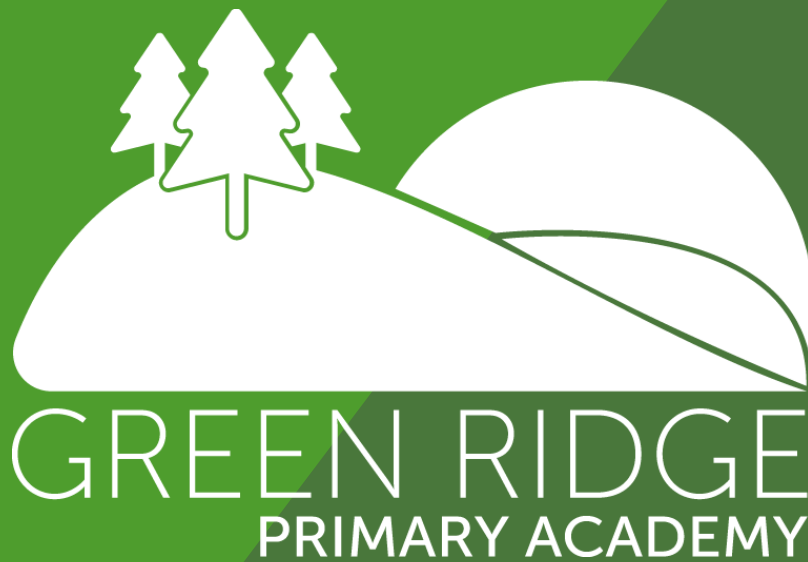


Early Years Parent and Carer



September 2024

Welcome

The first few years of education are exciting, not only for your child but also for you, their parents and carers. We are proud to offer a warm, caring and safe school community at Green Ridge. In Reception, our aim is to help your child settle into their new surroundings and, over the year, become familiar and confident with the many new things they will learn. We will also be preparing your child for the rest of their schooling, from Years One to Six. We hope these crucial years with us will prove to be very happy ones.

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)

The Early Years Foundation Stage (sometimes called The Foundation Stage) sets standards for the learning, development and care of your child from birth to the age of five. Children often **begin** a crucial part of 'The Foundation Stage' at nursery, and they **complete** 'The Foundation Stage' at school, in their first year, Reception. We always try to liaise with nurseries to make sure we know as much as possible about the children before they join us. After Reception, your child will move up to Year One and then after that Year Two. Years One and Two are also known as 'Key Stage One'.

The Curriculum

All schools are required to follow the EYFS curriculum, which is organised into seven areas of learning:

- Communication and Language.
- Physical Development.
- Personal, Social and Emotional Development.
- Literacy.
- Mathematics.
- Understanding the World.
- Expressive Arts and Design.

The philosophy behind the EYFS is based on the 'whole child' and comes from decades of theory on child development and learning. It builds on the wealth of experiences the child has gained from their home lives and pre-school learning. It provides challenging opportunities for child-initiated learning, exploration, problem solving and decision-making. Through the different learning experiences, the child develops a strong sense of self-esteem that will promote confidence, independence and a belief in their own self-worth. Independence and understanding about what they are doing are fundamental to the child's learning.

The Daily Routine

All parents and carers must take full responsibility of their child before school and remain with them until the classroom doors open at **8.35am**.

Throughout the school day your child will take part in a range of adult led activities focusing on the seven areas of learning. They will also be encouraged to take responsibility for their own learning, in choosing, planning and reviewing activities

Lunch time is generally set between 11.45am-1.00pm, although when the children first start school, this may take longer, depending on how long they take to eat and get organised. All Reception children go into the dining hall together and can sit together whether they have packed lunch or a school lunch. When they have finished their lunch, they go outside to play in the Early Years playground.

At **3.15pm** school finishes and parents/carers are to wait outside. A member of staff will come to the door and will only let your child leave when he/she sees that a parent or carer is present. At 3.15pm, full responsibility for your child transfers from the school to you, the parents or carers.

Arriving at School

- Children should arrive at school no earlier than 8.35am and by 8.45am at the latest.
- Children must not play on any of the school equipment before school.

- No child should be left unaccompanied in the playground before 8.35am.
- Classroom external doors will open between 8.35-8.45am to allow children to enter.
- Any child who arrives after 8.45am will not be allowed to enter through the classroom door but will have to enter via the main school entrance to be signed in as late.

The School Day

School is open for 190 days in the academic year between September and the following July. A list of term dates can be found within your new starter pack and can also be found on our school website.

School session hours are as follows:

Reception to Year Two

Morning 8.45am–11.45am/12.00pm (11.45am for Reception and 12.00pm for Years One and Two)
Afternoon 1.00–3.15pm

Year Three to Year Six

Morning 8.50am–12.15/12.30pm (12.15pm for Year Three and 12.30pm for Years Four to Six)
Afternoon 1.15–3.20pm

- All children have a break mid-way through the morning.
- All children go outside at break and lunch times, weather permitting.
- During summer months, the children may be able to play on the field.
- Children are instructed to stay within a specified area and are carefully supervised by duty staff.

The Learning Environment



The classroom will be bright, busy and reflect the work and ideas of the children. It will provide space for the children to move freely, and equipment and materials will be clean, of good quality and accessible. The children will be encouraged to use their own initiative, taking responsibility for resources and their own belongings. They will be encouraged to tidy up, put things away safely, wash up painting equipment, use glue and paint sparingly, hang up coats and keeping the cloakroom area tidy. The children will be taught to use the toilets

and paper towels correctly and everyone in the classroom treats each other with respect

Activities within the classroom:

- will be enjoyable and meaningful
- will be practical, giving opportunities for recorded work
- will involve whole class, small group and individual work
- will introduce reading as a pleasurable activity
- will develop mathematical and scientific concepts
- will encourage good speaking and listening skills

The Classroom Areas

There are many different areas of the classroom that the children can access during their CIL (child-initiated learning) time. The children will be allowed to experiment freely within these areas. Each area will be monitored, and resources will be replenished and replaced. The areas available to the children are:

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| • Sand and water | • Mathematics |
| • Painting | • Writing and Mark-Making |
| • Construction | • Books and Stories |
| • ICT | • Role Play |
| • Craft and Modelling | • Listening Area |

The Outdoor Area

Children have access to the outdoor area throughout the day and a considerable amount of their learning takes place outside. The children enjoy the outdoor area in all weathers, so it is important that your child has the correct clothing – coat/jacket with a hood, hat/mittens for cold weather and wellies for splashing in the puddles and mud!



Planned activities linked to literacy, mathematics or topics are frequently taught outside. The children are also able to explore the outside environment looking for bugs and mini beasts using magnifiers etc. Paper and paint and chalk are readily available as well as the wheeled toys and small games equipment for the children to use. The children are made aware of

the outdoor boundaries, and we discuss the 'Keeping safe outside' rules before using the area. A member of staff is always with the children when they are outside.



Health, Safety and Welfare

Lateness (Drop-Off)

We kindly ask that you try to let us know in advance if your child will be late to school. A brief voicemail or email will suffice, but it is beneficial if we know that your child is going to be late before the start of the school day. Please note that if your child arrives after 8.45/8.50am (8.45am for Early Years and Key Stage One and 8.50am for Key Stage Two) then they will be classed as late. If they arrive after 9.00am then they will be classed as missing the whole morning session and this will be marked as an unauthorised absence in which will impact the child's attendance. If this persistently occurs, parents/carers can be fined by the local authority. Lessons start immediately after the register is taken at 8.45/8.50am, so children who are late miss valuable lesson time. It can also be embarrassing for children to arrive after lessons have started. Upon arrival, parents/carers are required to sign their child in via the InVentry system located in the main school entrance foyer area.

Lateness (Pick-Up)

If you find that you are going to be late collecting your child, please inform us as soon as possible. Further information relating to the procedures that we have in place should you be late can be found within our Uncollected Child Policy [here](#).

Reporting Absence (Due to Illness)

So that we can be more efficient in dealing with pupil absences, we ask that if your child is going to be absent, that you call the school on 01296 326320, and press option 1 to report an absence before 8.35am every day that your child is absent. This will give you the opportunity to leave a voicemail. If you are unable to call the school, please email absence@greenridgeacademy.co.uk.

- Parents/carers should provide an explanation for the absence, using the term 'unwell' is not a sufficient explanation for an absence.
- As we have a duty of care to know where the children are during school hours, if the school has not been notified, then contact will be made in order to obtain an explanation. All absences will be marked as unauthorised until an explanation has been provided.
- If a child is off for five or more days due to illness, a written note stating the reason for the absence is required to cover any absence, even if you have phoned in. Medical evidence may also be requested, without which the absence may be marked as unauthorised.
- The following information from the NHS is also helpful to understand whether you should or shouldn't send your child to school based on how ill they are: <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

- Children who have a high temperature should not return to school until it goes away as per NHS guidance, a temperature is regarded 38C or more. Further information can be found by following this [link](#).
- Children who have had sickness or diarrhoea must not return to school until **48** hours have passed since the last episode.
- If your child has had a contagious infectious disease (such as chicken pox), please call the school office to confirm when they can return to school.
- A link can also be found below to enable you to download the [Healthier Together app](#) on all Apple and Android devices. If your child is unwell and needs to be seen by a healthcare professional, instead of having to call your GP surgery, your surgery may offer you the option to use the app to directly inform them about your child's symptoms. They will then contact you to decide what needs to be done. And if you are seeking help when your GP surgery is shut, it will direct you to NHS 111. Lots of other parents have already downloaded it and have found it extremely useful.

Reducing Illness Days

If your child does not feel well and you are unsure about whether it warrants a day off, please send them to school. If they are truly ill, we will contact you if they become too ill to remain in school.

Use common sense when deciding whether your child is too ill to attend school. Ask yourself the following questions:

- Is my child well enough to do the activities during the school day?
- Does my child have a condition that could be passed on to other children or staff?
- Would I take a day off work if I had this condition?

Children can attend school with minor ailments (toothache, headache, stomach-ache, cold etc.), and medication can be given in school if required but you will need to complete the necessary forms in advance which can be obtained from the school office.

If you are unsure how long your child should be absent with an illness speak to your child's doctor, a pharmacist or Miss. Eaver our Attendance, Safeguarding & Family Liaison Officer for further advice.

