



RIDGEWAY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

October 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of a busy and successful first half of the autumn term, I'd like to extend a very warm welcome to all our new starters. It's been wonderful to see everyone settling into the new school year so well – classrooms are full of energy, enthusiasm, and learning.

A special mention must go to our Sixth Form students, who have been working incredibly hard designing, creating, and making stock for our exciting new farm shop, Branching Out. Their creativity and commitment have been truly inspiring.

Huge thanks also to our amazing site team, who have worked tirelessly to clad the pod and bring this project to life – your hard work is very much appreciated by us all.

Thank you to parents, carers, and families for your continued support this term. It really does make such a difference.

Wishing everyone a restful half-term break, and we look forward to welcoming pupils back on Monday 3rd November for another fantastic half term ahead.

*Best wishes,
Joe*



RIDGEWAY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Thanks to your amazing support, we improved by 1.5% last term!

This year we're focusing on unauthorised absences, which was 2.2% last academic year. This is the equivalent of over 500 days lost to unauthorised absences.

At Ridgeway, we understand every child's circumstances are unique, especially those with special educational needs. Our approach is always supportive first!



Remember to call or message us when your child is ill or at appointments so we can record the correct code!

We're here to discuss any:

- Any SEND-related challenges affecting attendance (medical appointments, anxiety, sensory needs, etc.)
- Communication difficulties your child may face
- Any adjustments needed to support regular attendance

Support we can offer is:

- Extra pastoral support and attention along with ensuring any appropriate support for communication is in place.
- Liaison with our family support worker, class teachers and senior leaders
- Reasonable adjustments under the Equality Act 2010
- Multi-agency support where needed

Attendance Matters





RIDGEWAY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



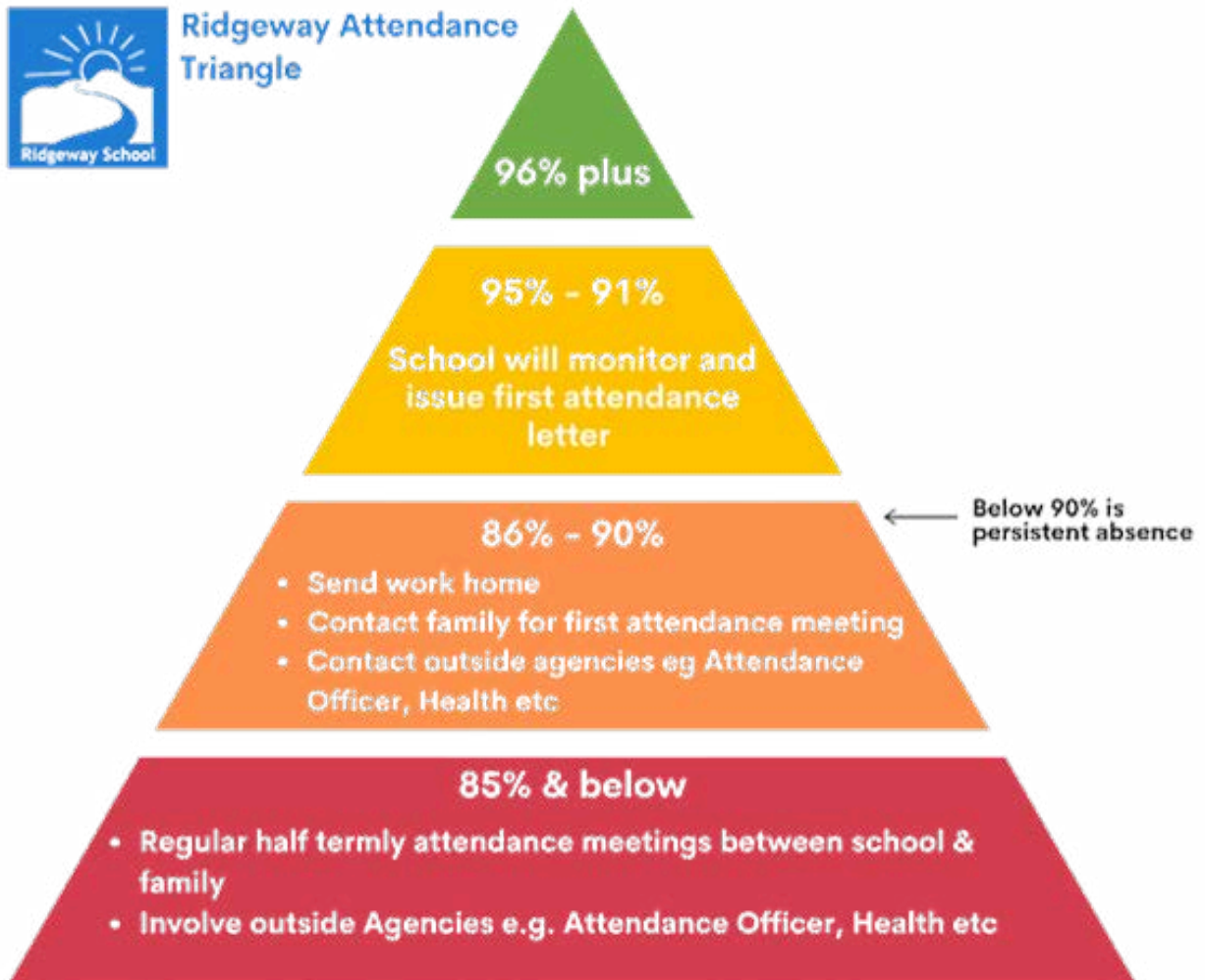
Just a gentle reminder- when unauthorised absences reach 10%, we have legal obligations to follow up.

