



North Nibley C of E Primary School
September 26

21st September 2026: Curiosity



Headteacher's message



Welcome Back!

It has been lovely to have everyone back in school, and by the time you read this we will already have completed our first two weeks of the new school year.

We have been looking at the best time to send out newsletters which works well for staff and parents. Our main school newsletter from now on will be sent out on **a Friday** and we will send a short newsletter with just certificates on the alternative Friday. We hope this will give families a regular snapshot of what has been happening across school, with photographs, celebrations, reminders and information about what is coming up next.

At the back of this first newsletter, you will also find our **Key Dates for the Year**. We have tried to schedule the significant events across the whole year now – including things such as Sports Day and our Year 6 Leavers' Service – so families can plan ahead wherever possible.

We will do our absolute utmost to stick to these published dates. Inevitably, other events and opportunities will be added during the year, but these should give you a really useful overview of the main dates already in the diary.

A very busy summer!

As many of you will have seen, a huge amount of building work took place at school over the summer. This was a major project and has brought some really exciting improvements to the school, but unfortunately some of the work overran into the beginning of term.

Thank you to everyone for your patience while builders have still been on site and while we have had skips, materials, fencing and, at times, rather more building-related clutter outside school than we would normally expect! It certainly isn't our normal way of welcoming everyone back in September.

The Key Stage 1 outdoor area has also taken longer to complete than we had hoped, and we appreciate families bearing with us while everything has gradually come together. There is still work happening, but we are getting there, and **by half-term we expect everything to be looking and working really well.**

We are incredibly excited about what all of these changes will mean for the children.

Our new Key Stage 1 continuous provision

One of the biggest changes this year is the development of our new **continuous provision approach in Bumblebee Class**, together with the outdoor provision around the pond area.

Children in Key Stage 1 will increasingly have access to a much richer range of practical, purposeful and play-based learning opportunities. We have lots of new resources on the way, both inside and outside, and would like to say a huge **thank you to FoNNS** for funding so much of this development.

We are fortunate to have staff in Bumblebee with significant expertise in continuous provision, supported by a dedicated team who are really excited about developing this approach. Alongside carefully taught lessons, children will have opportunities to apply their learning independently, explore ideas, solve problems, create, collaborate and develop their independence.

As part of establishing this approach, breaktimes for Bumblebee have also looked a little different at the beginning of term, with more opportunities for children to move between indoor and outdoor provision and for adults to explicitly model really high-quality play and learning. We are sorry that this change was not communicated as clearly as it should have been beforehand.

We know that parents may have lots of questions about what **continuous provision, extended provision and a play-based curriculum** actually look like in practice, so we would love to invite you into school to see it for yourselves.

Our **Continuous Provision Parent Session will take place on Wednesday 30 September**. This is particularly aimed at our Year 1 and Year 2 families, but **all families across the school are very welcome** if you would like to find out more. By then, we hope to have our new

furniture and FoNNS-funded resources in place so you can come in, explore the environment and see how the approach supports learning.

Curiosity

Our school value for this first half-term is **Curiosity**.

Throughout our collective worships we will be sharing stories, videos and experiences that encourage children to ask questions, wonder about the world around them and have the confidence to find things out.

Last week, some members of our Worship Team also visited **Hillesley Primary School** to meet their Worship Team. It was a lovely opportunity for the children to see how another church school organizes and leads worship and to gather ideas for making our own pupil-led worships even more engaging and meaningful.

We hope this will be the beginning of much more collaboration between our two local church schools during the year.

Cross-country is back!

We are really looking forward to this year's cross-country season.

There are two important changes this year: the races will now be held at **Katharine Lady Berkeley's School (KLB), Wotton-under-Edge**, and the fixtures will take place on **Sundays at 10am** rather than the previous arrangements.

The race dates are:

- **18 October**
- **15 November**
- **6 December**
- **17 January**
- **Backup date: 7 February**

Further information about entering will follow shortly.

Someone from North Nibley will be at each fixture to support our runners. We are also delighted that **Mr. A will be running our Running Club every Thursday**, helping children build their fitness, confidence and stamina and preparing anyone who would like to represent the school.

North Nibley has historically done incredibly well at these events and we would love to see a really strong team representing the school again this year. Whether children are experienced runners or simply fancy giving it a try, we would love them to get involved.

Clubs – thank you for bearing with us

We would also like to apologize for some confusion around clubs at the start of term.

Each term we speak with staff, consider the interests of the children and then put together the widest range of clubs that we can offer. With the building work overrunning, I was particularly keen to get the club information out to families as quickly as possible.

Unfortunately, in my eagerness to do that, a few small details in the information sent out were incorrect.

Those errors shouldn't have happened, and we are sorry for the confusion they caused.