Medical Appointments

Where possible, please avoid medical appointments during school hours. If this is unavoidable, please inform us as soon as possible and please remember that:

- We require a copy of your child's medical appointment, whether that be an appointment card, screenshot of a text or an email in which can be forwarded on. Failure to provide this may result in your child's absence not being authorised on the register.
- If same day emergency medical appointments occur, please obtain proof whilst at the appointment for us to file accordingly upon your child's return to school.
- Please try to make the appointment as late in the day as possible so your child can obtain both registration marks in the morning and the afternoon.
- If you are only able to get a morning appointment for your child, please try to bring them to school first to get their morning registration mark and then return them to school afterwards. If the appointment is early and you are unable to bring them into school prior, please communicate with the school office accordingly and ensure that their lunch has been ordered via SchoolGrid before 8.55am if they require a meal. Please ensure that we are made aware of what time you will be dropping/collecting your child and ensure that you sign them in/out accordingly via the InVentry system in the school foyer as it is essential that we know which children are out of school should an emergency arise.
- If your child requires a consultation through a 111 phone call then parents/carers are asked to come to school to be with their child for this. Unfortunately, we do not have staff available or the relevant people to facilitate this call on your behalf. If you do require your child to be involved in a conversation with yourself then please let the school office know and we will arrange for your child to be brought to you for this.

Medication

As part of our ongoing safeguarding procedures, we are required to work to guidelines for the administration of medicines. Please refer to the 'Supporting Pupils with Medical Needs Policy' and 'First Aid Policy' on our website. In summary, if your child needs to be given medication in school, the following must be strictly adhered to.

- Parent/Carers are required to inform the school if a child has been given any medicine before attending school, to ensure that the class teacher and Miss. Eaver are aware.
- An adult must bring the medicine into the main school office and complete a signed agreement for the administration of the medicine in which we will then store securely.
- Medicines will only be administered in school if they are required to be given four times a day. If medication is required three times a day, parents/carers are expected to administer before school, after school and in the evening.
- For prescribed medication, they must be in the original container dispensed by the pharmacy showing the child's name, the dose, expiry date and the leaflet showing any possible side effects.
- A parent or carer must collect medication as it will **not** be given to children to bring home. Medication is to be collected from the school office at the end of each day (unless you are happy for the medication to remain in school until no longer required). Please bear in mind that the school office closes at 4.00pm. If your child attends enrichment clubs or wraparound care, you will need to communicate with the school office to arrange alternative arrangements.
- It is parents/carers responsibility to check that inhalers and auto-injectors held in school are in date.

Illness During School Hours

Sometimes children become ill while at school or on a school trip. If deemed necessary, the school will make every effort to contact a family member to come and collect the child. The parent/carers emergency contact numbers held on the school database are essential in these circumstances, and it is very important that you notify the school of any changes to your personal details.

Accidents During School Hours

Sometimes children have accidents whilst at school. In these circumstances, they will receive first aid treatment from a first aider, and you will receive an electronic notification via Medical Tracker, our online first aid reporting system. The notification may give you further details or advice, for example, complications of a head bump to look out for once the child is out of our care. There may be a delay in you receiving this email notification due to the busy environment of the school, we generally try to send them out after lunch or at the end of the school day, but please be assured that if the accident or injury is more serious, we will call you as soon as possible to discuss the incident with you further. Please note the following.

- In the case of minor 'playground accidents', school staff can only administer an ice pack, clean any scrapes etc. with clean water, put on a sterile dressing if necessary, and offer some TLC.
- If your child is allergic to certain plasters, please provide suitable plasters in a named box.
- If anything more substantial is required you will be called but please note that as far as is possible, all school staff are first aid trained.
- Sometimes children have accidents that involve their clothing becoming wet or soiled. In these circumstances, we do have some spare clothes to change them into. They will be sent home with their own clothes in a plastic bag. As per the consent pack, you will be required to sign to agree that you allow your child to be changed at school where necessary, and you will be notified of this by an adult at the end of the day or via a Medical Tracker notification. If your child comes home with any of our spare clothes, please kindly ensure that you wash and return them as soon as possible, so that they are readily available for the next time they are required.

Requesting Leave of Absence (For Holidays and Exceptional Circumstances)

In law you must ask for permission for your child to miss school. Leave during term time will only be agreed where the Headteacher feels there are exceptional circumstances. Also, it is possible that

leave will not be agreed when attendance already includes unauthorised absence and/or attendance is already causing concern.

The Headteacher can, in exceptional circumstances only, authorise a leave of absence for a child during the academic year. This is not an entitlement and requests can be, and are often, refused. Each request will be considered individually based on your child's attendance, the exceptional circumstance, and the impact on your child's attainment.

You must inform the school if you are planning to take your child out of school during term time and we should be notified at least four weeks prior to the absence commencing although we appreciate that there may be times when this is not possible. We kindly ask that you complete a Leave of Absence form by following this [link](#) in which your request will then be considered, and a letter will follow detailing the Headteacher's decision.

Please note that parents/carers who take a child of compulsory school age on holiday without permission from the school may be issued with a fixed penalty notice.

Please also be aware that if we suspect that a child is on holiday (and we have not had prior notification), a home visit may be carried out and a fine may be issued. Similarly, if you report your child as ill, and we have evidence to suggest that you are on holiday, further action will be taken.

Every half day absence from school has to be classified by the school as either authorised or unauthorised. This is why information about the cause of any absence is always required.

Authorised absences are mornings or afternoons away from school for a good reason like illness (where a child is too ill to attend school) medical appointments which unavoidably fall in school time, emergencies or other unavoidable cause.

Unauthorised absences are those which the school does not consider reasonable and for which no 'leave' has been given. This type of absence can lead to the Local Authority using sanctions and/or legal proceedings.

Holidays during Term Time

Green Ridge is committed to ensuring that all children receive the best education possible. It is important that every child attends school for as many days of the school year as possible. It is the responsibility of parents/carers to ensure that their child does not take unnecessary time off school. Taking holidays during term time destroys the continuity of your child's education and may reduce their chance of success. Parents/carers are expected to take their children on holiday when school is closed.

Whole School Emergencies

- In the event of a whole school emergency, or critical incident, all parents/carers will be contacted via our electronic home/school communication system.
- Depending on the nature of the emergency we could send a text, call or email via our electronic communication system. It is therefore absolutely vital that we have each parent's/carer's up to date mobile phone number.
- If the emergency was during the school day, and an evacuation was required, we would evacuate to Berryfields Church of England Primary School.

Toilet Training

It is assumed that all children will be toilet trained before they start school. However, we are sensitive to the fact that there may be physical or developmental problems that prevent this from being the case for a few children. The school has an established procedure that is followed when needed. Please advise the class teacher if your child may need further help. For further information, please see our Intimate Care policy on our website.

The School Nursing Team

Often members of the NHS School Nursing Team visit to carry out routine developmental checks on the children, following on from the role of the health visitor. We will of course communicate in advance on behalf of the School Nursing Team and will provide you with further information and details on how you can opt out should you wish to.

Head Lice

Head lice can be attracted to any child's hair, at anytime and anywhere. Due to the way in which they transfer they are a common problem in all schools. We do not search children's heads for head lice, however if we do discover that a child has head lice, we will inform you promptly and anticipate that you will treat your child and your whole family as soon as possible, with the recommended medication from your pharmacy. Please note that it is important to treat the whole family for the recommended period, as indicated by the pharmacist. There is much advice available in pharmacies about recommended treatments for these pests and Mrs. Cavanagh is also on hand to give advice should you require it.

It is every parent's responsibility to check their child's hair regularly and take action immediately if head lice are found. This includes letting the class teacher or school office team know so we can inform other parents/carers within the child's class and advise them to check their children.

Sun Safety

Due to the health risks concerned with over exposure to strong sunlight in the summer term, we highly recommend that parents/carers apply sunscreen to their child before you bring them in. We also recommend that parents/carers check on the Sun Safe website (www.sunsafeschools.co.uk) for daily access to UV ratings. This link can also be found on our website and during the summer term, we share further information in our weekly newsletters. Sunscreen should be applied on days where the levels are three and above. If you think that your child may need additional cream applied during the day, this should be brought in and passed to your child's class teacher, clearly labelled with their name so that they can apply this as directed during the day (typically before break and/or lunch times). We strongly advise parents/carers to provide sunhats for their children too (Green Ridge hats are available from Bucks Schoolwear Plus). For further information, please see our Sun Safety Policy which can be found on our website.

Jewellery

For safety and security, please do **not** send your child into school wearing jewellery, with the exception of watches and earrings. Exceptions are made for jewellery that is worn for religious reasons and the only earrings that children should wear in school are simple studs.

Parking

Unfortunately, we do not have a car park on site for parents/carers to use and would ask that you are considerate to our local residents when parking nearby to the school. We ask that parents/carers do not use the staff car park and that visitors refrain from doing so where possible. Please note that the school car park is reserved for staff, educational visitors and contractors only, between the hours of 7.00am and 4.30pm. There are ample disabled parking bays immediately outside the main entrance door for any parent/carer who has a blue badge. If there are specific circumstances for parents/carers, that necessitate vehicular access to the school at any time, then please call in and speak to the office staff who will inform the site manager.

Security

- Entry during the school day is only permitted through the main school entrance. Here you can speak to a member of the school office team who will be able to deal with your enquiry, send for your child, or pass on a message to another member of staff if necessary.
- The school office is open from 8.15am-4.00pm Monday to Thursday and from 8.35am-4.00pm on Friday's during term time. The main school entrance external doors usually open automatically between these hours, but if not, please follow the instructions on the intercom located to the right of the doors to alert a member of the school office team who will grant you access.

- Once inside the lobby area, the school office team operates a secure door entry system which restricts entry into the actual school to authorised visitors and staff only.
- All visitors must sign in via the InVentry system upon arrival and will be provided with a lanyard which are required to be worn whilst on site.
- All other external doors are kept locked during school hours and all classrooms that have external doors opening out onto the surrounding school grounds are fitted with individual alarm systems.

Parents/Carers as Partners

A child's achievement and happiness are greatly enhanced when parents/carers and school work together in their child's education. Effective home/school communication is vital in ensuring your child settles into school and is content. Parents/carers can help reinforce teacher expectations by:

- Helping your child talk about their experiences.
- Appreciating the effort made by your child to produce a painting or model.
- Encouraging your child to talk about their learning and successes.
- Supporting reading and phonics at home.

Please do inform us if you have any questions, no matter how small. We are always happy to help or clarify.

The Foundation Stage Profile

Throughout the children's time in Reception, regular observations and assessments of the children's learning are undertaken. The profile is a working document, which is updated and used to discuss with you during Pupil Learning Reviews. It also helps to form the basis of your child's end of year report.

Communication Between Parents/Carers and the Academy

Who to Contact

At the end of this section, further information be found regarding who to contact. Please ensure that you refer to this document so you are aware of who you should contact and how should you have any questions or concerns.

Telephone calls (incoming)

Effective telephone communication can sometimes be a problem in a school, where teachers may be teaching full time and running clubs or otherwise working with pupils at lunchtime or after school. Parents/carers may be exasperated if they feel that a message elicits no immediate reply, when in fact there has been no available opportunity for the member of staff to reach a telephone to return a call. There is an answerphone service available should staff be unable to answer the phone where you can leave staff a brief message.

