

# WEEKLY ROUND-UP

Autumn Term 2019

Edition 15

Friday, 10<sup>th</sup> January

## A note from the Headteacher

Welcome back to a brand-new term (and decade!) at Green Ridge; I hope everybody enjoyed their time with families and friends over the festive period and has come back rested, re-charged and ready to go with another action-packed term. We had a wonderful last few days of term before we finished for the Christmas break with our Christingle assembly, Christmas dinner, Christmas pantomime and of course our 'Festive Fun' PTA event. More details about all these later on in the newsletter. On behalf of all the staff, a huge thank you for all our very kind cards, gifts, presents and good wishes on the last few days. We are very appreciative of this – and your generosity is heart-felt!

One of the talking points in and around the school this week has been our library; thankfully, the books have been returned(!) by the book inspectors who took them away temporarily whilst the children wrote persuasive letters to get them back. Not only have our books returned, but a new reading tree-top house has been built in the centre of the library, complete with wigwams and a Harry Potter themed corner, with the aim of stimulating and encouraging the children to come into the library and read. It has had the WOW factor this week, as all the children have wanted to be in the library and take a book and go and read – which is exactly what we had hoped! We will continue to vary themes in the library, showcasing different books and authors each term in a bid to raise awareness and promote a love of reading for all children. Do have a look when you are in school next. Have a lovely weekend!

*A. A. Wanford.*

Mr. Aaron Wanford  
Headteacher



***“The library is amazing and really cool! I want to go and read in it all the time!”***

*Max, Year Two*

### In This Issue

- Pantomime
- Christmas Dinner
- Christingle Assembly
- Sign2Sing
- Year 3 Swimming
- Mystery Readers
- Clubs
- Morning fluency
- Site Safety



# Celebrations and Achievements

## 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:

Friday	Pregnant	Exhaust
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### Cracking Number Bonds

Name	Level
Henley	1
James & Junior	2
Ellie, Grayson, Izzy, Joshua, Kowsik, Lily, Logan & Ruby	3
Alicja, Cairo, Ethan, Harrison, Joshua, Katherine, Kobe, Megan & Oliver	4
Alex, Amelia M, Amelia Y, Ayaan, Ayah, Harry, Kenzie, Myrtle & Oliver	5
Casey, Charlotte, Inaya, Jessica, Kyi-Michal & Lilly	6

### Cracking Times Tables

Name	Level
Pola	3
Aryan	6
Ava	5
Nathan	5
Olly	7
Shannon	22

## Weekly Attendance

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

Birch (YR)	95.6%	Willow (YR)	100.0%
Beech (Y1)	99.2%	Elm (Y1)	95.8%
Oak (Y2)	97.9%	Plane (Y2)	96.7%
Cedar (Y3)	96.7%	Rowan (Y4)	90.8%

## House Points

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

House	Points this week	Total
Disraeli	130	1528
Pratchett	111	1448
Austin	112	1652
Redgrave	119	1568

## Word of the Day

The words we used this week are below; please do ask your child about them as they should be able to tell you what they mean and use them in a sentence.

w/c	KS1	KS2
06/01/20		
Tuesday	Return	Resolution
Wednesday	Chuckle	Indulge
Thursday	Refund	Tradition

# What have we been learning?

## Little Ridges Nursery

Welcome back Little Berries! It is so nice to have everyone back, we hope you have had a lovely Christmas break. Also welcome to our new Little Berries who have settled so well into nursery, well done!

This week we have been learning about 'pets', we have a vets in the home corner which the children have loved; looking after the animals and talking about pets they have at home, what a pet needs and how we look after them. If you have any photos of family pets could you please [email](#) them to the nursery or bring them in next week, thank you in advance. We would like to use them in an activity next week.

Little Berries have also loved the story book 'Where's Spot?' and guessing the animals behind the flaps!

Just a quick reminder, could we ask that all water bottles are named please. Thank you!

Well done Little Berries for a fantastic first week back!

This week in Little Acorns we have started our new topic 'Dinosaur Roar!'. We have been focusing our learning on a stegosaurus learning that they are herbivores, have plates on their back and swing their tails in fights. We have been growing our brains with lots of dinosaur activities including making dinosaurs using the shapes and using cubes to measure some dinosaurs. This has supported Little Acorns with their mathematical skills such as; shape arrangements and counting.

We have extremely enjoyed this first week back and look forward to the upcoming weeks in Spring term!



