

WEEKLY ROUND-UP

Autumn Term 2019

Edition 14

Friday, 13th December

A note from the Headteacher

We've had a wonderful week of performances across the academy and the children have really shone through, remembering their lines, lyrics and movements. Our children in Reception took to the stage with 'Away in a Manger' and Key Stage One with 'I'm Going to Shine'. Both performances gave so much enjoyment to watch and thank you for such positive feedback from all those who attended as they left, commenting on the high standard and how much they enjoyed them.

As I said during the performances, at this time of the term, it's really exciting to think about how much progress the children have made. Whatever their starting point, which are naturally all different, the rate of progress is by far the most important measure. By progress, we not only talk about academic progress but also how the children are developing socially and emotionally. For some of our children this week, standing on stage and having a go at saying their lines in front of a large audience is worth noting and recognising their progress made. I was so fortunate to watch all the performances, and I know you will have been just as proud as I was as the children performed.

Term finishes next Thursday at the usual time, but this is the last round-up of the year; it is just left for me to wish a Merry Christmas to those who are celebrating, and a restful break to those who are not. However you spend your time off, I wish you all a Happy New Year and look forward to welcoming you back to school on Tuesday, 7th January 2020.

Thank you for all your continued support this term! With best wishes,

A. A. Wanford

Mr. Aaron Wanford
Headteacher



(ABOVE) A photo from Christmas Jumper Day and from the "I'm Going to Shine" performance

"Please pass on my congratulations over to the Reception team. The nativity was wonderful to watch, it was clear a lot of time and effort from the staff had been put in. The children were fantastic and clearly enjoyed themselves."

Chair of Governors

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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	a fantastic and enthusiastic performance as Maurice in the nativity.
Willow (YR)	Bilan	being so enthusiastic in her performance this week and being so supportive of her friends!
Beech (Y1)	Oliver	using a number line brilliantly when subtracting.
Elm (Y1)	Harry	always being on task and focused.
Oak (Y2)	Kian	conducting some fantastic research about birds in computing.
Plane (Y2)	Maddison	showing courage on stage when saying her lines for the Nativity.
Cedar (Y3)	Ivy-Grace	constantly showing outstanding behaviour.
Rowan (Y4)	Ingrid	great presentation of results in Science!

	<i>Certificate of Progress</i>	<i>For...</i>
Birch (YR)	Ella F	using her phonics skills to write her letter to the Book Thief.
Willow (YR)	Elise	gaining confidence in her reading, blending independently and applying her phonic knowledge!
Beech (Y1)	Scarlett	showing great resilience and performing beautifully.
Elm (Y1)	Kawthar	being more vocal and contributing during class discussions.
Oak (Y2)	Elexy	the accuracy and fluency in reading.
Plane (Y2)	Kayden	his progress with learning his number bonds.
Cedar (Y3)	Hrishi	demonstrating his understanding of all our learning this term.
Rowan (Y4)	Urvi	adding detailed description to her writing.

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:

Cracking Number Bonds

Name	Level
Finley, Kayden, Lissy & Talha	1
Ellie, Izzy, Joshua, Kiera, Kowsik, Kyla, Lilly, Logan, Maddison, Miggy, Ruby & Sreejan	2
Archie, Cairo, Harrison, Izzy, Katherine, Kobe, Megan, Oli, Poppy & Zack	3
Alex, Amelia Y, Ayaan, Bella, Darcie, Evie, Harry, Myrtle & Oliver	4
Adeena, Alisa, Amelia M, Casey, Charlie, Charlotte, Inaya, Kenzie, Lilly, Vidhi, Wynnie & Zian	5
Tegan	6

Cracking Times Tables

Name	Level
Arthur, Keyan-Lee, Pola & Talia	3
Ella-Grace & Mia-Jade	4
Lily-Rose	5
Isla, Luciana, Olly & Theodore	6
Joseph & Noah	8
Callum & Harry	9
Sienna	10
Rosie & Seshan	12
Ema	13
Kian	15
Alexander	16
Imogen	18
Kanuyan, Katie & Mayookha	19

