



President Road | Aylesbury | Buckinghamshire | HP18 0YA  
Tel: 01296 326320 | e-mail: [admin@greenridgeacademy.co.uk](mailto:admin@greenridgeacademy.co.uk)  
Website: [www.greenridgeacademy.co.uk](http://www.greenridgeacademy.co.uk) | Twitter: @GreenRidgeR2

Headteacher: Mr. Aaron Wanford MA, B.Ed. (Hons), NPQH

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Friday, 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2020

### Weekly Round-Up – Edition #26

Dear Parents and Carers,

It seems so strange to write an end-of-term newsletter like this; normally, the end of any term is a hive of activity, and today would have been no different with our Easter bonnet parade and egg-rolling competitions. I am sure you will agree the last few weeks have been quite surreal for us all, and I know that you will have been doing all you can to keep some degree of routine and normality at home during this time. I want to thank you all for all you are doing to keep our children safe at home and supporting them with whatever learning or activities you can; as I have said before, I know this is no easy task, and takes a great deal of patience, time and energy. Whilst we are no closer to knowing quite how or when the schools across the country will re-open, we are beginning to put more formal systems in place to keep in touch with the children and set them different types of activities and home learning. More detail regarding this later in the newsletter. Please know that our staff would, like yourselves and the children, like to be back in school doing what they do best – and I know they are itching to get back to normal!

#### You Tube Channel and Home Learning Challenges

After much discussion with the staff over the last two weeks, we wanted to ensure that we continue to provide activities and learning for the children whilst at home, but also know that parents/carers may not be able to spend all day, every day completing worksheets and books (and neither do the children want to do this either!). We know the more practical and meaningful we make the tasks, the better for all concerned. With this in mind, we have decided to do something a bit different...

Children in Nursery and Reception will continue to receive daily Tapestry challenges and activities directly from the school staff. In Nursery, one new activity/challenge will be uploaded each day, and in Reception, two activities/challenges will be uploaded each day for the children to complete, if they can. Please continue to upload the children's pictures/videos as you can if they have completed them.

For children in Year One, Two, Three and Four, teachers are going to post a video twice a week on YouTube for you to access, setting a series of challenges/activities which will last until the next video is posted. The video is only going to be about five minutes long, and will give each of the children a chance to see their teacher(s), as well as find out what they can do to keep their learning up in a practical way over the coming days. We hope that this will really engage the children and be something that they will look forward to receiving and watching.

The videos will be posted onto YouTube typically each Monday and Thursday morning at 9.00am. The only exception to this is that because of the planned INSET day after the Easter

holidays, the first video will be posted on Tuesday, 21<sup>st</sup> April, and then on Thursday etc. Each video is year-group specific.

Alongside these videos, I will also be posting some assemblies for the children to watch as well; this should help give the children a routine and keep the school community together and provide some continuity and assurance for everybody. I have today posted a little end of term assembly which you can find by clicking [here](#). To go to the channels for the class playlists, you can click [here](#). Please share with your children if you can; I intend to upload a few of these each week like the teachers for the children to watch. I might even set them some challenges myself!

### Year-group e-mail accounts

Whilst children in Nursery and Reception can upload any pictures or videos via Tapestry, this isn't available for children in Year One upwards. As such, we've created year-group e-mail accounts so that if you want and are able to, you can send us any photos, videos or messages from the children for staff to see. We hope that this will give purpose for the children in what activities and challenges they complete, and it will also provide recognition of what they are doing as well. For parents/carers, we also hope that it might be easier for you as parents/carers to say that their class teacher has asked them to do something, rather than yourselves!

The e-mail addresses are as follows:

- [Year1@greenridgeacademy.co.uk](mailto:Year1@greenridgeacademy.co.uk)
- [Year2@greenridgeacademy.co.uk](mailto:Year2@greenridgeacademy.co.uk)
- [Year3@greenridgeacademy.co.uk](mailto:Year3@greenridgeacademy.co.uk)
- [Year4@greenridgeacademy.co.uk](mailto:Year4@greenridgeacademy.co.uk)

The year-group e-mail accounts will not be monitored each day, and so you will receive an automated e-mail to acknowledge safe receipt of anything you send in. Please note, you are not required to send anything in, this is only if you want to and/or the children want to show what they have done.

