

Dear Parents/Carers

Happy New Year! We hope you all had a good Christmas. It was lovely to see so many of you at our Christmas celebrations. We are looking forward to a busy half term. As we did last year, we will be sending progress reports out at the end of this half term. This is so you can discuss your child's progress and their next steps with their teachers at our parents evenings straight after half term.

### **Maths**

We continue our Teaching for Mastery approach to mathematics. Our children have been using fantastic mathematical language to explain their methods and reasoning, as well as using diagrams to represent their thinking. We are also working hard to develop our multiplication facts by using Times Tables Rock Stars in KS2. Each week, pupils spend time in the Studio, practising their skills, increasing their speed and building their Rock Star status! Why not challenge your child to a Rock Battle and see who will take centre stage?

### **Last Half term in 65R**

In a successful half term for 65R, we had a brilliant time learning all about Space in our topic. The children produced some amazing projects for our Space Showcase, including rockets and model solar systems. We also had a lot of fun learning our lines and practising songs for the Christmas production.

### **The Ridgeway Christmas Cabaret**

This year's Christmas production saw children from across Key Stage 2 taking to the stage as the teachers and pupils of Ridgeway. In an alternative magical universe, preparations for the Christmas play were not going well. It looked as if Christmas would be cancelled at Ridgeway until the arrival of a mysterious substitute music teacher.

A huge well done to all of the KS2 children who worked extremely hard to learn their lines and songs. You were all superstars!

### **Music at Ridgeway**

Last half term was very successful for music at Ridgeway. As well as the Christmas production, the choir did a fantastic job with their Christmas performances and we have some very strong new voices this year. Also, "Give it a Go Recorders" was a success and we look forward to offering more groups in the future.

## French

In French, pupils in KS2 have been learning about the traditional New Year cake called la Galette des Rois, eaten for Epiphany (January 6th). Years 5&6 have created some lovely self portraits as King or Queen for the day wearing their Galette des Rois crowns. Years 3&4 have enjoyed watching an animated version of the traditional French tale of 'Roule Galette' and rose to the challenge of writing the characters names in French Script.

## Anti-bullying Award

We are well underway with renewing our Anti-Bullying Award. During Anti-bullying week, the children undertook a variety of activities, all of which were decided upon by the School Council. The week started with an assembly which introduced the theme of 'Change starts with Us'. On the Tuesday, we held an odd socks day to show that whatever our differences, we are all unique and everybody is to be respected. During the week, the children discussed the theme in more detail. They thought about what small positive changes they could make themselves in order to help others to feel good about themselves. The children also had the opportunity to decorate a person in their own particular way, demonstrating again, our own uniqueness. A display was created of some of the work the children produced, all of which will be submitted as part of the renewal process.



Our Anti-Bullying Policy is also being reviewed and updated. A copy can be accessed on the school's website. Please do take time to read it. If you have any comments, then please send these to the office, either by email or by letter, for the attention of Mrs K Johnson. I am also hoping to produce a parent's guide which will outline the steps you can take if you think your child is being bullied, and also what steps we will take as a school to tackle any bullying which is taking place.

## **School Uniform**

Thank you to everyone who adheres to our school uniform policy. We will be reviewing it over the next term in readiness for September. If you have any comments about our current uniform policy that you would like us to take into account during our review please forward your comments to Mrs Dewes or Mr Turner. We have put our current uniform policy below.

### **SCHOOL UNIFORM POLICY**

Ridgeway has a school uniform as follows:

- Navy sweatshirts
- Gold polo shirts or white shirts, blouses.
- Navy/grey trousers, skirts, pinafores.
- Blue/yellow checked or striped summer dresses.

All children are expected to adhere to the Ridgeway uniform and we ask that clothes be clearly labelled with pupils' names.

Each child needs a change of clothing for PE, both for hygiene and safety.

Children should wear:

- Blue shorts
- White T-shirts
- Plimsolls
- Warm track suits/football boots etc., for outdoor games (KS2 only).