Let's work together to keep our attendance strong!

Here is our attendance triangle:



Ridgeway Attendance Triangle





RIDGEWAY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Spotlight on Safeguarding at Ridgeway

Safeguarding at Ridgeway: Keeping Our Children Safe

At Ridgeway, the safety, wellbeing, and dignity of every pupil are central to everything we do. We'd like to share a quick update on our safeguarding approach and how we work together to support all our children.

Our Safeguarding Team

Our Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) is **Lulu Stanier-Martin**, supported by Deputy DSLs Lauren Steels, Joe Creswick, Charlene Stewart (Family Support Worker), Kerry Clark, and Lynn Hawkins (Sixth Form). They're trained to support a wide range of needs and are always available if you need advice or support.

Online Safety

Keeping our students safe online is a top priority! The new Online Safety Act, introduced this summer, means tech companies must do more to protect users – but parental settings remain key.

Please take a few minutes to review privacy and safety settings on apps like Snapchat, WhatsApp, TikTok, and FaceTime – it can make a big difference in your child's online experience.

Digital safety is a team effort between school and home! Learn more about parental controls at:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/>



TikTok "Tap Out Challenge"

We've been alerted by the local authority about a dangerous trend circulating in Suffolk. The "Tap Out Challenge" involves one child placing another in a chokehold until the child being held "taps out."

While it may appear harmless, this act of strangulation can cause serious long-term health issues- and even be fatal.

Please take a moment to talk with your child about the risks of online trends and peer pressure. More information can be found here:

<https://www.bitdefender.com/en-us/blog/hotforsecurity/parents-need-know-tiktok>





RIDGEWAY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Signing Group Bring the Energy to Ridgeway School!

The AAC Signing Group were pure “bish bash bosh”, as April always says!



Their fantastic signing and singing filled the room with smiles and energy, especially making April beam with pride. They were absolutely amazing!

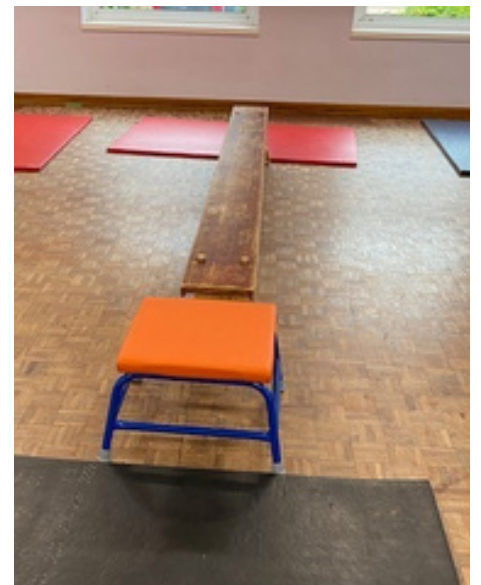




RIDGEWAY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



We have new PE equipment for pupils to develop their 'fundamental movement skills' - specifically locomotor and stability activities





