



Rettendon Primary School

Newsletter

18th October 2019

Dear Parent/Carer,

I'm going to start by saying I have so many golden moments from this week. I thoroughly enjoyed participating in Class 3's Spanish speaking lesson. The children were role playing a conversation between two friends in Spanish – their confidence was outstanding. Another golden moment from the week has to be seeing Class 4's enthusiasm for making the buzzer games in Science and their laughter when I didn't manage to get all the way through the game without touching the metal to the metal! Their knowledge of circuits was great. In Class 5 I've seen a continued enthusiasm for their JASS project; this week they were planning the community garden. The children were so confident in explaining the importance of the community garden and the links to all areas of the curriculum from maths in costing the project and the fundraising elements to the topical issues surrounding food waste and growing our products to feed into the school kitchen.

We continue to work hard with the children through assemblies and the whole curriculum to embed our school values. One child even said this week, "I've made my own commendations for honesty and when I spot others being honest I'm going to let you know Mrs Sloper!" We are seeing the children really starting to think about the core values, with children taking more responsibility for their own learning and environment. It was a credit to take the netball team to Bromfords yesterday (despite the tournament getting cancelled) because I noticed just how polite and well-mannered our children are – with adults from the school commenting on this too. This was continued in school when a visitor from the Local Authority came to see our learning in action, she was particularly impressed with how Class 2 could talk about their learning linked to compass directions and Class 1 children could talk about adults that help us: doctors, nurses and fireman.

The School Council have also been an absolute credit to the school so far with them undertaking their first school tours. The older members of the School Council took 20 prospectus parents on tours of the school (they were pretty nervous but they did a fantastic job), they will be touring another group of parents this week too.

This week saw Class 5 enjoy a very delicious attendance breakfast to celebrate the highest class attendance for the month. Thank you to you as parents in working in partnership with us on our attendance drive. We are now working in partnership with our local attendance quadrant officer to track the school's attendance too, can I just remind all parents that holidays in term times cannot be approved except under exceptional circumstances. .

The parent workshop evenings have been a roaring success and we were very pleased with the comments and feedback from parents in relation to the courses taking place in the evenings. We have listened to parent feedback and we are trying to accommodate and open our doors to all parents. Resources for the courses (Spelling and Phonics) can now be found on our website for parents to refer back to. Working in partnership is so important to us here at Rettendon, please keep an eye out for the next workshop this will be next half term looking at, 'How to keep your child safe online.' Again, I must thank the staff for giving up their time in their evenings to run these workshops.

We still need your help

Thank you to the parents who have sent in links to possible grant avenues already, Miss Ekins has started to look at Teracycle and Mrs Adams is looking into Rocket Fund. We are still 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.

Thank you to a very generous parent for donating a washing machine for Class 1!



You will notice in the entrance there are now books appearing in our adult book swap, this is for any adult to use so please do feel free to browse the contents and borrow a book. If you have read any great books and want to share your love of reading, please donate the books to the front office. We would now like to extend this into a child's book swap too, so if you have any great children's books at home and would like to donate them to our book swap please drop them off in the 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

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
07.12.2019	FRS Christmas Party
10.12.2019	Book Look PM 3.30PM
12.12.2019	Class 1 and 2 Nativity
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 been busy researching a local charity and a global charity for the school to support this year and next week the School Council will be leading an assembly to the whole school to explain their choices and options of charities; the whole school will then get to vote. It was heart-warming this year as the School Council made an executive decision that the local charity won't go out to vote as they want to support Phoenix Ward where a child in our school visits regularly – all of the children were so passionate about raising money for this charity! The wider charities that the children will be voting on are as follows, WWF, Wish Upon a Star and Stand up for Cancer.

Friends of Rettendon

The FRS are the Parent Teacher Association for Rettendon Primary School. Our purpose is to raise money for the school to buy things or create events that benefit the children that the school would otherwise not be able to afford within their budget. We have regular meetings, which are advertised on our Facebook and Twitter pages and our Annual General Meeting for 2018/19 is coming up on the 11th November 2019 at 7.30pm. This meeting will take place at the school. The following positions on the committee available are Chair, Treasurer and Secretary. Everyone is welcome and we look forward to seeing you there!

Do you work for one of the companies listed below? If so, you could be in a perfect position to raise much needed funds for your child's school. Speak to your manager, to see if your company will match funds raised at a nominated event or if they offer any extra money to registered charities. It could be as easy as filling out a form and it will cost you nothing. We would run the event and help you with any forms, then in return Rettendon Primary School would reap the benefits.

