



The Ridgeway CE Primary School

'Building for Life'

Newsletter 11th September 2026

News from Mrs Blockley

Our first full week has flown by and all the children have settled in well. It has been wonderful to see them engaging with their learning. Wren Class has been very busy telling me all about the book they are reading, *The Explorers* by Katherine Rundell. It certainly seems to have caught their attention, and I can't blame them, it really is a fabulous book! I've also been hearing all about the Romans from House Martin Class and the Victorians from Skylarks. I've been learning some rhymes with Robin Class this week too—they certainly kept me on my toes!

Our new sports coaching company, Serious4Sport, joined us this week. Our new coach, Coach Dec, was very impressed with all the children. They demonstrated some very secure ball skills, and he was also impressed by how well-mannered they all were. Our after-school sports clubs also started this week, and it was fantastic to see our Year 6 children supporting those in Year 3 and helping them to learn new skills. I think we have the makings of a very strong football team!

As I mentioned last week, we will be going to Church for our Harvest Festival next Wednesday. We will be collecting donations for the Wantage and Grove Foodbank. If you would like to donate, please send your child in with a donation on Tuesday or Wednesday next week. The children will take the donations with them to Church. Below the class information is a list of items the foodbank particularly needs.

Before the Summer holidays I shared that one of our partnership schools, St Amand's Catholic Primary School, would be running a free workshop supporting parents with managing screen time in young children. The workshop takes place on 11th November (details can be found after the Wantage Food Bank information). To book a place, please contact St Amand's School Office directly.

Have a lovely weekend everyone.

Mrs Blockley

Notices:

[@ridgewayprimary](#)



Links to: [Diary Dates](#) & [Term Dates](#)

Sunflower Competition

It's time to submit your entries!

I know lots of our pupils took part in the Gardening & Wildlife Club's Sunflower Competition, which launched last term. Please could everyone send their competition entries to the office by Monday 14th September.



We've already started receiving some entries and we're very impressed with our young gardeners! I have to admit, the sunflower pictures I've seen so far are far better than the sunflowers I managed to grow! The winners will be announced next week.

The Ridgeway Primary School

FOOTBALL After School Club

SERIOUS4SPORT SPORTS COACHING

Serious4Sport are specialists in delivering sport to children of all ages and abilities. Our Football After School Club is inclusive, fun and engaging with a range of new skills and games to be taught along with play.



TIMETABLE - TERM 1:

KS1: 3.15pm-4.15pm every Tuesday (term time)
PRICE: Term: £35.00

KS2: 3.15pm-4.15pm every Wednesday (term time)
PRICE: Term: £35.00

Spaces are limited

All of our coaches are DBS checked and have a number of years experience in coaching children from as young as 18 months upwards.



Bookings made via:
www.Serious4Sport.co.uk/schools-nurseries-cpd

Wren - Class attendance for the week: 97%

Welcome back and welcome to the new year in Wren's – what a week and a bit it's been. For those of you who don't know, my name is Mr. Minter – new to The Ridgeway this year but not new to teaching Year 5 and 6 pupils. It has been a fantastic first few days, settling nerves and excitement – it's going to be a fantastic year. All the pupils have been amazingly welcoming and so friendly. Thank you. We've had a great few days getting into routines and exploring our new topics. The class has hit the ground running - In Maths – looking at how we use different models and representations to solve addition and subtraction problems. In English, we've jumped straight into our class book – The Explorer by Katherine Rundell – 4 children (Fred, Con, Lila and Max) stranded in the Amazon Rain Forest after a plane crash! Phew. Year 5 will be looking at writing character descriptions with exciting vocabulary - the Year 6 pupils will explore the delights of figurative language skills to bring their descriptions to life! Our History topic is The Mayans – Science is the Properties of Materials. Homework will start coming out from this week – starting with Spelling Shed assignments. Year 5 will get a routine of homework and Year 6 will build towards SAT's preparations! Sorry, but it's really good to start early as time flies! Phew – quite a lot for the first newsletter, sorry about that! Thank you once again and I look forward to meeting some more of you at our Meet and Greet next week.

House Martin - Class attendance for the week: 98%

It's been a great first full week in House Martin class and I've been really impressed by how the Y3s have settled in and how well they and the Y4s have worked. In English, we've been learning about life in Pompeii, focusing on the sounds and sights of the streets and market, and learning to use time adverbials to make our writing flow better. In Maths, we've been looking at addition and subtraction across ten. We've been using stories to describe adding 3 addends and learning more efficient ways to add and subtract. In Computing, we started learning how to programme sprites on Scratch and in PE we learnt how to catch and throw different types of balls. In Science we looked at the importance of a nutritious diet for humans and in History we began to find out about the Romans and how they lived and thrived in ancient times. PSHE involved thinking about our achievements and setting goals for the year, and in art we began our sketching unit, looking for shapes in and around the school. Homework (Maths & Spelling) will be coming home on Friday and will be due back in school the following Wednesday, as well the children's reading records.

Skylarks - Class attendance for the week: 98%

The first full week is complete, and Skylarks class has been getting back into action. I've been so impressed with how the children have settled in, especially the new year ones! They've learned the class routines quickly, have been exploring where everything is in the classroom and are proving themselves to be fantastic at tidying up after themselves. The children have jumped back into learning. In maths, year 1 have started a unit exploring numbers up to 100. They are currently focusing on making groups of 10 so they can count efficiently. Year 2 have also started a unit exploring numbers up to 100. They are currently learning about the tens column and what it means. In phonics, Year 1 have started phase 5 and Year 2 have started phase 6. In science, the children have started a unit about the human body and have been labelling body parts and in Art, they've explored using different materials to create a range of lines and shapes.

