GREEN RIDGE
PRIMARY ACADEMY

WEEKLY ROUND-UP

Autumn Term 2020 | **Edition 8** | **Friday, 23rd October**

A note from the Deputy Headteacher

Hello to all parents/carers and welcome to this weeks' newsletter! This has been quite a different term, from changes within the curriculum to support children with their gaps in learning to modifications to our timetable to ensure social distancing takes place. With this in mind, I wanted to start by saying a big thank you to all of the parents/carers for their support and understanding during this half term as this has really helped us move forward in spite of any restrictions or changes we have had to put in place due to COVID.

This week has been an excellent opportunity for parents and carers to get in contact with their class teachers to discuss the progress their child has made during the Pupil Learning Reviews. Although we were not able to meet face to face this time, I hope it has allowed you the opportunity to discuss how your child has settled into school and the learning that has taken place this half term. Many of the teachers have discussed how supportive the parents/carers have been during these conversations so thank you to everyone who was able to take part.

I also had the pleasure of meeting with some members of the PTA during a committee meeting on Tuesday. The PTA have been particularly busy over the past few weeks with the cinema event and the uniform sale. The cinema event went really well, and I saw a very large queue for the uniform sale too! The PTA continue to work tirelessly during these times and their support to the school is very much appreciated, alongside the excellent opportunities and experiences they provide for the children.

As this half term draws to a close I wish all of you a relaxing, safe and enjoyable half term and I look forward to seeing you all in Autumn Two!

Mr. Sean English
Deputy Headteacher

(ABOVE) Thank you all so much for your kindness and generosity. We received an incredible amount of Harvest Festival donations for the Aylesbury Foodbank!

"Green Ridge has an incredibly positive 'can do' approach to learning. It has high expectations and the positive encouragement certainly makes the children strive to achieve. Praise, acknowledgment of achievement and progress is fantastic and enables the children to be challenged further.

In addition, the communication and inclusion of parent/carer views from the school has been incredible."

More fantastic feedback from the parent/carer end of year survey

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REAch2 ACADEMY TRUST

Celebrations and Achievements

Achievement & Progress Certificates

Each week we celebrate a variety of achievements from 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. Well done to following people for being awarded with achievement and progress certificates this week!

	Certificate of Achievement	*For...*
Birch (YR)	Sophia	approaching everything with positivity and determination.
Willow (YR)	Ana	such an outstanding attitude to learning both inside and outside of school.
Beech (Y1)	Jacob	learning action to our 'Five Cheeky Monkey's' Poem.
Elm (Y1)	Jenna	articulating her ideas so expertly in class.
Oak (Y2)	Joseph	making great choices this week.
Plane (Y2)	Lissy	demonstrating amazing resilience during Maths this week.
Alder (Y3)	Raisha	excellent Maths reasoning during our unit on addition.
Cedar (Y3)	Arthur	a fantastic limerick poem this week.
Rowan (Y4)	Ivy-Grace	always having a positive and resilient attitude to her learning.
Maple (Y5)	Jake	being methodically accurate in all of his Maths work.

	Certificate of Progress	*For...*
Birch (YR)	Arlo	using all of the skills he has learned to help him read his new books.
Willow (YR)	Francis	fantastic progress with his reading, we were blown away.
Beech (Y1)	Andre	for his great progress and using his phonics to help with his writing.
Elm (Y1)	Mya	for her excellent progress in writing!
Oak (Y2)	Liam	his progress in his reading fluency and hard work in phonics.
Plane (Y2)	Talha	a huge improvement in his presentation and handwriting this week.
Alder (Y3)	Harry	great progress in his comprehension during reading skills sessions.
Cedar (Y3)	Kenzie	a huge improvement in his effort and independence throughout the school day.
Rowan (Y4)	Harry	a great improvement in his effort and concentration in lesson time.
Maple (Y5)	Zack	his progress in forming full sentences.

