



RIDGEWAY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

July 2026

EXECUTIVE HEAD'S UPDATE

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a wonderful year at Ridgeway! We've been lucky to have so many new children, families, and staff join our community this academic year. Thank you to all of you for your support, the events have all been very well attended, it wouldn't be nearly as good without all of you!

I'm pleased to say that we continued to recruit and retain high-quality staff, and also very pleased to have got the school back on an 'even keel' financially. This means that we can invest in classrooms, outdoor areas, and vital resources for your children.

We're fast becoming the first choice special school for many parents and carers in Bedford and beyond!

This term, we've had a lot of fantastic events including a superb Sixth Form Prom, the brilliant Ridgestock festival, and sports days. We were so pleased that you could join us for the sports days.

We've got lots of work going on over the summer, this includes roof repairs to the secondary building (third time lucky!), a new pathway to forest school to improve accessibility (thanks to a generous donation), a new early years/key stage 1 outdoor learning environment (partially funded by the Harpur Trust).



We hope you enjoy
reading all about
another busy
summer term!



Finally, the wonderful Heart of Marston charity is raising as much money as possible for the installation of air conditioning in the main school building. This fund raising has been supported by some fantastic Ridgeway parents and families (check out their Just Giving page here: <https://www.justgiving.com/charity/theheartofmarston>)

We're looking at the school budget to try to support this as much as possible.

I hope that you have a fantastic summer, we'll look forward to welcoming the children back in September.

*Best wishes,
Joe*



RIDGEWAY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

HEAD of SCHOOL MESSAGE

Free School Meals: important update for families

The government is expanding Free School Meals criteria. In Bedford Borough, 21% of children currently receive a healthy hot meal every school day at no cost to their family.

Key points

Free school meals are worth around £470 per year, per child.

Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 automatically receive universal infant free school meals during term time.

Families with children in Year 3 and above may be eligible if they receive certain benefits.

Bedford Borough carries out regular auto-enrolment checks, but families can request an eligibility check if circumstances change.

Why it matters

Free school meals support children's learning, wellbeing and health, while helping families with food costs. Schools also receive extra funding, such as Pupil Premium, when eligible families are registered.

Who may be eligible?

For children in Year 3 and above attending a Bedford Borough school, families may qualify if they receive one or more of the following benefits:

- Universal Credit, with annual net earned income of no more than £7,400
- Income Support, income-based Jobseeker's Allowance, or income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guarantee element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit, if not entitled to Working Tax Credit and annual gross income is no more than £16,190
- Working Tax Credit run-on, paid for four weeks after Working Tax Credit ends

Requesting a check

Please request a free school meal eligibility check if your circumstances change, you move into Bedford Borough, or you think your child may be eligible but have not heard from the council.

Use the form below to request a free school meal eligibility check: [Free School Meals](#)



Lulu Stanier-Martin
Head of School & DSL Lead



RIDGEWAY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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Stop the Hate Campaign

The "Stop the Hate" campaign is a dedicated initiative focused on preventing and tackling hate crime, bullying, and discrimination.

For families of children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), this campaign provides vital protection, resources, and reporting tools, as disabled individuals are disproportionately targeted by hate incidents.

Please see the poster below for further details or go to their website: <https://www.stophateuk.org/>



CAMHS Partnership & Parent Courses

We meet with CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services) twice a term to discuss support strategies for our pupils and students with Autism and ADHD.

Alongside these regular consultation meetings, there are also courses available for parents and carers.

If you would like to attend one of these sessions, please contact Lulu or Charlene to arrange your place.

Available courses are:

- Rethinking Autism
- The Spell Framework
- Rethinking Behaviour
- Rethinking Connections
- Rethinking Our Senses





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HEAD of SCHOOL MESSAGE



Operation Encompass: how we support children after domestic abuse incidents

Operation Encompass is a national safeguarding scheme that helps schools provide timely, sensitive support to children who may have experienced domestic abuse at home. Our school is part of Operation Encompass, a national scheme run jointly by schools and police forces. It helps us respond quickly and appropriately when a child may need extra support.

When police attend a domestic abuse incident involving a child or young person, they can notify the school before the start of the next school day. This means trusted staff can offer support as soon as possible.

As a school/educational setting we have ensured that a member of our staff, (Lulu Stanier-Martin, Designated Safeguarding Lead) known as a Key Adult, has been trained in the Operation Encompass procedures allowing us to then use the information that has been shared, in confidence, to support the child/ren in our care.

The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 identifies children who experience domestic abuse as victims of domestic abuse in their own right.

On 24 May 2024 Royal Assent was granted to The Victims and Prisoners Act. The Act placed Operation Encompass into Law. This places a statutory obligation on police forces to share Operation Encompass notifications with schools/educational settings.

