



LEECHPOOL CURRICULUM Newsletter



End of year report arrangements in July

Our Year 6 cohort had their SATs during the week beginning 9th May and our Year 2 cohort have been working through various papers this month; they have worked incredibly hard and we are proud of how they have conducted themselves and how much effort that they put into these assessments.

The attainment that your Year 6 and Year 2 child receives at the end of the year in their report will be a teacher assessed judgement and not based on the test. Their teachers will form their judgements by assessing your child's work against subject frameworks and assess using evidence from all aspects of their learning rather than based on the tests that they completed in their test week.

For Year 6, we will collate the test results when we receive them and ensure that no papers need to be submitted for marking reviews. The children's results will then be sent out in a separate letter alongside their end of year report in July. We will report your child's test results as a scaled score for each subject and whether they have met the expected standard or not.

In phonics for Years 1 and 2, you will receive the score and whether you child has met or not met the expectations for the phonics screening check.

All children in Years 1-6 will receive attainment and effort achievements in all subjects as normal with the children's current reading and spelling ages; the children's report in Reception will show your child's achievement in each of the 17 Early Learning Goals.



Retrieval practice

As a staff since January, we have learned about, reflected on, and planned in many opportunities for retrieval practice because it is an effective yet simple learning strategy to ensure that learning is remembered. It is a strategy that can also be replicated at home too—something for you to try!

What is retrieval practice?

Retrieval practice is a teaching and learning strategy that can be used inside or outside of the classroom to help children learn. While we focus much time in helping children acquire knowledge, retrieval practice is about getting that knowledge back out there—strengthening retention and encouraging young learners to actively engage with, examine, and use what they have already learnt.

For example, children may spend a period of time learning all about the solar system. To do this, they may listen to their teacher, look up information in textbooks, and make notes. While this is an effective way to begin learning, research has shown that retrieval practice is the best way to help consolidate children's learning and help them retain what they have learnt on a long-term basis.

In this instance, after a child has had their initial learning about the solar system, one way to use retrieval practice method would be to ask the child a question, such as 'Can you name a planet in our solar system?'

This would need the child to retrieve the information without looking at their books or any notes.

Evidence from research and experience from classes around the world tell us that retrieval practice is a highly effective strategy to support learning.

What are the benefits?

- It's a powerful strategy to help all children make progress.
- It clearly identifies where gaps in knowledge are.
- Regular retrieval practice can boost confidence and motivation.
- The focus is 'low stakes' and very different to testing and assessments
- It can be fun, enjoyable and rewarding!

How can you use it at home?

There are many different ways that retrieval practice can be used at home and it can be used for anything and everything that you want your children to remember—including times tables and spellings!

- Ask specific questions about content studied at school (see [Year Group Zones](#) or [Subject Areas](#) for information).
- Ask about key vocabulary and the meaning. Look at our skills maps on our [Subject Areas](#) page. These are

are being updated: some subjects are on the website already and some will be uploaded soon.

- Encourage your child to quiz themselves.
- Intervene if they are using ineffective strategies such as highlighting or underlining notes, re-reading or simply copying. Use retrieval practice instead...what are the key points they can remember?

Further reading for families...

If you are interested and would like to know more, I have two book recommendations written for parents that are interesting and useful when discussing retrieval practice and the science of learning. Do buy them if you are interested! Each picture will take you to a website where you can purchase the books.

