

Rettendon School



October Newsletter



Thank you to all the families who participated in our Pumpkin Festival. Each year the pumpkins get more and more creative and they are a great conversation point for both the children and adults! See some of the pumpkin photos on our

Facebook page (like us and follow!)



Curriculum and Pupil Achievement

We hope that now the children have completed their first half term they have settled in with new staff, daily routines and expectations. Questions around homework often arise at this time of year, usually around how much time is spent on homework. As pupils move through the school, we increase the amount of homework that we give the children. We expect children in Key Stage 1 to spend approximately 20 minutes per night doing homework. We expect children in Years 3 and 4 to spend approximately 30-45 minutes per night on homework, and children in Years 5 and 6 to spend approximately 60 minutes. In Foundation Stage there is always a 'Home Activity' to achieve. Children are expected to read every night in addition to the homework set. This is higher than the DfES minimum timing guidelines that were issued in 1998 because children are not routinely set homework late in the summer term and so expectations 'even out' over time. We feel the Summer months are a time for children to spend time learning outdoors as much as possible, to promote fitness and a healthy lifestyle.

If your child cannot finish the homework in the expected time parameters but they have tried hard, you simply make a note on the homework or in the Home-School Link Book to confirm they have tried their best. By following this advice your child will not lose Golden Time and the teacher will have a clear idea of the support required as it will be clear what your child can achieve in the set time. Please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher if your child is really struggling with homework.



We need a dedicated group of parents who can support us by unlocking the gate at 8.35am. If we can achieve this then it means there are staff available at the front desk to deal with your queries.

ALSO, ANY OLD PALLETS WOULD BE APPRECIATED BY CLASS TWO PLEASE

Late for School.....again?



Sadly, it is always the same families who tend to be routinely late for school and so the same pupils suffering the consequences. Children hate being late for class. They get embarrassed and they don't know what's going on. They become excluded from social opportunities that the first part of the day (8.35-8.50m) offers, as this is when friends exchange greetings and news. Being late also means that the other children's learning is disrupted because the teacher has to stop and re-explain everything to the late pupil. Parents using the front car park to drop their child off, usually at high speed, is also a cause for concern. To encourage all families to attend on time and minimise disruption to all the others, we are **changing the following:**

The front entrance cannot be used for children to access the building between 8.35am and 9.15am. The back gate will remain open until 9.15am and will be the only access point. If you arrive after 9.15am and the gate is locked, you will need to park across the road or in a residential area and come into school and sign the 'Late Book' and add a written reason for your lateness. Children who arrive after the register has closed are given a 'late mark'. This is treated the same as 'unauthorised absence' and is now an offence which attracts a fine.



Parents who have school business during this time (8.35-9.15am) will still have to drop their children at the back gate and then walk around to the front desk via the side alley way (as is the current system and the **only** system accepted by Ofsted as the school must have outstanding controls over adults walking through the premises).



News from the Catering Team



Starting after half term the catering team will be selling healthy snacks at play-time. Examples include banana muffins, ham/cheese mini-toastie, flapjacks and Kelloggs Nutrigrain bars and fruit bars. Snacks are priced at 30p each. The children should bring their snack money in daily and keep it in their classroom. The children will be taught how to manage their own money and any change given. This will help their progress in Maths as children have few experiences with money these days when compared to years gone by, due to the many changes in financial technology.

Please remember that if your child is in FS and KS1 they are entitled to a hot meal at lunchtime (no payment required) and for the older children payment can be taken daily or weekly via the classroom pouch system (please DO NOT PAY at the front desk).

Also, we are going to gather interest for **Friday Curry Take Away** service. The chef will cook to order and your curry will be ready to take away on Friday at home time.

Please return the slip or email the school if this may interest you.



Now the weather is getting colder please ensure your child has a warm coat, hat and gloves in school, all clearly labelled. Thank you.



Rettendon School & FRS Diary

Mon 20th Oct	Pumpkin Festival
Thur 23rd Oct	Autumn Festival led by Class 3 (2pm & 5pm)
27th Oct-31st Oct	Half Term
Wed 5th Nov	FRS Firework Extravaganza
Tues 11th Nov	History Curriculum Day to commemorate Remembrance
Mon 24th Nov	Assessment Week for Years 1-6
Sun 30th Nov	FRS Xmas Shopping Market
Wed 10th Dec	Class 1 and 2 Nativity
Mon 15th Dec	Christingle Service for pupils
Wed 17th Dec	KS1/FS Christmas Party
Thurs 18th Dec	Rewards Outing
Fri 19th Dec	Close 2pm



CURRY FRIDAYS

I would be interested in purchasing a curry on Fridays from time to time

Your Name

Child's Name/s