



Rettendon Primary School Newsletter

21st June 2019

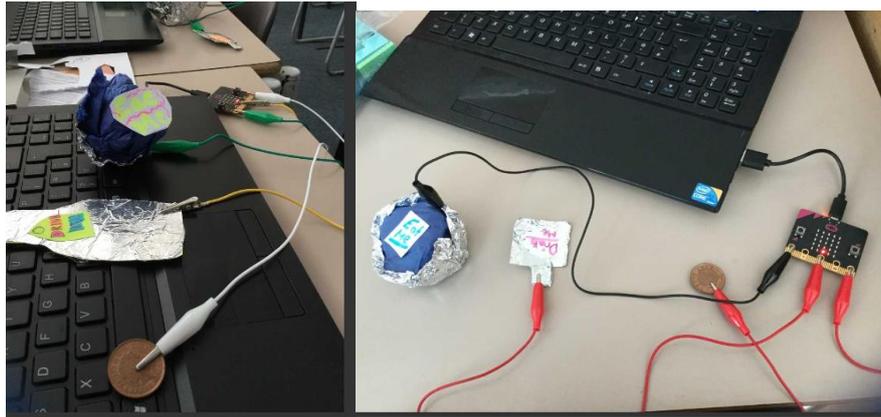
Dear Parent/Carer,

Welcome back to the final half term of the year, I hope you all had a relaxing half term break and enjoyed some valuable time with your family. Summer term will be a busy term with lots of exciting events for your children so please keep an eye on the electronic letters and updates. We will see even more firsts for Rettendon: year 4, 5 and 6 will have their first camping residential on site and Rettendon will swim off site.

It has been an extremely busy start to the term already with year sixes taking to the streets on bikes for their bikeability course, children taking a splash into Sweyne Park's swimming pool to learn to swim and develop their skills in self-rescue, children dressed as pirates, the sound of 'Poptastic' penetrating through the school – or at least through the wall into Class 4 and Class 1 winning the Young Writers poetry competition, out of 8000 entries all our work will be published in a poetry anthology: amazing!



I have enjoyed spending some of my time hearing readers; the children blew me away with their love of reading and I certainly learnt a lot about sharks. Thank you for continuing to read with your children at home. One of my favourite moments of the week was when a very enthusiastic child came and asked me to come over to coding club. The children explained that they were using their knowledge of electronics and electrical circuits to create a model of Alice touching the cake or drink bottle to grow bigger and smaller, which was simulated on the Microbit.



I want to take this opportunity to thank the parents who attended the homework and curriculum feedback sessions (and those parents that emailed in their responses too), they were very useful discussions and by working together it has meant that we can review the curriculum with all stakeholder views and also revise our approach to homework in the new academic year.

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 our learning theme this half term is Pirates! We have been doubling and halving pirate treasure and writing descriptive paragraphs. Our role play area has been transformed into a pirate ship, we have really enjoyed dressing up and acting out pirate narratives. We love making eye patches and hats to use for our costumes! We were lucky enough to be sent a bottle containing a map to find some hidden treasure. We followed the map and found the treasure after a treacherous journey through mountains, forests, and past a scary looking gang of rival pirates doing PE! We were inspired to create our own treasure maps and made them look old by tea staining the paper first. We are working hard to get our names on our new 'Reach for the Stars' board by having high expectations of what we can do and achieve. Noah received our first star –"I'm going to extend my sentence with the word 'and'." Evie and Indiana each received a star for working hard to produce a great piece of writing about pirate characters they invented. And of course the whole of Class One received a star for their amazing prize winning poetry. Keep working hard and making yourselves proud Class One!



Class 2

Class 2 have been learning about Judaism in RE. We talked about how the Torah is special to Jewish people and that it is read with a silver hand called a 'yad'. We made our own Torahs and wrote our own rules on the scrolls. In Science, we have been observing the weather. We've made weather stations, including a rain gauge to measure rainfall and a weather vane to work out the direction of the wind. In Geography, we have been looking at maps of the UK and locating Southend-on-Sea. We made lists of all the features we saw at the beach. In Literacy, we have been writing our own stories, inspired by 'Alexander and his terrible, horrible, no good and very bad day'. In maths, we have been learning to tell the time, half-past and o'clock. We made and flew paper aeroplanes to measure the quickest, slowest, furthest and closest. In PE, we have been having athletics lessons with the coach and learning sprinting techniques in preparation for Sports Day.



A glance through Rettendon's Window

Class 3

Class 3 have spent an enjoyable afternoon designing their model gardens that they will make in 2 weeks times for the horticultural show that is on Saturday 13th July.

Continuing on from our story mapping and retelling of the The Lighthouse Keeper's Lunch by Ronda and David Armitage, Class 3 have decided on their own characters and two settings. They have used their original story map and post it notes to change the story ready for them to write their own story next week. All the children were able to match their character's jobs to a suitable setting and the lunch thieves also suitably matched the setting.

Well done Class 3, I cannot wait to read your stories.



Class 4

This week your children have learnt the meaning of, practice makes perfect, don't cross the bridge till you come to it, don't make a mountain out of a molehill and many more proverbs with an actual meaning and all of them have been transformed into a play script by your children using all the grammar and punctuation correctly. Another amazing outcome and they make interesting reading. Assessment week is done and gone. Very proud to see how much everyone has achieved this year. Well done everyone! The most exciting thing of the week (for me at least) was to see all your children looking at the sky. I never thought that part of my teaching time at Rettendon was to spend a few minutes looking at the clouds above the playground. They looked and drew them and later they will give them names. They saw cirrus, stratus and even a cirrocumulus...we were very lucky not to see any cumulus near us; they came the next day. Next week we will be learning how and why drinking water is cleaned.



Class 5

Where do I start? In two weeks Class 5 have learnt 14 songs, a play script that lasts 90 minutes and numerous dances, their dedication must be commended. I have truly been amazed at the growth in confidence of the children and their sheer talent (I may have shed my first tear as a Headteacher watching two girls perform their solos) parents I hope you have a big box of tissues ready for the production! The performance has also inspired our writing this week as we have written about the benefits of live musical performance compared to listening to recorded music. Class 5 have also been learning about how to keep themselves safe online – ask your children some key golden rules we have developed as a class. So far we have studied how to keep yourself safe online in relation to the use of images, videos and chatting. When we use the term online, we have explored lots of different platforms: social media, different apps, including Whats APP, texting and gaming.

Key Dates

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| 21.06.2019 | Sports Day/ FRS Inflatable picnic to follow |
| 26.06.2019 | Class Photos |
| 27.06.2019 | 2 nd day of Bikeability |
| 28.06.2019 | Year 4, 5, 6 Residential |
| 02.07.2019 | Reception New Intake Meeting 7pm |
| 05.07.2019 | Whole School Science Museum Trip |

School Council

“We have ordered the playground equipment and we are excited to see it arrive and unpack it. We are busy writing a blurb about what it is like to be in the School Council to help other children to decide whether they want to nominate themselves for School Council next year.”

Ethan
Class 5
School Councillor