## Reception

On Tuesday, we received a message to tell us that Berryfields had lost its happiness after the Christmas break! The children have become heroes, creating amazing costumes independently, and they discussed how they could bring the happiness back. They thought of many fantastic ideas such as, telling jokes,



singing songs, smiling lots, picking up litter and making something for the residents. Our Maths topic this week has been mass, the children have used balancing scales to weigh different objects and they look forward to weighing ingredients for a special activity next week!

## Year One

Year One have enjoyed their first week back to school and have got straight into the swing of things. This week in English the children have been drawing a story map for Goldilocks and the Three Bears and learning the actions to go with it; they can very nearly recite the story independently. In Maths they have begun learning about the place value of numbers up to 50 and knowing what those numbers are made up of. Beech and Elm class have also started their Art unit, where they have started to learn about the work of Wassily Kandinsky. What a busy but exciting week!

## Year Two

This week Oak and Plane have been introduced to our new unit of learning, 'Fit for Life'. In Science, we began to look at what we already know about keeping fit and healthy, as well as exploring some of the vocabulary that we will be learning this term. In History, we began to look at what it means to be a historian, as well as starting to look at the work of Florence Nightingale and Mary Seacole.



## Year Three



This week Cedar Class visited The Grange School and attended a Multi-Skills Festival. Some pupils from sixth form taught us

different sports skills. We had lots of fun and worked as a team!

### Year Four



This week Year Four have enjoyed starting our new unit Raiders and Traders and learning about the Anglo-Saxons and Vikings. In the lessons this week we learnt about some of the key dates and events during this period. To help bring the timeline to life, we performed some drama to depict these main events.



# News items from this week

## Jack and the Beanstalk Pantomime



On the last day of term, the whole academy enjoyed a performance of Jack and the Beanstalk by Chaplain's theatre company. The children thoroughly enjoyed this exciting end of term treat, with lots of booing, hissing and shouting 'he's behind you!'. We want to ensure that our children have a wealth of experiences during

their time at Green Ridge and watching live theatre is just one of those things we think all children should encounter before they leave primary school.



The event was funded by the academy and by contributions from the proceeds of the PTA funds raised during the Autumn term – so thank you to everybody who has helped to support our PTA events to allow this event to take place.

We have also booked a whole-school production of 'Treasure Island' for later this term to coincide with World Book Day in March. Watch this space for more details!

## Christmas Dinner

On Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> December, our children had a festive lunch where children were served a Christmas dinner (if they opted for a school lunch). Crackers were pulled, music was played, jokes were read and told and party hats were worn!



We had a fantastic dinner provided to us by our caterers, and a big thank you to our cook Helena, who prepared in excess of 250 Christmas dinners in one go – no easy feat in a matter of hours! Thank you again to our parents/carers for donating the Christmas crackers to us, and to the team at Green Ridge for decorating and preparing the hall so beautifully.



## Christingle Assembly

Rev. Gareth Lane supported Mr. Wanford on the Wednesday before the end of term when a Christingle assembly was held with the children. Thank you to all our parents/carers for sending their child in with an orange. The children spent time on the day of the assembly making their Christingles, and learning about its significance in the Christmas period for Christians. Thanks to Gareth for coming in and helping lead this assembly and bringing his rather large Christingle to help demonstrate how the Christingle is put together and its meaning.



## 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!

### Sign2Sing event

Parents/carers who were at Green Ridge last year may remember that we took part in a Sign2Sing event, where parents/carers attended our performance. We are pleased to announce that we are once again taking part this year.

You may have heard from your child that they are learning sign language at school. This is because we are practising to take part in sign2sing, a fundraising activity organised by the Deaf Health Charity SignHealth, which helps to give Deaf children and adults a brighter, healthier future.

During February, hundreds of schools across the UK are taking part along with businesses, choirs and community groups. We have decided to perform our song during one of our assemblies on w/c 3<sup>rd</sup> February, but due to the sheer volume of parents and children, it is just not possible to invite all parents in to watch. However, we will be performing the song throughout our events for the remainder of this year (such as the YR-Y2 Spring assembly) and during our open-school events. We are suggesting that each child bring a £1 donation on Monday, 3<sup>rd</sup> February to go towards SignHealth.

You will know that we use Makaton widely in the Early Years to support children who are not yet confident at speaking, or learning English, to find their voice and communicate. Sign2Sing is a great way of giving purpose to the teaching of sign language and Makaton, for a great cause and also having lots of fun too.

You can learn the song and signs along with your child and find out more about the event on the sign2sing website: [www.sign2sing.org.uk](http://www.sign2sing.org.uk). We encourage all of the family to take part.