Any messages which are for school staff are taken by the office team and then passed on to the appropriate member of staff. Office staff will take note of the necessary details of the call. Office staff should not interrupt teaching for staff to answer a telephone call.

Where a parent or carer does call to speak to their child's class teacher, the office will liaise with the class teacher to arrange a mutually convenient time for this, within two school days. As a result, it may be that a member of staff is unable to call back on the same day that the call was made. Where a parent or carer calls to speak to a member of the Leadership Team, the office will again liaise with that member of staff to arrange a mutually convenient time, within two school days. It may not be the case that the member of the Leadership Team is available immediately to speak with. You may also be called back by another member of staff, in line with our 'who to contact' document detailed below. Please note that telephone calls may be logged on CPOMS as 'Contact with Parent/Carer' to ensure that an accurate reflection of what was discussed can be captured. This also helps with making sure that any follow up actions are completed.

Telephone calls (outgoing)

When a member of staff needs to speak to a parent/carer, they will firstly call the primary guardian listed on Arbor. There may be some instances where we call both parents. This may have been pre-agreed with the academy. If for whatever reason a parent/carer does not pick up, staff will leave a voicemail on the device asking them to contact the school at their earliest convenience. Staff may try further numbers listed on the Arbor profile. Staff will record a summary of the conversation on CPOMS as 'Contact with Parent/Carer' as a log that the phone call has taken place, detailing any actions that are required to be undertaken. Parents/carers are asked to listen to voicemails before returning calls, so they know which member of staff tried to contact them as office staff are not always aware of who staff have been trying to call.

Letters (incoming)

Staff will respond to parents/carers letters within 2 school days. Letters can be given to your child, to give to his or her class teacher, given to the school office or posted. As with emails, letters will be treated with appropriate confidentiality. Where the letter is in relation to a complaint made by the parent/carer, the complaints policy should be followed to ensure that the appropriate procedure is followed. Any letters which are sent to parents/carers by the academy must be checked by a member of the Senior Leadership Team before they are sent. Copies of all correspondence to individual parents/carers will be placed in pupil files, if relevant.

Letters (outgoing)

We send letters of a general nature out on a Tuesday and Thursday, or on any day if necessary, and place copies of all communication (including newsletters) on the academy's website. PTA letters are sent on a Friday each week, where necessary, to alert you to upcoming PTA events. We limit the communication to particular days so that parents/carers know what to expect and are not bombarded with communication and letters each day where possible. All letters are sent electronically to the primary carers email addresses. Please note that we will only send out a paper copy of a letter if we require you to complete and return a reply slip. These will be sent home via your child's book bag, so please check your child's bag frequently.

Emails (outgoing)

The school has an electronic mailing system it uses to communicate with parents and carers (Arbor). Arbor also has an app which we strongly encourage parents/carers to download. Communication and reminders can also be sent via notifications in the app so please make sure you enable this function in your settings. Please contact the school office should you require any help in setting up or accessing your account. Any communication that needs to be sent to parents/carers using this system must be approved by a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

Emails (incoming)

These days, most people are communicating regularly by email, and it has become one of the primary routes for establishing communication. That said, except for the office staff, our members of staff on the teaching and learning team are not office or computer based and therefore do not have the same level of access to email. It is not our policy to provide parents/carers with email addresses for teaching staff. This is also one of our strategies for reducing the unnecessary and excessive workload of teachers and we request that parents/carers do not ask teachers for them. Teaching staff are asked not to respond to any emails which come directly to them, without going through the appropriate channel below.

For the purposes of administration, parents and carers are asked to use the main school address for all email correspondence: admin@greenridgeacademy.co.uk. All emails will be treated with appropriate confidentiality. Please note all emails should specify the member of staff to whom the query is addressed. In the first instance, this is usually your child's class teacher. Parents/carers should be aware that any emails which are sent to the academy may not be opened immediately, and as such if your message or query is urgent, we ask that you call the school office to ensure that the school receives this timely information. Any email which is sent to school will be acknowledged and responded to within two school days of the date it was delivered. The school office will ensure that your email is directed to the relevant person/persons. All emails requiring an answer should be responded to or acknowledged within two school days.

Tapestry (EYFS)

Throughout the children's time in Little Ridges and Reception, regular observations of the children's learning are undertaken. These are recorded along with photographs via the children's individual Tapestry accounts. Tapestry is also used to send home 'memos,' linked to different areas of learning to enable parents to support their child at home with their learning.

Social Networking Sites (e.g. X/Facebook/Instagram)

Staff will not communicate individually with parents, carers or pupils via personal social networking sites or accept them as "friends". Staff are instructed to report any such requests or interactions to the Headteacher.

The academy uses X and Facebook as a way of posting reminders to parents/carers and sharing/celebrating the pupils' learning at Green Ridge. Each class has their own Twitter account, which parents are encouraged to follow for regular updates. These accounts start with @GRPA as their user handle. Where this method of communication is used, a professional manner will continue to be used at all times, as it would be for any communication within the academy. Please note that Direct Messages on X and Facebook are not monitored by school staff. The best way to contact the school is directly using the admin email above or via telephone on the number above.

Written Reports

Once a year, we provide a full written report to each child's parents/carers on their progress in each area of learning. This report identifies areas of strengths and areas for future development. Pupils are also given an opportunity to comment on their progress.

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 for parent-teacher consultations, which we call 'Pupil Learning Reviews'. These are usually held within the first two weeks after the half-term holiday. There is also an option to meet for a third time following the end of year report.

You will be advised of the date through an individual letter and asked to sign up for a specific day/time to meet with your child's teacher via our online booking system. If you are unable to use the online system you will be able to telephone or email the school office who will assist you in making an appointment. We would encourage all parents/carers to take up this opportunity. If you are unable to attend on the designated days, you can request to make an alternative arrangement directly with your child's teacher, or via the school office at a mutually convenient time.

SEND Reviews

Parents/carers of children with SEND will meet with their class teacher at Pupil Learning Reviews. They also have the opportunity to meet with their class teacher on other occasions, to specifically discuss SEN/D. This gives them the opportunity to celebrate their child's successes, and to support their child in areas where there is a need for support. There is also the option to book appointments per family during Pupil Learning Reviews with our Director of Inclusion, Miss. Gardiner. We encourage parents/carers to contact the school if any issues arise regarding their child's progress or wellbeing. When children have educational needs, or if they are making less than expected progress, parents/carers will be invited to meet with their child's teacher more regularly.

We will also make reasonable adjustments to our arrangements if this will enable a parent/carer with a disability to participate fully in a meeting at our academy, or to receive and understand communication.

Professional Visitors

At times we are contacted by professionals requesting to come into school and work with a child. When this happens, we will email you with as much warning as possible, to let you know the date that they will be visiting so that you are aware.

Academy Website

The website provides information about the academy, as well as latest news and information and is an opportunity to promote the school to a wider audience.

Home-School Visits

Home visits take place either at the end of the term before a child starts at the academy, or during the first two weeks of the term in which they start.

Several meetings for new parents/carers are organised at an appropriate time for them to receive information prior to their child starting at the school.

Parent Portal - Arbor

The academy uses a Management Information System and database called Arbor. Using this system, we are able to send emails and texts to parents and carers and all information is sent out from the academy electronically. When we enrol your child, you should receive an initial 'Welcome to Arbor' email. Please make sure to check your junk/spam folders and add us to your safe-senders list; please also ensure you always keep your contact details up to date. Once you have successfully signed in, you will be able to view basic information regarding their child and sign up and pay for school trips and events using a debit or credit card; you will also be able to book Pupil Learning Reviews once bookings open. Arbor also has an app which we strongly encourage parents/carers to download. Communication and reminders can also be sent via notifications in the app so please make sure you enable this function in your settings. Please contact the school office should you require any help in setting up or accessing your account.

Weekly Round-Up

The academy weekly newsletter is sent to parents/carers via the electronic mailing system, with paper copies available on request or sent to parents/carers who are not able to access it online. It contains general details of school events and activities, as well as sharing and celebrating the learning throughout the academy in that week. It is published every Friday during term-time. Parents/carers are asked to ensure that the academy has the correct email address on its system for communication. A calendar of forthcoming school events is at the end of each newsletter.

Meet the Teacher Meetings

At the beginning of each academic year, you are invited to a Class Induction Meeting. At this meeting, you will be given information about the class. This will include: what your child will be learning, home learning expectations, expectations of behaviour, planned activities and events etc. This information will also be posted on the individual year/class pages on the school website.

Reading Records

Children in all classes are provided with a reading record. This enables parents/carers to record a wide range of information about their child's reading at home. We generally expect parents/carers to read with their child daily for ten minutes. Please ensure that you leave a comment in your child's individual reading record book; this helps us to know whether your child is reading at home and how they are progressing.

Individual Meetings

Parents/carers are welcome to visit the academy to discuss their child's progress, ask questions, and gain support or talk about their child/home issues with the child's class staff. Meetings should always be pre-arranged with members of staff. Meetings will not take place on a Friday after school, as part of our commitment to staff wellbeing and workload. Thank you for your understanding with this.

If you urgently need to see someone, for instance if there is a serious family emergency or a child protection issue, please phone ahead and the reception staff will do their best to find a senior member of staff to see you or speak with you. Please note that due to staff availability urgent meetings will be held within two school days.

For non-urgent meetings we will aim to meet with you within five school days. The school will determine the level of urgency at its discretion, to enable it to manage multiple demands. The day-to-day care, welfare and safety of your child is managed by the person who is placed closest to them (normally your child's class teacher). For all other queries, the school office will direct you to the appropriate member of staff, to deal with your query and arrange any appointments for you. Please note that all formal parent meetings will be recorded on CPOMS under 'Contact with Parent/Carer' by the member of staff you are having the meeting with. This is to ensure that an accurate reflection of the meeting is captured.

It is sometimes possible to speak with the class teacher or Headteacher, very briefly, at the beginning or end of the school day when they are on the gates/classroom doors. For longer discussions, you will need to make an appointment. We would advise you not to arrive at the school or telephone the school with the expectation that you can be seen straight away, as this may not be possible.

Some parents/carers, especially of the younger children, can have a brief word with a member of academy staff before and after school. Parents/carers should be mindful that teachers have limited time in the mornings as they need to register the children and begin the days learning.

Residential Meetings

Meetings are held prior to any residential trip to inform parents/carers of planning, content and arrangements.

Open Mornings/Afternoons

Open events (such as Stay and Learn, or Parent Library sessions) take place throughout the year and these are communicated to parents and carers via the weekly round-up or individual notification letters.