PAP Stars

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

Beech (Y1)	Lexi	Elm (Y1)	Robin
Oak (Y2)	Kiera	Plane (Y2)	Megan
Alder (Y3)	Alfie	Cedar (Y3)	Luciana
Rowan (Y4)	Seshan	Maple (Y5)	Keira

Times Tables Rockstar Awards

Every fortnight, teachers award two certificates per class. One is awarded to the 'Quickest Rockstar' based on how much their speed of recall has improved over the two-week period. The other is awarded to the 'Hardest Working Rockstar' based on a variety of factors, such as number of coins earned, number of questions answered and the number of levels they've progressed through.

	Quickest Rockstar	*Hardest Working Rockstar*
Alder (Y3)	Niamh	Zian
Cedar (Y3)	Jessie	Billy
Rowan (Y4)	Talha	Jasper

Weekly Attendance

Well done to Oak & Alder class for the best attendance this week!

Birch (YR)	95.6%	Willow (YR)	97.3%
Beech (Y1)	99.0%	Elm (Y1)	96.1%
Oak (Y2)	100.0&	Plane (Y2)	99.7%
Alder (Y3)	100.0%	Cedar (Y3)	96.7%
Rowan (Y4)	97.3%	Maple (Y5)	98.1%

House Points

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

House	*Points this week*	*Total*
Disraeli	341	1460
Pratchett	290	1406
Austin	310	1435
Redgrave	331	1450

What have we been learning this week?

Little Ridges Nursery

This week we have been enjoying all of the children's favourite activities from over the last few weeks. They especially liked painting with utensils and practicing our movement to music and they are doing incredibly well with phonics phase 1 aspect 2. The Little Berries have loved exploring pumpkins, scooping out the middle and enjoying lots of messy play and they practiced their fine motor skills by cutting spaghetti which they really enjoyed. Well done Berries for a fantastic start to the school year, we are incredibly proud of them all and thank you for all your support!

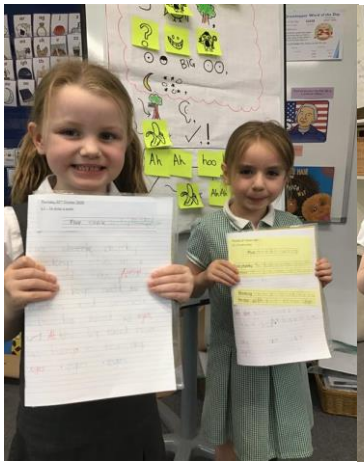
Little Acorns have had a great final week of the term! The children have been exploring pumpkins using their senses and they have used different utensils to mix the inside of a pumpkin and to create 'potions'. During the week, the children have counted the conkers and they had a challenge to try to pick up the conkers using tweezers. We are looking forward to changing the classroom around and starting our new topic of 'Rhymes and Stories' next term!

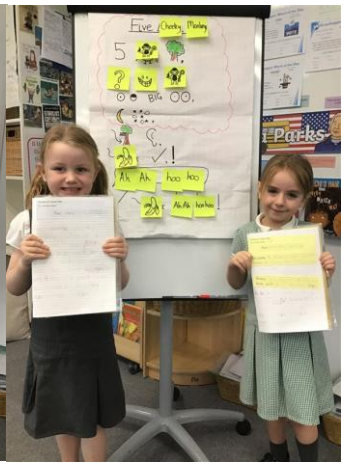
Reception

Wow, we cannot believe how fast this half term has gone. We are so very proud of how well Reception have settled into life at Green Ridge and have been blown away by the progress they have made already. This week we have finished learning 'Dinosaurs Love Underpants,' through Talk 4 Writing and have been thinking about how to compliment our friends and family, remind the children at home to give you some compliments too! Have a restful half term and we will look forward to seeing all of the children back for our next topic, 'Helping Hands.' Thank you all for your support this half term.

Year One

Year One have had a brilliant final week before half term. In English this week we have been looking into poetry. We performed the 'Five Little Owls' poem using actions and then we created a text map for it using pictures. We innovated this text map and created our own poem called the 'Five Cheeky Monkeys'. The children all wrote the poem out beautifully in their English books! In Maths we have been consolidating our knowledge on number bonds and addition facts and have been practising using the squares in our maths books to write neatly. In History this week, we looked into how teddy bears came about and the links to America. In Science we took an Autumn walk to begin looking into seasonal changes. We set up a rain collector and a wind device to tell us which way the wind is blowing. It was very exciting! We hope all of Year One have a very restful half term!