Ridgeway sweatshirts and gold polo shirts can be bought via our online uniform provider details are on the website.

### **Jewellery**

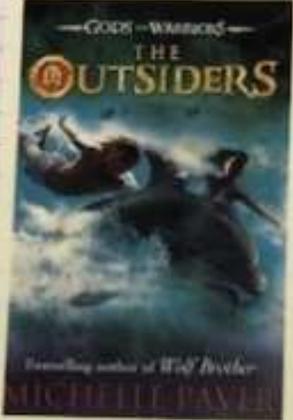
Jewellery should not be worn to school, with the exception of a wristwatch.

Children who have recently had their ears pierced may wear a small stud but this must be removed/ covered for all PE and swimming lessons

## Reading in Year 5/6

In Years 5 & 6 this term we have been introduced to our new class reader - The Outsiders, by Michelle Paver. This book links to our topic of Ancient Greece. The children were examining the front and back covers for clues about the story.

Monday 6 January



I think that the genre is Adventure and Fantasy. I noticed that at the top of the cover it says gods and warriors, this makes me think it is mythical.

The people are swimming with dolphins this makes me think it is an adventure story.

I think they have traveled. As they are at the sea.

I think it is set in the past because it says at the top of the cover gods and warriors.

**'If an Outsider wields the blade, the House of Koranos burns...'**

Hylas is only a boy but he knows three things:

- The Gods exist.**
- Magic is real.**
- Somebody wants him dead.**

Hunted and alone, Hylas is desperate to find his missing sister. His quest takes him across the hostile mountains and treacherous seas of Ancient Greece.

His only friend is a girl on the run.  
His only guide is a wild dolphin.  
And his murderous enemies are closing in...

I think the story is definitely fantasy and Adventure as it says magic is real and Hylas goes on a quest to find his sister. It is definitely set in the Past as it says treacherous seas of ancient Greece. Who wants Hylas dead? Why? Why does Hylas have enemies? What has he done?

# Library Update



Library update  
Following the fantastic refurbishment of the library, funded by FORA, the children now enjoy a weekly, timetabled slot (organised by Miss Price) during which they can enjoy browsing, reading and discovering new books with friends.  
The money spent on this has enriched every child's learning environment.  
Thank you so much to everyone who has contributed to FORA events.  
Mrs Jacks.



## PE Information

### **Swimming Gala**

The swimming team had an enjoyable afternoon during the Harborough district swimming gala. They all swam brilliantly in their individual races, with some notable first place performances. Overall, Ridgeway came in 7<sup>th</sup> place, but should feel proud of their determination and super swimming.

### **Y5/6 Dodgeball**

Two teams took part in the dodgeball tournament. Both teams played brilliantly throughout. The B team managed to secure 2<sup>nd</sup> place overall, with the A team coming in 10<sup>th</sup> place. This strong performance should hopefully lead to an invite to the next stage of the competition in March.

### **Y3/4 Dodgeball**

The team played incredibly well during the tournament, and finished in an impressive 4<sup>th</sup> place. The team worked incredibly well together and stayed on the top two courts for the entire event. They should all feel very proud of their super performance.

### **Y5/6 Inclusive Sports.**

Fifteen Year 5 children have begun a six-week programme learning how to play a range of inclusive sports with a visiting coach from LSLSP (Learning South Leicestershire School Sports Partnership). This will culminate with the children taking part in a Boccia tournament at Robert Smyth in February.

## Dates for your diary

Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> January - Robert Smyth Science Conference (KS2 only)

Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> January - Parents Phonics Meeting - KS1 and Reception

Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February - Parents' Evening 3.30-7.00pm

Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February - Parents' Evening 3.30-7.00pm

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March - FORA Mothers' Day Sale

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March - Parents Surgery Coffee Morning 9.00-9.30am

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March - Evening of Music

Reception Trip to Rockingham Castle Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April - FORA Easter Bingo 6.00-9.30pm