The School Office

The school office is open between 8.30am and 4.30pm, Monday to Thursday and from 8.35am to 4.00pm on Fridays during term time. We would strongly encourage you to use one of the methods detailed above to get in contact with the school, however, should you wish to pass on a brief message, or have an enquiry, you may do this at the office.

No Response

If you have not received a response from the school within three school days, please contact the school by emailing admin@greenridgeacademy.co.uk and we will chase up your enquiry. Communication with parents and carers is important to us, and we will continue to monitor this policy and our approach to improve the process further.

To ensure there are clear lines of communication within the academy, please find below a range of ways that parents/carers can get in touch so that they know who to approach to ensure their query is dealt with effectively.

How parents/carers can share their views

Annual survey

We welcome and value feedback from parents and carers about our academy's policies and practices. We conduct an annual survey during the Summer Term, to canvas the views of parents and carers about our school and report back on the outcomes.

Parent Forum meetings

Nominated parents/carers are invited to Parent Forum meetings to discuss various topics each month with the Headteacher each month.

Feedback and suggestions link

Parents/carers are always welcome to share their views via the Forms link [here](#), if they are unable to attend or give feedback to the parent forum group. Parents/carers have the option to leave their

feedback anonymously. Alternatively, parents/carers can always e-mail into the office at admin@greenridgeacademy.co.uk with any feedback that can be passed on to a member of staff or team as required. Please see below for a who to contact flow chart.

Communication With the Community

Members of the local community are invited to school functions such as special assemblies, Harvest Festival, Christmas events/carol services and school productions. Guest speakers from local churches, community organisations and charities often come into school to speak to the children. Information about local community events and activities are regularly featured in our weekly newsletters.

Complaints Procedure

If at any time you have any concerns/issues about any aspect of school life, please do not hesitate to let us know. The school cannot investigate and, if necessary, take action, unless we are made aware. Please always refer to the Who to Contact document and speak to the class teacher as the first point of contact.

The Headteacher will see individual parents/carers if there is a serious concern and will take it back to the class teacher if appropriate. If, after speaking with the Headteacher, you are not satisfied, you may take your complaint to the Chair of Governors. A copy of our Complaints Procedure is available on the school website.

Freedom of information act (FOIA)

Please contact the Headteacher for further details relating to this.

Taking Photographs in School

All members of the school community should be aware that there are children in our school, participating in school events, who cannot be publicly identified. It is everyone's responsibility to adhere to our safeguarding principles and follow the policy when photographing children. Photographs are only permitted at the end of an event, and time is allocated for this. Parents/carers must only photograph their own child unless permission from another parent/carer has been given to include other children. No flash photography is permitted during an event.

Events covered by this policy include:

- Assemblies
- Concerts
- Nativity and Christmas Productions
- Other Productions

If any member of the school community fails to comply, we could be forced to stop an event immediately. Any event being hosted by school but organised through an outside agency is also covered by this policy and the same rules apply. On some occasions, the school will arrange for photographs and/or filming to be taken during a school event. This is the Headteacher's decision and is done under strict controls. The person with overall responsibility for this policy is the Headteacher, and if, in their opinion, the policy needs to be changed due to circumstances relating to a particular event, then parents/carers will be advised before that event commences. This policy does **not** apply to events in public places.

Communication

Finally, we are passionate about Early Years education and care at Green Ridge. We want your child's time in school to be happy, safe and thoroughly enjoyable. It is important that we work together to ensure that all is well for your child and so if there is anything at all that you'd like to discuss with us, please do come and let us know.

An up to date 'Who to Contact' document is shared with parents/carers at the beginning of each academic year. This will help to give you an idea of who to contact for what and how to do so. You are required to ask/raise any questions/queries/concerns with the relevant member of staff initially before escalating to anyone else.

Who do I contact do discuss...		Contact Details
Change of address or contact details Trips and visits Enrichment clubs Volunteering General enquiries School Admissions	→	Mrs. Upfold – Office Administrator 01296 326320 option 2 admin@greenridgeacademy.co.uk
Little Ridges Nursery Nursery Admissions Wraparound Care Nursery Invoices	→	Mrs. Lewis – Office Administrator 01296 326320 option 3 nursery@greenridgeacademy.co.uk
Pupil Premium/Free School Meals Payment Queries School Lettings	→	Mrs. Curtis-Cross – Office Co-Ordinator 01296 326320 option 2 admin@greenridgeacademy.co.uk
Reporting absence Medical concerns/injuries Medication Medical Appointments	→	Miss. Eaver – Attendance, Safeguarding and Family Liaison Officer 01296 326320 option 1 absence@greenridgeacademy.co.uk <i>Alternatively, please make contact via admin@greenridgeacademy.co.uk marking FAO Miss. Eaver</i>
Mental Health and Wellbeing Family Support	→	Mrs. Cavanagh – Pastoral Support Lead 01296 326320 option 2 admin@greenridgeacademy.co.uk
Education, Health and Care Plans Special Educational Needs	→	Miss. Gardiner – Director of Inclusion senco@greenridgeacademy.co.uk
Parent Teacher Association Fundraising PTA Events Second-hand Uniform	→	Laurilee Green – Chair of PTA pta@greenridgeacademy.co.uk
Reading books Concerns about learning Behaviour Home learning	→	Class Teacher <i>We suggest speaking to them when dropping-off/picking-up if they are available or alternatively contact them using the Admin contact details</i>
If you have already contacted the class teacher and still have concerns, please contact the Assistant Headteacher: Early Years (Nursery – Reception): Miss. Dilks Key Stage One (Year One – Year Two): Mr. Ladyman Lower Key Stage Two (Year Three – Year Four): Miss. South Upper Key Stage Two (Year Five – Year Six): Mr. Arnold		
Our Deputy Headteacher will also be available to support if you have already contacted the Assistant Headteachers but require further assistance: Miss. Thomassen		
Should you have any safeguarding concerns, please contact our Designated Safeguarding Leads: Designated Safeguarding Lead Miss. Thomassen – Deputy Headteacher Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads Mr. Wanford – Headteacher Miss. Dilks – Early Years Assistant Headteacher Mr. Ladyman – KS1 Assistant Headteacher Miss. South – LKS2 Assistant Headteacher Mr. Arnold – UKS2 Assistant Headteacher Miss. Gardiner – Director of Inclusion/SENCo Mrs. Cavanagh – Pastoral Support Lead Miss. Eaver – Attendance, Safeguarding and Family Liaison Officer safeguarding@greenridgeacademy.co.uk		

Behaviour and Attitudes in School

Behaviour Charter

At Green Ridge, we have established our behaviour charter. These are key beliefs and fundamental expectations to how children behave which are applied to all children and have been created in a way that can be understood and recognised by all children, even from the youngest age.



In Reception the children follow the whole school behaviour charter and use the three key words: 'Ready, Respectful, Safe.' to support positive behaviour choices.

Core Values

Green Ridge has six core value which underpin all aspects of academy life. Through assemblies and throughout the curriculum, these values are for life which children will need to recognise and show:

- Honesty
- Friendship
- Forgiveness
- Responsibility
- Gratitude
- Respect

These values go together with a range of other values which children will encounter and learn about at Green Ridge during their time at the academy. For example, gratitude will link closely with humility, and honesty will link closely with trust. Children will explore a range of values, although attention will be given to the six core values listed above. Children will be articulate in discussing these values and their meaning not only in the academy, but for their lives in general and implications.

Behaviour In and Around the Academy

- Children will be encouraged to respect all areas of the school including their own and communal areas.
- When a session is finished, children will be encouraged to clear up and return resources to their correct places.
- Staff will encourage children to go to the toilet at regular intervals.
- Acceptable behaviour is praised using language that identifies the behaviour, and why it is good.

Playground Behaviour Expectations During Break and Lunch Times

- Children must show good table manners when eating and remember to say please and thank you to staff.
- Children must remember that when eating lunch, they must use their 'indoor' voice.
- Children are to be respectful of all staff and pupil monitors on duty.
- Children are to be encouraged and supported to play collaboratively.
- Physical or verbal abuse will **not** be tolerated.
- Children are to be encouraged to respect the academy grounds by not dropping litter and looking after the trees and plants.
- Children must ask permission to enter the building.
- At the end of break and lunch times, children must walk back to their classrooms silently and calmly.

Rewards for Good Playground Behaviour

- Praise will be given from adults on duty and the child's class teacher will be informed.
- House points are awarded for demonstrating a desired school value.
- Learning dot stickers will be given to children demonstrating specific learning behaviours as per our learning superheroes at the end of this section.

N.B – Other stickers/prizes and extrinsic rewards are not used for behaviour as this leads to the need for reward for behaviour which is to be expected regardless.

Behaviour and Conduct – Sanctions for Undesirable Playground Behaviour

- The same eight-level system will be used on the playground as it is in classrooms in general.
- Children may be asked to remain with an adult on duty if their behaviour is not desirable or spend some time sitting out to reflect on their behaviour.
- Incidents of a serious nature will be dealt with by a member of the Senior Leadership Team and teachers are to be informed after lunchtime of any incidents.

Class Behaviour Systems

Rewards operate on an individual basis as well as whole classes working together. Teachers may use a variety of whole class and individual reward systems to encourage expected behaviour on a daily and weekly basis. For example:

- Collecting a jar of marbles for a learning-focussed reward.
- Children are sent to other adults in the academy for praise e.g., Headteacher, other class teachers
- Copy of work to send home
- Celebration Assembly – Certificates for achievement, progress etc.
- Sharing and discussing work with children.
- Attendance Certificates – For individuals each term.

The whole academy community must promote positive behaviour reinforcement!

House System

Children are grouped into four house teams. Every child is given one of the four houses to support. Each child is placed in a house on entry to school in Reception and remains a member of this house throughout their time at the school. Siblings are placed in the same house team. Houses are named after significant individuals from the Buckinghamshire area.

- **Redgrave** – Named after Sir Steve Redgrave, from Marlow, who is an Olympic rower.
- **Pratchett** – Named after Terry Pratchett, from Beaconsfield, who was a children's author.
- **Disraeli** – Named after Benjamin Disraeli, from High Wycombe, who was a Prime Minister.
- **Austin** – Named after Herbert Austin, from Little Missenden, who invented the Austin make of car.

House Captains will be elected from the eldest children (typically Year Six pupils) and Vice Captains

from Year Five pupils (or other appropriately aged pupils) and they will provide positive leadership to the children in their house and the various competitions and events organised throughout the year.

Each half term there will be a minimum of one house activity or competition so that children get the opportunity to work collaboratively and build relationships with members of their house across the school. For example, there may be house music competitions, sports days or art and design presentations.

Staff also belong to a house, with the exception of the Headteacher, and they encourage and support the children in positive team building through the house system.










