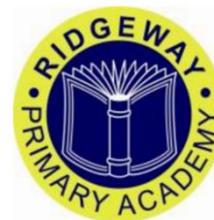


# Ridgeway Newsletter

Friday 13th October 2023



## What a busy and exciting half-term!

Dear Parents, Carers and families,

What a fantastic and busy start to the new academic year. The children have all settled really well into their new classes, and have had some wonderful learning opportunities and exciting trips and visits.

The term started with an enjoyable theatre visit and performance of Alice in Wonderland. The theatre company engaged brilliantly with the children and brought the world of Lewis Carroll to life.



Our Year 5 and 6 children, and some Year 3s, had the opportunity to undertake a 4-week rugby training programme with Leicester Tigers. This involved practical sessions with a coach, and theory work in the classroom. The children had a great time and worked hard to improve their skills.

Twenty children in Year 5 volunteered to be trained as playground leaders. Mr Grundy from Robert Smyth Academy spent a morning teaching them some new games to make playtimes more fun and enjoyable. The children have now worked out their work rota and have started to run sessions at break and lunchtimes.

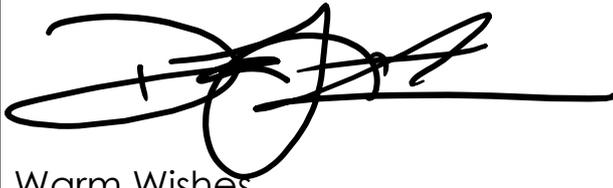
Last week in assembly time, the children were reminded about the types of healthy snacks we have during break times at Ridgeway, namely fruit or a plain biscuit. It is hoped that children will avoid eating items that are processed and/or generate rubbish with their wrappers. This will help keep the school environment clean and tidy and hopefully help promote healthy choices.

Can I thank all of you for making sure the children look great in their school uniform every day. Most children are remembering when to wear PE kit or uniform on the correct days, although it is important that everyone remembers that trainers should **only** be worn on PE days. At the beginning

of next half-term, all staff will be reminding the children of the correct uniform to make sure everyone continues to look smart.

The children have worked incredibly hard this term, and have demonstrated the Ridgeway three R's of Respect, Responsibility and Resilience superbly. They all deserve a well earned rest.

Have a fantastic half-term break!



Warm Wishes

Dave Turner  
Head of School

## Autumn Term Round Up!

### EYFS Updates

The children in Reception have made a fantastic start to their learning journey and have settled really well into life at Ridgeway Academy. They have already learnt so much in such a small amount of time.

In phonics, they are applying their initial sounds brilliantly to build CVC words especially when segmenting and blending in their reading, and in maths they have worked really well at noticing patterns around us, and building repeat patterns.

The children have really enjoyed finding out about themselves and their new friends, and have learnt some wonderful Autumn poems. As always, the children love exploring the outside space, and they will have a great time when they begin forest school sessions next half term.



## Year 1 and 2

The children in KS1 have had a super start to the Autumn Term.

In writing they have focussed on the tale of Dick Whittington ensuring they are using sentence punctuation and descriptive vocabulary to bring their story alive for the reader.

In Maths, they have concentrated on their understanding of place value and developing the concept of one more and one less.

The science focus has been on plants and trees, culminating a fabulous local visit to Great Bowden Park. Fun was definitely had by all.

The children's mapping skills were a developed further through building wonderful 3D maps of their classroom.



## Year 3 and 4

Lower Key Stage 2 and our new Year 3s have settled in really well into their new classes, and they have all been enjoying their Switched-On topic.

They have all worked really well to develop their understanding of electricity, and can all build simple circuits using buzzers, bulbs and batteries. I had the pleasure to witness the eureka moments when they made a bulb light for the first time!