We are keen to offer the best support possible to all our pupils and through Operation Encompass we will be able to provide the best possible support to our children



RIDGEWAY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

HAPPY Retirement

This term, we say farewell to our School Business Manager, Joyce Webb, who is retiring after an incredible 24 years of dedicated service to our school community.

Throughout her time with us, Joyce has been at the heart of the school, working tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure everything runs smoothly. Her professionalism, commitment, and unwavering support have played a vital role in the success of the school, benefiting staff, pupils, and families alike.



Joyce has been a familiar and friendly face to generations of children and parents, and her knowledge, care, and dedication will be greatly missed by everyone who has had the pleasure of working with her.

On behalf of the entire school community, we would like to thank Joyce for her outstanding contribution over the past 24 years and wish her a long, happy, and well-deserved retirement filled with good health, happiness, and new adventures.

Thank you, Joyce – you will be greatly missed, and we wish you all the very best for the future.

School's Out Forever, Retirement 2026!!!



RIDGEWAY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Meet the..... Communication Support Team



Phemie Innes

Speech & Language Therapist



April Warman

Communication Support Worker

We know how important communication is for pupils' learning and development, which is why it's a key part of everything we do at Ridgeway!

Our team works closely with classes to ensure that speech and language support is embedded throughout the entire day, across all activities and within the whole school environment.

Resource spotlight

Now and Next Board

This is a now and next board, we use these in school to support transitions between activities. It provides a visual cue to support and reinforce understanding of what is expected of the pupil 'now' and then 'next.' The symbols can be changed depending on what is happening in that moment.



Some top tips for using these are:

- Keep language clear and simple e.g. now toilet, next outside.

- Give extra processing time – it's okay to wait. Some of us need a little longer to understand and respond.

- This isn't a quick fix, it's important to use it consistently to develop understanding.



RIDGEWAY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Top tip for home!

Show!

Use gestures, objects or pictures to provide a visual to support pupils to understand the words you are saying and to add meaning. This could be with a brand new object they have never seen before!



Shahzain found this puzzle a bit tricky, so used his puzzle piece to ask for help!



Wow look at the joy on Bianca's face when asking for a Brioche!



Phemie & April



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Upper 6th Form

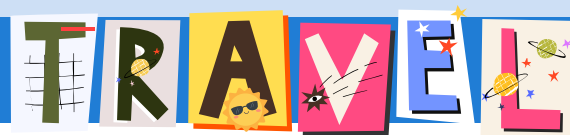
What an incredible visit to London!!

Upper 6th form Students have worked hard in their travel training lessons - creating a journey, making routes and searching for landmarks of interest in London.

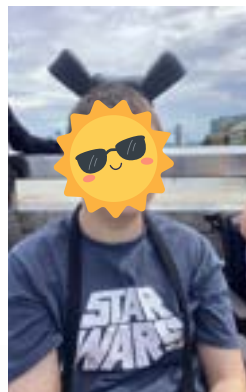




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We boarded the 9:32am train from Bedford and arrived at London Bridge Station at 10:51am, ready for a day of exploring the capital. Our first stop was a sightseeing walk, where we took in some of London's most iconic landmarks, including Tower Bridge, The Shard, HMS Belfast and, as an added bonus, the famous 'Walkie Talkie' building. We then made our way to Borough Market, where everyone enjoyed sampling some delicious treats, before visiting the Amazingrace restaurant - a must-see destination for our very own Ama!





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Upper 6th Form

We popped to the local Starbucks as part of travel training



Ridgeway's Eco Committee have worked incredibly hard this year towards their second Eco-Schools award. Last year they achieved a Green Flag with Merit, which is proudly flying outside the school, and this year they have gone one step further by earning a Distinction! This fantastic achievement recognises their commitment to making a positive difference to the environment. The committee consists of Callum, Shayne, Karandeep, Ella, Rendijs, and staff members Sam and Penny.

The committee have completed a range of tasks throughout the year with the aim of informing and supporting staff, students and families of Ridgeway school to take positive steps to protect and support the environment. We're very much looking forward to welcoming some new committee members in September and another year of amazing planet saving activities.





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LOWER POST 16



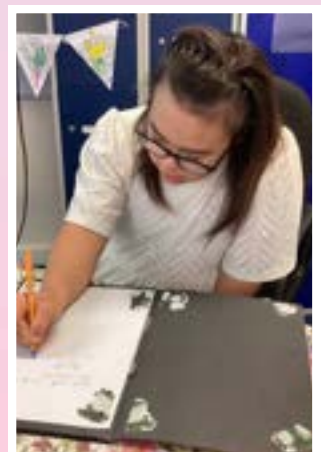
6th Form RE Day – A Celebration of Weddings

As part of our RE Day, the Sixth Form explored the theme of celebrations, choosing to focus on weddings.

The students took part in a fun mock wedding ceremony, with Josh and Ella taking on the roles of the happy couple and Lulu officiating the ceremony. Callum was a fantastic best man, delivering an excellent speech that had everyone smiling.