Children can be given house points which count towards the house cup. Points that are awarded are not for recognition of learning (as this is given through the learning dot system), but rather a range of other areas of recognition such as (but not limited to):

- Demonstrating a caring attitude towards peers.
- Good attendance.
- Well-presented work and learning.
- Sporting achievement.
- Taking part in competitions and events.
- Helpful approaches to different situations.

Every week the house points are counted, and a weekly winner is announced during our Celebration Assembly every Friday, added to the house points chart and shared in our weekly newsletter. House points are then tallied over the course of a year. At the end of the year, once all house points are tallied, the house champions will be announced. This system aims to encourage a real sense of pride and achievement for the children. It fosters community spirit and gives the children an opportunity to contribute to something bigger, which involves children from all year groups. The older children are positive role models and take on a pastoral role for the younger children.

Bullying

- Bullying is behaviour by an individual or group, repeated over time, that intentionally hurts another individual or group either physically or emotionally. Bullying may be motivated by actual or perceived differences relating to age, disability, ethnicity, gender, religion and belief, sexual orientation, class, poverty, or local issues appropriate to the academy context. Bullying results in pain and distress to the victim.
- Incidents of bullying are not tolerated at school and the school aims to provide an environment which prevents it.
- If such incidents occur, we will act decisively and firmly in response, providing support for the victim/s and counselling for the perpetrator as appropriate.
- We believe it is vital for the perpetrator to be made aware of why their behaviour is unacceptable and that sometimes they, themselves will need support.
- Parents/carers will always be informed when there are incidents of bullying reported and recorded in school.

<p>Reflecting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Looks back/evaluates • Sees different perspectives • Grows from experience • Stays calm 	
<p>Imagination</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Makes predictions using prior knowledge • Sees possibilities and opportunities 	
<p>Reasoning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explains • Considers evidence • Takes time • Selects best method 	
<p>Experimenting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tries different things out to make something work 	
<p>Investigating</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wants to find out a solution or answer • Persists in their attempts 	
<p>Working together</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Works collaboratively • Shares knowledge and understanding • Supports others 	
<p>Curious</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shows initiative • Asks questions • Takes risks 	
<p>Courageous</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has a go even though may not be right • Prepared to FAIL (first attempt in learning) • Self-belief 	
<p>Resilient</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Persists – keeps going • Stays positive • Practice makes perfect 	

Food and Drink in School

WE ARE A 'NUT-FREE' SCHOOL DUE TO ALLERGIES. Therefore, children must **not** bring in any food containing nuts, regardless of their nutritional value. Please check cereal bars and other similar products as they often have traces of nuts, which are also **not** permitted.

What Can Children Eat?

- All children in Reception, Year One and Year Two are eligible to receive a school lunch 'free' via the Universal Infant Free School Meals grant.
- Children are welcome to bring in a packed lunch and parents/carers of children in Key Stage Two are required to pay £3.30 per meal, should they wish for their child to be provided with a school meal.
- If your child has any food allergies or dietary requirement, it is vital that you let us know.

Who Makes the Meals and What are They Like?

Hertfordshire 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. The menu is published to parents/carers on a regular basis so you can see what will be available on any given day. The menu can also be found on our school website. The menu consists of a meat option, vegetarian option, jacket potato option with various fillings (for our creatures of habit!) and a cold option (such as a sandwich/roll/baguette/wrap). As well as informing the school, it is vital that you also inform HCL directly should your child have any allergies or dietary requirements as they may require a special menu. Further information about how to inform HCL can be found on the reverse of the menu.

Lunchtimes at School

- The academy staff work hard to try to encourage children to eat their whole meal.
- We will communicate any persistent issues your child may have with eating. You may then choose to change meals or opt for a packed lunch.
- If you have any concerns, you are welcome to draw these to our attention and we will do what we can to help.

School Lunch Charges

School meals for children in Key Stage Two (and who are not in receipt of Pupil Premium) currently cost £3.30 each (this is reviewed every year in April) and funds are to be added and orders are to be made via SchoolGrid.

SchoolGrid

- Each child's primary guardian will be sent a link direct from SchoolGrid in order to activate their account to enable them to order school meals for their child if required.
- Once set up, you can order meals weeks in advance (which we strongly encourage) or by 8.55am each day. We do suggest that you spend adequate time going through the menu with your child to help familiarise them with the options on offer.
- When your child queues for their lunch, they will simply select their name on the touchscreen (assisted by staff as age requires) and their order will be displayed for the kitchen staff to process.
- Parents/carers will need to add sufficient funds to their child's account to cover the cost of any lunches ordered (you can even set up a direct debit!) and meals will be deducted from this balance. It is important to keep a credit balance on your child's account to ensure that funds are available. If your account falls into arrears, reminder emails will be sent to prompt you to top up your account. After a series of reminders, non-payment will result in your child potentially being withdrawn from the school meal option.
- Children who are absent from school do not pay for any meals ordered on the days in which they miss as we ensure that orders are cancelled each morning if they are not in school.
- If you fail to order your child a meal and do not send them in with a packed lunch, they will be provided with a cold option (sandwich) by default and you will be charged accordingly.

Pupil Premium Grants

- Even with the government grant to schools for free Infant hot lunches, it is VERY IMPORTANT for Families on Income Support, Housing Benefit, Pension Credit or income related employment and support allowances, to please inform us (in confidence) if you think your child is eligible. We may be able to access further grants to help your child's education.
- Applications can be completed via an application form from the academy.

Packed Lunches

- Children bringing food from home to eat at lunchtime should bring them to school in an appropriate sealed container which should be clearly named.
- We would encourage you to provide a healthy, balanced lunch in support of our healthy eating policy.
- No fizzy drinks, glass bottles, confectionery, sweets or any nut-based products.
- If your child forgets to bring lunch from home, we will provide a school meal but we will of course have to ask you to pay for it.
- For further guidance about healthy lunchboxes, please follow the below links:
<https://www.nhs.uk/healthier-families/recipes/healthier-lunchboxes/>
<https://www.nhs.uk/change4life/recipes/healthier-lunchboxes>
- Please avoid sending packed lunches into school late. When dropping a packed lunch into school late can result in the admin team having to leave the office unattended to drop them off. Any late packed lunches are always placed on the relevant lunch trolley, but the admin team are not always able to inform the child as they may not be in their classroom and to avoid interrupting a lesson etc. Please inform your child if you will be dropping their packed lunch in late so they know to check the lunch trolley at lunchtime. Although children are always provided with a cold option meal if a school dinner hasn't been ordered and a packed lunch hasn't been provided, we appreciate the frustration caused if you are charged for a lunch although a packed lunch was provided but dropped in late.

Fruit and Vegetable Scheme

- We participate in the government led initiative to encourage children to eat more fruit and vegetables.
- Every day, the younger children up to Year 2 will be offered a piece of raw fruit or vegetable to be consumed during the morning session.
- Children in Key Stage 2 are encouraged to bring a small snack of fruit (either a piece of fruit or packet of dried fruit, such as raisins), vegetable or cheese to eat at break time. Cereal bars are not permitted.

Celebration Meals

- Every December we hold a special Christmas lunch for all the children and staff, decorating the tables festively and including Christmas crackers and music.
- Children who usually bring lunch from home are invited to join in, either by bringing a special packed lunch or by requesting and paying for a school meal
- Letters are sent out and orders taken in advance for this meal to help the kitchen order and cook the correct amount of food.
- The kitchen often hold other celebratory meals throughout the year too. This is always communicated in advance, usually via the newsletter.

Birthday Celebrations

- We do allow children to bring in sweets or cakes to share with classmates on their birthdays, or because of a religious celebration.
- Parents/carers are asked to respect other children and the possibility of allergies and find out what is or isn't appropriate for the children in the class to eat.
- Birthday sweets are not consumed in or at school – they are given out at the end of the day, after the school day has finished to be taken home.
- We are not able to accept sweets/cakes to hand out with or on your child's behalf. If your child would like to hand anything out, it is your responsibility to supervise and support your child with this at the end of the school day.

Drinks During Lesson Time

- We are aware of the importance of drinking enough fluids during the day, and its impact on learning.
- On a daily basis, children are encouraged to bring a named, sports type bottle filled with water, for use in the classroom.
- These can be refilled during the day from the drinking water taps. However, they should be taken home over night for washing.
- Children must not bring squash, juice or fizzy drinks.
- Still, flavoured water is acceptable.
- It is the class teacher's decision where and how the drink bottles are stored and when the children can have access to them.

Drinks at Lunchtime

- Jugs of water are available to children on each table at lunchtime.
- These are monitored and refilled as necessary by duty staff.
- Children do not need to bring drinks with a packed lunch as water will always be available, but if they do bring a drink of their own, these must be in spill-proof containers which can be opened by your child independently (no fizzy drinks or glass bottles please)

Milk

- You are required to sign up via Cool Milk should you wish for your child to receive milk in school.
- When registering, you are required to confirm your child's class, however you can select 'class unknown' and we will update this information at a later date.
- Children under the age of five can receive free milk thanks to the Nursery Milk Scheme. Parents/carers have the option to pay a subsidised price for their child to continue receiving milk in primary school after they turn five should they wish to.
- Often children ask for milk in school if they see their peers enjoying it even if they do not normally drink it at home.

Uniform

Which uniform should my child wear in September?

Either winter or summer uniform is acceptable until October half term. Winter uniform is then to be worn from October half term until Easter and summer uniform is optional from Easter until October half term.

Winter Uniform	
White shirt with school tie <i>(or option to wear white blouse)</i>	White blouse <i>(or option to wear white shirt with school tie)</i>
Grey trousers	Grey skirt or tunic/pinafore <i>(or option to wear grey trousers)</i>
Green V-neck jumper with logo	Green cardigan or V-neck jumper with logo
Grey, white or black socks	Grey/white socks or grey tights
Green academy fleece (optional – not to replace jumper)	
Outdoor coat	
Book bag or small rucksack (KS2)	
Black sensible shoes (no raised heels, boots or trainers)	
For PE, a house-coloured Green Ridge t-shirt is required with black shorts and trainers – A black jumper/hoodie/sweatshirt and/or black tracksuit bottoms can also be provided in the colder months <i>The Green Ridge PE t-shirts with logo can be purchased from Bucks Schoolwear Plus</i>	

Summer Uniform	
White shirt with school tie <i>(or option to wear white blouse)</i>	White blouse <i>(or option to wear white shirt with school tie)</i>
Grey trousers or shorts	Grey skirt or tunic/pinafore or green check gingham dress <i>(or option to wear grey trousers)</i>
Green V-neck jumper with logo	Green cardigan or V-neck jumper with logo
Grey, white or black socks	Grey/white socks or grey tights
Green academy fleece (optional – not to replace jumper)	
Outdoor coat	
Book bag or small rucksack (KS2)	
Black sensible shoes (no raised heels, boots or trainers)	
Legionnaire/baseball hat	
For PE, a house-coloured Green Ridge t-shirt is required with black shorts and trainers <i>The Green Ridge PE t-shirts with logo can be purchased from Bucks Schoolwear Plus</i>	

Hair Coverings

- Please can you make sure your child's hair is always tied back with hairbands which blend in with the colours of the academy uniform (green, grey, black or white).
- We kindly request that children do not wear coloured bows or flowered hairbands.
- We ask that any children who wear head coverings (e.g. a hijab) ensure this is plain black in colour.