Year Two

Year 2 have had a very busy but fantastic last week of the half term. In English, we have been learning all about poetry. On Monday, we worked in groups to recite and perform a poem called 'The Nut Tree'. We have explored a range of poems about nature and discussed the features. To help us write our own nature poem using our senses, we went on a nature walk around the school grounds to identify what we could smell, feel, see and hear. Finally, we wrote our fantastic poems about nature.

Year Three

Year 4 enjoyed continuing their learning on addition and subtraction this week. They have been using lots of concrete resources to help develop their understanding of this area and to ensure that we understand how to regroup numbers.

Year Four

Over the course of the first half term Rowan Class have been working hard towards a collective 'Lego House' goal and this week completed it – you can see a picture of it below. Year 4 have also really enjoyed practising their leadership skills (non-verbal directions and instructions) in PE and are very excited for swimming to begin after half term!

Year Five

This week, Year 5 have continued to look at their new model text, a non-fiction report about aliens! We have innovated on our model text by thinking about aliens' appearance, diet and habitats. In Science, we've investigated how craters on the moon might have been formed. We've also had our second workshop helping us to become eSafety ambassadors for the school.

News items from this week

Christmas Arrangements

On Tuesday you will have received a letter regarding Christmas arrangements for this year. We asked for parents/carers to complete a short survey by Monday, 26th October to give everyone the opportunity to share their thoughts regarding Christmas festivities this year. Please do take the time to complete the survey if you haven't already done so. The survey can be found here.

Parent Forum

We still have vacant spaces for Little Berries, Birch, Cedar and Maple. If you would like to put your name forward, please email Mrs. Curtis-Cross in the school office.

Just a reminder that the next Parent Forum meeting takes place on Monday, 30th November at 1.30pm via Zoom.

Polite Reminder...

Can we please remind you to continue to be cautious and considerate when parking. We find that particularly on rainy days some people park their cars on Crispin Street as our car park is full. This makes it extremely difficult and dangerous for our families to cross the road safely. As always we encourage to walk, scoot or cycle whatever the weather! Thank you for your cooperation.

PTA Non-uniform Day & Spina Bifida Awareness Day

We are pleased to share that we raised an amazing £385.25 for our PTA and for Shine Charity. Thank you for your donations and to those who chose to wear an item of clothing back to front to raise awareness for the condition.

Bucks Schoolwear Plus

We are pleased to inform you that some of the prices of our uniform have been reduced. Please find the latest price list below.

Jumper £21
Cardigan £22
PE T-Shirt £6.25
Fleece £17.00
Mistral Jacket £25
Bookbag £9
PE Bag £7
Legionnaire's Cap £6
Elastic Tie £4.50
Junior Tie £5.50

Social Distancing

We have been asked to share the below message on behalf of Children Services, Buckinghamshire Council.

We would like to thank you all for working with schools across Buckinghamshire to support the return for pupils. We know that all of you are keen to ensure that schools and pupil 'bubbles' remain open and there is a reduced need for pupils to self-isolate. We currently have over a thousand children within the county who are required to stay at home, and like you we are keen to minimise the impact on pupils and families wherever possible.

You can help with this through ensuring that government guidance is applied in your own lives, and especially when you are at or near your child's school site. Please make sure that you maintain appropriate social distances (2 metres/three paces apart) whilst collecting and dropping off your children and that you maintain hand hygiene before and after touching playground gates etc.

These simple actions, as well as wearing masks if you need to go inside at any time, will help your child's school to remain open and that children do not have to isolate at home unnecessarily. This message is endorsed by Children's Services and Public Health at Buckinghamshire Council as well as primary, secondary and special school head teachers.

Love of Reading

As things are a bit different at the moment with children being unable to bring home as many books as they have previously I have found some great online resources which you can share with your child to promote a love of reading;
https://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/have-some-fun/storybooks-and-games/
Stories to listen to or read along to mainly aimed at KS1

https://www.freechildrenstories.com/
Aimed at the whole primary phase

https://www.readanybook.com/genre/children-10
There are several free E-books on this site aimed at upper KS2

Enjoy!
Mrs. Mackie ☺

Plea from Reception

After half-term we will be learning all about teeth and oral hygiene. If anyone has a pair of false teeth they no longer need please can you send them in to Mrs. Mackie. Also if any parent/carer is a dentist or oral hygienist and can source us any resources that would be fantastic. Thank you.

