



Rettendon Primary School Newsletter

22nd November 2019

Dear Parent/Carer,

What a busy week we've had! Thank you for your attendance at parents evening this week where we got to share with you your child's journey so far this year. It was so nice to see so many children attending and sharing their successes, likes and next steps.

This week I have had the pleasure of dropping into the Class 1 and 2 nativity rehearsal and singing rehearsals – the children were so surprised to see that I knew the songs, magic I told them (really I've seen Born in a Barn performed at a previous school! Shhh.) It is sounding beautiful though. Class 4 and 5 blew me away with their engagement in dance this week; they are learning about dances from different cultures/ parts of the world to link in with the school value: tolerance. Why not ask them to give you a demonstration of the work they have undertaken in Bollywood dancing? Climate Change has also been a hot topic across some classes for the last few weeks – Class 2 have looked at the impact of Climate Change on our wildlife through their writing and Class 5 have been writing a speech linked to the prevention of man-made climate change and the greenhouse effect. Yesterday, I heard a very excited Class 3, when I ventured out to see what the excitement was about they were letting the worms free! As a class, they decided that they preferred the thought of the worms living in their natural habitat rather than in a wormery for observation.

I have two golden moments from the last two weeks, the first has to be a Class 5 child who, during the 5K run, completed his run in a rapid time but rather than collapsing to the ground he then went to support other children within the class to complete their 5K run – this really represents the values we are trying to embed within the school, well done, you know who you are! The second has to be a golden moment linked to all of the children in the school. Last week saw an assembly addressing conduct around the communal areas of the school and in public areas – good manners: holding the door open for others and remembering our manners. The amount of children that have taken this on board is astonishing and again reflects the ethos of the school. Fantastic Rettendon!

The core value of the month is tolerance. The children are starting to get a much deeper understanding of what tolerance is in an age appropriate way. It may be nice for you discuss tolerance with your child/ren – explaining that to be tolerant in life will serve the children well and make them well-rounded individuals. The Headteacher's awards were given to children this week who respected the cultures of others through the RE curriculum and children who congratulated other children unprompted about their progress between reading levels. If you see children in the playground, after or before school showing the school values: responsibility, fairness, tolerance and honesty please do let me know as you can nominate them for a Headteacher's commendation

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 online safety and ensuring your child is safe online at home, this is open to the parents/carers of all ages. Also, following feedback from the parents' surveys we will be looking at confirming the times of all the events listed to get out to you as well. Please take note that the Christingle services on 18.12.2019 are open to parents; there will be a KS1 service – Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 and then a KS2 service Year 3, 4, 5 and 6. The church is small, however we do want to open it to parents for those that would like to come and take part in the service.

Further feedback from the parent surveys will be fed back to you once the analysis has been completed and more importantly what we will action to make Rettendon an even better place for your child/ren.

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

02.12.2019	Online Safety Parent Workshop – 7.00PM
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 9.30AM 2.30PM
17.12.2019	Christmas Lunch for the children and Christmas Jumper Day
18.12.2019	Church Services - KS1 9.30am KS2 10.30am
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
10.03.2020	Netball Tournament – re-arranged
26.03.2020	Class 3 Show
02.04.2020	Easter Service
02.04.2020	Book Look 3.20PM
02.04.2020	Netball Tournament
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
19.05.2020	Netball Tournament
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



FRS

The FRS party is on the 7th December 3pm – 5pm, please catch Karen Seymour or Suzanne Ward on the playground over next week to order tickets to enter the event or message them via the FRS page. They are also looking for parent volunteers to man the stalls – again please catch the ladies on the playground to sign your services up. If you are unsure who the FRS are, see me or a member of staff and we will direct you. They are also looking for donations for the giving tree – a male gift or female gift.

School Gardening

We are pleased to announce Rettendon Horticultural Society have provided the School with new troughs in



the courtyard and new raised beds for the gardening club.

Year 5 pupils have also run a 5k sponsored event to raise money to make up some more of the raised beds so that each class can grow their own in the same area as the gardening club. We hope these will be ready by the spring to get the best growing season. Thank you to all who took part, and those who organised it

There will also be some water butts added to a couple of the downpipes, curtesy of one of the Friends of Rettendon School. This will teach the children about water saving.

Barbara Wright - school gardening assistant



A glance through Rettendon's window

Class 1 Class One have been busy learning about farms and farm animals. We have been talking about where food comes from and went on a local walk to a vegetable farm nearby. We had a lovely afternoon and the weather was perfect! As well as discussing how vegetables grow, we talked about not eating mushrooms and berries we find in the wild, and found some of the animal habitats we have been learning about. We have planted our own broad beans and can't wait to watch them grow!