Robin- Class attendance for the week: 99%

A good first full week in Robin Class was had by all. The children are settling in well by getting to know each other and learning the routines. The children are continuing to explore their new classroom indoors and out and seem to have really enjoyed their learning so far. The Robins have listened to familiar stories such as 'We're going on a Bear Hunt' and 'Oi Frog!' and have been introduced to new ones such as 'The Colour Monster goes to School.' They have joined in with nursery rhymes and have started learning a poem ready for the school's Harvest celebrations in church next Wednesday. Robins have also been completing their baseline assessments (more details on these are included in the attached Parents' Guide). Well done everyone – you have all worked super hard!

LOVE FOOTBALL?

COME & PLAY FOOTBALL!

NEW PLAYERS WELCOME

TO JOIN OUR U8 TEAM

- GREAT FACILITIES**
ASP PITCH
TRAINING WEEKLY ON TOP CLASS GRASS PITCHES
- FA TRAINED**
QUALIFIED & DBS CHECKED COACHING
- DEVELOP SKILLS**
LEARN, IMPROVE & HAVE FUN
- TEAM SPIRIT**
FRIENDSHIPS, CONFIDENCE & A LOVE FOR THE GAME
- PLAY GAMES**
MAKE FRIENDS
BE ACTIVE
- BUILD SKILLS**
IMPROVE FITNESS
GAIN CONFIDENCE

INTERESTED?
SCAN THE QR CODE
OR GET IN TOUCH TO FIND OUT MORE.

CONTACT US
football@wantagetownfc.com
Wantage Town FC

RESPECT • ENJOYMENT • DEVELOPMENT • TEAMWORK

WANTAGE TOWN FC
U8 / YEAR 3 - BOYS & GIRLS WELCOME
ALL ABILITIES • NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED

COME & TRY A U8 TASTER SESSION

EVERY FRIDAY 5-6PM

ALFREDIAN PARK, WANTAGE

NO COMMITMENT - JUST COME & HAVE A GO!

**MAKE FRIENDS, LEARN NEW SKILLS
AND SEE IF YOU LOVE IT!**

BE PART OF A FRIENDLY LOCAL CLUB COMMUNITY

PROUDLY PART OF THE WITFC FAMILY

MORE THAN A GAME

STAGE COACH

STAGECOACH PERFORMING ARTS

FARINGDON

ESTABLISHED 2016

WE WANT YOU!

SINGING, DANCE AND DRAMA

FOR CHILDREN AND ADULTS FROM 2 YEARS OF AGE

MAKE NEW FRIENDS WHILST BUILDING CONFIDENCE AND RESILIENCE. COME AND FIND YOUR PEOPLE

BOOK A TWO WEEK TRIAL TODAY

CALL JAMES 07825 215163

WWW.STAGECOACH.CO.UK/FARINGDON

WE ACCEPT TAX FREE CHILDCARE AND CHILDCARE VOUCHERS AND IN SOME CASES UNIVERSAL CREDIT

Term Time Weekly Programme

grow
Grove and Wantage Family Community Group

Monday St Johns Church Hall, Grove
Toddler Stay and Play, 10-11.30am, for under 5 years
Bumps and Babies, 12.45 – 2.15pm

Tuesday Grove Rugby club
Toddler Stay and Play, 10-11.30am, for under 5 years
Young Parents Group, 1-2.30pm, first Tuesday of the month

Wednesday East Challow Village Hall
Toddler Stay and Play, 10-11.30am, for under 5 years
Bumps and Babies, 12.45 – 2.15pm
Elmbrook Court Care Home, Wantage
Mini Stay and Play, 10.30-11.30am, first Wednesday of the month.
GroW Outside, Betjeman Park
10.30-11.30am every second and fourth Wednesday of the month in term time.

Thursday The Beacon centre, Wantage
Toddler Stay and Play, 10-11.30am, for under 5 years
Community Birth group, Grove Day Centre
First Thursday of the month, 7-9pm
Sessions led by midwives for pregnant women

Friday Wantage Library
Drop-in Session, 10-11.30am

For more info and to book scan here or go to:
www.growfamilies.co.uk

suggested donation £3

www.facebook.com/growfamilies **contact@growfamilies.co.uk**



Donations of the following with one or more months to go on their 'best before' date are very welcome



Tins of tomatoes
Tins of fruit
Tins of potatoes
Tins of rice pudding
Tins of baked beans/spaghetti
Tins of custard (not needing
milk added)
Tins of other vegetables
Jars of jam



Packets of biscuits
Packets of teabags
Packets of breakfast cereal
Packets/jars of hot chocolate
(not needing milk added)
UHT milk
Packets of sugar
Jars of coffee
Large cartons of long life fruit
juice



Tins or packets of soup
Packets of rice
Tins of fish
Packets of pasta
Tins of meat
Jars of pasta sauce



Packets of sweets
Packets of treats

Managing Screen Time in Young Children

A practical workshop for parents

Are screens becoming a daily struggle at home?
Do you want things to feel calmer and easier?

It doesn't have to stay this way.

You'll learn how to:

- Set clear limits without constant arguments
- Reduce screen-related battles
- Help your child play independently
- Protect sleep and daily routines

You'll leave with:

- Simple steps you can use straight away
- A clear plan that works in real life
- Confidence that things can improve



St. Amand's Primary School
St Mary's Rd, East Hendred, OX12 8LF



11th November, 6-7 pm

Led by **Dr. Blanka Kellermayer**, neuroscientist & peaceful parenting coach

No judgement. No guilt. Just practical strategies that work.