### E-Safety Newsletter – Spring 2020

Herts for Learning have produced their termly e-Safety update for parents and carers, about how to keep your child safe whilst online. Please do take a look at the update [here](#), as it contains some useful information and tips.

### Year Three Swimming Lessons

Just a reminder that for their swimming lessons, your child is **required** to bring the following:

- Swimming costume (one piece swimming costume for girls - not bikini / trunks for boys - not shorts)
- Swimming cap (compulsory)
- Goggles (if your consent has been given)
- Towel
- Named bag to put their wet towel and costume in.

### Mystery Readers

We have set up a Mystery Reader system 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 hope you have all had a chance to see our wonderful new library treehouse kindly built by Fergus' Dad. We still have a few things on our wish list to complete our project, we would be very grateful if anyone could purchase us something off our list which you can find [here](#).

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

### Clubs

We would like to remind you that the deadline for booking clubs for this term is on Sunday, 12<sup>th</sup> January.

### Morning Maths Fluency

Did you know that each morning when the children arrive at school from 8.40am learning begins promptly with a daily fluency activities in Maths? This is a great opportunity for the children to rehearse and consolidate their previous mathematical skills and apply these and become 'fluent' in their application. Please help us to support your children by encouraging them to be on time to school each day, and arriving for 8.40am; whilst we have ten minute window of drop-off (between 8.40-8.50am), we strongly encourage the children to arrive as close to 8.40am as possible so that they can capitalise on the opportunities they have to get started with the learning each morning. If your child arrives at 8.50am each day, over a week that is 50 minutes of lost opportunities to secure their mathematical skills and understanding – so we encourage you and your child to be at school for 8.40am!

### Bike & Scooter Safety

We would like to ask all parents/carers to help encourage the children to take more care when riding bikes/scooters and would like to remind you that children should **not** be on their bikes/scooters when on the premises.

Many thanks for your cooperation with this.

# What's coming up?

## Reception 2020

We would like to remind you that the deadline to apply for your child's reception place is on Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup> January at 3.00pm. This is for children born between 1<sup>st</sup> September 2015 and 31<sup>st</sup> August 2016. You can register and apply [here](#). You will be able to view your offer online on Thursday, 16<sup>th</sup> April.

## Nursery Prospective Parent/Carer Event

We are holding open events for prospective parents/carers and children to come and visit the nursery and meet Mr. Wanford and the team of staff. The events are as follows:

- 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)

To book a place at one of the open events, please email [nursery@greenridgeacademy.co.uk](mailto:nursery@greenridgeacademy.co.uk) or call the school office on 01296 326320.

## Bartlett's Residential Care Home Visits

We would like to say a huge thank you to Laura Nunn who managed to secure us a community grant. This will allow us to cover the transport costs so all classes in KS1 and KS2 will be able to visit the residents at Bartlett's Residential Care Home in Stone. The children will be visiting on the following dates to share some songs and stories with the residents;

Year 4, Rowan – Thursday, 13<sup>th</sup> February

Year 3, Cedar – Friday, 6<sup>th</sup> March

Year 2, Oak – Monday, 23<sup>rd</sup> March

Year 2, Plane – Wednesday, 29<sup>th</sup> April

Year 1, Elm – Wednesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> June

Year 1, Beech – Monday, 15<sup>th</sup> June

We look forward to sharing some of our wonderful Green Ridge children with the residents!

## PTA News

### Festive Fun

Thank you to all our parents, carers and families who came along and supported our Festive Fun event at the end of term. It was a great success, and we would like to thank all those parents/carers who gave up their time setting up and clearing away, and for all those who came along and spent some money to help us raise our funds! Father Christmas was a big hit, as was the bottle tombola as always! We are still counting up how much we raised and will let you know as soon as we can.

## What's happening next week at Green Ridge?

13 <sup>th</sup>	
14 <sup>th</sup>	AM – Y3 swimming lesson 9.00am PTA Meeting
15 <sup>th</sup>	
16 <sup>th</sup>	
17 <sup>th</sup>	

## Letters sent home this week

Year Three Swimming Lessons - Update 07 01 20

Year Four Sports Event 09 01 20





# Not just a Quiz Night

**7.30 pm Friday  
7th February 2020**

**£10 per person (includes fish & chip dinner)**

**Teams of up to 6.**

**Cash bar**

**Green Ridge Primary Academy, President Road**

**Go to [www.pta-events.co.uk/greenridgepta](http://www.pta-events.co.uk/greenridgepta)  
for tickets**