We have learned from this and, in future, we will leave a little more time between the start of term and the start of clubs so that everything can be checked and confirmed properly before information is sent home.

We are also currently looking at an **online system for booking clubs**, which we hope will make the whole process much simpler and clearer – including knowing exactly which clubs your child is booked onto. We will be in touch once we have explored the options and know how this will work.

PE kit communication

There was also some confusion during the first week about when children would need to come into school wearing PE kit.

Again, this was partly due to the building work overrunning and partly because we were establishing our new PE arrangements with Mr. A at the beginning of term. However, we appreciate that families need clear information and sufficient notice.

We know how frustrating it can be when messages change or aren't clear, and we are sorry for that. We will make sure that future PE arrangements are communicated much earlier and as clearly as possible.

Sports Day – earlier this year

You may notice in our key dates that **Sports Day is earlier in the summer term this year**.

Following the exceptionally hot weather we experienced around Sports Day last year, we have deliberately moved it earlier. This should reduce the likelihood of extreme heat and also gives us more flexibility if the weather causes problems.

Importantly, we have also published a **backup Sports Day date** this year. This means families will know well in advance what the alternative date will be if we are unable to go ahead on the original day.

We are already looking forward to what we hope will be another fantastic Sports Day.

Looking ahead

Despite the slightly unusual start caused by the building work, there is an enormous amount to be excited about this year.

We have new spaces, new resources, new approaches to learning and lots of opportunities planned for the children. Thank you, as always, for your patience, support and understanding as we have got everything up and running.

We are really looking forward to a brilliant year at North Nibley.

Mr Hodgkinson

Headteacher

Aardvark Class



What a fabulous first couple of weeks we've had in reception. We are so proud of how well the class have settled and started to learn all of the new routines. Everyone has been very curious and positive in their new environment and outside has been a very popular place to play.

Aardvark class have loved having their buddies into play at break time and were really thankful for how mature and friendly all of the Year 6s have been!

Over the past two weeks, we've been busy making self portraits and birthday cards and have even started learning some number work too!



1 - Proud Cloud

Bumblebee Class



Our Bumblebees have settled into their new routines beautifully this week, demonstrating great focus and curiosity when tackling set activities and when learning independently. Our Y2s have been great role models, supporting the Y1s with some of the new learning, and being very enthusiastic when supporting their successes. It has been wonderful to see the two year groups forming friendships.

We have made the most of the weather, taking our maths learning outside and working collaboratively. We hope to have our new outside space in use this coming week, making use of the exciting new resources that are beginning to arrive.

[Work of the Week and Values Certificates](#)

Daisy F for showing great curiosity in her approach to the tasks and learning, as well as forming new friendships.

Jasper for a super problem solving approach and showing great resilience when learning independently.

Bernie - WOW for using his phonics so carefully in his writing.

Ettie and Bodhi for being fantastic role models in class, exploring all of the different area of learning and showing great perseverance.

Theo - WOW for his very detailed drawing and fabulous writing about his summer.

Chipmunk Class



Chipmunks have settled in well and are showing how bold and strong they are! We have been outside for Science , learning and investigating about friction and forces! In History, we

are starting to learn all about the wonders of Ancient Egypt. We are innovating the story of Tom and The Lighthouse this week in writing and hope to be able to show you our wonderful writing in the next newsletter. We are thinking about the qualities of a good friend in PSHE. Maths is all about Place Value - Year 4 delving into 4 digit numbers and Year 3 thinking more about 3 digit numbers. We are looking at stories from The Old Testament in RE- ask your children which stories we have learnt about so far. Keep up the good work Chipmunks!

[Work of the Week and Values Certificates](#)

Responsibility: Ralph, for applying himself and working independently.

Compassion: Colby, for being a kind friend.

Curiosity: Sophia, for asking thought-provoking questions.

Curiosity: Henry L-W, for asking lots of interesting questions.

WoW: Jules, for a beautiful piece of R.E. work.

WoW: Jett, for a great piece of writing.

Dolphin Class



It has been a busy start to the term in Dolphin class and children are showing their boldness and strength in all we do. In writing, we have been creating our own version of the 'The Way Home Wolf'. Children have edited and are currently writing their best version. Keep an eye out on Class Dojo for a hot chocolate afternoon where we want to share our best versions with you. Maths has started with a bang and children are doing lots of place value work. Year 6 are looking at numbers up to a million whilst Year 5 are currently exploring numbers up to 5 digits. We have also started reading the book 'Illegal' by Eoin Colfer. Ask children to explain a little about our new graphic novel and what they are enjoying about it. In the wider curriculum, It is all about Ancient Greece in History and God the Trinity in RE. We will share some of our work in these areas shortly.



2 - Children spent time in the church listening to members of our wider school family discussing their beliefs in God.