Due to the sheer volume of e-mails that we may receive with all the challenges set, I have said to staff that there is no expectation that they will respond to each e-mail from you with the children's learning – this would be a job on its own! However, where staff can and are able to reply to e-mails, they will do so. Please note – I ask that you do not use these e-mail addresses for asking direct questions about your child or their learning; whilst the e-mails are secure in school, they are accessed by multiple staff and so if there is anything specific, then please e-mail [admin@greenridgeacademy.co.uk](mailto:admin@greenridgeacademy.co.uk) to ensure your e-mail is directed to the right member of staff to deal with. I will ask staff not to respond to individual parent/carer questions from the year-group e-mail accounts for this reason. Thank you for your support with this.

### Online Reading Books

If you wanted a few more options for books you can read at home, then you can register with Oxford Reading Tree to gain access to their free e-books. Follow the link [here](#) to set up a free account. Enjoy!

### Using the Internet

The last few weeks has confirmed for us all how much we rely on technology and the internet, especially the children. We recognise that children will be having more and more access to the internet over the coming weeks and months, depending on the length of time that schools are closed. One of our concerns is the safety of children whilst online – particularly for those children in Key Stage Two, who may be left to use devices without supervision. I've put some links here which I think might be useful to look at for how you can continue to keep your child safe online whilst at home during this time.

- [Internet matters](#) - for support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online
- [London Grid for Learning](#) - for support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online
- [Net-aware](#) - for support for parents and careers from the NSPCC

- [Parent info](#) - for support for parents and carers to keep their children safe online
- [Thinkuknow](#) - for advice from the National Crime Agency to stay safe online
- [UK Safer Internet Centre](#) - advice for parents and carers

### Advice and Support for Families

This is a testing time for us all, with schools closed and normal life halted. It has affected us all in different ways, whether this be our employment, financial circumstances, mental health or isolation. There is a wealth of support out there which I wanted to signpost you to, and so on the last page of this newsletter, you will find a list of charities and services which everybody can access. Another key source of information and links is the Buckinghamshire Family Information Service (BFIS) and their website is [here](#).

A really useful document I wanted to signpost everybody too is found [here](#), and this is about looking after yourself and your children during the COVID-19 outbreak, with ideas and resources to use for adults and for children. It is well worth a look.

Please remember, if you are experiencing any difficulties during this time and want to talk to us and see if we can help in anyway, please contact Mrs. Cavanagh in the first instance, our Education, Welfare and Pastoral Support lead. You can drop her an e-mail via [admin@greenridgeacademy.co.uk](mailto:admin@greenridgeacademy.co.uk) or call us on 01296 326320.

### PE Lessons – A message from Miss. Lazarou

At Green Ridge, for PE, we follow and adapt a scheme of work from 'Primary PE Planning' that develops and embeds the children's physical skills. They are providing a mini series of PE lessons that pupils can complete at home with parents or carers which encourages the children to stay active and keep fit whilst at home. Please follow the link [here](#).

On this page you will find some challenges (Pirate Adventure for Early Years & KS1, Baby Shark, KS1 Weekly Challenge and KS2 Weekly Challenge) to click on. There are some videos to help support the children complete the sessions too. They have also explained that there will be Home PE Olympics, a free to enter competition for KS2 pupils – you can keep checking the page for updates!

### Can't Stop the Feeling

Over the course of this week, schools all over Aylesbury have been learning the 'Can't Stop the Feeling' song, for those children who have been in school for childcare. It was performed today at 11am outside, across many schools and we thought we would share these links with you in case you wanted to have a look and do some practice at home with the signing actions too!

- Lesson 1 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JQAigLTPUWY>
- Lesson 2 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=252yF1OkhWw>
- Lesson 3 [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-mZ0\\_4Qlduw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-mZ0_4Qlduw)
- Lesson 4 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wbkplPj16dg>
- Lesson 5 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J3iAr9f1fDE>

### Free School Meal eligible pupils

For those families who are eligible for Free School Meals, you should have received an e-mail from the school yesterday with more information about the arrangements for food vouchers available after the Easter holidays. If you did not receive this and think that you should have, please contact [admin@greenridgeacademy.co.uk](mailto:admin@greenridgeacademy.co.uk)

Finally, I just wanted to say that although we are open over the Easter break for childcare for those key worker children (but not Good Friday or Bank Holiday Monday), our staff are also going to try and take some bit of a break too. Each of the staff has been working tirelessly behind the scenes on all sorts of work over the last few weeks, and I am very proud to lead such a dedicated team who has been almost 'on-call' each day for the last two weeks, to establish our new 'normal' and respond to anything that has arisen. I want to thank them in advance as well for playing their part in 'saving lives' by coming into work and providing the childcare, when they have their own

children and families at home to look after. I am very grateful for their support and know they do what they do for the children we care for.