Additional Uniform and Equipment Information

- Shin guards and football boots are only required for children representing the academy in football and hockey. These items are not needed for PE or Games in the school curriculum.
- Children participating in school festivals or competitions are expected to wear full school PE kit.
- Long hair (shoulder length and beyond) must be tied back at all times using green, grey, white or black headbands and plain hair clips.
- We do not expect children to wear any kind of jewellery in school except a watch.
- Children with pierced ears should wear simple plain studs. Ideally these should be removed during PE and Games lessons or alternatively they will need to be covered with micro pore tape, provided by parents in the child's PE kit.

Non-uniform Items (but still required)

- A pair of wellies, clearly named, to be kept in school
- A waterproof jacket with a hood – even in summer – the children play outside whatever the weather and they need to have appropriate outdoor clothing
- A warm coat, mittens, hat and scarf for when it is cold
- Sun cream – please do not bring this to school but make sure you have applied sun cream to your child in the morning before they come to school in hot, sunny weather

'Extreme' haircuts are not permitted in school ('extreme' being any haircut that is considered by the school to be significantly different so as to cause distraction to others, and therefore their learning; and not in keeping with the school's ethos. Examples of haircuts not permitted include: tram lines or equivalent, shaved sides with longer hair across the centre. This list is not exhaustive). When joining the academy, parents/carers are expected to fully support this policy at all times.

In KS2 (Three to Six) children require a named pencil case containing:

Pencil case	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soft material • Small enough to fit flat into an A4 draw in the classroom
Pencil/s	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HB pencil thickness
Pen/s	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fountain/cartridge pens need to have black ink • No biros • No roller-ball pens • No gel pens
Colouring pencils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic coloured set
Ruler	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30cm ruler that folds away into 15cm length
Rubber	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No more than two rubbers
Sharpener	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Canister' type sharpener which collects pencil shavings in a pot
Green and Blue biro	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any standard green and blue type biro (e.g. Bic or Steadtler) for children's self-editing

- When children move into Key Stage Two (Year Three) they can bring a small rucksack or other suitable bag in place of the school book bag.
- The bag must be small enough to fit on their cloakroom peg. Remember that it only needs to fit a pencil case, a home-learning book or folder, and on occasions a small selection of books.

Purchasing Uniform

- We have dedicated uniform suppliers: Bucks School Wear Plus. They can provide all items.
- Although the current main provider's prices are very competitive, items such as trousers and skirts, and summer dresses for girls, can be purchased from other department stores or local supermarket clothing departments.

Lost Property

- Unfortunately, things do get lost in school but staff will always try to return named items to their owners, so please check with your child's class teacher in the first instance if an item has been lost.
- Any items not clearly named are stored in the school office and often made accessible for parents/carers to check and redeem any items that they believe to be their child's. Please therefore name everything (where possible!) that your child brings into school.

Second-hand Uniform Sales

- The PTA has a small stock of second-hand uniform.
- Sales are usually held each term.
- Details are usually shared within newsletters ahead of the sales taking place.

School Governance and the PTA

Local Governing Body

The academy's Local Governing Body includes four REAch2 Governors, two Parent Governors, one Teaching staff Governor and one non-teaching staff Governor. Further information about them can be found on the academy website.

The role of a Local Governor within a Multi-Academy Trust is an important one. In developing our governance arrangements, the Trust Board has sought to ensure that the responsibility to govern is vested in those closest to the impact of decision-making and that such responsibility matches the capacity of those assuming responsibility. In conjunction with the Cluster Boards, the Trust Board establishes Local Governing Bodies for each of the Academies, for the most part made up of individuals drawn from the Academy's community, both as elected and appointed members.

Local Governing Body Monitoring and Evaluation

The LGB monitors and evaluates how well the academy is performing through several different ways, in order to hold the Headteacher to account and triangulate evidence available:

- **Learnings walks** (termly) – accompanied by a member of the SLT, Governors have the opportunity walk around the school to look at specific aspects of teaching and learning which the academy is prioritising. This may be an opportunity for Governors to see aspects of the school development plan in action so that they can report to all Governors of the implementation of specific plans.
- **Governing Body Meetings** (half-termly) – governors come together to review the academy's performance both from a curricular and resources point of view. This takes into account evidence provided by the Headteacher, as well as additional monitoring undertaken by governors.
- **Academy visits** (ad hoc) – governors are welcome to come into the academy regularly and engage with a range of different events and experiences (such as class assemblies, pupil learning reviews or whole-school themed days) so that they can see with first-hand experience how the school operates and meet with staff, pupils and parents.
- **Governor visits week** (termly) – governors come into the academy to meet with school leaders in order to review their specific areas of responsibility, e.g. finance, health and safety etc.
- **Class/year-group visits** (termly) – governors come into the academy and take part in activities within a class or year group to get to know children and staff, and are able to use this as evidence of how the academy is implementing its policies.

PTA

Who they are:

- The Parent Teacher Association (PTA) is run by a committee of parents who co-ordinate all of the parental activity in raising extra funds, as well as getting involved with the life of the school.

What they do:

- They organise various different activities either during or outside school hours to get people involved in school life.

How to contact the PTA Committee:

- Representatives can often be found during drop off and pick up times.
- Alternatively, they can be contacted via email to pta@greenridgeacademy.co.uk

How to become a committee member:

- All parents/carers at the school are automatically members of the PTA.
- If you wish to join the organising committee, please contact the chairperson.
- An annual celebration of the PTA's fundraising efforts is held in the autumn term.

Parents/carers in school

Assemblies, Performances and Productions

- Parents/carers are invited to attend their child's class assembly, when appropriate.
- Dates and times will be published in the school newsletter, calendar and on the website.
- Every Christmas the children in Reception year perform a nativity play to their parents/carers.
- Also at Christmas, the Year 1 and Year 2 classes perform a Christmas play.
- Towards the end of the academic year, Year 6 present a summer show, supported by the children in Key Stage 2. Tickets are issued for all school performances in the hall other than class assemblies.

Reading Champions

- A Reading Champion is an adult who has volunteered their time to support reading with the children.
- He or she supports a particular class or group with which they read on a regular, weekly basis.
- The Reading Champions are a vital part of our team and really help the children progress with their reading.
- Information is sent home about this either via a newsletter or special note.
- All adults volunteering in school must sign a confidentiality agreement and have the necessary DBS checks completed.

Volunteers

- We usually seek volunteers for the next academic year in the summer term prior. You are required to complete and return an application form which can be requested from the school office.
- Volunteers must have DBS clearance and are required to take part in a safeguarding induction.
- Volunteers are required to complete a Disqualification Disclosure declaration and must sign a confidentiality agreement.

School Trips

- During the school year we organise various trips for the children.
- You will receive a letter giving you details of any trips for your child's class in which you will likely be asked for a financial contribution towards the cost of the trip/transport and may be required to complete a form to let us know if your child requires a packed lunch.
- If we do not receive enough voluntary contributions to cover the cost of the trip/transport, it may have to be cancelled.
- Parent/carer volunteers are often needed for such trips, and you can usually let us know if you are available and willing to help via a form. Contact will then be made to confirm if you are required or not.

Our Wider Community

Integrated Practice

As an academy, we believe in working together with families and other services to support children's development.

We are fortunate to have excellent relationships with key external professionals who provide specialist support alongside the school. You may come across these and others during your time at Green Ridge:

- | | |
|--|--|
| • Specialist Advisory Team | • Children's Development Centre |
| • Children's Centres | • Family Support Workers |
| • Community Health Team | • Speech and Language Therapy Service |
| • Pre-School Advisory Teachers | • Primary Support Base |
| • Education Support Centres – ESCs | • Children Looked After Adviser |
| • Assessment Team – Social Care | • SEN Advisory team |
| • Child and Adolescent Mental Health service - CAMHS | • Speech and Language Development Base |
| • Multi-Agency and Psychology Services - MAPS | • Attendance Improvement Officers - AIOs |
| • Special Educational Need and Disability Team | |

With your cooperation, or at your request, we may at some point need to make a single service referral to any of these agencies for extra specialist advice or support.

Care, Guidance and Support

Pastoral Care

- We aim to create an atmosphere where each child feels s/he has a contribution to make.
- The staff are always alert to any unusual changes in mood or character and any child experiencing difficulties because of something at school or home has appropriate help.
- We appreciate receiving information from parents (of which we may be unaware) which may have an effect on children's learning and stability.

Academy Parliament

- The Academy Parliament consists of elected representatives from each class (YR upwards).
- The parliament meets at least once each half-term with the Deputy Headteacher.
- The children on the parliament are invited to contribute ideas and concerns about all aspects of the school.

Safeguarding Children

- The school has a responsibility to work with other agencies to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children.
- If concerns are raised within the school or a child or parent reports a situation involving possible abuse, we would not be able to guarantee confidentiality as we are duty bound to refer such matters to Social Services, in line with Local Authority procedures.
- The Headteacher and a nominated school governor have the responsibility to oversee that all necessary procedures are in place to ensure that children are safe.
- Adults working with children in an unsupervised situation (out of the classroom) are subject to rigorous Disclosure and Barring Scheme (DBS, formerly CRB) checks.
- New staff are recruited in line with safer recruiting procedures.

Personal/Social Development

- As an academy, we are aware of the many other non-academic factors that contribute to a balanced education.
- The academy PSHE and Citizenship curriculum includes P4C (Philosophy for Children) where children are taught about generating questions, leading discussions and accepting the views and ideas with their peers.
- In all aspects of school, your child will be helped to develop as a caring, thoughtful individual.

The Curriculum

Green Ridge Primary Academy aims to provide a broad, balanced, challenging and thorough education, enabling children to achieve the highest standard of which they are capable.

Schemes of work and resources are carefully chosen to accommodate and stimulate children of all abilities. The curriculum includes the following subjects: English, Maths and Science as core subjects; Computing, Physical Education (PE) and Religious Education as key subjects. History, Geography, Design Technology, Art, Music, Foreign Languages and PSHE & Citizenship as foundation subjects.