The rest of the class embraced their roles as photographer, DJ, bridesmaids and wedding guests, helping to make the celebration feel authentic and enjoyable for everyone involved.

It was a fantastic way to explore different traditions and the significance of weddings, while developing confidence, teamwork and plenty of smiles along the way!





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LOWER POST 16



Lower 6th held their annual ice cream and lemonade sale.

A huge thank you to everyone who came and supported us. We raised just over £120 for the charity Canine Assistance Partners who provide and train dogs to support people with a range of physical and medical disabilities and needs.



Following our successful fundraiser for Canine Assistance Partners, we were delighted to welcome Pyke, an 8-year-old black Labrador and their charity ambassador.

Pyke amazed everyone by demonstrating the incredible skills assistance dogs are trained to perform to help people live more independently. He showed how he can retrieve everyday items, open doors, press buttons, help people stand up from chairs and even remove items of clothing such as gloves, hats and fleeces.





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Higgins Museum Artwork Success

Earlier this term, we shared the exciting news that several pupils had their artwork selected for display at the Higgins Museum. We are delighted to announce that these talented artists have now been presented with certificates in recognition of their achievement.



We are incredibly proud of their creativity, hard work and artistic talent. Well done to all of the pupils involved - a fantastic achievement!



RIDGEWAY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Inclusive Holiday Art Workshops

The Higgins Bedford are running two playful artist-led workshops during the school holidays, for families who have a child or children aged 5+ with additional or complex support needs. We have limited availability so please contact katie.freeman@bedford.gov.uk if you are interested in attending.



Pressing & Printing with Katie Allen

Thursday 30 July

Free, suitable for ages 5+

Workshops 10:30–11:30am

Have a go at plasticine printing. Be guided by artist Katie Allen to press plasticine into a range of textured surfaces like shells, leaves, Lego bricks and then make a series of prints.

Shaving Foam Marble Cards with Lisa Tilley

Wednesday 12 August

Free, suitable for 5+

Workshops 10:30-11:30am

Come and have a go at paper marbling and make your own marbled artwork. This technique is even more fun in that we use shaving foam instead of oil and is suitable for all.



We have 10 places available for each of these workshops. If you have a child who would like to attend, please email katie.freeman@bedford.gov.uk with the child's name, age and the workshop they would like to attend. We will email back to confirm your place and gather a little more information so we can best support the needs of your child. All children will need to be accompanied by their parent or carer. If after booking a place you are not able to attend, do let us know so that the place can be offered to another child.

CONTACT US

Opening hours

Tuesday to Saturday
11am–5pm

Sunday and Bank
Holiday Mondays 2–5pm

Closed on Mondays,
Easter Sunday, Christmas
Day, Boxing Day and
New Year's Day

Entrance is free
Donations are welcome

Visit the website at

www.thehigginsbedford.org.uk

Email thehiggins@bedford.gov.uk
or call us on 01234 718618

Stay in touch...

 On Facebook
[thehigginsbedford](https://www.facebook.com/thehigginsbedford)

 On Instagram
[thehigginsbedford](https://www.instagram.com/thehigginsbedford)

 what3words
[///lanes.branded.soda](https://lanes.branded.soda)



How to find us

The Higgins Bedford
Castle Lane, Bedford
MK40 3XD

Parking

The nearest public car park is at Lurke Street, just 5 minutes walk from The Higgins Bedford. There is **two hours free parking** every Saturday and free all day on Sundays in all Council town centre single and multi-storey car parks. Further information is available at www.bedford.gov.uk/parking. There are limited parking spaces at the entrance of The Higgins Bedford for visitors with Accessible Parking Permits or Blue Badges.

The Higgins Bedford is a Bedford Borough Council Cultural Service. Home of the Cecil Higgins Collection.

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design@bedford.gov.uk



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GO FOR GOLD!



GREEN Class

This half term Green Class have been learning about different sports and the Olympics through our 'Going for Gold' theme.

During PE and sports day, we have tried different sporting activities such as bowling, races, climbing, basketball and tag rugby, and some fun activities including parachute popcorn and bubble badminton.

We have been learning about keeping fit, teamwork, working together and cheering our friends on!





RIDGEWAY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

OUTSTANDING SPORTSMANSHIP AT THE BEDFORDSHIRE GAMES

Our students had a fantastic day competing at the 37th Bedfordshire Games for Teenagers and Adults with Learning Difficulties, held at Bedford Athletics Stadium.



The annual event brought together competitors from across the county for a day of sport, friendship and celebration. Despite the warm weather, our students demonstrated incredible enthusiasm, determination and teamwork throughout the competition.



Special shout out to Ruby who won the individual excellence award and trophy for Long jump. Well done Ruby-so proud!

We are pleased to share that Ivel Valley was awarded the Bedfordshire Freemasons Award for Outstanding Sportsmanship. This award recognises exceptional sporting spirit, teamwork and respect for others.

