

Ridgeway Newsletter – June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

After next week, we will not be able to accept further **keyworker** children into school.

What's Covered:

- Keyworkers
- School Closure
- End of Year Reports
- Staff Changes
- Transition
- Classes for September
- Year 6 Returning
- Face to face meetings
- Home Learning
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- FSM Vouchers

School Closure

The last day of term should have been Friday 17th July 2020, but this will now be an INSET day as school opened for the INSET day on 1st June 2020. So, school will now finish this school year on Thursday 16th July 2020. Children will return on Wednesday 2nd September 2020. Further information regarding returning in September will be shared before the end of term.

Pupil's **end of year report** will be sent to parents by Parent Mail between 1st-3rd July.

Staff Changes

As we approach the end of the summer term we will be saying goodbye to a few staff. Miss Gallagher, Miss Cannon and Miss Williams will all be leaving us to take up posts at new schools in September. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for all they have done at Ridgeway and wish them all the best for the future.

We welcome Miss Jade Taylor, Miss Eleanor Ramsden and Mrs Gemma Foster to Ridgeway in September and are delighted to be keeping Miss Soomal for a further year.

We will also say goodbye to some of our Teaching Assistants. Mrs Connor left us in April and Mrs Rogers will finish at the end of this term. We said 'Goodbye' to Mrs Homer in May who retired after more than 25 years at Ridgeway. Mrs Sadler from Tots and Mrs Doyle from our After School Club will also be retiring at the end of the summer. We send all of these ladies our best wishes for the future and thank them for the contribution they have made to Ridgeway during their time with us.

Transition

As we are not able to follow our usual transition plan, new class teachers will be producing a booklet introducing themselves to you which will be uploaded onto the school website. We are planning a programme of transition activities for September. School is awaiting further guidance from the government on school opening from September.

Year 6 Returning to School

During the week beginning 6th – 10th July 2020 we will be having our Year 6 children back into school in groups of 15. Each group will attend for two days to enable them to say goodbye to their class teachers and friends. These will take place on Monday 6th & Tuesday 7th July for Groups A and Wednesday 8th & Thursday 9th July for Groups B. Your child will receive a personal invitation from their class teacher informing them of their group.

This year as we are unable to hold our usual Leavers Evening, we have decided (weather permitting) to hold a Year 6 Leaver's Family Picnic on the school field for each group. Parents will be invited to school to join their child's group on Tuesday 7th or Thursday 9th July at 2pm. Parents will be directed down the main drive to the school field where they can set out picnic blankets/chairs etc. Children will eat with their parents and then we will hold a celebration event. Please note that social distancing guidelines will be followed and only the parents and siblings of the children in Y6 are invited to this as we have to be mindful of numbers on site.

We do hope that all of our Year 6 children will be able to join us for these days.

Keyworker children in Year 6 currently attending school will continue to attend each day irrespective of whether they are Group A or Group B.

EDA have informed us that Year 6 pupils moving onto EDA will attend a transition day on Tuesday 14th, Wednesday 15th or Thursday 16th July 2020.

PLEASE NOTE THAT FOLLOWING ATTENDANCE AT THE EDA TRANSITION DAY YOUR CHILD WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO RETURN TO RIDGEWAY FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE YEAR.

Face to Face Meetings

We have had requests for children to be able to come into school to collect belongings. You may also have had requests from ourselves to return 100 books or home readers. Therefore we will be setting up specific dates for those children who are not currently attending school to come to school to say goodbye to their current teacher, collect any belongings and return any school books or equipment. These visits will maintain social distancing rules and will take place either outdoors or in the school hall or studio. A personal invitation will be sent to you by parent mail for you to make your appointment.

Nursery: Friday 10 th July	Year 2: Monday 13 th July
Reception: Friday 10 th July	Year 5: Tuesday 14 th July
Year 1: Friday 10 th July	Year 3: Wednesday 15 th July
Year 4: Friday 10 th July	

Home Learning

Daily Remote Learning will end on Friday 3rd July as all staff will be back in school from 6th July to accommodate Year 6 children returning. Class Teachers will set a project which pupils will be able to complete during the final 2 weeks of term.

Classes for September 2020

Details of your child's new class for September will be sent by Parent Mail on Friday 3rd July 2020.

Class teachers for September are as follows:

Oak (Y6) – Miss Lucy Sanderson
Horse Chestnut (Y6) – Miss Bethan Hazel
Birch (Y5) – Miss Isabel Miles
Sycamore (Y5) – Mrs Gemma Foster
Hawthorn (Y4) – Miss Helen Woodward
Laurel (Y4) – Miss Sharon Soomāl
Ivy (Y3) – Mr Jake Connolly
Holly (Y3) – Miss Amy Johns
Daffodil (Y2) – Mr Matt Harding
Thistle (Y2) – Miss Eleanor Ramsden
Rose (Y1) – Miss Emily Banks
Clover (Y1) – Miss Katie Jones
Acorns (YR) – Miss Chloe Light
Conkers (YR) – Miss Jade Taylor

Free School Meal Vouchers

As school has taken the decision to close over the summer holidays, we will register all families in receipt of FSM with the voucher service.

Each family will receive a voucher to cover the cost of a daily meal throughout the six week holiday. Eligible families will be contacted directly to arrange this.

School Closure during Summer Holiday

Recently, we have received a small number of requests to clarify our plans for opening school during the summer holidays for children of key workers. We have given the matter a great deal of consideration and have liaised with other local schools. There has been limited information from the government regarding school closures during the summer, and we feel that to be fair to everyone we need to make a decision on this.

School will be closed during the summer holiday. School has been open continuously since 24th February and we need to consider the well-being of staff, including myself, who have had very limited time away from school since the beginning of lockdown. The impact on our families and children has been immense. The stress and workload has been three times what it is when schools are open normally and this has taken its toll on all of us.

If we are to open with positivity in September, both our staff and their families need to take the break which they are entitled to. We hope that you understand this, and that if we were to be open over the holiday, it would have a massive impact on the well-being of staff and their families.

We understand that a small number of parents might have hoped to use the childcare facility in school, so we have taken this decision to let you know where we stand in good time to ensure you're able to make alternative arrangements. I am happy to source childcare provision on site during this time which parents can pay for if there were to be enough uptake for this. You will receive a Parent Mail form asking for your views on this.