand washing and social distancing.” As before, social distancing is problematic for Primary School aged children, and full compliance not expected, but a gentle reminder now and then from home could be helpful, especially with the older children. Close contact games such as ‘tag’ in the playground will be discouraged.

CHANGES

For the most part, the routines and systems running in December will be reinstated. This means a staggered start and collection time, zones for our two bubbles, a staggered lunchtime and separate assemblies. We are asking Caterlink to provide us with a menu so that the option of hot dinners may be given in readiness for Monday 8th. I will confirm this when we know the details.

There will, however be some changes, as follows. Staff will now be wearing masks to move around the school, and when in conversation with other adults, including at the ‘school gate’. These may be removed when working with children. Parents are expected to comply with the face mask rule when arriving at school.

We will experiment with a ‘soft start’. Children in either bubble may be handed over at any time between 8:40 and 9:00, providing parents make a quick exit from the school perimeter. We are putting this measure in place to eliminate socialising whilst you ‘wait’ for a bubble to open (sorry!) We are asking, therefore, that you do not arrive earlier than 8:40. It really should be ‘drop and go’.

The school day will end as follows: Younger bubble, 3:05 p.m. and older bubble 3:15 p.m. This shift onwards by 5 minutes will help us phase a return to our normal hours and it will add 25 minutes per week to allow a greater amount of time for catching up.

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!

On PE days, we are asking that children continue to come to school in their PE kit, as follows:

Classes 1 & 2 - Thursday

Class 3 - Friday

Class 4 - Wednesday & Friday

SUPERSTARS

Superstars will continue operating under the same

restrictions as those in place before Christmas, again from Monday 8th.

REVIEW The staff and the governing body will review these measures and the latest advice, together with any pandemic and vaccination information, in the build up to Easter. I will continue to use <http://www.northnibley.gloucs.sch.uk/covid-19/> as a central location for pandemic-related information.

ASSEMBLY

Join Bob Hartman (the author of Open The Book) as he dramatically tells the story of... "Jesus And The Tax Man" https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZVzu0DRoas&feature=emb_imp_woyt&safe=true

SONG – Nothing's Too Big, Big, Big for His Power
Enjoy the song – learn the actions!
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yopo6DvV9Z8&safe=true>

As always, please supervise the use of YouTube.

Take care, Mr B.

DAILY UPDATE - DAY 58 – WEDNESDAY (85 views)



WORLD BOOK DAY TOMORROW

Keep sending your stories (by tonight) and don't forget to add your photos of dressing up (from home - we weren't dressing up at school) and potatoes as book characters tomorrow!

PARENT PAY

As we near the financial 'Year end' Mrs Bargewell is urging families to settle their school meal debts please, as soon as possible please.

POLICIES

At Governors last night the Early Years Foundation Stage Policy was renewed, as was the Anti-radicalisation policy. The 'Exceeding PAN' protocol (for school admissions) exists in a draft form. These three can be found on the Policies page on our website – <http://www.northnibley.gloucs.sch.uk/policies/>

QUIZ

Since my gentle 'push' on Saturday, a large number of families have tried this week's quiz – guess the children's book title from its cover. No one has gained FULL MARKS yet, though a few have come close. My posts here don't get through to the children unless parents pass it on, so what are you waiting for? Give it a go -

<https://forms.gle/GhijTL5NZEj6tei39>

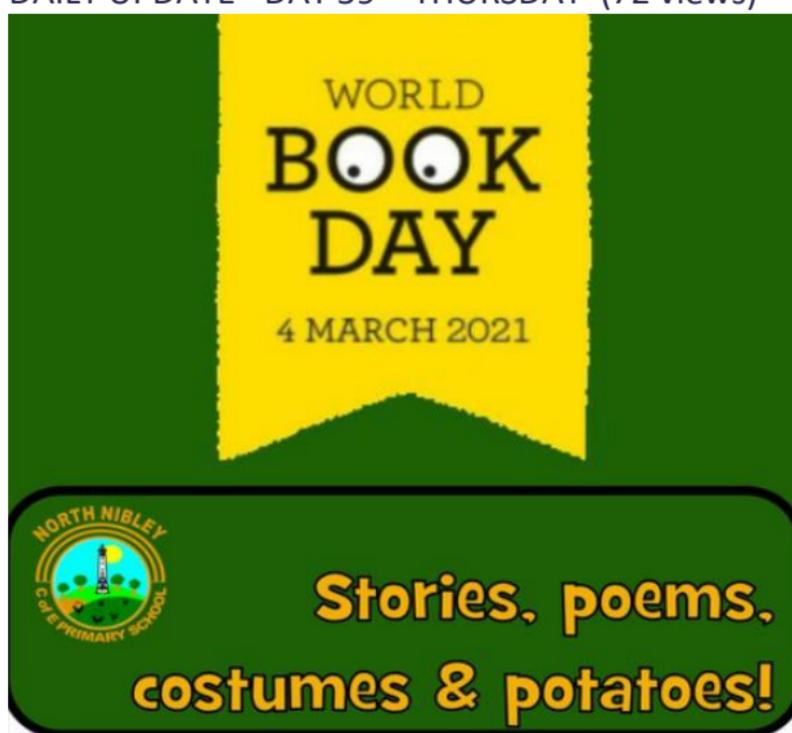
I'll post the answers on Friday.

SUPERSTARS

Superstars will continue operating under the same restrictions as those in place before Christmas, again from Monday 8th. Use the details on the card to book your places.