RIDGEWAY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



GORAL Class

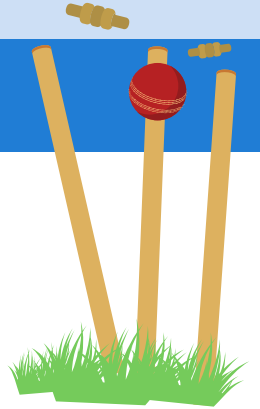


Pupils have enjoyed accessing Forest School weekly as part of the curriculum. They have taken part in fun activities outside and enjoyed exploring this new environment.





RIDGEWAY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Orange Class

Orange class
enjoying a coaching
session in cricket





RIDGEWAY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Pupils in Orange Class have been ssoooo busy this half term making bonds and friendships as we come together in a new class.





RIDGEWAY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Orange Class





RIDGEWAY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

RUBY CLASS

Take a look at our wonderful owls we created in Ruby class in preparation for our owl visit! We used our hands or feet to make prints in brown paint. We had lots of fun getting messy.



Red, Ruby and Yellow Class only



Christmas Open Afternoon

We're excited to invite parents and carers from Red, Ruby, and Yellow classes to our Christmas Open Afternoon on **Wednesday 10th December at 1:45pm**.

Join us in the hall for some joyful Christmas songs, followed by festive activities in your child's classroom!

Pupils (and Parent/carers) are welcome to wear their Christmas jumpers or festive tops for the occasion.

We look forward to celebrating with you and sharing some festive fun!

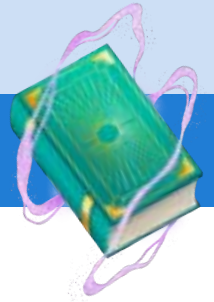


Further details will be shared closer to the date.





RIDGEWAY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



RUBY CLASS Ruby Class have had a wonderful start to the year. Well done to all the children for settling so well.

We have had lots of fun this term in our topic 'Magic and Mystery'.

We even enjoyed a visit from some Owls! We have been painting magic wands, making magic hats, exploring lights and so much more!





RIDGEWAY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER





RIDGEWAY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



YELLOW CLASS

What a wonderful and busy term Yellow Class has had exploring the great outdoors at Forest School!





RIDGEWAY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



It's been magical watching the children grow in confidence and independence through outdoor learning – observing nature's changes, from colourful leaves to shifting weather, and embracing every moment with curiosity.

A huge well done to every pupil in Yellow Class!
Ami





RIDGEWAY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

RED Class

Red Class have been working hard this half term to learn our class routines, particularly when using our objects and songs of reference which is great!





RIDGEWAY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



We have had a fantastic time during our topic of Magic and Mystery and have focussed on developing our friendships this half term within the activities.



RED
Class



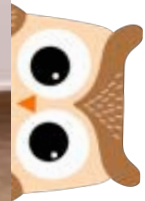
RIDGEWAY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



RED
Class



RIDGEWAY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



We had a fantastic afternoon with the owls. Pupils looked at their features, used communication boards to talk about them and some even let the owls fly onto their arm!



RIDGEWAY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



GOLD *Class*

Lots of great social skills are developing in Gold Class. We love learning through play!





RIDGEWAY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER





RIDGEWAY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



GOLD *Class*

Gold Class loved it when
the owls came to visit!





RIDGEWAY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



✧ 6th Form Awards Afternoon ✧

Our Sixth Form students shone brightly at the 6th Form Awards Afternoon! It was a wonderful celebration of hard work, dedication, and achievement.

Students were recognised for their academic success, outstanding effort, and positive contributions to school life. It was fantastic to see everyone come together to applaud their peers and reflect on all they've achieved this year.

A huge well done to all our award winners - and to every Sixth Form student for their commitment and enthusiasm throughout the half term. We're so proud of you all!





RIDGEWAY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



SECONDARY

What a fantastic 1st half term it's been for our Secondary pupils!

