

WEEKLY ROUND-UP

Autumn Term 2019

Edition 13

Friday, 6th December

A note from the Headteacher

December very much seems to be here – both in the bitterly cold weather, and the feel of festivities in the air! The children have been busy practicing for their performances next week in Reception and Key Stage One; I am sure that you will enjoy what the children have been working hard on over the last few weeks, and for some of our youngest children, it can certainly be quite daunting on a big stage in front of a lot of people! The whole school is looking forward to watching each other's performances at the start of next week, before we perform for parents/carers and family. More reminders about these later in the newsletter.

I know as it comes to this point in the year, our children, parents/carers and staff are all feeling the tiredness of such a long term; we continue with our routines wherever we can for consistency for the children, such as our phonics and English and Maths lessons. I am aware that sometimes a lack of structure can in fact make it more difficult for the children and given how precious our time at school is with the children, we want to maximise as much of this as we can to focus on their learning. Over the last week I have been listening to a selection of children read across the school and cannot emphasise enough how important it is to keep this up each day – it really does make such a difference and reading really does provide a platform for all other learning that comes next. So please, do keep up the reading over the Christmas period. Have a lovely weekend, and I look forward to seeing you next week during one of the productions!

A. A. Wanford.

Mr. Aaron Wanford
Headteacher



"It was great to represent the school and be involved in a competition."

Aimee-Leigh, Y3

"I enjoyed watching all of the team leaders performing and showing off their skills."

Lukas, Y4

Feedback from some of our Y3 & Y4 children who went to a Gymnastics Competition yesterday

In This Issue

- Christmas Post Box
- Y3 & Y4 Gymnastics Competition
- Christmas Jumper Day
- PTA Festive Fun Event



(ABOVE) Our beautifully decorated donated Christmas trees are now up around the school!

Celebrations and Achievements

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>
Birch (YR)	Jess	always being excited about her learning and challenging herself.
Willow (YR)	Imogen	being a fantastic role model and having such a positive attitude to her learning.

Beech (Y1)	Vidhi	successfully using semicolons when writing lists.
Elm (Y1)	Liam	his amazing segmenting during phonics this week.
Oak (Y2)	Pola	having a fantastic attitude towards her learning.
Plane (Y2)	Niamh	her hard work and determination when learning about division in maths.
Cedar (Y3)	Jasper	having a great imagination and being creative in DT when using box folds and mouth folds.
Rowan (Y4)	Samprithi	using a range of sentence starter to ensure there is cohesion to her writing.

	<i>Certificate of Progress</i>	<i>For...</i>
Birch (YR)	Ella F	working so hard on her phonics skills and practising her blending.
Willow (YR)	Mya	making huge progress in her reading, blending independently!
Beech (Y1)	James	working on his confidence and showing great resilience.
Elm (Y1)	Joseph	progress in his focus and effort in phonics.
Oak (Y2)	Evie	her progress in reading fluency and accuracy.
Plane (Y2)	Tatiana	making amazing progress in writing by using a fab range of vocabulary.
Cedar (Y3)	Ella-Grace	always putting 100% effort into all of her learning.
Rowan (Y4)	Zack	persevering with his writing and completing it independently.

Cracking Number Bonds & Times Tables Awards

Each week during our celebration assembly, we also award certificates to children for their progress with Cracking Number Bonds and Cracking Times Tables. This week the following awards were given:

<i>Name</i>	<i>Level</i>
James	1
Joshua T	1
Junior	1
Kowsik	1
Maddison	1
Orla	1

Sreejan	1
Cairo	2
Elexy	2
Grayson	2
Harrison	2
Izzy	2
Katherine	2
Megan	2
Poppy	2
Zack	2
Ethan	3
Alex	3
Alicja	3
Amelia Y	3
Ayaan	3
Ayah	3
Bella	3
Darcie	3
Harry	3
Myrtle	3
Oliver	3
Adeena	4
Alisa	4
Amelia M	4
Casey	4
Charlie	4
Charlotte	4
Inaya	4
Joshua H	4
Kenzie	4
Lilly	4
Vidhi	4
Wynnie	4
Zian	4
Jessica	5