PAP Stars

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

Beech (Y1)	Alisa	Elm (Y1)	Yarina
Oak (Y2)	Tyler L	Plane (Y2)	Alex
Cedar (Y3)	Anisa	Rowan (Y4)	Rosie

Weekly Attendance

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

Birch (YR)	92.6%	Willow (YR)	97.5%
Beech (Y1)	97.3%	Elm (Y1)	97.2%
Oak (Y2)	95.0%	Plane (Y2)	95.3%
Cedar (Y3)	99.3%	Rowan (Y4)	97.7%

House Points

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

House	Points this week	Total
Disraeli	66	1398
Pratchett	86	1337
Austin	87	1540
Redgrave	84	1449

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

w/c 16/12/19	KS1	KS2
Monday	Sparkle	Homage
Tuesday	Gift	Faux pas
Wednesday	Trio	Pilgrimage
Thursday	Angel	Enlighten

Achievement Boxes

Each week we celebrate what the children have achieved outside of school. The children have the opportunity to bring in any awards or certificates from any clubs or groups that they attend to share in class and assembly.

The achievements this week were:

	For...
Imogen Y3, Cedar	being awarded a certificate for cheerleading. She completed her full outs correctly and presented her whole routine to music.
Norah Y2, Plane	achieving her rosettes for Bernese Mountain Dog training. Norah showed her rosettes to the children in assembly this week and explained how she achieved them and what each one meant.
Urvi Y4, Rowan	completing Grade 2 (with merit) in Carnatic Vocal.

If your child has anything that they would like to share, they simply just need to bring their item/s in and put them in the achievement box in their classroom.

What have we been learning?

Little Ridges Nursery

This week the home corner has been a Space Centre where the children could act out the 'Whatever Next' story. We had a classroom full of aliens and astronauts and saw lots of lovely use of imagination, well done Little Berries!

They have been enjoying practising our songs for the Christmas Sing-A-Long; "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star", "We Wish You a Merry Christmas" and "The Christmas Conga" with Little Acorns and they have done very well. It would be great if they could practice these at home using loud singing voices, as this will really help to build their confidence for Monday's performance.

Little Berries made flying saucers, played with moon sand, did star printing, made shape rockets and loved watching a video about a space shuttle launch. Another fun packed week of learning; well done Little Berries!



This week Little Acorns have been learning the story of the 'three little pigs'. We have been painting some houses using a range of resources; sticks, straws and bricks talking about what happens in the story. Little Acorns are now able to recall the story and know the Makaton signs for pigs, house and wolf. Continuing with the theme we have been working together to create some pig biscuits, icing them, adding some eyes and a nose. We have continued to practice our Christmas songs ready for our Christmas performance on Monday, we look forward to seeing so many of you there



Reception

What a wonderful, busy week Birch and Willow have had! It has been filled with Christmas festivities! The children have performed in their first Nativity, 'Away in a Manger'. We were extremely proud of their first performance and the courage they showed. During the week, Birch and Willow have also written a letter to the book thief, applying their phonic knowledge to complete this challenge! Well done, Birch and Willow!

Year One

Year 1 have had a busy week this week. They have continued to subtract numbers on a number line in maths where they have been able to reason as to how they know that their answer is correct and have been coming up with ways to persuade The Book Thief to bring back the stolen books from the school library. Elm and Beech class have also been working extremely hard to build their vehicles; they have been sanding down axels to fit into the wheels and independently assembling their cars. It was a lot of hard work but all children persevered to ensure they were able to finish.

Year Two

IT'S A WRAP! A huge well done to years 1 & 2 for putting on two fantastic performances of our nativity this week, "I'm Going to Shine". The children said their lines beautifully and sang their absolute hearts out. I'm sure you'll agree they did a wonderful job of getting everybody into the Christmas spirits. A huge thank you again to the PTA for serving refreshments, as well our parents and carers for providing such fantastic costumes!

