

WEEKLY ROUND-UP

Autumn Term 2018

Edition 01

Friday, 14th September 2018

A note from the Headteacher

A very warm welcome to all our new families and children who have joined us this week at Green Ridge. Our weekly newsletter will be sent out to all our families, including those in Little Ridges Nursery, as well as the main school, so please do take a careful look through each week to ensure you are aware of things that are happening and important messages about school arrangements.

We have had a busy but exciting week getting to know all of our new children in Reception, as well as meeting some of our Little Ridges children for the first time. I have been extremely proud to see all the children come into school this week so eager and wanting to get into their classrooms! The children are great ambassadors for our school in their uniforms and it is also great to see so many more children being part of Green Ridge – we have grown significantly in number over the summer! Thank you to all those families and children who have spoken to me each morning on the gate; I am quickly trying to learn everybody's name, so bear with me for the next few weeks! There is a great deal of information in this newsletter, so do take the time to read it all.

Enjoy your weekend – I am sure the children may be quite tired after a full on first week back!



Mr. Aaron Wanford
Headteacher



"I really like having our massive playground; we have so much space to play!"

***Daniella,
Oak Class***

"I really like it that when you come up to the school you have such a great view of our building!"

***Anisa,
Oak Class***

Talking about what they like about our new building



(LEFT) The front of our school is now complete and looks amazing!; (RIGHT) Our new children in Reception have settled in well this week!

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Celebration Assembly

Each week, the school comes together and celebrates a variety of achievements across the week. Our certificate of achievement is awarded to children who have demonstrated that they have applied their learning and put in great effort. We also have a certificate of progress, which is awarded to children who have shown a marked difference in their learning over the last week or so, and have made great progress in their learning and development.

Celebrations this week were:

	<i>Certificate of Achievement</i>	<i>For...</i>
Elm (Y1)	Rio	Transitioning well into year one!
Beech (Y1)	Theodore	Settling in so well and making lots of new friends!
Cedar (Y3)	Abdul	Coming up with some amazing similes!

	<i>Certificate of Progress</i>	<i>For...</i>
Elm (Y1)	Vincent	Using feedback to instantly improve his letter sizes!
Beech (Y1)	Ethan	Making such good progress on coming into school in the mornings!
Oak (Y2)	Fergus	Making a huge effort in both his handwriting and presentation this week!
Cedar (Y3)	Leon	Settling in well this week and quickly learning the Green Ridge way!

Early Years Play Area

Thank you for your understanding this week as our builders have continued to finish the outdoor area, in readiness for us to use properly next week with the children. We kindly ask that you do not allow your children or their younger siblings to climb on or use the equipment before or after school hours.

Please note as well from next week that for parents/carers in Willow, Birch, Elm and Beech, we ask that you make use of all the play area space (the grassed areas and tarmac track) to stand and wait for your child, rather than directly under the canopy. It has already become quite crowded around the external doors to each class, making it difficult for staff to

clearly see which parents are here to collect, potentially leading to confusion about who is going home with who. Please stand back from the classroom doors and in the playground area. Thank you for your cooperation with this.

Little Ridges Nursery Invoices

Many parents have queried when they are likely to receive their first invoice for any nursery sessions which they are paying for. Due to the time it has taken for our nursery administration system to be set up and the returning of information from parents, we will now be issuing an invoice in October to combine payments for September and October. Mrs. Erdos will be processing these in the next few weeks. Please bear with us at this time to ensure that we can get these out to you as soon as is possible. Thank you.

Class Lists

Parents and carers have begun asking staff if they can have a list of pupil names for birthday parties etc. Please note that in line with GDPR regulations, we are unable to provide this information without consent from each parent concerned. We are still waiting for all parents to return their permission slips to us before we can begin to give any class lists out, but please note that any class lists published will only include those children's names where permission has been given to share, meaning it will be highly unlikely that we will be able to give you a full class list. We must respect the decision of each family and understand that sometimes, for many different reasons, personal details and names are unable to be shared publically.

