



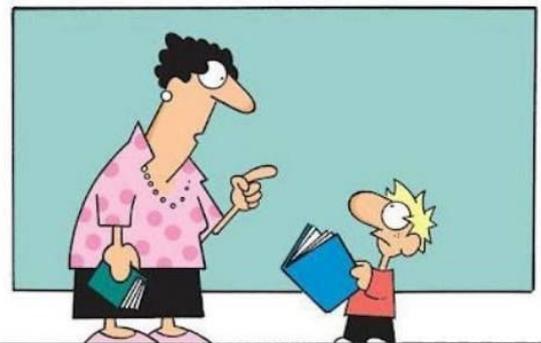
Rettendon School

February 2018



Our focus on improving outcomes in phonics and handwriting (post Ofsted) continues and we have routinely assessed our youngest children to monitor progress in phonics. The improved package for the teaching of phonics (lesson time doubled, more adults to hear readers, staff training, phonics 'take-away' games etc) have all combined to secure rapid improvements and many children have already hit targets that were set for July. I am very pleased with the outcomes so far and hope to see even further success as the year continues. At home you can accelerate progress further by hearing your child read every day and reading traditional stories and tales to them.

We are building a new area on our website for reading and this will include all recommended reading lists, Readership Program information, copies of Phase word list and any other resource we can find that will help you and your children. If you have any suggestions for the website please let us know and we will do our best to oblige.



It's called **reading**.
It's how people install new
software into their brains.

Why Read at home?

STUDENT A READS

- 20 minutes per day
- 3,600 minutes per school year
- 1,800,000 words per year



SCORES IN THE 90TH
PERCENTILE ON
STANDARDIZED TESTS

STUDENT B READS

- 5 minutes per day
- 900 minutes per school year
- 282,000 words per year



SCORES IN THE 50TH
PERCENTILE ON
STANDARDIZED TESTS

STUDENT C READS

- 1 minute per day
- 180 minutes per school year
- 8,000 words per year



SCORES IN THE 10TH
PERCENTILE ON
STANDARDIZED TESTS

If they start reading for 20 minutes per night in Kindergarten, by the end of 6th grade, Student A will have read for the equivalent of 60 school days, Student B will have read for 12 school days, and Student C will have read for 3.

WANT TO BE A BETTER READER? SIMPLY READ.

www.bettefetter.com

Yesterday we hosted Book Look 3. We hope you managed to attend and see how your child has progressed since September. The Governors also looked at a random sample of writing books as part of their monitoring role and were very keen to note the progress evident in the books.

Looking ahead we have World Book Day (WBD) on March 1st. We are not electing to dress up this year but there will be class based acknowledgements of WBD and of course we will issue the book tokens as before. We are to be visited for two days by the Dog's Trust who will lead on lessons on evolution, senses, responsible ownership etc, through the topic of dogs and puppies. We also have day outings planned (Danbury Outdoor Centre & Greenwich), residential trips and entrepreneurial events which all contribute to a broad and exciting curriculum.

Swimming 2018

Last year we conducted a review of swimming in our curriculum and we are planning to offer the following regime this coming summer:

- EYFS, Year 1 and Year 2 will all be having compulsory swimming lesson as part of their PE curriculum.
- Year 3,4,5 & 6 will only have weekly lessons if they cannot swim to the expected standard (25 metres continuous swim). We are expecting this to be very few children.
- Year 6 will have an intensive course in the summer to complete the survival part of the curriculum. This will be offsite in a pool with a deep end, which is necessary for part of the course.

This arrangement may not please everyone, least of all the older children on a hot summer's day! But we have researched your opinions and tried to do our best to please the majority, whilst ensuring the curriculum standards are met.



Extreme Hairstyles

We are noticing an increase in extreme hairstyles, in particular half or full Mohicans (close shaved heads etc). It is **stated clearly** in our prospectus that extreme hairstyles that distract from learning are not tolerated. We may choose to isolate children who come to school presenting themselves in any way that causes distraction. This may include not just hairstyles but also unnatural hair colours, make up, lack of uniform etc.

Rettendon School & FRS Diary

February

Thursday 8th	Book Look 3
12th-16th	Half Term
27th/28th	The Dogs Trust in school

March

Thurs 1st	World Book Day
Mon 5th	Assessment Week for Year 1-6
Thurs 8th	Class 4 Family Assembly Time change (start at 2pm)
Fri 16th	Ski Course Group Depart
Tuesday 20th	Book Look 4
Wed 21st	Whole school outing to Danbury Outdoor Learning Centre
26th/27th March	Spring Term Parent/Teacher Consultations
27th March	Easter Church Service and Bonnets!
Wed 28th	Class 4 and 5 Entrepreneurial Event
Thurs 29th	Last Day of Term CLOSE 2pm (Back gate opens at 1.50pm)

Date lists are revised monthly and published in the e-newsletter and on the school website. Last minute changes are Tweeted.