Cracking Times Tables

Name	Level
Keyan-Lee	3
Jacob	4
Leom	4
Nathan	4
Oliwia	4
Abdul	5
Bella	5
Dexter	5
Fergus	5
Isla	5
Janet	5
Kallie	5
Olly	5
Rylee	5
Theodore	5
Paige	6
Arthur S	7
Joseph	7

Noah	7
Rhylee	7
Harry	8
Eva	9
Olaf	9
Rosko	9
Rosie	11
Seshan	11
Auben	12
Ema	12
Hrishi	13
Samprithi	14
Jessie	16
Urvi	16
Ingrid	17

PAP Stars

'PAP' stands for Presentation, Accuracy and Productivity. Well done to the following PAP stars this week at Green Ridge!

Beech (Y1)	Lily	Elm (Y1)	Ellie
Oak (Y2)	George	Plane (Y2)	Millie
Cedar (Y3)	Ramaa	Rowan (Y4)	Callum

Weekly Attendance

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

Birch (YR)	96.5%	Willow (YR)	93.7%
Beech (Y1)	97.3%	Elm (Y1)	99.3%
Oak (Y2)	92.7%	Plane (Y2)	90.0%
Cedar (Y3)	96.6%	Rowan (Y4)	97.0%

House Points

Well done to Austin House for gaining the most points this week!

House	Points this week	Total
Disraeli	115	1332
Pratchett	89	1251
Austin	173	1453
Redgrave	146	1365

Word of the Day

The words we used this week are below; please do ask your child about them (they should be able to tell you what they mean and use them in a sentence). You will also find next week's words as well, so if you can, get ahead and talk to your child about them!

w/c 02/12/19	KS1	KS2
Monday	Scratch	Foliage
Tuesday	Frighten	Thug
Wednesday	Wrong	Cerulean

Thursday	Together	Dishevelled
Friday	Evening	Reverberate

<i>w/c 09/12/19</i>	<i>KS1</i>	<i>KS2</i>
Monday	Elderly	Henchman
Tuesday	Bake	Pussycat
Wednesday	Excitement	Deter
Thursday	Family	Mayhem
Friday	Nativity	Petty

What have we been learning?

Little Ridges Nursery

This week we have had boats in the home corner. This has been popular with the children and we have been singing "Row, Row, Row Your Boat" and doing the actions. They have also enjoyed boats made out of ice in the water tray to investigate melting as well as practising pouring; using jugs, and investigating floating and sinking with different objects.



We have been feeling very festive this week and practising our Christmas singalong songs. They have loved making their Christmas crafts, we hope you like them at the PTA Festive Fun event. We have also been singing "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star" with the actions, in preparation for the Christmas Sing-A-Long, and the children have done really well. Please can we ask if you could practice this at home as well. Well done Little Berries for lots of great learning this week!



On Monday we came into the Nursery garden to a bit of a crime scene... We had a cracked egg on the floor which led us to start learning the story 'Humpty Dumpty'. We had a big discussion about how Humpty Dumpty might be feeling and

how we could build our own walls to stop him from falling. During the rest of the week we have been learning the story of 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears'. We have been retelling the story during our choosing time whilst making marks in the oats and counting the bears. We have also even been decorating some different sized porridge bowls with some porridge oats, referring to which one is the biggest and which one is the smallest.

Reception

On Monday, we were lucky enough to be visited by a Guide Dog and we learnt more about how Guide Dogs help people. This week we have been really busy in Birch and Willow class; we have completed our Christmas Craft for the Festive Fun event and we have been practising for our Nativity. In Maths, we have been learning about 'capacity'. The children have explored this through filling Christmas boxes with Christmas bows! We have used the key vocabulary, 'full' 'half-full' and 'empty'. We look forward to you all seeing our Nativity next week!



Year One

This week Year One have been working hard and focusing on some of their assessments. They have shown great resilience and have made their teachers proud. They have also been finding the fact families for a set of numbers and have begun subtracting numbers on a number line. Beech and Elm class have been getting ready, alongside Year Two, for their Christmas production; they have been enjoying learning their respective songs and are looking forward to the shows next week. Year One have started their countdown to the holidays with the book advent where they have enjoyed a book to read together as a year group at the end of each day.