The Early Years Foundation Stage, which incorporates Nursery and Reception classes, follow the EYFS curriculum as set out by the DfE. We aim to create a culture where children enjoy learning in all areas and develop sound basic skills which enable them to acquire a positive outlook towards life and learning.

Educational 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.
- A 'Catch-All' consent form is issued when a child first starts at the school and covers parental permission for all off-site visits and trips (excluding overnight residential stays).

RSE

- The Governors believe that sex and relationships education should form a part of the curriculum within the caring and nurturing ethos of the academy.
- Questions arising are answered factually and according to the child's maturity and level of understanding where appropriate. The emphasis is on love, care and the family.
- Further detail is contained within the Sex and Relationships Policy.

Instrumental Music Lessons

- All children are taught music as part of our balanced curriculum.
- There are opportunities for children to sing together in choirs and play together in an ensemble or orchestra.
- A range of peripatetic music teachers may visit the school to give individual, paired or group lessons specified instruments.
- These lessons are paid for by parents/carers and take place at different times throughout the school day.

School Sport

We aim to develop children's physical skills and their enjoyment in physical activities as individuals and team members. Each class uses the hall, playgrounds and field area for many different sporting activities. The PE and Games curriculum includes:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| • Gymnastics | • Dance |
| • Athletics (including cross country) | • Multi-skills |
| • Circuit training | • Tennis |
| • Kwik cricket | • Team games (football, netball, tag-rugby, hockey) |

Throughout the year children participate in a range of fixtures, tournaments and festivals.

Home Learning

- All classes will be given a set amount of home learning in line with the school's Home Learning Policy.
- The Home Learning Policy is reviewed every two years by staff and governors and can be found on the school website.

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

- Our school has a policy for SEND which is in line with the DfE code of practice for children with SEND.
- All staff are committed to addressing the additional needs of children and our SENCo manages the wide-ranging provision available.
- Careful assessment of additional needs and early intervention is vital and the school will work closely with parents at all stages.
- The school has good links with external agencies to support specific additional needs.
- The school also recognises the need to provide for children who have particular gifts and/or talents. These children are catered for in a range of different ways through challenge, differentiated activities and specifically designed tasks.

Assessment

- As part of their everyday activities, children are assessed and monitored by their teachers.
- This is an important aspect of the teaching and learning process which allows the teacher to identify the next steps in a child's learning or to assist a child who is experiencing some difficulties.
- Children are formally assessed each half-term in reading, writing and maths

Enrichment Clubs

- A range of enrichment clubs are made available to children to extend their skills.
- Communication regarding clubs for each term is usually sent at the beginning of each term or at the end of the term prior.
- Spaces are limited and children will only be allowed to sign up for a maximum of two school-led clubs initially and places will be filled on a first come first served basis.
- Refunds **cannot** be given in the event of children not attending the clubs they have been allocated.
- Children are expected to commit to taking part in a club for the whole term and may be withdrawn if behaviour or engagement is poor.

Things To Bring to School

Book Bags

Book bags are needed every day for the children to hold their reading books etc. Please ensure that children leave any toys at home to prevent book bags from getting too cluttered. Please also ensure that water bottles are not put into these bags as this may result in books getting ruined should bottles leak.

PE Kits

Your child will need a house-coloured Green Ridge t-shirt with black shorts and trainers. A black jumper/hoodie/sweatshirt and/or black tracksuit bottoms can also be provided in the colder months. The Green Ridge PE t-shirts with logo can be purchased from Bucks Schoolwear Plus. All items should be clearly marked with your child's name in a PE bag. Where necessary, long hair will need to be tied back and earrings will need to be covered or removed. Please can you encourage your child to practise getting changed independently in readiness for this.

Water Bottle

Sipping water throughout the day helps to keep the children's brains active. Children need to bring a named bottle of water to school each day. Water bottles will be sent home each night, so that they are washed and refilled ready for the next day. Please make sure that bottles are filled with only water and not juice. We will always have fresh water and cups available during the day should a child forget to bring their bottle.

Snacks

The school belongs to a fruit and vegetable scheme and a piece of fruit or vegetable is offered to children in Early Years and Key Stage Two free of charge every morning. Parents/carers can provide their own healthy snack for their child if they wish to do so, however please understand that we are trying to promote healthy living at school and chocolate, crisps and other sugary snacks are not appropriate.

Appendix 1: GDPR and Media Permissions

Changes to Data Protection Regulations

You may be aware that new data protection law, GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation) came into force from 25th May 2018. To ensure we are meeting the new requirements, we need to seek your consent to take and use photos of your child. We really value using photos of pupils to be able to showcase what pupils do in school and show what life at our school is like to others. We are only able to continue to do this if you provide us with your consent.

In addition, we would like to forward you selected marketing information such as holiday & after school club opportunities, and fundraising ideas and events for the school.

Please could you complete section 1 of the enclosed consent form booklet, and return it to us along with your new starter paperwork. If we do not receive your consent, we will have to assume that you decline and we will be unable to take or use any photos of your child. In addition, we will not be able to forward you any marketing information and your child's name will be omitted from lists.

If you change your mind about the consents you have provided at any time, please just contact the school office on admin@greenridgeacademy.co.uk and we can arrange for you to update your preferences on the consent form.

Our privacy notices have been updated to inform parents/carers about the information we hold in respect of parents/carers and pupils and how we share that information. These are available on our school website [here](#). If your child is in Early Years or has a medical condition, we may need to contact you for additional consents in the future.

Appendix 2: Home-School Agreement

2024/2025

I am pleased to provide you with Green Ridge Primary Academy's Home-School Agreement for the academic year 2024/2025.

Aim

Our Home-School Agreement encapsulates our belief that parents and carers are a child's first and most important educators. It is designed to help achieve the highest possible standards of achievement through close communication and effective partnership with parents and carers.

Relationship to other policies

This agreement relates most closely to the Home Learning, Behaviour, Collective Worship and Attendance and Punctuality policies. It is relevant to many other school policies such as Assessment, Child Protection, School Equality Information and Objectives and Teaching and Learning.

Roles and responsibilities of the Headteacher, other staff, governors

We will ensure that the Home-School agreement and other significant communications with parents, carers and pupils are reviewed at least every three years and shared with parents, pupils, staff and governors.

Where parents or carers are unable to access this agreement because English is an additional language, translations will be produced or the contact will be oral.

Arrangements for monitoring and evaluation

The Senior Leadership Team will monitor the number of Home-School Agreements that are signed and the reasons given when they are not signed.

Pupil Code of Conduct

Behaviour Charter

At Green Ridge, we have established our behaviour charter. These are key beliefs and fundamental expectations to how children behave which apply to all children, and have been created in a way that can be understood and recognized by all children, even from the youngest age.

At Green Ridge, we will be:

1. Ready
2. Respectful
3. Safe

Our behaviour charter means that:

- You have the right to have your opinions heard and the responsibility to listen to others and you should always try to understand other people's point of view.
- You have the right to be clothed, but you should come to school smartly dressed in correct school uniform. Stud earrings and watches are the only jewellery which may be worn in school.
- You have the right to develop healthily and the responsibility to keep fit. This includes the responsibility to be prepared to take part in PE. If there is any reason why you cannot do PE, you must bring a note from home or from a doctor.
- You have the right not to be hurt or experience oppressive behaviour. You also have the responsibility not to hurt others. Bullying will not be tolerated at our school.
- You have the right to be heard but the responsibility not to use bad language (which will not be tolerated). You should always speak politely to everyone (even if you feel bad tempered) and use a low voice (shouting is discourteous).
- You have the right to an education but the responsibility in class to make it as easy as possible for everyone to learn and for the teacher to teach. This means arriving on time with everything that is needed for that lesson, beginning and ending the lesson in a courteous and orderly way, listening carefully, following instructions, helping each other when appropriate, and being quiet and sensible at all times.
- You must move gently and quietly about school. This means never running, barging or shouting, but being ready to help by opening doors, standing back to allow people to pass and helping to carry things.
- Your right to a good education means that you have the responsibility to keep the school clean and tidy so that it is a welcoming place we can all be proud of. This means putting litter in bins, keeping walls and furniture unmarked and taking great care of the displays, particularly of other people's work.
- You should not bring any valuables into school. Money brought to school for specific purposes must be placed in a named envelope and either handed directly to the school office or your Class Teacher.
- You must take great care of your own and other people's property. Other children's belongings must not be touched, unless permission has been given.
- You have the right to have access to electronic communication and information systems such as e-mail and the internet and the responsibility to use them safely as described in the acceptable use agreement for ICT.
- You have the right to nutritious food and when this is provided the responsibility not to waste this special gift.
- Out of school, walking locally or with a school group, you always remember that the school's reputation depends on the way you behave.

The Academy/School

We will:

- care for your child's safety and well-being.
- promote high standards of work and behaviour, and provide clear guidelines for pupils and parents.

- ensure your child is given every opportunity to achieve their full potential as a valued member of the school community.
- provide a balanced curriculum to meet your child's individual needs.
- contact you if we have any concerns, and keep you informed about your child's progress and how you can help them at home.
- be open and welcoming at all times.
- set home learning appropriate to each child.
- explain when, what and how home learning is to be done so that each child clearly understands.

Please complete and sign section 2 of the consent form booklet and return with your new starter paperwork.

Many thanks in advance for your cooperation with this.

Appendix 3: E-Safety Rules and Agreement

ICT including the internet, email and mobile technologies has become an important part of learning in our academy. We expect all children to be safe and responsible when using any ICT. We have also created our own e-Safety page on our website which gives additional guidance.

Please read and discuss the following e-Safety rules with your child and complete and sign section 3 of the consent form booklet enclosed. If you have any concerns or would like further explanation, please contact myself.

We ask that you take care to ensure that appropriate systems are in place at home to protect and support your child/ren.

Primary Pupil Acceptable User e-Safety Rules and Agreement

- I will only use ICT in school for school purposes
- I will only use my class email address or my own school email address when emailing
- I will only open email attachments from people I know, or who my teacher has approved
- I will not tell other people my ICT passwords
- I will only open/delete my own files
- I will make sure that all ICT contact with other children and adults is responsible, polite and sensible
- I will not look for, save or send anything that could be unpleasant or nasty. If I accidentally find anything like this I will tell my teacher immediately
- I will not give out my own/others details such as name, phone number or home address. I will not arrange to meet someone or send my image unless this is part of a school project approved by my teacher and a responsible adult comes with me
- I will be responsible for my behaviour when using ICT because I know that these rules are to keep me safe
- I will support the school approach to online safety and not upload or add any images, video, sounds or text that could upset any member of the school community
- I know that my use of ICT can be checked and my parent/carer contacted if a member of school staff is concerned about my safety
- I will not sign up for any online service unless this is an agreed part of a school project approved by my teacher
- I will not bring a Smart Watch to school because I am not allowed to wear one during the school day.
- I will not sign up to online services until I am old enough

Appendix 4: Off-Site Visits

Sometimes we may need to leave the school premises for local, curriculum-related, regular or routine visits, as may be detailed in the school's prospectus, or for sports fixtures when representing the establishment as part of a team. Therefore, we would appreciate it if you could complete and sign the Off-Site Visits section of the consent form booklet, so that we don't have to contact you every time we need to leave the site to allow your child to participate in such events.

