

A group of children in school uniforms are playing outdoors on a green field. They are holding a large, colorful rainbow parachute over their heads and have their arms raised in the air, smiling and jumping. The scene is bright and cheerful, suggesting a school activity or assembly.

Prospective Parent Information Session Starting School September 2026

Green Ridge Primary Academy

- Opened in September 2017
- Three form-entry consisting of three classes of 30 children per year group
- Little Ridges Nursery made up of one two-three year old room and two pre-school rooms (three-four year olds)
- Approaching 70 members of staff
- Facilities:
 - Design Technology (DT) room
 - Dance Studio
 - Two Multi Use Games Areas (MUGA)
 - Multiple outdoor play areas
 - Library
 - The Hive – A safe space for pastoral support along with ELSA interventions and drawing and talking
 - The Nest – Sensory breakout room
 - The Burrow – Specialised room for targeted interventions
 - Forest School – New for 2026!



REAch2

About the Trust

REAch2 Academy Trust was founded in 2012 and is the largest primary-only multi-academy trust (MAT) in the country. They currently support 62 primary academies across England, all of whom share the mission to provide the best possible education for young people.

Touchstones

REAch2 forms the strong, responsible, foundation from which every school develops, grows, and flourishes. Staff are committed to maintaining a culture inspired by touchstones: seven principles which inspire our provision and ensure REAch2 academies are unique. The touchstones are as follows:

- Learning
- Leadership
- Employment
- Responsibility
- Inspiration
- Inclusion
- Integrity

Further information about REAch2 can be found by following this [link](#), and a video from the CEO, Cathie Paine, can be found by following this [link](#).



What does a day look like in Reception?

Morning

- **Busy Fingers** - A fine motor skills session where children engage in hands-on activities like threading, playdough, or tweezers to strengthen finger muscles, preparing them for writing.
- **Welcome and Morning Routine** - A calm and structured start to the day, enabling them to settle into the environment. This may include singing a welcome song, reviewing the day's plan, and discussing feelings.
- **Phonics (Teaching of Reading and Writing)** - A focused session using our systematic phonics programme, Little Wandle, to teach sound recognition, blending, segmenting, and early writing skills.
- **Carpet Time – Literacy or Topic Based** - A whole-class teaching session that introduces a literacy focus (e.g. story, vocabulary, sentence structure) or a topic (e.g. seasons, animals, celebrations) through discussion, storytelling, or interactive activities.
- **Snack and Chat Time – Focused Talking** - A social time where children enjoy a healthy snack while engaging in structured conversation. Staff model language, ask open-ended questions, and encourage turn-taking and listening.
- **Adventure Time** - Children choose their own activities across indoor and outdoor provision. Staff observe, support, and extend learning through play, following children's interests and developmental needs.
- **Carpet Time – Maths Based** - A whole-class session focused on early maths concepts such as counting, number recognition, shape, pattern, or problem-solving, often using songs, games, and practical resources.

What does a day look like in Reception?

Afternoon

- **Dough Disco** - A fun, music-led activity using playdough to develop fine motor strength and coordination. Children follow movements like squeezing, rolling, and pinching to music which is great for pre-writing skills.
- **Adventure Time** - Continued opportunities for children to explore and learn through play, both indoors and outdoors, with staff support and observation.
- **Helicopter Stories/Poetry Basket/Story-Time:**
 - Helicopter Stories: Children dictate their own stories to a member of staff, which are then acted out by the group, boosting creativity, language, and confidence.
 - Poetry Basket: A structured approach to learning and reciting poems through repetition, rhythm, and actions.
 - Story-Time: A calming end-of-day session where children listen to a story, fostering a love of reading and language.

Trips, Visits and 11 Before 11

Trips and Visits

Our school curriculum is enriched by off-site educational visits, workshops and visitors to the school, all of which enable us to bring the curriculum alive for the children.

11 Before 11

Alongside trips and visits we also have developed a set of '11 Before 11' promises, to empower our children to take the driving seat in their own lives in a fun and inspiring way. All children starting with us in Early Years will have the opportunity to complete 11 promises by the end of Year Six, including:

- Kayaking on a local lake
- Riding a horse in the stables nearby
- Camping out and stargazing on our field overnight!

Enrichment Clubs

- There are a wide range of enrichment clubs on offer for all children, which vary each term. Examples as follows:
 - Football
 - Drama
 - Creative Crafts
 - Coding/VR Headsets
 - Gymnastics
- Clubs are chargeable, to which the cost per session will be confirmed before the booking window opens.
- Clubs run from the end of the school day up until 4.15pm.

Wrap Around Care – Busy Living

- Busy Living is our chosen wrap around care provider, and they offer their services daily from 7.30am up until the beginning of the school day, and again from the end of the school day up until 6.00pm.
- Bookings are to be made via their website where you are required to create an account, and bookings can be made up until 8.00pm the night before.
- They also run a holiday club during the October, February and May half terms, the Easter holidays, as well as the first four weeks of the summer holidays.

Further information about Busy Living can be found by following this [link](#).

