

HELLO
NOVEMBER

Rettendon School Newsletter

This week we are focussing on Remembrance and the children have been using this event to inspire their artwork which will be on show in the hall after school on Friday. All parents and relatives are welcome to come into the hall at 3.20pm to see and celebrate the artwork.



Parent Consultations, Data Reports and Book Look (2)

The **Parent Consultations** will be held on 11th and 12th of December. Please put one of these dates in your diary. The appointments will operate between 1.30pm and 5.00pm on the 11th and 3.30pm-7pm on the 12th. The appointment request form will be circulated with the release of your child's mini data report. If you feel the data report and the 2 'book looks' this term have kept you well informed then it is not essential for you attend a consultation appointment. However, it is strongly advised you request an appointment if your child has had any significant difficulties this term and/or their data report gives you cause for concern.

Book Look 2 is on Wednesday 29th November at 2.45-3.20pm. The back gate will be opened at 2.40pm for you to come into your child's class and see the progress they have been making.

Assessments in Maths and English (reading and writing) for KS1 and KS2 will be completed by the end of the week ending 24th November. The mini-data report will be sent home to you the following week. Children in Class 1 will be screened this half term (for phonics), the results of which will also be sent home to parents later in the half term.

Homework Survey Monkey



Thank you to the many parents and carers who participated in the Homework Survey. The results have been shared with staff and governors and although the response was overwhelmingly positive it was very interesting to read the suggestions of how we could improve the homework regime even more. The school council are also going to survey their fellow pupils so that we can gain insights into the pupil's perceptions too.

We are developing a new area on the school website dedicated to Homework (under the Curriculum tab) and in due course we will be adding a variety of resources that your child can access and use. Already we have all the copies of the current homework handouts uploaded, along with a Guidance and Expectations document that children should re-read from time to time to check their work is at the expected standard.

Some parents felt the homework lacked challenge. So we have now added an extra column to the homework sheet which gives opportunity for further challenge if required. Paper copies will not be reissued because the updated sheets are available via the website. Please note that if the extension level is attempted, the expectation is that the child, with the help of parents, will fully explore the concept and complete the task with a high level of independence. Please note that the Spelling Bee words (for the competition) should be learnt in addition to any other word card sets your child has been given as part of the reading scheme.



We hope our new approach to homework encourages children to lead on their own interests and learning whilst developing the soft skills of:

- meaningful research
- problem solving
- application of knowledge
- creative thinking
- self-motivation
- personal organisation to meet deadlines

This approach should deepen understanding and strengthen learning beyond memorising facts and content that quickly go out of date in our rapidly changing world.

Can I politely repeat our request that parents do not go into classrooms at 8.30am in the morning. We now have staff or volunteers on the back gate who can relay important messages to the school on your behalf and you can always ring, email, contact your class ambassador or come around to the front desk with very urgent concerns. Going into classrooms in the morning diverts the teacher from her job and delays the very important tasks that have to be done just before school starts.



Children in Need this year will be marked by a nature ramble in the local countryside (the Countryfile Ramble). We will be taking the children out during the morning of the 17th and be back for lunch. It will be a non uniform day and the children must dress appropriately for a ramble outdoors. Jeans will be ideal and they should bring wellington boots or walking boots to school on the day to change into for the ramble. They can wear their trainers for the rest of the day. Please can all children make a donation to Children in Need of at least £1. The children need a bottle of water and a small snack to take along, ideally in a very small rucksack.

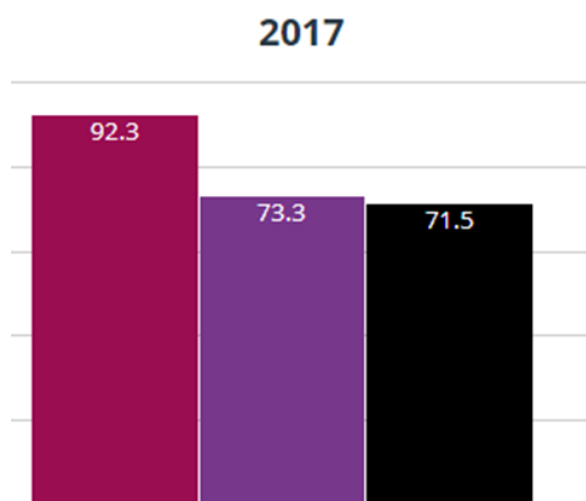


<https://downloads.bbc.co.uk/tv/countryfile/CountryfileRamble.pdf>

The Teaching and Learning of Reading

We are only too aware of the concerns a core of parents have with the rate at which reading books are changed in KS1. This was raised by the school last year when the financial cuts had a significant impact on school resources. We are extremely grateful that we now have some very able parent volunteers who help us with the book changes and we now ensure that KS1 children read 1:1 at least twice per week from the reading scheme in addition to a daily reading lesson in class and (for the younger children) two personalised phonics lessons per day. Naturally, you are comparing us to other schools and what they may or may not do. When you do that please **ALSO** compare the fact that when Year 6 leave us they continually, year after year, out perform all the other schools nationally, on average by 20%. The last Year 6 who have just left had a cohort result for reading of 92% (the National result was 71% and the Essex result was 73%-see graph) which is typical of Rettendon School. So,

no, we may not do it the same as other schools but it doesn't mean we do it wrong, in fact we do it better. The children leave us with a reading result to be proud of which for the vast majority is above the expected for the age. That does not mean we are complacent. We still research new ways to improve and are about to introduce 'Spot Checks' for all children who have not yet reached Rainbow Readers stage (see website Curriculum/Learning to Read) 'Spot Checks' will give the teacher and parent a snapshot of a child's reading level and next steps. The school is planning a parent forum for reading on Friday 15th December to be combined with the Genius Time celebration.



Rettendon School & FRS Diary

November

Fri 3rd	Class 1 Road Safety walk
Mon 6th	School photographs
Thurs 9th	Art/DT theme day to commemorate Poppy Day.
Fri 10th	Art/DT work on display for parents to see at 3.30pm
Fri 17th	Children in Need : Countryside Ramble
Tu 21st Nov	Class 4 and 5 to The British Library
Wed 22nd	Flu Immunisation
Mon 27th	Primary Assessment Week begins for KS1 and KS2 pupils
Wed 29th	Book Look No.2 2.45-3.20pm

December

Friday 1st	Data report summary sent home to parents
Fri 8th	Class 1 Family Nativity
Monday 11th	Parent/Teacher Consultations 1.30-5.00pm (by appointment)
Tues 12th	Class 2 Family Nativity
Tuesday 12th	Parent/Teacher Consultations 3.30-7.00pm (by appointment)
13th/14th /15th	Genius Days
Fri 15th	Learning to Read (Parent Forum) 2.30pm , followed by Genius Time celebration at 3.20
Tuesday 19th	Carol Service at All Saints Church and Christmas Dinner and wear your Christmas Jumper Day
Wed 20th	Last day of term CLOSE at 2.00pm (gate open at 1.50pm)

January

Tues 2nd Jan	Back to school
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February

Thursday 8th	Book Look 3
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Date lists are revised monthly and published in the newsletter and on the school website.