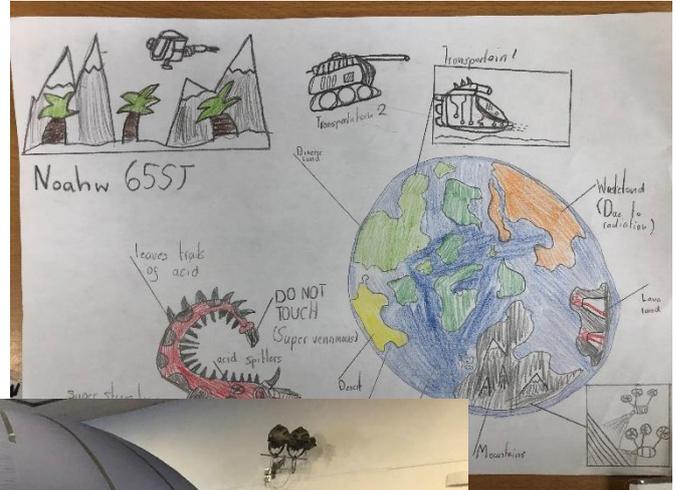
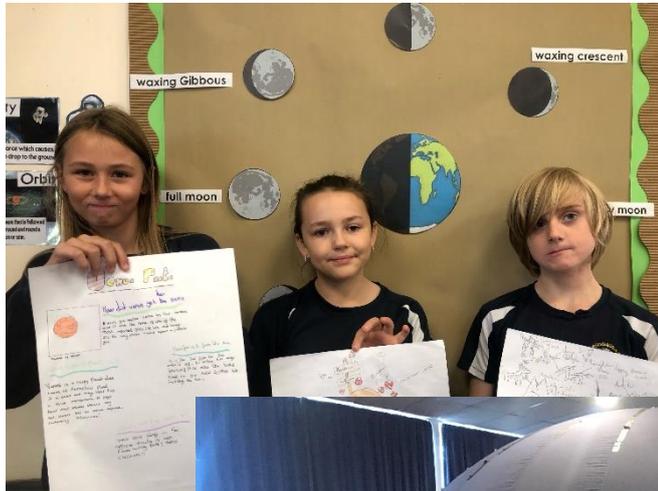
All of the children had a wonderful trip to Bradgate Park to develop their understanding of rivers, and to get their imaginative juices flowing in preparation for their landscape art project back in school. The views of Leicestershire from near Old John were breathtaking.



## Year 5 and 6

The children in Year 5 and 6 have been having a great time learning about everything to do with Space. The Star Dome observatory visited school, and the children were able to explore the cosmos, almost at first-hand!

The children's general knowledge about the planets amazes me every time I speak to them about their topic!





## PE, Sport, Events and Wellbeing at Ridgeway

The sporting calendar begun with a fabulous win for our Year 5/6 girl table tennis stars. For the second year running, they won the local tournament to progress into the area finals.

The boys table tennis team also performed well and finished in 4<sup>th</sup> place behind Kibworth Primary. Everyone at Ridgeway is proud of their achievements. 😊



Our football teams have begun their 2023 campaigns showing great team work and sportsmanship. In their first round of matches they had a mixture of wins, draws and losses, but demonstrated the Ridgeway resilience throughout 😊

## Helping Your Child's Learning at Home

In the Phase newsletter you received towards the beginning of term, there was a list of activities to support your children's learning at home. First and foremost, it included the importance of reading regularly with your child at home.

***“Reading is important because if you can read, you can learn anything about everything and everything about anything.”***

Reading is the one gift we can give our children, so please do find the time to read with your child each day

All of the children from Year 2 upwards have access to Times Table Rockstars. Learning number facts, doubles and halves, and the times tables up to 12 x 12 is essential for our children to be successful in maths. Regular practice and learning by rote will benefit your child significantly.

Your child's class teacher will always be willing to share ways in which you can support your child's learning at home. The weekly homework tasks are a good starting point, but they will be more than happy to signpost you to other useful resources you can use to support their learning.

## House Team Points Competition

The house points competition this half term has remained close between all of the houses. The team point totals are as follows:

1<sup>st</sup> Place- Turing 140

2<sup>nd</sup> Place- Johnson 130

3<sup>rd</sup> Place- Attenborough 120

4<sup>th</sup> Place- Curie 70

# School Gardening News!

Ridgeway won the title of Best Ornamental School Garden in this year's East Midlands in Bloom competition. We also received a Silver and a judges commendation for all the hard work and community involvement for our gardens and gardening activities over the year. Thank you to everyone for their support, donations and volunteering at our Project Pride Days.



## SEND Coffee Morning

The next SEND Coffee Morning with Miss Hammond and Mrs Harris will be at Ridgeway on 24th October – Autism Outreach will be the special guests. 9.30-10.30 in the Hall.