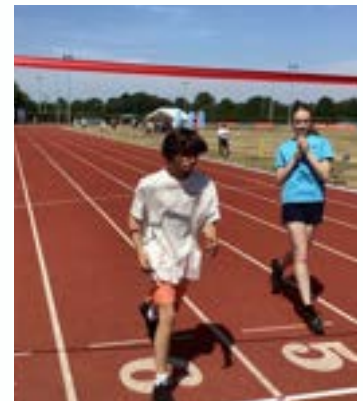
The award reflects the values all our students across the Woodhill Federation demonstrate every day, and we couldn't be prouder of the way they represented both their schools.

Congratulations to everyone who took part on a truly fantastic achievement!





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Rebound Therapy

This half term a few pupils in Orange class did Rebound Therapy every Tuesday.

Ethan developed his jumping and bouncing skills, and his ability to bounce at the same time as the adult, working together to bounce higher. He made great progress with following instructions and copying different actions.

Pheobe used eye gaze to communicate stop and go during her sessions, taking the lead. She developed understanding of the routine and gained in confidence from session to session.





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Some pupils from Red Class, Ruby Class and Green Class have been working on their MOVE Goals.

move

Daniel is working towards his goal by developing his ability to stand and walk with independence. Using his walking frame, he steps towards his favourite things such as the Ukelele.



Maisy is working towards her goal by developing her ability to pull herself up to standing and remain standing. Her strength and coordination has developed a great deal over the last few months.

Thomas is developing his ability to move his limbs to explore sensory stimuli and cause effects. He has shown great exploration and persistence skills over the last few months.

Ophelia is working on developing her head control during a variety of activities. She has worked on this during activities by turning her head in the direction of lights, sounds and voices.



Gemma



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Purple Class

People Who Help Us

In Purple Class, we have been learning all about people who help us. We have looked at all of the different job roles, the vehicles they drive, the uniforms they wear and some of the tools they may use. After this we then spent some time dressing up as key workers and acting out the roles. We really did have an amazing understanding of these roles, and we had so much fun!





RIDGEWAY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Two more people that help us all out!!

Just to let you all know, from September Alison & Jane will be sharing the Reception role.

Their new contact email address is: reception@ridgeway.beds.sch.uk

Business as usual!



Alison & Jane









RIDGEWAY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Some of our favourite moments this term have been:

- Having The Great Gappo come in for the circus workshop
- Ruby enjoyed exploring the different equipment, she said she particularly liked using the mini steppers.
- Noah said he has enjoyed singing and dressing up in drama using the microphone to put on a performance.

CORAL
Class



- Jett said he has enjoyed PE outside with Keisha this term using the different athletics equipment.
- Freddie said he has enjoyed playing and exploring in our big outside area.
- Alfie loved the opportunity to go horseriding this year and enjoyed his riding lessons at Willington





RIDGEWAY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



As we come to the end of summer term, looking back and reflecting on the achievements our pupils have made makes me so incredibly proud. We have had a brilliant year together building friendships, having fun and reaching lots of our goals. I will miss all the children next year but I know they will do fantastically in their new classes. I wish everyone a happy, safe and relaxing summer break and look forward to seeing everyone in September.

Stacey



RIDGEWAY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



BLUE class

This term we have enjoyed our topic of Going for Gold by learning about famous sportspeople, including Simone Biles, Usain Bolt and Harry Kane! We have been learning about competitions and why we need rules and particularly enjoyed our silly Olympics where we competed to see who was the best straw javelin thrower!

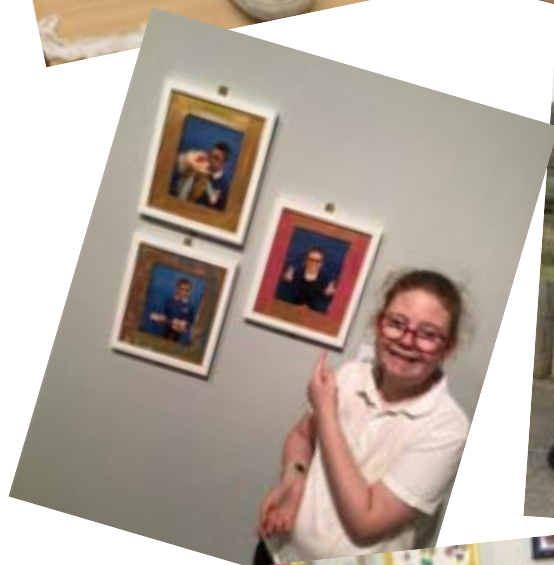
We have worked on communicating how we are feeling and in PSED have been learning about how to keep ourselves safe. The children have really impressed us with their recall of learning - well done!