3 - Pablo Picasso style self portraits created in class.

Work of the Week and Values Certificates

WOW - Maddy for her brilliant version of a Pablo Picasso self portrait using paint, cardboard, felt tips and glitter.

WOW - Bertie for his writing intention telling his 'Way Home Wolf' story. He chose impactful language and extended his ideas so readers would be taken to his world.

Responsibility - Primrose for her choices, behaviours and being someone others can see as a role model for her partner work and around our school.

Positivity - Jax for being a positive role model at break and lunchtime to others and supporting play as well as showing a brilliant can do attitude to his work.

Numbots Champion



Bodhi - Most improved

Times table Rockstar Champion



Freddie P - Most improved

Running Club



Rolled over to next week

Local Open Days

For our **Year 6 families**, a number of local secondary schools are holding open events over the coming weeks. These are a great opportunity to visit the schools, meet staff and pupils, and find out more before making your secondary school choices.

Katharine Lady Berkeley's School (KLB) – Open Evening on **Thursday 24th September, 6:00–8:30pm**. No booking is required. KLB is also holding Open Mornings on **Tuesday 29th and Wednesday 30th September, 9:15–10:30am**.

[KLB – Open Events and booking information](#)

Rednock School – Rednock offers regular opportunities for prospective pupils and parents to tour the school. Please visit the school website for the latest tour dates and booking information.

[Rednock School – latest information and school tours](#)

Stroud High School – Open Evening on **Thursday 8th October, 5:00–7:30pm**. Places can be booked through the school website.

[Stroud High School – Open Events](#)

We would encourage families considering these schools to take the opportunity to visit. Please check the individual school websites before attending in case arrangements change.

Dates for your diary

Key Dates for the School Year

Please find below our key dates for the year. We hope this makes it easier for families to plan ahead. Please note that some dates may be subject to change, and we will keep you updated through the usual school communications.

SEPTEMBER 2026

Friday 25th September – Harvest Service at St Martin's Church, 2:30pm

Tuesday 29th September – Thursday 1st October – Year 6 Bikeability

Wednesday 30th September - Continuous Provision Parent Talk in Bumblebee class

OCTOBER 2026

Friday 2nd October - Stones Ceremony in the church

Monday 5th October - INSET DAY. School closed

Sunday 18th October – Cross Country

NOVEMBER 2026

Tuesday 3rd November – Individual School Photos

Wednesday 4th November – School Open Day for prospective Reception 2027 families

Friday 6th November – Remembrance Service at St Martin's Church, 2:30pm

Sunday 15th November – Cross Country

Monday 19th November – Parents' Evening

Tuesday 20th November – Parents' Evening

DECEMBER 2026

Sunday 6th December – Cross Country

Tuesday 15th December – Nativity – Afternoon Performance for parents

Wednesday 16th December – Nativity – Evening Performance, 6:00pm

Friday 18th December – Christmas Carol Service at St Martin's Church, 2:30–3:15pm

JANUARY 2027

Friday 8th January – Epiphany Service at St Martin's Church, 2:30pm

Sunday 17th January – Cross Country

FEBRUARY 2027

Sunday 7th February – Cross Country backup date

MARCH 2027

Thursday 4th March – World Book Day

Friday 19th March – Easter Service at St Martin's Church, 2:30pm

Monday 22nd March – Parents' Evening

Tuesday 23rd March – Parents' Evening

MAY 2027

Thursday 6th – Thursday 20th May – Swimming

Thursday 6th May – Thursday 8th July – Chipmunk Swimming

Monday 10th – Friday 14th May – Year 6 SATs Week

Friday 14th May – Year 6 SATs Treat Afternoon

Thursday 27th May – Sports Day

We are holding Sports Day earlier in the year this year.

JUNE 2027

Monday 7th June – Year 4 Multiplication Check

Thursday 10th June – Sports Day backup date

JULY 2027

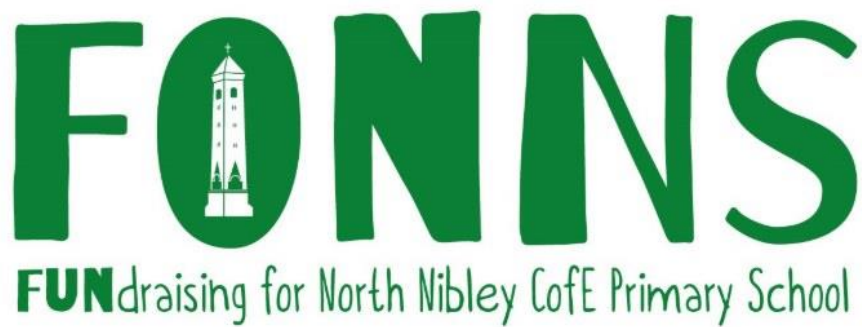
Wednesday 7th July – Leavers' Morning

Tuesday 13th July – Summer Production – Evening Performance

Wednesday 14th July – Summer Production – Evening Performance

Tuesday 20th July – Leavers' Service – Morning

[FONNs and local community](#)





Berkeley Show

FONNS raised £2214.92. What a profit!

