



Rettendon Primary School Newsletter

20th September 2019

Dear Parent/Carer,

I can't believe how quickly the first three weeks have gone!

The last two weeks have seen children enthused by new experiences in Rettendon. There is a real buzz and excitement around the school about the curriculum – this has been a pleasure to see! Year 5 and 6 are excited about an opportunity to perform at the O2, Class 3, 4 and 5 are excited to have weekly Spanish lessons, Class 2 have enjoyed the daily mile and Class 1 have taken to role play linked to their superhero topic. My golden moment of the week has to be a reception child explaining to me that to contact Miss Ekins on her superhero mission, "We can just write a message on a phone we don't have to ring anymore!" It really made me laugh as I didn't think I was that out of date!

The core value of the month is responsibility and I am proud to see children really starting to take pride in their environments and responsibility for tidying up following break and lunch times. In the upcoming weeks. We will have a police officer visiting us during our assembly to look at their role and how it links to responsibility. In assembly we also celebrated Class 1 who achieved 100% attendance last week and Class 3 who achieved 100% attendance this week.

You will notice that I have highlighted in red below additional dates that have been added to the school calendar. We have included a parent workshop on the new spelling scheme we are using in school, Read, Write, Inc for year two to six parents. This evening will cover the structure of the scheme; it will give you an understanding of the scheme and also outline how to support your child at home. As the year journeys on, more dates will be added for parent workshops so please do keep an eye on the newsletter, the next date that will be added will be a phonics session for Reception and Year 1 parents and an online safety session ran by an external provider aimed at all parent. We are trialling running these sessions in the evenings to enable more parents to attend – I would like to thank the staff in advance for giving up their time to run these sessions.

We need your help

We are trying to source a grant, bid or a company that will donate money towards developing our ICT resources. If you know of any sources of income, please could you speak to myself or Mr Andrews.

Also, Class 1 are in desperate need of a washer that will be used to wash the outdoor suits, cooking towels etc if you know of anyone who is looking to get rid of a washing machine to a good home, could you please let myself or Miss Ekins know.

Finally, we are setting up an adult community book swap in our entrance, if you have read any great books and want to share your love of reading please donate the books to the front office.

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



Key Dates for the Academic Year

30.09.2019	Harvest Festival
01.10.2019	Spelling Parent Workshop Year 2-6 6pm -7pm
21.10.2019	Book Look 8.30AM
25.10.2019	Class 1 Parent Open Afternoon 1:30pm
Week of 28.10.2019	October Half Term
04.11.2019	Non Pupil Day
06.12.2019	Year 3 and 4 Sleepover onsite
10.12.2019	Book Look PM 3.30PM
12.12.2019	Class 1 and 2 Nativity
16.12.2019	FRS Christmas Parties
18.12.2019	Church Services
19.12.2019	Final day of Autumn Term
20.12.2019	Start of Christmas Holidays
06.01.2020	Return to school
06.02.2020	Class 4 Show
12.02.2020	Book Look 8.30AM
14.02.2020	Year 1 and 2 Sleepover onsite
Week of 17.02.2020	February Half Term
26.03.2020	Class 3 Show
02.04.2020	Easter Service
02.04.2020	Book Look 3.20PM
Weeks of the 06.04.2020 and 13.04.2020	Easter Holidays
08.05.2020	May Bank Holiday
Week of 11.05.2020	Key Stage Two SATS
Week of 18.05.2020	Key Stage One SATS
22.05.2020	Book Look 8.30AM
Week of 25.05.2020	June Half Term
01.06.2020	Non Pupil Day
02.06.2020	Non Pupil Day
03.06.2020	Non Pupil Day
Week of 08.06.2020	Phonics Screening
24.06.2020- 26.06.2020	Year 5 and 6 Residential Bradwells
03.07.2020	Sports Day
06.07.2019	Book Look 3.20PM
14.07.2020	Class 5 Show
15.07.2020	Class 5 Show
16.07.2020	Leavers' Trip
17.07.2020	FRS Parties
20.07.2020	Leavers' Disco
21.07.2020	Governors' Assembly
22.07.2020	Leavers' Assembly
22.07.2020	Break up for the summer holidays



School Council

The School Council have now been selected and they were introduced to the whole school in this morning's assembly. Representing Class 2 we have Charlie and Emily, for Class 3 we have Matilda and Charlie, for Class 4 we have Izzy and Hannah and leading the School Council we have Poppy and Olivia (Class 5). I am excited to get going with the School Council Team and decide which local charity and global charity the school will be supporting this year. If you want to meet our School Council, they will be helping at the Macmillan Coffee Morning on the 27th September from 8.35am – 10.30am – everyone is welcome!