There have been many highlights for us this term including, our class trip to the Higgins museum, our picnic, sports day and our class water fight! The children really enjoyed role playing ceremonies where we each collected a medal in our award ceremony and role played a baptism in RE. We have enjoyed forest school and have had lots of ice lollies and water play to keep us cool in the heatwave. Well done Blue class for a great term -have a fantastic summer all!

Laura



RIDGEWAY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER





RIDGEWAY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

YELLOW
CLASSES

Football Fever

Yellow Class has well and truly caught football fever this half term, and what an exciting few weeks it has been... IT'S COMING HOME!

The children have immersed themselves in all things football, enjoying a range of fun, creative and active experiences inspired by the World Cup. We've been listening to football songs, watching the matches together, re-enacting the games using our favourite Peppa Pig figurines, taking part in football warm-ups outside, cheering one another on, painting flags and footballs, creating our very own football goal, and so much more!

It has been wonderful to see the children sharing in the excitement, developing their communication, imagination, teamwork and confidence while celebrating the beautiful game. We've had so much fun embracing the football spirit together, and we're keeping everything crossed that football really is coming home!

As we come to the end of another wonderful school year, I just wanted to say what an absolute privilege it has been to teach every single member of Yellow Class. Watching the children grow in confidence, develop new skills, and achieve so many incredible milestones has been such a joy.

Although I am so excited to see them begin their next adventures in their new classes in September, I will miss them all so much. They have each brought something unique and special to our classroom, and I feel incredibly lucky to have been part of their journey.

I hope you all have a fantastic summer filled with fun, laughter and special memories. Thank you for all of your kindness and support throughout the year—it has meant so much.

Wishing you all a happy, safe and relaxing summer holiday.

Ami





RIDGEWAY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

in Yellow Class!



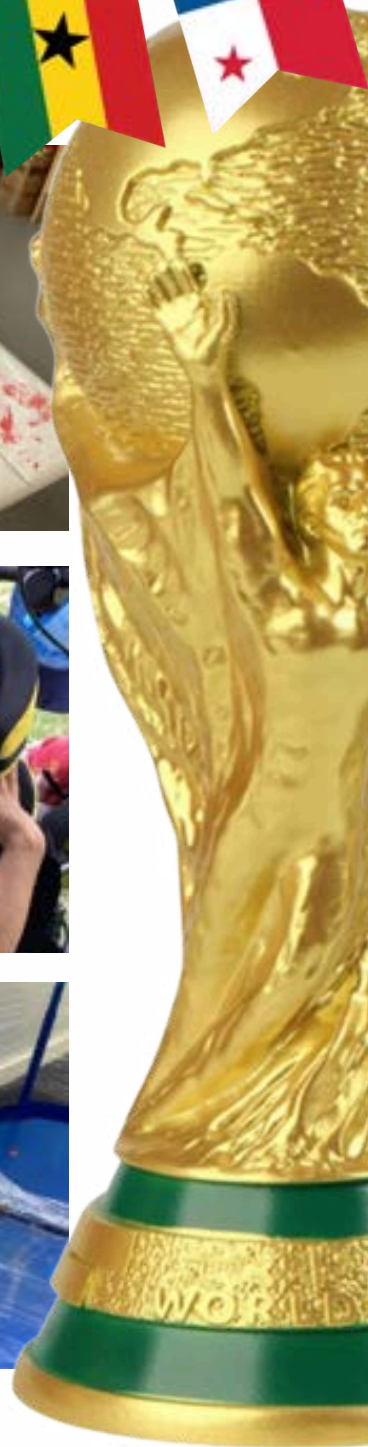
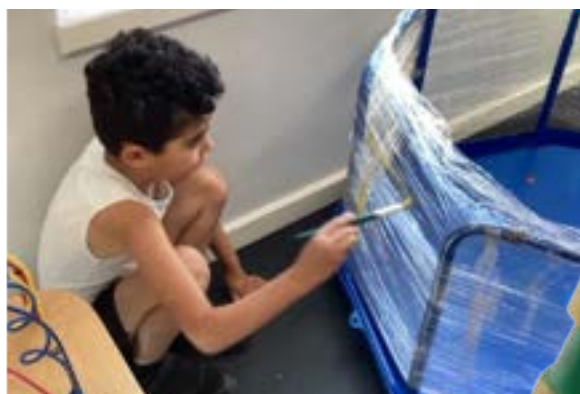
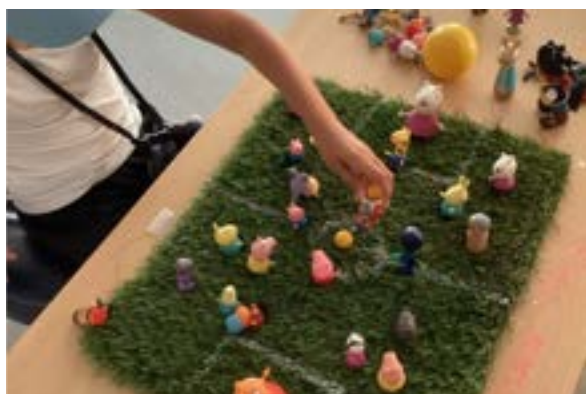


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RIDGEWAY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

RED Class

We have had a lovely busy summer term in Red Class with lots of lovely sunshine! This term we have enjoyed lots of forest school activities and lots of time playing outside and exploring. We have also enjoyed Ridgestock and Sports Day and of course a little bit of football too!