A huge thanks to everyone who helped to make this event happen. A big thank you to Errol, who spent hours buying the food and drinks, preparing food and setting up and cleaning down. Thanks to Cassie and Shaun for their help with setting up, serving, cleaning up and putting it away with Errol. Thank you to all the parents who served at the show on a hot sunny day or baked. Sounds like it was a fun time working together and enjoyed by all.

- **Ice cream sale** - Thanks to all those who supported. **A profit of £50.00** was made.
- **Leavers BBQ** Friday, 17th July – It was the very last day for all our Year 6s, we hope they are doing well at their new schools. We are very pleased to say that we made a **profit of £921.83** at this event. Amazing! Thank you to all the year 6 parents for all your help.

If you have any fundraising ideas, please let us know. All the money raised heads directly back to our children in one way or another. As you know, we do not have the funds from the Nibley music festival anymore, so we really need to do the best we can in all our fundraisers. We are a strong team, but we cannot run these events without you; we really can't. This year at Berkeley Show, we were short of volunteers, and this meant some parents worked long hours. You do not have to be on the committee to help at events; when you can spare a couple of hours for an event, please do. Many hands make light work! Every penny we make goes to the school to help improve the school for all our children.

"To make children's school experience better."

"To support the school and surrounding community."

“To raise money for the fun things.”

“To bring together a community.”

“To enhance our children’s learning.”

“To build a community spirit.”

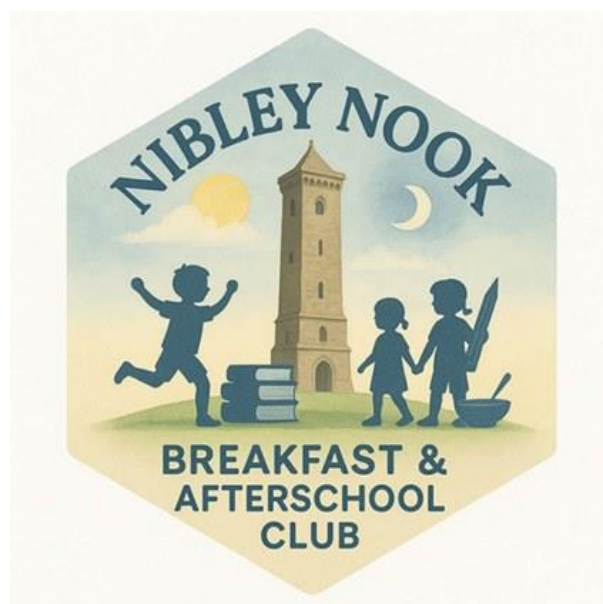
“To help make the school the best it can be

- **FONNS AGM** Wednesday 7th October 26 @7.30pm

Let us know if you are interested in being on the next FONNS committee. Any of us would be happy to talk about what it will entail. This year, only the treasurer and one other are staying on the committee. **YOU really are needed.** If everyone took a turn for a year, it would be great, but sometimes people are on the committee for 2, 3, 4 years and then they need a break. At this year's AGM, we need at least 16 people to attend the meeting; this can be in person or via Zoom. We need at least 5 people to come on the committee and actively attend the meetings every 6/8 weeks. We will need a chairperson, secretary and general committee members. Without you at the next AGM, there will be no more FONNS, and FONNS helps to provide so many wonderful experiences for all the children and buys equipment for the school. It is a great way to meet new people, take an active part in fundraising for your child's school and have a positive impact on the school.

FONNS Committee

[Nibley Nook](#)



Nibley Nook Film Nights

There are lots of film nights planned at **Nibley Nook** this term! Here's what the children can look forward to:

25th September – *The Muppet Movie*

2nd October – *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*

9th October – *Toy Story*

16th October – *Toy Story 2*

23rd October – *The Lion King*

6th November – *Matilda*

13th November – *Paddington*

20th November – *Paddington 2*

27th November – *Finding Nemo*

4th December – *The Polar Express*

11th December – *Elf*

Films may occasionally change depending on what the children would most like to watch!

End-of-Term Party

The children have also asked if they can have a special **end-of-term party** before the October break. Lin is planning lots of traditional, fun party games, including apple bobbing, a doughnut-eating challenge and a speedy "mummy makeover" using toilet roll!

This will be another chance for the children to have fun together at Nibley Nook, following the Easter and summer parties, with a **Christmas party** to look forward to later in the year too.