Obviously, there will be more structured external excursions and school trips that would necessitate your child leaving the school premises, but you will be informed separately by letter when further consent may be required.

The consent for Off-Site Visits can be found in Section 4 of the consent form booklet, and this MUST be completed by person with parental responsibility for the child/young person.

Appendix 5: School Dog

You may be aware that there is a growing movement in many schools to reintroduce the concept of school pets as a way of teaching all children responsibility and providing a source of pleasure and learning. Since the inception of Green Ridge, the staff, governors and I have been discussing the benefits of a school dog for our children. There are a number of school dogs already in post locally and around the country and we firmly believe that having a school dog can only enhance and extend the children's opportunities for learning – both academically and socially.

What are the benefits of a school dog?

Numerous research studies have shown the benefits of therapy dogs in schools. Therapy dogs have been working in schools for the past 5 years across the UK. However, they have been commonplace in schools in the USA and Australia for many years. Evidence indicates that benefits include:

- *Cognitive* – companionship with a dog stimulates memory, problem-solving and game-playing
- *Social* – a dog provides a positive mutual topic for discussion, encourages responsibility, wellbeing and focused interaction with others
- *Emotional* – a school dog improves self-esteem, acceptance from others and lifts mood, often provoking laughter and fun. Dogs can also teach compassion and respect for other living things as well as relieving anxiety.
- *Physical* – interaction with a furry friend reduces blood pressure, provides tactile stimulation, gives motivation to move and stimulates the senses
- *Environmental* – a dog in a school increases the sense of a family environment, with all of the above benefits continuing long after the school day is over.
- Helping children build confidence in reading
– <http://www.theguardian.com/education/2011/feb/28/dogs-listen-to-children-reading>

What we offer

Miss. South has a dog called Barney who is a cavapoo. Barney has been a regular visitor to Green Ridge since he was 13 weeks old. Although Barney is generally based with Miss South initially, he is accessible to all children.

Obviously, bringing any animal into school is not something to be approached lightly, both for the animal's sake and for the sake of the children and adults in the school. I have visited and taken advice from fellow Headteachers, who have school dogs. We have discussed the practicalities, including everything from risk assessments and insurance to dealing with training, doggy toileting and children's allergies.

Children are never left alone with Barney and they are taught about how to be around a dog; for example, if Barney is on his bed, then we leave him alone to rest.

What is Barney like?

Barney is a cavapoo and as such has a non-shedding hypoallergenic coat. Because he does not shed his fur, it is highly unlikely anyone will be allergic to him. The breed is renowned for their sweet nature, intelligence and love of children. Belonging to Miss. South, Barney has undergone strict training and assessment in order to prepare him for working with children. Barney is in training as a 'PAWS Therapy' dog, meaning that he is being assessed as being healthy and of the right temperament to work within the local community, including young children. PAWS Therapy & Assistance Dog Training is one of the UK's Leading authorities on Animal Assisted Learning and Animal Assisted Interventions.

What does Barney do all day in school?

Barney's role in school is varied. He might 'chill out' in the classroom whilst the children are having their lessons. Research studies in both Britain and America have concluded that having a dog in a school classroom can have many positive benefits – 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. Also, it has been shown that when children share the affection and care of a 'school' dog, a bond forms among them and strengthens their team ethics.

Barney also hears children read. Dogs give unconditional acceptance, as they are non-judgmental, which is especially crucial to struggling, emerging readers. He will provide confidence to children as he will not make fun of them when they read, but above all he will make an amazing listener, providing the children with a sense of comfort and love. In America, the 'Read' Dogs, as they are known, have proved through research that children who read to these dogs show an increase in reading levels, word recognition, a higher desire to read and write and an increase in intra and interpersonal skills among the children they mix with.

It would be helpful to know whether we have any children who are allergic to dogs' hair or who have a particular phobia concerning dogs. I can assure you that Barney is not able to 'roam' around the school and is always with a member of staff. We are very mindful, that having a dog in the school setting should not be a distraction to the children's learning and for this to enhance our school ethos and the experiences we offer our children. I attach a copy of answers to a number of initial questions you may have.

School Dog - Further Information and Frequently Asked Questions

How has the academy planned for Barney?

- A full risk assessment and policy has been written.
- Parents/carers have the option to 'opt out' of planned contact with Barney.
- All contact with children is carefully planned and children will not be left unsupervised with Barney.
- When not working, Barney is based in one of the school offices.

What about allergies?

- All areas of the school are vacuumed and surfaces are wiped down daily.
- Movement around the school is controlled for Barney.

My child is allergic to dogs

It is understandable that some of you may be concerned about possible allergic reactions to a school dog. However, Barney is subjected to the most thorough cleanliness and grooming regime. He is also only allowed in situations with pupils who voluntarily wish to work with him.

Is Barney properly cared for?

Barney is extremely well looked after. He lives with Miss South and comes to school on planned days. He works in classes but is always accompanied by an appropriate member of staff. Barney visits the vet regularly for all his injections as well as regular check-ups. If Barney is unwell for any reason he is not brought into school.

My child is scared of dogs

Some children may have had upsetting experiences and thus have a fear of dogs (or another animal). Barney is only in contact with children whose parents/carers are happy for their child to do so. However, Barney's training has ensured he is calm and gentle around children; he has a very loving and gentle nature. Experience and research have shown that, with proper guidance and handling, children can learn to overcome their fear of animals and grow in respect and appreciation for them.

The school has a 'no dogs' policy

Our school does have a 'no dogs' policy; however, because Barney has been trained appropriately to be around children and interact with them, he is permitted within the school grounds. He is always accompanied by a trained adult when moving between designated areas. Barney is also fully insured to carry out his role thus allowing him to be on the school site.

Hygiene

There is a designated area for Barney to go to the toilet which will be away from the children at the side of the school site. If Barney has an accident, this is cleared up immediately by a member of staff who is happy to do so with suitable cleaning products. Children are never asked to pick up poop.

Please don't hesitate to contact the academy if you have any questions that have not been covered above. I would be very grateful if you could complete section 5 of the consent form booklet to let us know how you feel about your child's contact with Barney.

Appendix 6: Intimate Care

Green Ridge Primary Academy is committed to ensuring that all staff responsible for the intimate care of children will undertake their duties in a professional manner at all times. We recognise that there is a need to treat all children with respect when intimate care is given. No child should be attended to in a way that causes distress or pain.

Please complete and sign section 6 of the enclosed consent form booklet and return it to us with your child's new starter paperwork.

Appendix 7: First Aid and Emergency Care

Green Ridge Primary Academy is committed to ensuring that all staff are appropriately first aid trained and that first aid kits are available in every classroom and around the school. Sometimes a child may be taken to the medical room or a second opinion sought from another member of staff (with more in-depth training and experience) before further action is taken; for example, the parent will be contacted to collect the child from school and/or seek further medical attention or advice.

Schools are now permitted to keep a generic inhaler in school for emergency use should the child's own be unavailable or empty. We are also now permitted to hold an auto-injector (subject to availability) in school for emergency use (usually under the advice of the ambulance service).

In extreme cases, it may be necessary for the school to call an ambulance on your behalf for your child to be taken to hospital; please be assured that we would do everything we can to contact you before this step was taken, but without putting the child in danger by waiting.

Please complete and sign section 7 of the enclosed consent form booklet and return to us with your child's new starter paperwork.

Appendix 8: Tapestry Online Learning Journal (EYFS only)

In Early Years, we use an online learning journal called Tapestry which enables each child to have their own individual learning journal.

By logging on with a secure username and password, you will be able to view your child's observations, photos and even videos from their time in Early Years. You will receive emails telling you when a new piece of work or observation is available for you to view. This will enable you to follow your child's progress closely and you can reflect upon achievements and milestones with your child. You will be able to add comments and ask questions, so that we as a staff find out about which activities your child really enjoys, and about the learning they get up to at home. Staff will reference your child's learning to the EYFS profile so you will know which area of learning your child is achieving in and the age band they were working in for that activity. Please note that we will be observing 'focus children' every week so some weeks there will be a flurry of activity and other weeks it may be quieter. This does not mean we are not working with your child, simply gathering evidence for others. All this information is then stored on a highly secure server which is closely monitored.

If you do not have regular access to the internet then please speak to one of us, and we can arrange a time for you to come in and view them on one of our computers.

At Green Ridge we take E-safety very seriously, and therefore ask you to provide us with the information requested in section 8 of the enclosed consent form booklet and sign the agreement to show you understand and will agree with our guidelines.

Online Learning Journey (Tapestry) – Parents/Carers Guide

Introduction

All children attending the Early Years at Green Ridge have a personal on-line Learning Journey which records photos, observations and comments, in line with the Early Years Foundation Stage, to build up a record of your child's experiences during their time with us.

We use Tapestry, a system, which is hosted in the UK on secure servers. You will have secure access (via email address and password) to your child's Learning Journey and, in addition to viewing our contributions, we encourage you to add to it by uploading photos and comments, or commenting on observations made by us.

Where do I start?

Once you have given us an email address, we will set up an account for you. Go to <https://eylj.org> on your computer, or if you have an iPhone or iPad, visit the iTunes store and download the Tapestry app from the Education section (search for TapestryMobile). Login using your email address and the password we give you. We strongly recommend that you change your password on your first visit.

Changing your settings

On a computer

At the top right of your screen, you will see your name, and selecting this will give you the option to 'Edit Preferences'. Choose this option and you will be presented with a screen giving you the option to change your email address and password.

You also have the option to receive an email whenever a new observation is added to your child's Learning Journey – just tick or untick the relevant box if you would like to change this setting.

On an iPhone/iPad

To change your settings on the iPhone/iPad app, click the 'cog' button on the bottom right-hand side of the application. This enables you to change password and/or email address.

Viewing my child's learning journey

Once logged in, you will see your child's observations on your home screen in a list – selecting any one of these will open up the observation for you to look at. You may add comments in the box at the bottom of the observation if you would like to - and we would love to receive such comments!

Adding an entry to my child's learning journey

Choose the 'Add Observation' option (or the 'plus' icon on your iPhone/iPad) and add the relevant information in the boxes on screen. Photos and videos may be uploaded by choosing the 'add media' option. When you have saved your observation, you may go back to the home screen at any time by choosing 'home'.