

NEWSLETTER



MARCH 2014

Welcome to our new style newsletter. Inside you will find all the regular updates and news items with a more up to date feel. We have also joined forces with the FRS and combined our newsletters so that you have all the information in one place.

Curriculum & Learning

The most important academic event on the horizon is Assessment Week. All children from Year 1 through to Year 6 will be formally assessed in Reading, SPAG (Spelling and Grammar), Writing & Maths. Assessment Week is the week beginning March 17th. Please support your child by hearing them read as much as possible and ensuring they have plenty of sleep during the next few days.

Becoming Independent

All children, regardless of age, should now be saying 'goodbye' to their parents at the back gate. No parents should still be escorting their child into the classroom or dealing with their child's lunch box. The longer parents delay this, the harder it is for the child. It also singles children out which never helps matters. If your child finds separation difficult; praise them and remind them how 'grown up' they are.

Class 3 and 4 Production of

Big Momma

Wednesday 26th March doors open @ 2pm & 5.45pm

Dress Rehearsal Mon 24th March

Tickets are £1 each (donation) and available by sending in the return slip at the end of this letter (via the pouch).



Swimming

Please do not forget that swimming starts from Tuesday 6th May. Year 6 children will not start to swim until week beginning 9th June. This is to maximise class time before their SATs exams. From the 9th June all Year 6 children will be timetabled for three swimming sessions to ensure they 'catch up'. The timetable will be released on the next newsletter.

Award Winners!

Many congratulations to the children who have been awarded their Excellence Shield.

Natasha, Emma, Maiziebelle, William, Madison and Daniel have all demonstrated a commitment to hard work and courteous behaviour consistently in school and so receive their badge and WH Smith voucher.

Well Done!



Languages @ Rettendon School

You may be aware that from September 2014 all primary schools must teach a language at KS2. Learning a language exposes children to other cultures and prepares the foundation for learning further languages at Key Stage 3 and the world of work later on. Selecting the most appropriate language is not easy. The British Council have explored this subject and, based on factors such as; UK's export markets, emerging global markets and the prevalence of languages used on the internet they have produced this list (below) of the most important languages to be skilled in for the next two decades. Clearly, there is a shifting change from children needing to learn the European languages of our closest geographical neighbours to those of global market leaders of the future. The Governors will be making a decision soon on our Language Policy. Feel free to contribute to this decision via the return slip at the end of the newsletter.

| LANGUAGE | | SCORE |
|----------|------------------|-------|
| | Spanish | 76 |
| | Arabic | 54 |
| | French | 47 |
| | Mandarin Chinese | 45.5 |
| | German | 43.5 |
| | Portuguese | 41 |
| | Italian | 22.5 |
| | Russian | 19 |
| | Turkish | 19 |
| | Japanese | 17 |

Catering

You will be aware that from September 2014 all Foundation Stage and KS1 children will be offered free school meals. We are thrilled that Mrs Sewell has secured a grant for over £10,000 to revamp our kitchen and improve our catering facilities.



Getting Ready for September 2014

This year we have had 57 applicants for the 20 places available in the Foundation Stage. We are extremely proud of the school's popularity which is a result of the combined efforts of the children, staff, parents and Governors. We are also thrilled to announce that almost a quarter of the current Year 6 have been offered places in selective Grammar Schools. We wish them all well.

FRS NEWS.....

The FRS stands for the Friends of Rettendon School and, as a parent, you are already a member! Our aim is to raise funds for the children to enhance their learning and enjoyment whilst in school.



* Project Playground:

* Thank you to everybody who has helped to raise an amazing £10,000 to date and for your continuing support at all future fundraising events. We have had an initial meeting with the school surveyor and agreed on probable best location for new fixed equipment. The next step is to get suppliers in to provide potential plans and quotes before we can move forward with seeking match funding.

* Desperately seeking your help!

* We are asking for your help please, to assist with the following jobs to benefit our children.



* Skills required: painting / roof felting / cleaning

* Jobs to be completed:

- * ♦ Children's changing rooms need painting and felting
- * ♦ The roof on Class 1 playhouse requires felting
- * ♦ Sheds in the playground require painting
- * ♦ The area around the pool requires cleaning in preparation for the swimming season.
- * ♦ One of the sheds in the playground needs to be removed and measured for replacement FRS shed

* We would like to set a date in order to undertake these tasks and would really appreciate it if you can assist and spare a few hours for this worthy cause to benefit our children!

* Many thanks

* FRS

* If you can assist please can you either ring Tracy, FRS 07956 955804 or complete the multi-purpose slip on the back page and put in book bag for FRS collection.



Rettendon School & FRS Diary

| | |
|---|---|
| w/b 17th March | Assessment Week |
| Thurs 20th March | FRS meeting. All welcome 7.30pm in school |
| Wed 26th March | Performance of 'Big Momma' by Class 3 and 4 2pm and 6pm (tickets available soon) |
| Fri 4th April | Reward Event for all classes & last day of term (2pm close) |
| Mon 21st April | Closed-Bank Holiday |
| Sat 26th April | Beetle Drive |
| w/b 12th May | Year 6 SATs week |
| Mon 19th May | Kingswood Residential Holiday |
| Mon 26th May-Fri 6th June Spring Break | |
| Fri 20th June | Coffee Morning 8.45-10.35am in the school hall |
| Sat 12th July | Rettendon Community Fayre (Village Hall Field) |

Term Dates 2014-15

Autumn Term

Wed 3rd September-Fri 19th Dec 2014(Half Term 27th-31st Oct)

Spring Term

Mon 5th Jan-Fri 27th March 2015(Half Term 16th-20th Feb)

Summer Term

Mon 13th April-Wed 22nd July 2015 (Spring Break 25th May-5th June)



Multi-Purpose Return Slip

Name.....

My thoughts on Languages @ Rettendon.....

I wish to purchase tickets for 'Big Momma' and enclose £

I can help the FRS with cleaning /painting/ roof felting (please delete as necessary)

Other general feedback.....

Please put your slip in a labelled envelope and return to the school via the class pouch system, NOT front desk