Nearly there! Stay safe & well, Mr B.

DAILY UPDATE - DAY 59 – THURSDAY (72 views)



NUMBER FANS – Today is equal to the 'half-way' point in lockdown number 1. We've got this!

WORLD BOOK DAY

There are plenty of video readings to choose from! Thank you to the individual children, families and parents who contributed. You can find the 'index' here -

<https://northnibleyschool.edublogs.org/world-book-day-2021/>

And I hope that by assembly time tomorrow children in character and potatoes in costumes will be added to the same page. There is still time to submit photos and the 'gallery' will be available from tomorrow. There seems to be a technical issue with the set 'activity' upload, so add these anywhere in a child's portfolio and I'll do my best to find them.

FAMILY TESTING

As part of our safety measures, staff at North Nibley Primary continue to use lateral flow test (LFT) tests (throat and nasal swabs) to test twice a week. As part of the governments roadmap to lift restrictions, they are now extending the offer that is already in place for primary

school staff to offer lateral flow tests for home self-administration to anyone within your household bubble and support bubble. (This excludes primary school aged children). The lateral flow tests are for the identification of asymptomatic cases of covid-19.

If this is something that your home bubbles would like to do, please follow the link to find your nearest collection point or to order test kits to be delivered to your home.

https://www.gov.uk/guidance/rapid-lateral-flow-testing-for-households-and-bubbles-of-school-pupils-and-staff?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_source=ca1c659b-95d6-490e-87c6-d6c09e85ecfb&utm_content=immediately

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. Today's tip is based around repetition – SPEED SPELL!

Write a single word you are learning as many times as you can in, say, 30 seconds. Say the word aloud each time. Make sure you are copying the CORRECT spelling, as mistakes learnt can be very hard to 'un-learn' later on. Use a joined style if you can. Don't let your writing get untidy even though you're writing at speed. Check every quickly written word, every time. On the next day, can you improve your score?

FRIDAY

A reminder that Friday will be a 'light work' day as staff put time into resetting plans etc for face-to-face teaching from Monday. Continue any Book Day activities, complete a book review and do please join us for...

FRIDAY ASSEMBLY

Rosie Casken leads Open The Book. We'll be interactive again, so if you have access to a mobile phone or can run both zoom and a web browser at the same time (as a Year 6 was showing me!) then you can make choices and share your thoughts as we go.

Time: Mar 5, 2021 01:30 PM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/3905430376?pwd=ZWJUS2prbzVLRTdDQklUM1JRRWNOUT09>

Meeting ID: 390 543 0376

Passcode: TOKYO

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!

NEXT WEEK

Cooked school meals resumes on WEEK THREE and the menu on the school website is correct.

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

I believe that the current menu will be 'rolled over' into Term 5 as well, but we'll confirm this later.

UNIFORM

Mrs Kirby has a supply of 'nearly new / pre-owned' school uniform (jumpers etc) and if you contact her with your requirements (by phone or email) she will endeavour to find a match.

Take care, Mr B.

DAILY UPDATE - DAY 60 – FRIDAY (77 views)



WORLD BOOK DAY QUIZ

The correct answers were as follows (with points also being awarded for identifying the series, i.e. "Famous Five" would have got you the point even if you hadn't identified "Five Go Off To Camp").

The BFG

Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone (Harry Potter)

Mog And The Granny (Mog)

The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe (Nania)

The Gruffalo

We're Going on a Bear Hunt

Farmer Duck

The Iron Man (The Iron Giant)

Elmer the Elephant

The Worst Witch

Would You Rather...?

The Adventures of Tintin

Five Go Off to Camp (The Famous Five)

Amazing Grace

Gangsta Granny

Diary of a Wimpy Kid

The Hobbit

Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief

Little Women

Holes

Congratulations to Eliana and family (18) with runners up Miriam, Joseph and Lydia and Team Adeline (both 17).

WORLD BOOK DAY UPDATE

Mrs Kirby has the WBD Vouchers and we will distribute these next week. Thank you so much for all your readings, videos and photos. I believe I have caught all but two photos (late entries) and all I have caught is ready for unveiling in assembly. What fun!

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NEXT WEEK

We will experiment with a 'soft start' ACROSS THE WHOLE SCHOOL. Children in either bubble may be handed over at any time between 8:40 and 9:00, providing parents make a quick exit from the school perimeter. We are putting this measure in place to reduce the need for social distancing whilst you 'wait' for a bubble to open. We are asking, therefore, that you do not arrive earlier than 8:40. It really should be 'drop and go'. Collection is at 3:05 (Younger bubble) and 3:15 (Older bubble).

We are back to Week 'B' in our two-week cycle (Miss Allen and Ms Surrige have their non-contact days next week), Week 3 of the school lunch menu, Superstars are reinstated, and it's back to school uniform. On PE days, we are asking that children continue to come to school in their PE kit, as follows:

Classes 1 & 2 - Thursday

Class 3 - Friday

Class 4 - Wednesday & Friday

It's been another testing time, but we've come through it together. Next week our priority will be to re-establish routines and expectations, settle children and understand 'where they are'. We will adapt the curriculum accordingly and target support to match needs. We will recover ground slowly and methodically, focusing on the basics but ensuring access to as much 'enrichment' as the regulations allow. Our commitment to a broad and balanced primary school curriculum remains firm. Learning, Achievement, Faith and Fun! Life in ALL it's fullness. There are good times ahead!

Stay well, Mr B.