A glance through Rettendon's window

Class 1

Class one have had a brilliant first few weeks! We are enjoying lots of firsts: this week we have had our first full day; first PE lesson; first phonics lesson, and welcomed our parents and families into the classroom for the first time this year.

Our learning theme this half term is superheroes. We have enjoyed designing our own superhero costumes and discussing our dream super powers. The artist Roy Lichtenstein is famous for his comic book style pop art; we have studied some of his work and created our own superhero artwork using some of his techniques.

We have been busy cooking up a storm in the kitchen and learning to follow recipes, while honing our stirring technique to combine ingredients.

We have set up our own Superhero HQ and are regularly receiving calls to action! We have been answering phone calls and writing messages, and using a world map to locate the source of trouble!

Class 2

Class 2 have settled into their new routine. They are grouped for either phonics or spellings and Year 1 Maths is taught by Mrs Marsh and Year 2 Maths is taught by Mrs Langton. At the moment, we are doing our mile a day run, mid-morning. The children are encouraged to drink from their water bottle straight afterwards, which is positioned adjacent to the classroom entrance. In Literacy, we have been reading *The Tiger Came to Tea* and *Dogger*. The Year 2 children have been retelling the story and editing their writing. The Year 1 children have been focusing on using capital letters, full stops and finger spaces. Some children have been using a conjunction in their sentences too. In Science, we've been learning about how we use our five senses. In Geography, we have looked at a map of Rettendon, locating the school, Little Darwins and the church. We have also written about the different types houses we live in or have visited.



A glance through Rettendon's window

Class 3

I am going to start this new Class 3 blog congratulating every single child of yours, they have worked really hard. Since the beginning of the year, your children have learnt about nouns, adjectives, verbs, adverbs and even sentence starters. They managed to put them into sentences – some of them with question marks and exclamations. Statements are easy now and root words are part of our daily spelling sessions. The class is working hard to improve the handwriting and presentation in books. We are still working on it! Maths has been all about place value. We are going to be moving into addition very soon. Don't forget to revise the time tables with your children at dinner time or in the car. In science they have been learning about rocks. Our class is full of rocks already! On Tuesday, we had the opportunity to have Mrs Fallows and Mrs Wright showing us around the church. In there, we saw man-made rocks and natural ones. They managed to touch every single one! We have started our weekly Spanish lesson. Don't be surprised if your little ones come home talking in a foreign language! They seem to enjoy it and I love watching them talking to me in Spanglish!

Class 4

Since the beginning of the term, Class 4 have started their learning about the Ancient Egyptians and have been looking at the diverse world we live in. They will continue this over the next few weeks looking at how the ancient Egyptians used the River Nile to support their everyday lives and the many different relationships they might see within today's society.

With Mrs Adams, they have been appreciating and singing different rock songs including 'Living on a Prayer'. In science we are looking at electricity and how to be safe around it. We had an interesting discussion about how to get toast that has got stuck in the toaster out safely - all children should now be able to advise adults what to do if this happens at home. Next week we will move onto being electricians, making circuits and discovering what happens when we change the components within their circuit. After the PE sessions, we are finding many items of clothing that has not yet been named so could you please ensure that all clothing is named so it can be returned rather than being put in the lost property. Many thanks!

Class 5

Class 5 have made an amazing start and everyone has seized the opportunity to fill the gap left by last years leavers. In English and Maths, we have seen children eager to stretch themselves, whether in number operations, writing scene settings or instruction writing. The preparation for Young Voices has shown some amazing vocal talent, which I know will come in really useful for the end of year production. Our interesting development this year has been to introduce the JASS award (Junior Award Scheme for Schools) which combines elements of foundation subjects such as PSHE, Geography with PE and even other extra-curricular activities. At the end of the scheme the children will receive their Blue JASS award, which they can feel proud about. We were really lucky to have a couple of parent helpers as the children prepared their personalised JASS folders – even having to do some stitching!