Year Three

This week, year 3 continued to learn skills to use for our interactive exhibition in DT. We have learned how to make a rotating wheel and a lever. Lots of us were resilient and reflective.



Year Four

This week, Year Four enjoyed beginning their Maya masks in Art and Design. So far, we have:

- Designed the mask
- Cut out the template of the mask
- Added textiles

Next, we will be creating patterns around the eyes using stitching techniques!

Take a look at our efforts so far!



News items from this week

Away in a Manager – Early Years Performance

Our new Reception children did a fantastic job on Tuesday and Wednesday this week as they performed their nativity to parents and carers. Despite only being in school for a few months and having to stand up in front of a fairly large audience, the children did remarkably well, and we are so proud of them for showing such resilience, even if remembering their lines wasn't easy! Thank you to all our parents/carers who came along to support and for the wonderful costumes you provided.



"I'm Going to Shine" – Key Stage One Performance

Our children had great fun putting this production together, ably supported by Miss. Bowne and Mr. Ladyman and it really did make us all smile and laugh! The children again performed wonderfully, and our budding dramatists executed their lines and words very well! Thank you as well to all our parents/carers who came along and showed their support, and for the brilliant costumes provided – we are extremely grateful!



Donations to the School

We would like to extend our thanks to all the parents/carers, family members and friends who kindly donated a wonderful £343.68 at the end of the Christmas performances. This money is being put towards our new collection of poetry books for each year-group to enjoy as part of their reading skills programme. The children will be using these in the Spring Term.

Thank you to our Volunteers!

You may have enjoyed various members of the PTA and volunteer parents/carers serving tea & coffee at our Christmas performances this week. The school would like to say a big thank you to them for helping us turn the dining hall into a theatre, and then back again ready for our enrichment clubs. There is a lot of moving of tables & chairs before and after each performance, not to mention hot water urns and remembering to pick up milk & biscuits! We couldn't have manoeuvred it all without them. Don't forget, the PTA are always looking for more helpers for every event to enable them to raise money to provide those things the school budget won't always stretch to. Get in touch via their Facebook page or on pta@greenridgeacademy.co.uk if you can help. We are very grateful to anyone who is willing to give a little bit of their time to make things better for our children and families.

Christmas trees for free!

Our large Christmas trees which you will have seen in the entrance and hall over the last few weeks are looking for a home this Christmas; if you haven't yet managed to get your tree and would like one of ours (or know someone that would), then please let Mrs. Curtis-Cross know in the office or drop us an e-mail or give us a call. As long as you can collect it, it's yours!

Christmas Jumper Day



The children all looked super today in their variety of festive jumpers and tops. Thank you for all the donations which are in aid of the Save the Children charity. We have raised a total of £179.10 so far! If you forgot to bring in your donation in this morning, it's not too late!



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. Curtis-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.

Lost Property

All lost property will be available to look through at the Festive Fun event in the reception area. Please take a look through if your child has anything missing. After this event anything unclaimed will be donated to charity.

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!](#)

Staffing Update

At the end of term, we say goodbye to Miss. Bowne who is taking up a new position at Thomas Hickman school. We would like to thank Miss. Bowne for her support over this term with Year 2 and wish her every success in her new venture. Mr. English and Miss. Gardiner will be taking over the class teaching for Plane Class until a permanent replacement is found for consistency for the children.

Attendance

Over the last half-term, we have been hit with a range of coughs, colds and illnesses which have prevented children from coming to school. Our current whole-school attendance is currently at 97% which is still great, but it can still be even higher! Mr. Wanford will be communicating separately with those parents/carers who have a child with less than 90%

attendance overall, as this is considered a persistent absence and really does affect the learning and progress of the children.

We hope that after Christmas our attendance figure improves as children have been through the worst of the illnesses over the last term.