PTA Macmillan Coffee Morning Friday, 28th September

The World's Biggest Coffee Morning is Macmillan's biggest fundraising event for people facing cancer. Many of us know somebody who has or is suffering from the illness, and the event is a great way to bring our community together for the first time for a good cause.



Our PTA (Parent Teacher Association) are asking for parents and carers to come along after the morning drop-off on Friday, 28th September from 9.00am until 10.30am in the hall. We would love for some parents/carers to help us out with baking (or even just bringing!) a cake of some description to share with other parents/carers. It would be wonderful if everyone could make a contribution – either by bringing a cake along or by making a small donation on the day. The PTA will provide tea and coffee, and we hope that it will be another great opportunity for all of our new and existing parents and carers to come

together for a natter all in aid of a good cause. Younger siblings are also very welcome!

We kindly ask for any cakes donated for the coffee morning, contain no nuts due to allergies.

If you are able to drop us an e-mail to pta@greenridgeacademy.co.uk to let us know if you are happy to bring a cake along, this would really help us prepare for the event and know what to expect. Thank you.

School Lunches - Update

Our kitchen and cleaning works are now complete in the main hall and from Monday, our hot dinner service will be available to the children. Thank you for understanding this week for those of you who have provided a packed lunch. From next week, the children will have four options each day for their lunch. Last year, almost all of our children in Reception, Year One and Year Two took the universal free school meals. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive from children, parents and staff about the dinners – the portion sizes, the freshness of the produce and also the taste. More information, including the menu this term, can be found on our website [here](#).

For those children in Year Three, hot meals are still able to be purchased through our Arbor portal, but please note that there was an error in the price given last term for meals. The price will be £2.40 per meal, per day.

Just a note that if your child has specific medical dietary requirements, Herts Catering Limited (HCL) have an allergy website for new applicants. All applications for these menus need to be submitted through this to ensure that they have all the relevant information and to make sure that all parties are aware of the allergy/intolerance (such as the school office/cook etc.).

Due to the growing number of children with allergies and intolerances HCL are only able to provide special diet menus where evidence can be provided from a medical professional, such as a GP, hospital consultant or registered dietitian. Their nutritionist will then be able to review the information and where appropriate, create a suitable menu.

The application form can be accessed using this link [here](#).

Lunch boxes

For those children who bring a home packed lunch to school, we wanted to let you know that due to the large number of questions we receive about the amount of lunch eaten by the children from parents,

we are asking children to take their food wrappers and contents of their lunch box home with them (with the exception of anything that may leak, like yoghurt pots etc.). We hope that this will help parents have a greater awareness of what their child does/does not eat, and minimise any opportunity that a child may 'throw away' any of their lunch!

Miss. Imbriano – Teacher of the Year Award

Existing parents will be aware that Miss. Imbriano was shortlisted and successful in gaining a place in the final of the national Teacher of the Year competition in the summer term. With the finals approaching later in October, we have been asked by the BBC if they can come and spend a day at Green Ridge on the 26th September, meeting the children and Miss. Imbriano as part of the television programme they will be making to coincide with the national event when it takes place. Mr. Wanford will be communicating separately about this next week and the arrangements that we will be putting in place on this day.

Term Dates 2019/2020

Our term dates for the 19/20 academic year are now confirmed and are being sent along with the newsletter today. They are also on our school website [here](#). We aim to publish these well in advance so that families can plan their holidays around these dates, minimising any need to ask for any holiday during term time which is unauthorised. Please take a note of these dates and put them in your diaries now!

Early Years Photos

Reception and Little Ridges are busy getting to know each other and thinking all about what makes them special and unique. We would like all parents/ carers send in a family photo that we can use in class discussions over the coming weeks. Please send in one that you do not mind being handled by small hands!