WOW Travel Tracker

It's great that we were able to award 256 badges for active travel this morning! All classes have engaged

with the travel tracker well and we look forward to seeing how many more badges we can award throughout the year. Every month, we will see which class has been most 'active'. For October:

1st - Elm 91%
2nd - Beech 87%
3rd - Willow 84%

Thank you to all the parents/carers for supporting this initiative to continue to improve sustainable travel to school.

Berryfields Foodbank

Berryfields Foodbank is open on Thursday afternoons from 2.00-3:30pm in Esquires Coffee Shop at the front of the development. If you feel you are in financial need, you are welcome to visit to receive a food box for your family which should last you a few days. Food and toiletry donations are always welcome. Powdered milk, long life fruit juice, tinned tomatoes, tea, table sauces and toothpaste are always most needed. Please leave your donations just inside of the Esquires entrance on the RHS in box. Should you need to contact them, you can do so via email.

Prospective Parent/Carer Information Video – Reception 2021 Intake

Unfortunately due to COVID restrictions we are unable to hold prospective open events this year. This would normally be a time for prospective parents/carers and children to come and visit the school and meet Mr. Wanford and the team of staff. As we cannot hold the events as we usually would, Mr. Wanford has prepared an information video which is now available to view on our YouTube channel here.

The video will give you an opportunity to become familiar with the layout of the school, our vision and ethos, and helpful information to those parents and carers who are considering applying for a place for their child here at Green Ridge.

Applications open on 2nd November and close at 3.00pm on 15th January. National offer day is on 16th April and the deadline for accepting is on 30th April.

What's coming up?

The Royal British Legion Poppy Merchandise

The Royal British Legion have provided us with poppies to sell and also a range of other small merchandise for parents/carers and children to purchase in aid of donation to their charity. The poppies and merchandise will be available to buy at the main school gate from Mr. Morris every morning and afternoon from Monday, 19th October up until Friday, 6th November. There is a suggested donation amount for some or the merchandise, but poppies are for any donation which you would like to give. Please respect our COVID restrictions that we have in place and ensure that you are wearing appropriate PPE and have sanitised your hands. Thank you for your cooperation.

Merchandise items:

Zip pull	50p
Reflector	50p
Silicon wristband	£1.00
Snap band	£1.50
Poppy	Donation

PTA News

PTA Meeting Minutes

Please find the minutes from the PTA meeting held on Tuesday, 20th October here.

PTA Second Hand Uniform Sale

While we have still to count the total amount raised yesterday it was a great turn out so thank you to those that were able to come along. Once we have been able to complete an inventory we will be selling the remaining items that we have online, further details to follow. We will also will be selling the little bags of hair bands and clips on our PTA Events website. Please follow this link if you wish to purchase. Please do continue to keep donating any unwanted uniform. We have demand for certain sizes and particularly for jumpers! Thank you ☺

Christmas Raffle

This year for the first time we are holding a Christmas Raffle instead of the usual Festive Fun event. If there are any businesses that would like to donate to this and feature on the raffle tickets please get in touch via email.

Pumpkin Carving & Decorating Competition

Make sure that you send in your entry by Monday, 2nd November to be in with a chance of winning the £50 voucher in your category. We can't wait to see what you create! Entry is £3.00 and you can register to take part and find our full T&C here.

What's happening in the first week back at Green Ridge?

2nd	Children return to school
3rd	AM – Y4 swimming lesson
4th	
5th	
6th	

Letters sent home this week

Christmas Arrangements - 20 10 20
Admission to Reception Year in September 2021 22 10 20

Green Ridge PTA
presents
Berryfields
PUMPKIN
CARVING
Contest
A carving & decorating competition.
Win a £50 voucher.
3 age categories.
£3 per entry on
www.pta-events.co.uk/greenridgepta
Please see registration details on
www.pta-events.co.uk/greenridgepta and for full T&Cs.
Closing date for entry is
Sunday 1st November 2020.