Have a lovey summer everyone!

Emma, Hannah & the Red Team





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RIDGEWAY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Exploring the Sensory Garden

Some pupils from Red Class recently attended a Visual Impairment (VI) session in the sensory garden at the CDC. Pupils enjoyed exploring the different sights, sounds, textures and scents throughout the garden, taking part in a range of sensory activities designed to support their learning and development.

RED Class





RIDGEWAY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Ruby Class Forest School Fun

RUBY

Take a look what we have been up to at the Forest School Party! We had so much fun this year at forest school, we have especially enjoyed the hammocks, tents and activities during our time at forest school. We have all been learning to keep safe around fire and have enjoyed sensory experiences of cooking marshmallows and hot chocolate.

Finally to wish all our families a fantastic summer !

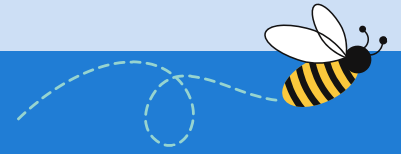
From everyone in Ruby Class



Forest School



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Ridgeway has an RSA, akin to a PTA, consisting of a small group of parents aiming to organize and host fundraising events next year for a new sensory and memorial garden for the children.

We would love to hear from you if you're interested in getting involved!

Join us on the Ridgeway School RSA Facebook page, where you can connect with us and stay updated on our latest news.

If you receive any unwanted gifts this Christmas, please consider donating them to the school as raffle prizes for next year's fundraising initiatives.



TEAM
RSA



RIDGEWAY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

✿ Help Us Grow a Memorial Garden at Ridgeway ✿

We're raising funds to create a beautiful memorial garden – a peaceful space where children and staff can reflect, remember, and find comfort after saying goodbye to friends or family members.

The fence is already in place, and we've been busy dreaming up what this special area could become (watch this space for design updates!). Our vision includes:

- ✿ Wheelchair-accessible paths
- ✿ Plenty of seating areas
- ✿ Calming water features
- ✿ A magical fairy garden
- ✿ Sensory plants and trees for shade

We would also love to offer memorial plaques to honour those who had a connection with Ridgeway, to give our wider school community a chance to be part of this lasting tribute.

This garden will be a space for healing, reflection, and togetherness – but we can't do it alone. Your support, big or small, will help us turn this vision into a reality.

Please contact Sam at school for more information or to get involved.
sam.bloomer@ridgeway.bedsch.uk

Go Fund Me Page

Fundraiser by Samantha Bloomer : Help Ridgeway School create a Memorial Garden





RIDGEWAY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



2026 / 2027 Term Dates

Ridgeway School Term Dates 2026 / 2027



School Holiday

Bank Holiday

Pupil Day

Training Day

Ridgeway School

September 2026

Mon		7	14	21	28	
Tue	1	8	15	22	29	
Wed	2	9	16	23	30	
Thu	3	10	17	24		
Fri	4	11	18	25		
Sat	5	12	19	26		
Sun	6	13	20	27		

October 2026

Mon		5	12	19	26	
Tue		6	13	20	27	
Wed		7	14	21	28	
Thu	1	8	15	22	29	
Fri	2	9	16	23	30	
Sat	3	10	17	24	31	
Sun	4	11	18	25		

November 2026

Mon		2	9	16	23	30
Tue		3	10	17	24	
Wed		4	11	18	25	
Thu		5	12	19	26	
Fri		6	13	20	27	
Sat		7	14	21	28	
Sun	1	8	15	22	29	

December 2026

Mon		7	14	21	28	
Tue	1	8	15	22	29	
Wed	2	9	16	23	30	
Thu	3	10	17	24	31	
Fri	4	11	18	25		
Sat	5	12	19	26		
Sun	6	13	20	27		

January 2027

Mon		4	11	18	25	
Tue		5	12	19	26	
Wed		6	13	20	27	
Thu		7	14	21	28	
Fri	1	8	15	22	29	
Sat	2	9	16	23	30	
Sun	3	10	17	24	31	

February 2027

Mon	1	8	15	22		
Tue	2	9	16	23		
Wed	3	10	17	24		
Thu	4	11	18	25		
Fri	5	12	19	26		
Sat	6	13	20	27		
Sun	7	14	21	28		