Parental Engagement

We pride ourselves on collaborating with parents/carers by working closely and inviting them in throughout the course of the year. Such events include:

- **Early Years Let's Learn Together Workshops** - These have been designed to build parents/carers knowledge and confidence when supporting children at home across different areas of development.
- **Pupil Learning Reviews** - Parents/carers are invited to meet with their child's class teacher twice during the year, in the Autumn and Spring terms. This serves as an opportunity to discuss your child's progress and achievements.
- **Library Sessions** – To celebrate our love of reading, parents/carers are invited to come in and enjoy a library session with their child.
- **Stay and Learn** – Parent/Carers are invited into the classrooms to be part of a lesson, usually linked to a certain topic.
- **Book Looks** – Parents/Carers have the opportunity to visit their child's classroom to look at their work.
- **Seasonal Celebrations** – Parents/Carers are able to attend various assemblies/performance throughout the year dependant on what their year group is leading, such as, Harvest, Christmas and Spring.

OPAL (Key Stage One Onwards)

- Green Ridge has introduced the Outdoor Play and Learning (OPAL) primary programme to improve opportunities for physical activity, socialisation, cooperation, coordination, resilience, creativity, imagination and enjoyment through improved play.
- OPAL is based on the idea that, as well as learning through good teaching, your children also learn when they play. As 20% of their time in school is playtime, we want to make sure that this amount of time (equivalent to 1.4 years of primary school) is as good as possible.
- One reason the school is carrying out this programme is that childhood has changed, and many children no longer get their play needs met out of school.
 - Average screen time per day is six hours.
 - Average outdoor play time per week is five hours.
 - Percentage of UK children who only play outdoors with other children at school is 56%.
- There are many proven benefits for schools that carry out the OPAL Primary Programme. They usually include: more enjoyment of school, less teaching time lost to disputes between children, fewer accidents and greatly improved behaviour.
- Play is not messing about. It is the process evolution has come up with to enable children to learn all of the things that cannot be taught, while also having so much fun. There are certain things children must have in order to be able to play. These include:
 - Having clothes that they can play in.
 - Having things to play with.
 - Having a certain amount of freedom.

Further information about OPAL can be found by following this [link](#).



Thrive

- Thrive is a therapeutic approach to help support children with their emotional and social development. The Thrive approach offers practical strategies and techniques and is built around online assessments which identify children's emotional development and provides action plans for their individual needs.
- Research has shown that how we behave is linked to how we feel and our emotions are linked to how we learn. By teaching children to recognise and notice these feelings and emotions it can help with their development and learning.
- Children sometimes need some extra support with their emotional growth and this can be temporary or over a longer period of time.
- Thrive promotes their emotional and social growth by building positive relationships between a child and their peers and helps them explore and understand their feelings through various activities.

Further information about Thrive can be found by following this [link](#).



School Dog

We are privileged to have our very own school dog named Barney who is a Cavapoo, and as such has a non-shedding hypoallergenic coat, meaning it is highly unlikely anyone will be allergic to him because he does not shed his fur. The breed is also renowned for their sweet nature, intelligence and love of children, and Barney has undertaken training as a 'PAWS Therapy' dog, meaning that he has been assessed as being healthy and of the right temperament to work with young children.



Evidence indicates that there are many benefits to having a school dog, these include helping to calm children down, improve academic achievement, motivate those children who are often not that attentive, teach responsibility and encourage children to respect all life.

We want to assure you that a full risk assessment has been carried out, and all contact with children is carefully planned, and children will not be left unsupervised with Barney. We will of course require you to inform us if your child is allergic to dogs.

Other Key Things to Note

Curriculum

If you would like to access further information about our current curriculum, please refer to the curriculum section on our [website](#).

School Fruit and Vegetable Scheme (SFVS)

As part of the SFVS scheme, children in Early Years and Key Stage One, are offered a piece of fruit or vegetable each day. The scheme helps to increase awareness of the importance of eating fruit and vegetables, encourages healthy eating habits and provides one of their five a day.

Cool Milk

As part of the Nursery Milk Scheme, all children can have access to milk during the morning break if they have registered via Cool Milk. Please note children can access this free of charge until they turn five.

Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM)

As part of the UIFSM grant, all children in Reception, Year One and Year Two can access free school meals. [Herts Catering Ltd.](#) make all our school meals using fresh ingredients and are cooked on site daily. They provide the children with healthy, nutritious meals designed for children by a nutritionist.



Admission Information

Admissions Policy

For those that haven't already done so, we encourage you to read and familiarise yourselves with our Admissions Policy, specifically the admissions criteria. The policy can be found by following this [link](#). If you have any specific admissions related questions, please contact Mrs. Lewis, Office Administrator.

Key Application Dates

You can apply for your child's primary school place between Wednesday, 5th November 2025 and Thursday, 15th January 2026. National Offer Day will be on Thursday, 16th April 2026.



Ways to Stay Connected

Instagram

At Green Ridge, our chosen social media platform is Instagram – [@GreenRidgePrimaryAcademy](https://www.instagram.com/GreenRidgePrimaryAcademy), where whole-school updates are shared. Our profile also includes activity highlights and reminders about upcoming key dates and events.

Tapestry/ClassDojo

We share regular updates on Tapestry (for children in Reception) and ClassDojo (for children in Years One–Six). On these education platforms, staff document classroom activities and accomplishments by sharing photos and videos.



Questions?