From muddy boots to feathered friends, they've certainly packed in the fun.

Our Forest School sessions have been a big hit - full of teamwork and outdoor adventures!

We also had an incredible visit from some real owls - pupils were fascinated to be able to touch, hold and see these amazing birds up close.

And to top it all off, our Games Morning brought plenty of laughter, friendly competition, and smiles all round!





RIDGEWAY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

SECONDARY





RIDGEWAY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Lower
6th Form



Lower Sixth Form Visit 'Colour and Light' Exhibition

Lower 6th Form visited the 'Colour and Light' exhibition currently showing at The Higgins art gallery.

They interviewed Victoria, the curator, about her work and career, then took part in a follow-up art workshop at school with artist Lisa, creating their own colourful pieces using different media and techniques.





RIDGEWAY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

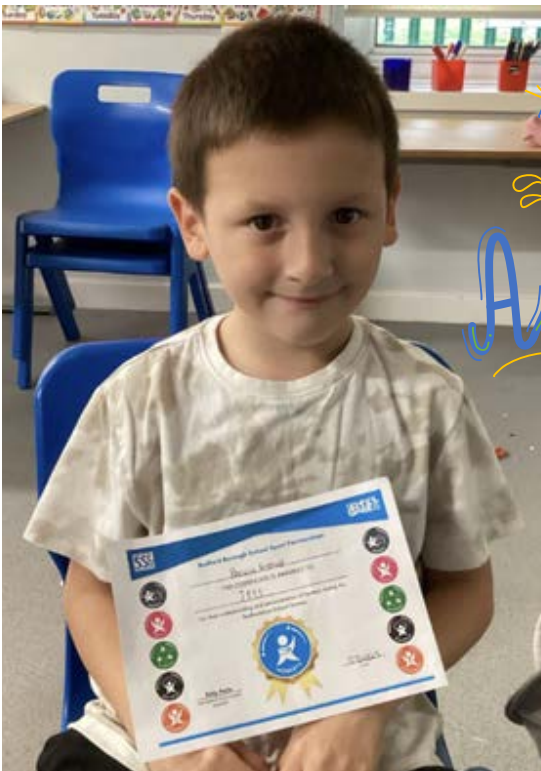


Big Congratulations to Jett!

On Tuesday, 2nd October, Jett took part in a local school Boccia competition and did an amazing job representing our school.

During the event, he was recognised with the Honesty Award across all participating schools - what a fantastic achievement! We're so proud of him for showing such great sportsmanship and integrity.

Well done, Jett!



*you
are
Awesome*

Boccia (pronounced "bot-cha") is a precision ball sport, similar to bowls, designed to be inclusive and enjoyed by everyone — especially those with physical disabilities. It's all about skill, strategy, and control.

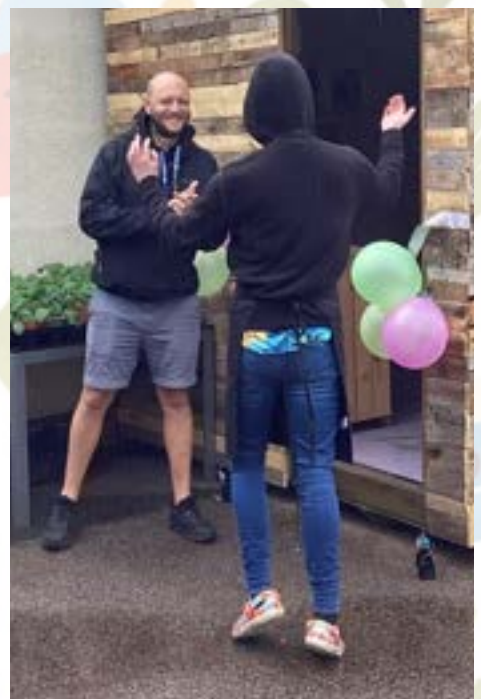


RIDGEWAY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Upper 6th Form

“Branching Out” Farm Shop is NOW OPEN!!

We are excited to announce that The Branching Out Farm Shop was officially opened on Monday 20th October.