March 2027

Mon	1	8	15	22	29	
Tue	2	9	16	23	30	
Wed	3	10	17	24	31	
Thu	4	11	18	25		
Fri	5	12	19	26		
Sat	6	13	20	27		
Sun	7	14	21	28		

April 2027

Mon		5	12	19	26	
Tue		6	13	20	27	
Wed		7	14	21	28	
Thu	1	8	15	22	29	
Fri	2	9	16	23	30	
Sat	3	10	17	24		
Sun	4	11	18	25		

May 2027

Mon		3	10	17	24	31
Tue		4	11	18	25	
Wed		5	12	19	26	
Thu		6	13	20	27	
Fri		7	14	21	28	
Sat	1	8	15	22	29	
Sun	2	9	16	23	30	

June 2027

Mon		7	14	21	28	
Tue	1	8	15	22	29	
Wed	2	9	16	23	30	
Thu	3	10	17	24		
Fri	4	11	18	25		
Sat	5	12	19	26		
Sun	6	13	20	27		

July 2027

Mon		5	12	19	26	
Tue		6	13	20	27	
Wed		7	14	21	28	
Thu	1	8	15	22	29	
Fri	2	9	16	23	30	
Sat	3	10	17	24	31	
Sun	4	11	18	25		

August 2027

Mon		2	9	16	23	30
Tue		3	10	17	24	31
Wed		4	11	18	25	
Thu		5	12	19	26	
Fri		6	13	20	27	
Sat		7	14	21	28	
Sun	1	8	15	22	29	

Autumn Term – 74 Days

Spring Term – 54 Days

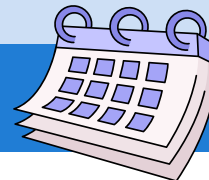
Summer Term – 67 Days

TOTAL Number OF DAYS 195

Pupil contact will amount to 190 of the 195 days. Schools will be closed on five of the 195 days to enable teacher training to take place in accordance with teachers' Conditions of Service. The law requires that a parent ensures that their child receives a full and efficient education. If you enrol your child at a school, then you must ensure that they attend regularly. Regular school attendance is defined as being 'in accordance with the rules prescribed by the school'. This means that if the school is open for 190 days, then this is what your child is expected to attend.



RIDGEWAY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Dates for your diary....

17th July Last Day of 25/26 Academic Year!!!

3rd September School Pupils return to school

7th September 6th Form Pupils return to school

Ridgeway School Term Dates 2025 - 2026



Training Day Bank Holiday School Holiday Pupil Day

September 2025					October 2025					November 2025					December 2025									
Mon	1	8	15	22	29	Mon	1	6	13	20	27	Mon	1	10	17	24	Mon	1	8	15	22	29		
Tue	2		16		30	Tue	2		14		28	Tue	2		18		30	Tue	2		16		30	
Wed	3	10		24		Wed	1	8		22	29	Wed	3	12		26	Wed	3	10		24	31		
Thu	4	11				Thu	2	9		23	30	Thu	6	13		27	Thu	4	11		18			
Fri	5		19			Fri	3		17		31	Fri	7		21		Fri	5		19		26		
Sat	6	13	20	27		Sat	4	11	18	25		Sat		15	22	29	Sat	6	13	20	27			
Sun	7	14	21	28		Sun	5	12	19	26		Sun		9	16	23	30	Sun	7	14	21	28		
January 2026					February 2026					March 2026					April 2026									
Mon	1	8	15	22	29	Mon	1	2	9	16	23	Mon	1	2	9	16	23	Mon	1	6	13	20	27	
Tue			13		27	Tue			10		24	Tue			10		24	Tue			14		28	
Wed		7		21	28	Wed		4		18	25	Wed		4		18	25	Wed	1	8		22	29	
Thu	1	8			29	Thu		5	12		26	Thu		5	12		26	Thu	2	9		17	30	
Fri	2		16		23	Fri			13		27	Fri			13		27	Fri	3		17			
Sat	3	10	17	24		Sat		7	14	21	28	Sat		7	14	21	28	Sat	4	11	18	25		
Sun	4	11	18	25		Sun	1	8	15	22		Sun	1	8	15	22	29	Sun	5	12	19	26		
May 2026					June 2026					July 2026					August 2026									
Mon		4	11	18	25	Mon	1		15	22	29	Mon		6		20	27	Mon		3	10	17	24	31
Tue				19	26	Tue	2		16		30	Tue		7	14	21	28	Tue		4	11	18	25	
Wed		6		20	27	Wed	3	10			24	Wed	1		15	22	29	Wed		5	12	19	26	
Thu				14	28	Thu	4	11		18		Thu		2	9		23	30	Thu		6	13	20	27
Fri		8	15	22	29	Fri	5		19	26		Fri	3	10	17	24	31	Fri		7	14	21	28	
Sat	2	9	16	23	30	Sat	6	13	20	27		Sat	4	11	18	25		Sat	1	8	15	22	29	
Sun	3	10	17	24	31	Sun	7	14	21	28		Sun	5	12	19	26		Sun	2	9	16	23	30	

Autumn Term - 75 days Spring Term - 55 days Summer Term - 65 days

Pupil contact will amount to 190 of the 195 days. Schools will be closed on five of the 195 days to enable teacher training to take place in accordance with Teachers' Conditions of Service. The law requires that a parent ensures that their child receives a full and efficient education. If you enrol your child at a school, then you must ensure that they attend regularly. Regular school attendance is defined as being 'in accordance with the rules prescribed by the school' and means that if the school is open for 190 days, then this is what your child is expected to attend.