Mystery Readers

We are setting up a Mystery Reader system after Christmas where we surprise the children every week with a mystery parent/carer reader.

We are still seeking Mystery Readers, so if you have a favourite book, enjoy reading and can spare 15 minutes then please sign up!

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!

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.

A big thank you to those who have purchased us something already! 😊

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.

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.

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!

Clubs

We would like to remind you that clubs for this term have now finished. A letter was sent out on Tuesday regarding clubs for next term. Bookings will open on Saturday and will close on Sunday, 12th January.

Governors' Newsletter

Yesterday you will have also received a copy of the termly newsletter from our local governing body. Please do take a moment to have a look at this and see how our governors are involved in the monitoring and support of Green Ridge over this term. You can find a copy of the newsletter [here](#).

What's coming up?

Little Ridges Christmas Sing-A-Long – Monday 16th December

The external hall doors will open at 2.00pm on Monday for Little Ridge's Christmas performance. We look forward to seeing the nursery parents/carers there.

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.

Christingle Assembly – Wednesday, 18th December



Rev. Gareth Lane, Vicar on Berryfields will be assisting Mr. Wanford with holding a Christingle Assembly for the children in Reception, Key Stage One and Key Stage Two in the school on Wednesday to broaden their understanding and experience of this special activity in the Christian calendar. The school will be providing all the resources for this assembly but would like to ask if parents/carers could send their child in with an orange on Monday, 16th December – this would really help us with costs and bulk-buying! Nursery children will also be participating in an activity with Christingles in their classrooms and still making them, so please do still send an orange in with them! Children will be bringing home their Christingles at the end of the day on Wednesday, 18th.

Change to Advertised Menu – Thursday, 19th December

To celebrate the end of term, we will be offering Friday's menu choices on Thursday. The meat option will be Salmon Nibbles, the vegetarian option will be Cheese and Tomato Pizza, Jacket Potatoes will still be available for those creatures of habit and there will be an Egg Roll as the chilled option.

Christmas Presents

All the children will come home next Thursday with a small gift from their Class Teacher of a reading book. We hope that your child will enjoy reading it over Christmas, and that it becomes one of their favourite texts to go back and want to read. Thank you to our small army of Santa's elves who have been helping us wrap 300 presents over the last week or so!

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

Easyfundraising

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

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.



From all of the PTA, we wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Thank you for all of your support and we look forward to what next year brings!

What's happening next week at Green Ridge?

16 th	2.30pm Little Ridges Christmas Sing-A-Long 3.15pm PTA Festive Fun Event
17 th	AM – Y4 swimming lesson
18 th	Christmas Lunch
19 th	Jack and the Beanstalk Panto Children finish for end of term

Letters sent home this week

Academy Enrichment Clubs – Spring Term 2020 10 12 19

Governors' Newsletter - Autumn Term 12 12 19

Year Three Sports Event 12 12 19

Year 3 & Year 4 Football Fixture (selected children) 12 12 19

BUCKS SCHOOLWEAR **CHRISTMAS OPENING HOURS**

MONDAY 16TH DECEMBER	9AM – 5PM
TUESDAY 17TH DECEMBER	9AM – 5PM
WEDNESDAY 18TH DECEMBER	9AM – 5PM

**STARTING ON THURSDAY 19TH DECEMBER THROUGH TO
FRIDAY 27TH DECEMBER THE STORE WILL BE CLOSED.**

WE RE-OPEN ON:

SATURDAY 28TH DECEMBER	9AM – 5PM
MONDAY 30TH DECEMBER	9AM – 5PM
TUESDAY 31ST DECEMBER	9AM – 2PM
WEDNESDAY 1ST JANUARY	CLOSED
THURSDAY 2ND JANUARY	9AM – 5PM
FRIDAY 3RD JANUARY	9AM – 5PM
SATURDAY 4TH JANUARY	9AM – 5PM

PLEASE NOTE WE ARE CLOSED ON SUNDAYS.



Merry Christmas