Enjoy the Easter break, however you can, and I will provide another newsletter after the break.

With very best wishes,



Mr. Aaron Wanford  
Headteacher

## Advice and Support Available for Families in Bucks



REACH2 Academy Trust is a charitable company limited by guarantee in England and Wales, Company number 08452281  
Registered office Address: Henhurst Ridge Primary Academy  
Henhurst Ridge, Branston, Burton Upon Trent, Staffordshire, DE13 9TQ  
Tel: 01283 246433 Web: [www.reach2.org](http://www.reach2.org) Twitter: @reach2trust [info@reach2.org](mailto:info@reach2.org) VAT Number: 220 8862 15

## **All areas**

### Bucks Family Information Service

<https://www.bucksfamilyinfo.org/kb5/buckinghamshire/fsd/advice.page?id=TORPT0o3REc>

### Food Bank Vouchers and Referrals

- Speak to your Children's Centre, Health Visitor or Social Worker or
- Speak to [your local Citizens Advice Bureau](#)

Free government food vouchers are provided by the council. This is part of the Emergency Support Scheme. The government will provide up to a few days of free groceries, hot meals, tinned or canned goods, and fresh food too. The help is for families on a low income or benefits, and find more details on [Buckinghamshire Emergency Support Scheme](#).

### Fare Share

Food donations from Tring road Tesco in Aylesbury, Loudwater Tesco, Wycombe and Eden Tesco

<http://fareshare.org.uk/>

### Buckinghamshire Disability Service

<https://buds.org.uk/if-you-are-in-crisis-and-need-emergency-food/>

### Transforming Lives for Good – Make Lunch

<https://www.tlg.org.uk/>

### Trussell Trust

The Trussell Trust's 400-strong network of food banks provides a minimum of three days' emergency food and support to people experiencing crisis in the UK.

[Trussell Trust](#)

### Connection Support

<https://www.connectionsupport.org.uk/>

01296 484322

### Salvation Army

<https://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/homelessness>

### Olio Food Sharing

<https://olioex.com/>

### Joseph Rowntree Foundation

<https://www.jrf.org.uk/>

### Family Lives

<https://www.familylives.org.uk/>

## **Aylesbury & the North**

Aylesbury Vineyard - Make Lunch, Storehouse clothing and furniture & foodbank

<https://aylesburyvineyard.church/>

Aylesbury Foodbank

<https://aylesbury.foodbank.org.uk/>

Wendover Free Church

<http://www.wendoverfreechurch.org.uk/>

Milton Keynes Foodbank

<http://mkfoodbank.org.uk/about-the-food-bank/>

Buckingham Parish Church

[https://www.bpchurch.uk/Groups/149163/Buckingham\\_Parish\\_Church/Church\\_Life/Community/Community.aspx](https://www.bpchurch.uk/Groups/149163/Buckingham_Parish_Church/Church_Life/Community/Community.aspx)

St Peter & St Paul's Church, Buckingham

Provides food for those in need living north of Winslow

[https://www.buckinghamparishchurch.org.uk/Groups/237838/Buckingham\\_Parish\\_Church/Church\\_Life/Community/Buckingham\\_Food\\_Bank/Buckingham\\_Food\\_Bank.aspx](https://www.buckinghamparishchurch.org.uk/Groups/237838/Buckingham_Parish_Church/Church_Life/Community/Buckingham_Food_Bank/Buckingham_Food_Bank.aspx)

Thomas Hickman's Charity

14 Bourbon Street , Aylesbury, HP20 2RS

01296 318500

Offers small grants to Aylesbury Town residents in need; applications can be made by families to cover expenses such as uniform, school shoes etc. There is a form available from the charity and schools can help parents complete the form if necessary.

Youth Concern will only help young people under the age of 25 with a connection to Buckinghamshire. They will be provided with a hot meal as well as shelter and advice. The charity has a post of Whitehill Lane, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, HP19 8FL, call 01296 431183.

Aylesbury Homeless Action Group

<http://www.ahag.org.uk/>

01296 435026