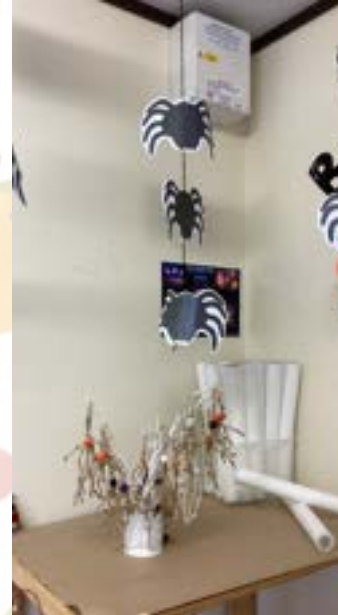


RIDGEWAY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Upper 6th Form

Behind the scenes of “Branching Out” Farm Shop

Pupils in Upper 6th were super busy on the run up to the grand opening of Branching Out, preparing and producing products to sell. Lots of research went into curating a wonderful selection for shoppers to purchase.





RIDGEWAY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Upper 6th Form





RIDGEWAY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Upper 6th Form





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.beds.sch.uk

Go Fund Me Page

[Fundraiser by Samantha Bloomer : Help Ridgeway School create a Memorial Garden](#)





Calling parent volunteers to become

School Readers



Can you spare 30 mins per week to read to pupils of Ridgeway School to promote the love of books?

This could be reading to children in small groups or individually, or listening to some of our pupils read to you.



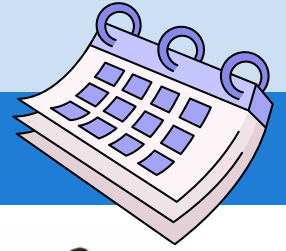
Your support will make a huge difference in fostering a love for reading!

If you can help, please email kerry.clark@ridgeway.beds.sch.uk





RIDGEWAY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Dates for your diary School

- 3th Nov Pupils return to school
- 19th Dec Last Day of Term
- 22th Dec - 2nd Jan Christmas Holidays
- 5th - 6th Jan Staff Training Days
- 7th Jan 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	Mon	6	13	20	27	Mon	3	10	17	24	Mon	1	8	15	22	29	
Tue	2	9	16	23	Tue	7	14	21	28	Tue	4	11	18	25	Tue	2	9	16	23	30	
Wed	3	10	17	24	Wed	1	8	15	22	29	Wed	5	12	19	26	Wed	3	10	17	24	31
Thu	4	11	18	25	Thu	2	9	16	23	30	Thu	6	13	20	27	Thu	4	11	18	25	
Fri	5	12	19	26	Fri	10	17	24	31	Fri	7	14	21	28	Fri	5	12	19	26		
Sat	6	13	20	27	Sat	4	11	18	25	Sat	8	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	5	12	19	26	Mon	2	9	16	23	Mon	2	9	16	23	30	Mon	6	13	20	27	
Tue	6	13	20	27	Tue	3	10	17	24	Tue	3	10	17	24	31	Tue	7	14	21	28	
Wed	7	14	21	28	Wed	4	11	18	25	Wed	4	11	18	25	Wed	1	8	15	22	29	
Thu	1	8	15	22	29	Thu	5	12	19	26	Thu	5	12	19	26	Thu	2	9	16	23	30
Fri	2	9	16	23	30	Fri	6	13	20	27	Fri	6	13	20	27	Fri	3	10	17	24	
Sat	3	10	17	24	31	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	8	15	22	29	Mon	6	13	20	27	Mon	3	10	17	24	31
Tue	5	12	19	26	Tue	2	9	16	23	30	Tue	7	14	21	28	Tue	4	11	18	25	
Wed	6	13	20	27	Wed	3	10	17	24	Wed	1	8	15	22	29	Wed	5	12	19	26	
Thu	7	14	21	28	Thu	4	11	18	25	Thu	2	9	16	23	30	Thu	6	13	20	27	
Fri	1	8	15	22	29	Fri	5	12	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 - 66 days Summer Term - 66 days

Pupil contact will amount to 190 of the 196 days. Schools will be closed on five of the 196 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.



RIDGEWAY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



From all the Staff at Ridgeway School

Happy
October
HALF TERM!

See you back on 3rd November



RIDGEWAY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