Paper copies of letters

Just a reminder, apart from the very first start of term letter you received on Monday in hard copy, you should have received all communication via e-mail this week, including this newsletter. If you have not received anything electronically, please let Mrs Rosser or Mrs Erdos know in the office so that we can ensure we have the correct e-mail address for you.

Volunteers

We have had many parents/carers expressing an interest in volunteering within the school, as we did last year. We are very grateful for all the time and support that is given by our volunteers and are keen to widen our bank of volunteers this year.

We will not be having any volunteers coming into school before October half-term; this is to enable our staff and children to settle back into their routines and the building. As part of our safeguarding requirements, we will also require all volunteers to have a DBS check to ensure their suitability to work with children, as well as have a safeguarding training session led by one of the safeguarding leaders within the academy.

If you would like to volunteer over this academic year, and can give at least half a day a week on a regular basis, please pick up our volunteer policy and sign-up form from Mrs. Rosser in the office. A member of staff will then be in contact to arrange a time for your safeguarding training and a DBS if it is required.

Uniform

Our children have looked extremely smart this week in their new uniforms; however, there have been some children who have had polo shirts in place of a blouse or a shirt. Polo shirts are not part of the Green Ridge uniform (for either nursery or the main school) and I ask that children wear either the reverse collar blouse or shirt (for Reception onwards) or the specific nursery T-shirt in Little Ridges.

There has also been some confusion about school jumpers: the round-necked sweatshirts are ONLY for Little Ridges Nursery children, whilst children in Reception and above must wear the woollen V-neck jumper or cardigan. If you are not sure, please check our uniform page [here](#), or speak to your child's class teacher. Next week, we will begin issuing letters for those children with the incorrect uniform, which needs to be addressed, and it would be most helpful if parents/carers would ensure their child is in the right uniform as per our expectations for the academy.

Just a reminder too, to ensure that all of your child's uniform items are named – everything from coats to socks, from bags to jumpers. Particularly at lunch time, children often remove jumpers or coats as they are running around and getting hot, and at the end of lunchtime, they then have trouble identifying which one was theirs; a class name on the label would also be handy!

Water bottles

There are a number of children across the academy who do not have a personalised water bottle with them each day. For reasons of hygiene as well as convenience and practicality, we ask that your child is sent in with a named water bottle that they can refill as necessary. We do not have sufficient cups or washing facilities to provide each child with an individual cup each day. Thank you. Reminder letters will be sent

home next week for those children without named bottles in school each day.

Phonics and Reading Workshop – reminder

We will be running a workshop on Tuesday 25th September at 2.15pm and then again at 7pm at the academy where all parents and carers are warmly invited, particularly for those in Reception and in Little Ridges. We ran this session successfully last year, and parents commented how helpful it was. During the workshop, we will explain in more detail about how the school teaches our children to read through our phonic system, and the expectations of reading at home with your child and the books they will have access to. Please do come along if you can make it; younger siblings are also welcome of course! Please note, if you attended last year you are more than welcome to come along again and join us, but the content will be very similar to last year.

Scooters and Bikes

It is great to see so many of the children either riding or coming on their scooters to school. Many of you heard the radio article this week on Mix96 which talked about how Green Ridge supports our families to walk or travel to school in a sustainable way. However, we please ask that once inside the school gates, children get off their scooter or bike and walk with it around the school grounds for everybody's safety. We have bike stands in the back playground as you walk through the pedestrian gates, where children are able to leave their bikes/scooters each day. We are still awaiting the installation of our scooter pods (where children can park their scooters), and so in the meantime, ask that these are also left in the bike stands, out of the way of pedestrian access. Please note that this area is unmonitored by the school, and as such if scooters and bikes are left these are at your own risk. We very much hope the school is a safe environment, particularly with our gate system and monitoring who comes in and out, but recognise this is an area accessible to all.