3M, Abbey National, Asda, Aviva, Barclays, Barclay Card
Bank of America, Bank of Ireland, Bank of Scotland
BDO, BP, British Gas, Camelot Group, Cadent
Costcutter, Co-op, Cable & Wireless, Debenhams
Deloitte, Direct Line, Ernest & Young, Experian
GlaxoSmithKline, Google, Halifax, HSBC
Fujitsu, IBM, Legal & General, Lloyds Bank
Liverpool Victoria, Kellogg's, Mars, M&S
Microsoft, Morrisons, Nationwide, National Grid
National Power, O2, RBS, Royal Mail, Santander, Sainsburys
Schroders, Sky, Severn Trent, Tarmac, Tesco
ISB, UBS, Unilever, Vodafone
Yorkshire Bank, Whitbread

Thank you for your ongoing support

"Together we can make a difference"

The FRS team



A glance through Rettendon's window

Class 1

Last week in Class One we started learning about people who help us as part of our Superheroes theme. We had a visit from a real nurse and asked her lots of questions. We also learnt about Police officers and started to turn our role play area into a Police Station. Last Friday we used some more of our home grown tomatoes to make a sauce for pizzas, we had great fun squeezing and squelching the tomatoes!

This week we have been learning about 2D shapes. We had fun finding them in shaving foam in the garden, and have been able to spot 2D shapes around the school and classroom. We have also been using a large 100 square to help us count over 30 objects; we are getting really good at finding one more and one less than numbers up to 30. We have now learned 10 phonemes and can read and spell so many words! We love writing in our books and can't wait to show you our work at Monday's book look.

We cannot wait for our Class One Comicon event next Friday, look out for the letter coming home today with all the information you need.



Class 2

Class 2 have been learning about our local area in Geography and History. Mrs Fallows took us on a 'history walk' of Rettendon. Amongst other things, we learnt that the church is 1000 years old, the oldest tree is an oak tree that is 400 years old and the Community Hall was originally a soldier's hut during WW1. We've been learning compass directions and have enjoyed drawing them in chalk outside. In PE the coach has been teaching dribbling and how to pass the ball in different ways, using the inside of the foot, outside of the foot and how to pull back the ball.



A glance through Rettendon's window

Class 3

A day in Class 3 can be exhausting (but fun as well). Maths- trying to learn the timetables, forget about the additions for now and start learning how to do subtracting with renaming. They have tried every single way...but singing when doing subtraction was the most successful way! Ask your children about it. Interesting but effective! Break time. Back to lessons with phonics and spellings. Will it be suffixes, prefixes, silent consonants, homophones...? English – last week they managed to do the first independent writing of the year. Write, read, check, edit and much more. This week they started the non-fiction. Monday, I was able to introduce the idea of Information Text. My hopes of getting everything right was a little ambitious. Tuesday, I was not sure but I was not going to give up. Headings, subheadings, glossary, index...did all of this make sense to them? Wednesday...they produced the most amazing lay-out ever! And even the content! Well done to all of them. Afternoon sessions have been full of more learning. Geography, RE, Spanish, PE...but the most interesting thing has been going outside with our bananas, apples, pears and carrots looking for 'curiosities' around the playground, like Mary Anning did years ago on a beach. They did not find fossils but lots of interesting things (for them). Also, we were lucky again to have Mrs Fallows and Mrs Wright showing us the differences between soil and compost. I never thought that soil would be so exciting for a six years old. Well done Class 3...you are brilliant!



Class 4

Class 3 have had an exciting two weeks. They have started their buzzer games by making the base and the shape of the wire. They will continue to make these on Monday, with parental help. If all goes well they should be finished by Tuesday afternoon, ready to go home. There will be a small charge to replace the items they have used; this is likely to be £2, incredibly the buzzers costs £1.15 each!

I was extremely lucky to witness the children within their Boccia lesson on Wednesday. They all have a sound understanding of the rules and how to block other players from getting near the target. I was pleased to see team work, resilience where they continued to try their hardest game after game and amazing winning celebrations.

Finishing off their Egyptian art they have made papyrus on which their will use their knowledge of hieroglyphs to write a message to you. The question is will you be able to decode it?

It has been a long half term and the children and I are looking forward to a well-earned rest so we can be ready and willing to start the next half term. I am proud to say I am the teacher of class 4 as I have seen them develop on many areas and are becoming a class of individuals who can, if they remember, work well as a team. It is pleasing to see the children in Class 4 honouring the school's core value of responsibility and honesty,

Well done and thank you Class 4



A glance through Rettendon's window

Class 5

It's been a great 2 weeks for Class 5 who have finished writing their persuasive leaflet on the attractions of Essex – yes there really are some nice places to go it seems when you read their work! In Maths, both Year 5 and 6 children have pushed themselves with division, always a learning challenge, but one they have all risen to. It was a shame the Netball competition was cancelled but they have continued well with their badminton skills and are training well and gearing up for their 5k run in November as part of their JASS award physical section and raising money for the community garden project. Science this week was a real construction challenge, thinking of combatting forces to build a bridge from resources like newspaper and spaghetti; a strong enough bridge to hold a bag of sugar and the some impressive results await testing next week.