Year Two



Year Two have got their hands messy this week making Christmas crafts for the Festive Fun event. Plane class made some salt dough reindeers and painted them using beautiful metallic paint. We also added some ribbon ready to hang on our Christmas trees! Oak class made sock snowmen, complete with mini hats and

scarves. We're looking forward to seeing them next week at the Festive Fun event!

Year Three



This week Year Three went outside and collected soil. We used magnifying glasses to look closely. We then looked at lots of different rocks and discussed what type of rock each one was. During PE we focused on defending. We practiced our passes and tried to stop the other team from getting the ball.



Year Four



This week Year Four enjoyed beginning the Christmas crafts in Art and Design. They were learning to sew patterns onto a Christmas tree template. They learned:

- How to thread a needle
- How to create patterns
- Different stitching techniques

Take a look at their efforts so far!

News items from this week

Crackers!

Thank you for all of your kind donations. We now have enough crackers for our Christmas lunch on Wednesday, 18th December. We are sure that the children will appreciate your generosity.

Christmas Post Box



Our very own Green Ridge Post Box is back in our main corridor so that the children have the opportunity to 'post' any Christmas cards that they may want to send to each other (which is also a great opportunity to practise their writing skills!). It

is far easier for the children to put them in our post box and then we will have our elves working to help sort them out in to classes and arrange delivery for each day.

Please remember to name each card with the child's name and class they are in to ensure successful delivery!

If you would like a copy of your child's class list, please ask Mrs. Curits-Cross in the school office or Miss. Aliphon in Nursery. Please note that the lists will only contain the first names of the children whom we have permission to share this information for due to data protection regulations.

Mystery Readers

Do you have a favourite book? Do you enjoy reading? Can you spare 15 minutes this year? If so we would like to set up a Mystery Reader system after Christmas where we surprise the children every week with a mystery parent reader. If you are happy to sign up then please can you let Mrs. Curtis-Cross know what day of the week you are available, what class your child(ren) is in and if there is a specific book you would like to read. Each week she will contact one parent from each class to be the weekly surprise. If you do not have a specific book but are happy to read you are very welcome to pick one from our library to share. We are very much looking forward to welcoming you all and further celebrating the joy of stories.

Reading Books

Is your child looking for some new suggestions for books to read? Do you need some inspiration for Christmas presents? The World Book Day website has lots of fabulous book suggestions for all genres. Why don't you take a look [here!](#)

Eco Council – Terracycle



We are still collecting baby food pouches, caps and snack packets. Be it Ella's Kitchen or equivalent brands. Remember we can help eliminate waste and reduce the amount of packaging needlessly entering landfill. There is a collection

box in the school office for the children, staff and visitors to use. Green Ridge's proud Eco council appreciate your help!

Calling all carpenters...

Help! Are any of our wonderful parents/carers carpenters? If so we have an exciting project and are in need of your help! If you think you might be able to help then please let Mrs. Mackie know.

Year 3 and 4 Gymnastics Competition

Year 3 and 4 took part in the Gymnastics Competition at Stoke Mandeville Stadium this week. They took part in three different competitions which involved body management, floor routines and vault presentation. The children put in 100% effort and represented Green Ridge Academy with pride and excellence. Well done Year 3 and 4!

Library Wish List

We are starting an exciting new project to make our beautiful library even more exciting for the children. Alongside some bigger pieces of furniture, we have started an Amazon wish list. We would be incredibly grateful if anyone could purchase us something off our list which you can find [here](#). Please make sure if you do buy something you leave us a message so we can thank you 😊

YR Foodbank Donations

On Monday, 23rd December some parents/carers from Birch and Willow are taking their children to the local foodbank to donate some hampers. They're currently collecting donations so if anyone has anything that they wish to donate please contact the class representatives who will be happy to take the donations.

Achievement Boxes

Can we please remind you to allow your child to bring in any awards or certificates from any clubs or groups that they may attend outside of school. The children will have the opportunity to share their achievements each week in class and assembly.

They simply just need to bring their item/s in and put them in the achievement box in their classroom.

We look forward to seeing what they are going to share!

What's coming up?

