



Rettendon Primary School Newsletter

10th May 2019

Dear Parent/Carer,

I want to take this opportunity to thank you all for your cooperation with the school on Friday in relation to the power cut. I appreciate childcare can be difficult to arrange so thank you for working with the school at such short notice.

As I write the newsletters it gets harder and harder to select my favourite moment of the fortnight but this time I have to say it was easy! I walked into the new computing club and was overwhelmed with the buzz in the room; it was a whole new world! Felix and Ethan (Class 5) enthusiastically jumped into explaining to me how Microsoft Micro: bits are used - a pocket-sized computer used to teach coding. Like I said a whole new world! Over the past term, we have looked closely at our club provision and have responded to the children's surveys in relation to the types of the clubs provided. Children specified they would like to see more sports clubs, a sewing club, Lego club and a computing club. We have sourced coaches and parents to run sporting clubs and staff have given up their time to run sewing, Lego and computing clubs. It has been wonderful to see the children thoroughly enjoying this extra provision and Mrs Langton and Mrs Adams have both shared insights into their clubs and some photographs too for you to enjoy.

"The Sewing club have been practising threading a needle independently. Some children are starting with running stitch and others are trying more complicated ones, such as cross stitch, zig-zag stitch or snake stitch. Hannah has created a new stitch called the 'Hannah stitch'!" Mrs Langton



“The KS2 coding club have been learning to code the BBC Micro: bit. Last week and this week they have made the Micro: bit light up the word ‘Late!’ either on start, forever or when they gently shake the Micro: bit. Every club will be linked around the Alice in Wonderland story, next week we look at the choice Alice had to make as she had to decide whether to eat the cake or not.” Mrs Adams



Our school value focus continues to be Fairness. This week I look forward to giving out my double Headteacher Commendations for Fairness.

This week a letter has gone out to all parents about a trip to the beach. I just want to explain a little more about this trip. The trip is an educational based trip and will be linked to the children’s learning. Class 1 will be visiting the Sealife Centre to enrich their topic of Under the Sea, Class 2 and 3 will be undertaking a rotation of activities linked to a book, ‘Lighthouse Keeper’s Lunch,’ and Class 4 and 5 will be undertaking a rotation of activities linked to their science and geography curriculum. We are using the beach as a resource to enrich the curriculum and engage the children in their learning. We are excited to get out beyond Rettendon’s doors and explore our topics in the real world.

Going into next week, year 6 will be sitting their SATS. I wish all of the children the best of luck and ask that the children are in school on time after eating a full breakfast and having an early night.

I will be releasing a newsletter every other Friday, so please do check for key dates and updates on your child’s learning.

Sloper

Kind Regards,
Mrs S Sloper
Headteacher



A glance through Rettendon's window

Class 1

In Class One we are continuing to explore our Under the Sea theme. We have been researching under the sea creatures and were fascinated to find out that an octopus can camouflage itself. This fact inspired us to create some papier-mâché octopi. We have created our own stories based on The Rainbow Fish and have been practising our story telling. We are investigating capacity in maths and using the words: more, less, most, least, full, empty and equal. Last week we enjoyed a trip to the local park and learned about ways to keep ourselves safe when walking outside of school. We are looking forward to more local walks throughout the term and learning more about keeping safe. This week we have been making full use of our waterproof suits! We are loving the rain and having lots of fun with mud and water (sorry for all the soggy socks coming home!)

Thank you to everyone who has brought in egg boxes and 'junk'. We will be creating a junk modelled underwater scene in the coming weeks. We are really looking forward to seeing the homework art projects, please send them in with your child when they are completed and we can begin our display.



Class 2

In Science, Class 2 have been learning about the life cycle of plants. Ms Brown kindly donated sunflower seeds, pots and soil. All the children have planted their own seed. We are running an experiment to see how the seeds grown in different environments. The class chose between growing their seed in the dark, sunlight and with or without water. Not surprisingly, the whole class have chosen to plant their seed in the light with water! We are now watching and waiting for germination and to observe how the seeds grow in the different environments.

The gardening club ladies, Mrs Fallows and Mrs Wright have planted a bean with each child. The plants are to be grown at home and brought back to school in time for the Summer Show on 13th July.

In Art we have been using our colour mixing skills to paint concentric circles, in the style of Wassily Kandinsky. The finished works of Art will be displayed in the front foyer, where you can also see Class 2's previous studies of L.S Lowry and Piet Mondrian.



A glance through Rettendon's Window

Class 3

Class 3 continue to learn about the history of transport and they have made Viking longboats and have looked at the similarities and differences between 'old' and 'new' cars.

On a Wednesday they have a professional cricket coach for their PE session and on Thursday they started invasion games. All PE sessions should be outside so please can they children remember to bring in appropriate clothing for the weather.



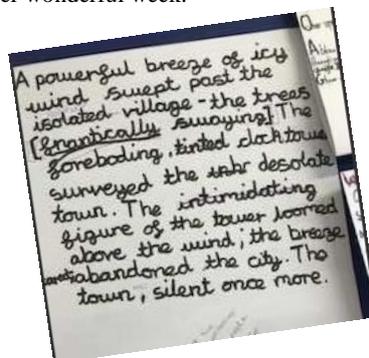
Class 4

Another busy and successful week for the class! They have been practising how to improve sentences using better sentence openers and also how to improve punctuation (full stops are not the only punctuation marks that can be used at this level - why not try to use semicolons, hyphens and many more marks to make our writing more interesting?) They are still learning so I am hoping to see these very soon during their writing tasks. In history, we are trying to choose the monarch who has done the best for the country - tricky decision ahead! Science has been amazing to see how one day they were talking about what could happen if we didn't have electricity and the next day ...school was closed due to a power cut! Believe it or not - that wasn't part of the lesson!



Class 5

This week I have seen some fantastic year 5 homework starting to appear and we are celebrating this by displaying the shoebox trenches on the entrance to Class 5. The trench boxes really highlight just how creative Class 5 can be! I look forward to further homework arriving. In English, we have worked collaboratively in small groups and talk partners to group write an opening to a story. The key learning within these lessons has been the use of varied pronouns, the use of repetition for impact and the use of semi-colons to join independent clauses. Again, Class 5 never fail to amaze me, the writing is not only imaginative it is also well-structured and edited. The clip they are using is on Literacy Shed if you want to take a look: Before Sunrise. The year sixes have had an intense week with final SATS revision, they should be feeling very proud of themselves because they have demonstrated great maturity in their revision ahead of the SATS next week. Thank you Class 5 for another wonderful week.



Key Dates

Week of 13/5 20/5	Year 6 SATS week Book Look 3.40pm – all parents/carers welcome
Week of 20/5 23/5	Year 2 SATS week Whole School Beach Trip
24/5	Year 2/3 Residential – on site
27/5 – 7/6	Half Term
10/6	Return to school

School Council and FRS

“We are thinking of introducing ‘eco-warriors’ into the school so more people will be encouraged to clean up our school.”

Elena, Class 3
School Councillor.

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“I visited the School Council today and have been extremely impressed by what they have achieved. They have all been very enthusiastic at undertaking their roles within the school. Well done to you all.”

Tracy Cunningham
School Parent & Governor.