Communication with Staff

You will have received a separate letter this week giving specific details of who to contact in the school if you have a question or query. We strive to create a culture of openness throughout the school with parents and carers, and our staff are always willing to arrange a time to talk about your child's learning. We hope that you can approach us to raise any concerns or questions you may have. Teachers will be pleased to talk to you on most days after school. Please bear in mind that they have many other commitments before and after school that form part of their working day, such as attending meetings. It is helpful if you make an

appointment either personally or through the school office. It is not usually appropriate to expect the teacher to talk to you without an appointment in the mornings when they need to give their full attention to all the children. Obviously, genuine emergencies are an exception. Our teaching assistants are always on hand to take messages and act as a direct link for any key messages or information that needs to be shared. Messages can always be passed to teachers through the school office. We try our best to keep communication channels open and to maintain an 'open door' policy. If you have a question or query, please do not hesitate to come into school to discuss it with the appropriate member of staff.

Emailing school - These days, most people are communicating regularly by email and it has become one of the primary routes for establishing communication. That said, with the exception of the office staff, our members of staff on the teaching and learning team are not office or computer based and therefore do not have the same level of access to email. It is not our policy to provide parents with email addresses for teaching staff. This is also one of our strategies for reducing the unnecessary and excessive workload of teachers and we request that you do not ask teachers for them. Please use the main office address for all email correspondence: admin@greenridgeacademy.co.uk

Meet the Teacher Meetings – Reminder

Don't forget the Meet the Teacher meetings which take place over the next few weeks. When arriving for the meeting, please enter via the main entrance when you arrive. For those parents/carers who are unable to attend, a hand-out pack of presentation slides and any other relevant information will be passed on to your child the following day. These will also be available on our website under your child's year-group page.

Year Group	Date	Time	Location
Reception (Willow and Birch)	Monday, 24 th September	2.15pm	Main Hall
Year Two (Oak)	Wednesday, 19 th September	2.30pm	Oak Classroom
Year Three (Cedar)	Wednesday, 19 th September	2.30pm	Cedar Classroom

Prospective Parent Information events

We are holding a number of open events for prospective parents, carers and children to come and

visit the school and meet Mr Wanford and the team of staff. The events are as follows:

Little Ridges Nursery

- Wednesday, 19th September 2018, 9.15-10.30am (for January 2019 intake)
- Monday, 7th January 2019, 9.15-10.30am (for April 2019 intake)
- Tuesday, 19th March 2019, 1.45-3.00pm (for September 2019 intake)

Main School (Reception, September 2019 intake)

The events are as follows:

- Wednesday, 10th October 2018, 9.15-10.45am
- Wednesday, 17th October 2018, 1.45-3.15pm
- Tuesday, 30th October 2018, 7.00-8.30pm
- Thursday 15th November 2018 9.15-10.45am

The open event will give you an opportunity to have a tour of the school. Mr Wanford will give a short presentation at all events about the academy, its vision and ethos, and helpful information to those parents and carers who apply to Green Ridge.

To book a place at one of the open events, or to find out about availability in other year groups, please e-mail admin@greenridgeacademy.co.uk or call the school on 01296 326320.

Weekly Attendance

Well done to Elm Class for the best attendance this week!

Birch (YR)	92.6%	Willow (YR)	97.6%
Beech (Y1)	99.3%	Elm (Y1)	100%
Oak (Y2)	92.0%	Cedar (Y3)	97.9%

What's happening next week at Green Ridge?

17 th	Little Ridges Nursery children start
18 th	
19 th	Prospective Little Ridges Nursery Open morning (January 2019 intake), 9.15am Y2 and Y3 Meet the Teacher Meetings, 2.30pm
20 th	
21 st	Mix96 Event at school – Walk to School Event

Letters sent home this week

Welcome Back Letter – 10 09 18
 Communication Letter – 11 09 18
 Diary Dates – 11 09 18
 Home Learning Project (Years 1-3) 13 09 18
 Flu Vaccine – 14 09 18