Christmas Performances – Tuesday 10th, Wednesday 11th & Thursday 12th

We are really looking forward to welcoming you all to see our Christmas productions next week. Reception will be performing "Away in a Manger" and KS1 will be performing "I'm Going to Shine". Tickets for the performances were sent home with the children yesterday.

Parents/carers will need to enter via the external hall door in front of the visit drop-off parking bays at the front of the school. Please note that we will only open the doors 15 minutes before each performance.

Each performance will take around 45 minutes and the PTA will be providing refreshments at the back of the hall after each of the performances.

Photographs at the Christmas Performances

Parents/carers are welcome to take photos/recordings during our performances next week but please remember that any media you do take is for your own personal use and is not to be displayed on the internet without permission from the parents/carers of any children that appear in the footage. Please help us to keep our children safe and respect the privacy of each family and their children, particularly as there are children who are unable to have their photographs shared for legal reasons.

Christmas Jumper Day – Friday, 13th December

Next Friday we are encouraging the children to dress festively and wear their Christmas jumpers or another appropriate festive or 'wintery' top. Santa hats, elf hats and antlers are welcome too!

Green Ridge will be taking part in [Christmas Jumper Day](#) in aid of the Save the Children charity. Children will still need to come in wearing the rest of their school uniform, but can supplement their school jumper or cardigan as appropriate. For this day children do not have to wear their shirt, blouse or tie if they do not wish to. We are kindly asking for a donation of £1 on this day to put towards the Save the Children charity.

PTA Festive Fun Event – Monday 16th December

As you should already know, the PTA are holding a Festive Fun event after school on Monday, 16th December. May we remind parents/carers that children must be escorted to this event and cannot **attend** alone. Can we also please ask that you remember to bring some change with you to purchase items and not big notes as we do not hold large cash floats in school.

Reception 2020

Applications have now opened for those with children born between 1st September 2015 and 31st August 2016 who will be starting reception in September 2020. It is important that you find out or visit the schools you are interested in before you decide to put them on your application. You can list up to 6 schools when you apply. You can register and apply [here](#). **The deadline is at 3.00pm on Wednesday, 15th January.** You will be able to view your offer online on Thursday, 16th April.

We are holding Prospective Parent Information Events on Thursday, 9th January at 1.45pm. More information about these events can be found later on in the newsletter and on our [website](#).

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, 5th February 2020 – 9.15am (for entry to Nursery from April 2020)
- Thursday, 12th March 2020 – 9.15am (for entry to Nursery from September 2020)

Main School (Reception, September 2020 intake)

- Thursday, 9th January 2020: 1.45-3.00pm

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, register your interest, or to find out about availability in other year groups, please email admin@greenridgeacademy.co.uk or call the school office on 01296 326320.

PTA News

Vale Lottery

Congratulations to Amanda Jones who is a Willow class parent who was a lucky winner of £25 in the Green Ridge Vale Lottery recently.

Tickets are only £1 with 50p of every ticket going straight to Green Ridge. Be in with a chance of winning and buy your tickets [here!](#)

Easyfundraising

Don't forget when you're doing your Christmas shopping to use [easyfundraising](#) to help raise money for Green Ridge with minimal effort!

Jazzy Jars



Thank you for all you for bringing in all your amazing Jazzy Jars this morning! There is a variety of incredibly decorated jars. Look out for the tombola at the Festive Fun event on Monday, 16th December. Don't worry if you forgot to bring one in this morning, you can give one to the school office any time next week.

Festive Fun Event – Monday, 16th December

Please contact the PTA if you are able to help out for an hour or more at the Festive Fun event. We cannot run these events without you help! Thank you in advance.



What's happening next week at Green Ridge?

9 th	
10 th	AM – Y4 swimming lesson 2.00pm YR Christmas Performance
11 th	9.15am YR Christmas Performance 2.00pm KS1 Christmas Performance
12 th	9.15am KS1 Christmas Performance
13 th	Christmas Jumper Day

Letters sent home this week

Residential Trip to Cologne, Germany – October 2020
03 12 19
Year Three Swimming Lessons – Spring Term 2020 03
12 19
Reading Book – Change of System 03 12 19
Y2 Plane Class Teaching Arrangements - 05 12 19
PTA Festive Fun Event 05 12 19