We have created textured collages of the farm animals we will be in the nativity, and have created some brilliant writing about our favourite farm animals. We read the story 'The Naughty Sheep' and had great fun writing some more naughty things the sheep could get up to! In maths we have been learning about pairs of numbers that make 10 and adding using a part part whole diagram.

We found out that potatoes grow under the ground and we made some mashed potato. Archie said "It was deeeeeelicious!"



Class 2

In Science, class 2 have been learning about the properties of different materials and sorting items into groups. We have been comparing and describing metal, wood, plastic, glass, fabric and water. PE is currently on a Thursday and Friday. We have been doing yoga on Thursday and we have a dance and drama coach on Friday, who has been choreographing the moves for a couple of our Nativity songs. Class 2's Vincent Van Gogh Art work of a Starry Night Sky looks fabulous on display, demonstrating the children's swirly brush techniques. Thank you to those of you who have sent in Nativity costumes already. Please could the costumes be brought in by Tuesday 10th December, so that we can do a dress rehearsal on Wednesday 11th. Thank you for your support.



A glance through Rettendon's window

Class 3

Another amazing week with Class 3. Take some suffixes (different ones from the previous week), put them into sentences using comparative and superlative and finally ...create a poem! They managed to remember that and even more – the handwriting! As I said in one of my previous blogs 'A day in Class 3 can be exhausting but fun!' I am amazed at the amount of learning I have seen over the last few weeks. The highlight has been today when Mr Andrews took my class for English. When I came back to them he said, 'You have a lovely class Mrs Meecham!' I replied, 'Yes I know.' They are amazing even when they struggle with a new concept. Maths has been all about more multiplication knowledge, even with word problems. This week they have started multiplying 2-digits by one. Nothing to worry about if their knowledge of times tables is secured. Please, keep revising with your children. Mrs Marsh took the children (with some helpers) to do some sketching of the landscape behind the local church. I am always going to love seeing children learning about something new. That landscape has always been there but ...did they stop to look at it in detail before? The children in the whole school are going to start practising a Christmas Spanish song. I have started with my class to see how long it was going to take me to teach it...they are quick learners! Do not be surprised if they have been singing it even during their sleep. Finally, your children and I decided to put those worms back into their natural habitat. The wormery has been with us for a whole month but we felt that they belong to a more natural environment. We went outside and we put them back near the field at the back of the school. It was nice to see the worms wriggling and squirming through the soil. I will miss them but I think we have made a good decision.



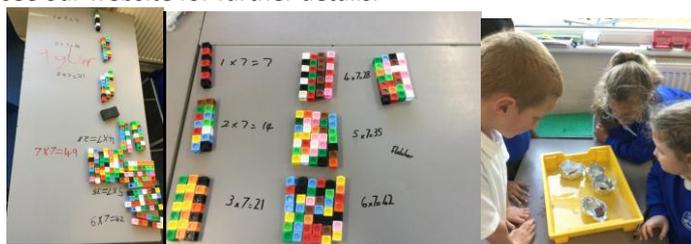
A glance through Rettendon's window

Class 4

The children in class 4 have enjoyed investigating what temperature is best to melt chocolate at over hot water. They have enjoyed the creative curriculum, sketching the school environment with Mrs Marsh and look forward to making, marketing and selling their Christmas gifts.

The year fours have been writing on the tables in maths during their math lessons – don't worry it was encouraged and it comes off!

Mrs Adam's is pleased to announce the launch of the schools crowdfunding website called Rettendon in Wonderland. Please see our website for further details.



Class 5

This last couple of weeks have made us feel very proud of Class 5. Last Friday's 5K Run showed not only a group of children who committed to a task – even if they weren't keen on it – so that others could benefit from a new garden area. There were amazing moments when children would go back to run with, and encourage their peers. Whilst we are still receiving sponsor monies it seems they will exceed their initial hopes and expectations. Well done Class 5!

In our classroom learning we have begun to create speeches about the environment and climate change – you never know one of them might make the UN one day! Already they are showing great command of the formality of speech writing and the use of a wide range of complex punctuation – why not get your child to read their speech to you once they are finished and let us know what you think.

Music lessons have definitely got us up and dancing as this week we compared Disco and Punk, after last week considering new and old classical music. They have a lovely appreciation of different musical genres and we even managed to get Class 4 dancing on the playground! Of course there was the highlight of Attendance Afternoon Tea too!