Bedfordshire

Fire & Rescue Service

 bedsfire.gov.uk
 Southfields Road
 Kempston, Bedford
 MK42 7NR
 bedsfirealert.co.uk
  @bedsfire

Dear Parents and Carers,

Important water safety message – please read

As the school holidays approach and the weather becomes warmer, we want to share some vital information about **water safety**. Many young people enjoy spending time near rivers, lakes, and other open water, but these environments can be very dangerous—even for strong swimmers.

This message is supported by **Bedfordshire Fire & Rescue Service** and local partners, including the **Police**, the **East of England Ambulance Service (EEAST)**, **RLSS** and **local authorities**, who often respond to water-related incidents during the summer.

Open water areas may look inviting, but they can hide serious hazards such as:

- **Cold water shock** – sudden immersion can cause gasping, panic and breathing difficulties
- **Hidden dangers** – weeds, debris, strong currents and sudden changes in depth
- **Risk of injury** – jumping or diving into unknown water can cause serious harm

Emergency Advice

If someone is in trouble in the water:

- **Do not enter the water yourself**

Phone – Float – Throw

If you see someone struggling in the water, remember **Phone – Float – Throw**. It is a simple way to act quickly while keeping everyone safe.

- **Phone** – call **999**. Ask for the **Fire Service** for inland water (rivers, lakes, canals) or the **Coastguard** at the coast.
- **Float** – Encourage the person to **float on their back** with their ears in the water, relax their breathing, and call for help. Once they feel calmer, encourage them to swim to safety if they can.
- **Throw** – help them to float in the water by throwing something that floats (a lifebuoy, throwline, football, or even a bottle) and encourage them to hold on. Keep talking to them until help arrives.

Respect the Water website:

www.respectthewater.com and the Bedfordshire Fire & Rescue Service website: www.bedsfire.gov.uk.

The RLSS water Safety Code video is also easy to understand for young people

Please take a moment to talk with your child about these key messages to help keep them safe and ensure everyone enjoys the warmer months.

Kind Regards

Stacey Moore
 Community Safety Officer
 Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service





Bedfordshire

Fire & Rescue Service

 bedsfire.gov.uk
 Southfields Road
Kempston, Bedford
MK42 7NR
 bedsfirealert.co.uk
 @bedsfire

ALWAYS FOLLOW THE WATER SAFETY CODE



Whenever you are around water:

STOP AND THINK

Take time to assess
your surroundings.
Look for the
dangers and
always research
local signs and advice.



STAY TOGETHER

When around water always go
with friends or family.
Swim at a lifeguarded venue.



In an emergency:

CALL 999

If you are at the
coast, call 999 and
ask for the
Coastguard.
Don't enter
the water to
rescue.



FLOAT

Fall in or become
tired – stay calm, float
on your back and call
for help.
Throw something that
floats to somebody that
has fallen in.



Enjoy Water Safely

Learn basic lifesaving and CPR skills.
Visit www.rls.org.uk

FITNESS CLASSES

SPORT
ACTIVITIES

GYM TOURS

2026 WELLBEING GAMES

INFLATABLES

MUSICAL
PERFORMANCE

INFORMATION
STALLS AND MORE

31ST JULY

10AM TO 4PM

BEDFORD INTERNATIONAL ATHLETIC STADIUM



We care
We respect
We are inclusive



Email: steve.muggridge@nhs.net

2026 BedfordshireandLutonWellbeingGames

Movement is good for every part of you

Take advantage of our **FREE** health and wellbeing stalls, designed to boost mental and physical health, and promote the benefits of sport and fitness.

NHS

BETTER



ASPIRE: NURTURING YOUR POTENTIAL

CHILDREN'S ART COMPETITION
EXHIBITION



Featuring more than 100 pieces of artwork
from primary and secondary schools, and
colleges, across the borough

Open 20 June – 4 October 2026
Free entry at The Higgins Bedford,
Castle Lane, Bedford MK40 3XD
www.harpurtrust.org.uk/art-competition



-sational SUMMER HOLIDAY!

Thank you for being part of another incredible year.

We are so proud of everything our pupils have achieved and grateful for the continued support of our families.

Have a wonderful summer filled with sunshine, laughter and special memories.

We'll see you in September!