## New Starter Open Morning

Our next Open Morning for EYFS Sept 2024 starters will take place on 1st December. Come for a tour of the school and a stay and play session. Refreshments available. To register please fill in this form - Ridgeway Open Mornings for EYFS 2024 Starters (office.com)



**Open Mornings**  
5th Oct  
1st Dec  
9.30-10.30

For Sept 2024  
EYFS starters

To book: 01858 465 800  
office@rpa.learnat.uk  
scan the QR code



Learn



# FORA EVENT CALENDAR

## AUTUMN/WINTER TERM 2023



### MON 23RD OCTOBER

#### Cauliflower Personalised Christmas Cards Artwork Deadline

Children will have brought home artwork forms to design their own Christmas cards and other gifts. You can order items via the Cauliflower Cards portal and all artwork should be returned to school no later than this date.

### THU 26TH OCTOBER

#### Halloween Disco

A spooktacular night of music, fancy dress and games for the kids! Although no masks are allowed, face painting will be offered on the night! A light snack and refreshments will also be provided. £3.50 per child.  
EYFS & Key Stage 1 - 3:30-4:30pm  
Key Stage 2 - 4:45-5:45pm

### TUE 31ST OCTOBER

#### Halloween Non-Uniform Day

Children can wear whatever they like to school, (but please no face masks). Voluntary donation of £1, but feel free to donate a bottle of drink or a box of chocs instead - we'll put everything towards the prizes to be won at the upcoming Bingo Night!...

### FRI 10TH NOVEMBER

#### Bingo Night

Grown-ups only! Enjoy a fun evening of Bingo with prizes to be won. There will also be a pay bar available with alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks. Open to all, so ask friends and family along too! Doors open at 6.30pm for a 7pm start. Free entry but pay to play.

### FRI 24TH NOVEMBER

#### Pre-Loved Sale

Sale of toys/puzzles, books, uniform, coats, shoes and fancy dress. To be held in the school hall between 3-4pm. Prices start from £1. Card and cash payments accepted.

### Rags2Riches Collection

We have signed up to the Rags2Riches4Schools recycling scheme, to help others around the world benefit from our donations (such as adults/childrens/babies clothing, shoes and accessories. We get 50p for every kilo of reusable items collected.

**DONATIONS DEADLINE: TUE 21ST NOVEMBER**

### FRI 15TH DECEMBER

#### Santa's Grotto & Non-Uniform Day

Children can wear their favourite festive outfit to school and every class will get to visit Santa's Grotto and receive a small present at the end of the day. Voluntary donation of £2.50.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

Stay in touch with us on our Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/groups/friendsofridgewayacademy](http://www.facebook.com/groups/friendsofridgewayacademy)  
Email [secretaryfora@gmail.com](mailto:secretaryfora@gmail.com) if you are able to help to volunteer or even join us on the committee!  
Remember - all proceeds from our events go towards school projects or treats for the children.

## Some Key Dates for the Autumn Term

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> October- SEND Coffee Morning

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> October- Meet the Teacher

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> November – Harvest Festival Assembly (reception parents) PM

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November – Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November - Book Fair

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> & Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2:15PM - KS1 Christmas Production

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December – School Carol Concert at Congregational Church PM

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December – Reception Nativity 2PM

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December – Reception Nativity 10:00AM

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> December – School Christmas Dinner & Christmas Jumpers



**We are a collection point for the Market Harborough Hygiene Bank. This can be found in the school foyer. The following items would be gratefully received:**

**Shower Gel, Soap, Razors, Shaving Foam, Deodorant, Shampoo and conditioner, Hair Brushes and hair ties, Sanitary products, Nappies, Laundry detergent, Surface cleaner, Washing up liquid.**

### Useful contact numbers for Family Support:

Children family and wellbeing services - 0116 3058727

First response children's duty - 0116 3050005

CAP 24 hour mental health advice for parents - 0808 800 3302

Living without abuse Leicestershire help and support for anyone suffering abuse - 0808 80 200 28 01509 550317

Jubilee food bank - [jubileefoodbankmh.uk](http://jubileefoodbankmh.uk) (GP and doctors surgery can make a referral)

Household support grant - [communityhub@harborough.gov](mailto:communityhub@harborough.gov).