IGNITING CURIOSITY NURTURING GROWTH

RIDGEWAY PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

A message from Mr Power

What another brilliantly busy and exciting few weeks we have had at Ridgeway! **How have we done three weeks already?**

I have to start by saying just how **AMAZING** our children have been. Their behaviour, enthusiasm and attitude to learning have been stunning. I have spent lots of time popping into classrooms and walking around school over the past few weeks, and I am yet to find a single child who isn't engaged and on task. That says so much about our children and the fantastic work of our staff.

Lessons have been brilliant, our learning environments are looking fabulous, and there is a real buzz for learning throughout school. Please have a look through the newsletter below to see just some of the exciting things that have been happening.

We have welcomed a real Viking **into school**, while Years 4 and 5 have travelled around the world without even leaving Ridgeway, thanks to our VR headsets! Meanwhile, our newest **Spark Seekers** have settled beautifully into Reception. They are already such a wonderful part of our Ridgeway family and make us smile every single day.

Keeping everyone safe – parking

I do need to ask for everyone's support with parking around school at drop-off and collection times.

Unfortunately, we continue to see some irresponsible parking, and this has a direct impact on the safety of our children and families. Please do not park in places that obstruct visibility, restrict safe crossing points or create additional hazards for children arriving at and leaving school.

As part of our **Learners' Code**, we teach our children about making safe and responsible choices. We need the adults around them to model those same behaviours. Even when we are in a hurry, the safety of our children must come first.

Wherever possible, please consider a **Park and Stride** approach – parking a little further away and walking the final part of the journey to school. It helps reduce congestion immediately around the school and makes the start and end of the day safer and more pleasant for everyone.

Thank you to the many families who already park and travel to school responsibly, and thank you to everyone for supporting us with this.

Finally, as always, please come and chat. Whether you want to share something that is going well, have a question or concern, or simply want to say hello, my door is always open. I really value those conversations with our families.

Have a wonderful weekend, and thank you for your continued support of our brilliant Ridgeway community.

Mr Power

FS2 children are working hard on their phonics. Practising the letters:

S A T P I N D M



We are also busy counting and recognising numbers in Maths.



In our theme lessons, we are learning about Christianity, families and circle games to develop our social, physical and listening skills.

Year 1 have been busy developing their maths skills by exploring place value and learning about 2D and 3D shapes. In RE, they have been discussing what makes a good friend and how we can show kindness to others.

During PE, the children have been practising aiming at and defending a target through a range of fun activities. In phonics, they have been focusing on long vowel sounds and applying their learning through dictated sentences.

Year 2 have had a fantastic start to the school year and have settled brilliantly into their new routines.

We are really enjoying our learning about the Great Fire of London in history and have loved exploring our class text, Troll Swap, through reading and writing activities.

In maths, we have been consolidating our prior learning on place value and shape, helping to strengthen our understanding and build confidence before moving on to new topics.

A fabulous start to the new year from the Embers! We are building a great team and it's fantastic to have a class full of kind and caring learners, who are ready to be their brilliant best every day.

In our learning, we have already discovered we have some thoughtful historians, who can explain what cave paintings tell us about the stone age, mighty mathematicians, who can partition numbers faster than a cheetah in a hurry, amazing writers, whose expanded noun phrases are things of wonder and skillful hockey players, who one day may be destined for great things at the 2040 Olympic games.

Well done, keep up the super start Ember Explorers!

The Y4 Flame Forgers have all settled in brilliantly and are quickly getting up to speed with the new routines and responsibilities in our new year group. In English: we've planned and written our own 5-part stories based on our class text 'Gorilla' by Anthony Browne.

We've used our imaginations and written stories involving giant giraffes, lively lizards, tricky turtles and even slippery snakes. Crikey! Thankfully no one was hurt, wounded or bitten during the writing of our stories.

In maths: we've all been working hard developing our times tables knowledge whilst also improving on rounding numbers to 10 & 100.

In PE: we're learning to play High 5 Netball and have so far learnt three different types of passes, shooting skills and positional play. In History: we've been off to Ancient Greece, piecing together broken pots and using these primary sources to discover what life was like in Ancient Greece. We've also met the 12 Greek gods & goddesses of Mount Olympus, learnt all about Alexander the Great and even used VR headsets to take part in a chariot race and compete in the Olympic Games.





We have had an absolutely incredible start to the new school year! The Year 5 Firecrackers have settled into their new routines seamlessly, bringing fantastic energy, exemplary behaviour, and a wonderful readiness to learn to the classroom every single day.

Our learning is already well underway with some truly memorable experiences, starting with an immersive trip back in time using VR headsets to explore the ancient Colosseum. On the sports field, the children have thrown themselves into hockey with great enthusiasm, showing brilliant teamwork and focus as they practice their new skills. Back in the classroom, the standard of work has been exceptional. The children are taking immense pride in their learning, maintaining amazing presentation across all of their books and working incredibly hard to perfect their writing in English. Well done Year 5!

Year 6 welcomed a Viking visitor into school! The children were fully immersed in Viking life through a range of exciting, hands-on activities and learned about the daily lives, beliefs and battles of these fascinating people from the past.

Throughout the day, pupils explored authentic Viking artefacts and discovered what it would have been like to live during the Viking Age. They impressed our visitor with their enthusiasm, curiosity and excellent historical knowledge, asking thoughtful questions and engaging brilliantly in every activity.

The visit brought our history learning to life and helped deepen the children's understanding of this important period in British history. We are incredibly proud of how well Year 6 represented the school and the enthusiasm they showed throughout the day.

A quick update from the PTA! There are lots of easy ways to support us without costing you anything extra.

- Raise money for school simply by shopping online. Sign up here: **https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/ridgewayprimaryschoolpta**
- Join our weekly lottery for the chance to win prizes while raising money for school: **https://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/lottery/school/ridgeway-primary-school**

Wet play donations - we're currently looking for games including Snakes & Ladders, chess, draughts, Dobble, UNO, Shut the Box, Save Penguin on Ice, Grabolo and Payday. If you have any of these (or other suitable games!) that you'd be happy to donate, please get in touch with your class rep.

Don't forget to follow **Friends of Ridgeway PTA** on instagram or facebook for regular updates!