



## Newsletter 23: 20th March 2020 Edition

### *Hello Team Ridgeway*

This week has been one of the most challenging weeks most of us have ever faced. Worry about family members, friends and loved ones, decisions when / if to self-isolate and much more. However, as Howard Schultz said, "In times of adversity and change, we really discover who we are and what we're made of." This could not be more true of our school. The children have been incredible, parents so supportive and my staff have been amazing, with the dedication they have shown during this unprecedented situation. I could not be prouder, more grateful or more privileged to lead such a wonderful school. Lottie (Y6) told me just last week something that could not be more true, "at Ridgeway we are a Team and being a team means...

Together Everyone Achieves More

### *Remote Learning*

Every child in school has now received their Remote Learning Pack, which outlines the approach we are taking to provide education to your children. With Boris Johnson's statement yesterday about beating the virus in the next 12-weeks, I believe this approach will enable us to provide education throughout that time. Obviously, this is uncharted territory for everyone. There are undoubtedly going to be teething issues; be that uploading content, accessing apps etc. Please contact me in these instances and I will do my best to help. All Remote Learning will start on Monday morning and will continue during school days until we return. No daily work will be posted during school holidays but classes might set a small amount of tasks for that period.

### *Key Workers*

Thank you for all completing the Key Workers form. Anyone who has done so will receive a confirmation letter tonight. If your circumstances change over the next days or weeks please email me directly to organise provision. [headteacher@ridgeway.derbyshire.sch.uk](mailto:headteacher@ridgeway.derbyshire.sch.uk) I must remind you that the Government are currently saying that, "If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be."

My wonderful staff have all agreed not only to open to support the Key Worker families but also to open across the Easter Holidays. For that I truly thank them.

### *Star of the Week*

To try and keep some "live" contact during the school closure I am going to try and use Facebook live to announce Star of the Week. The idea being, this will be done on Mondays using emailed nominations from teachers. It will only be me on video (as I am posting to social media) and I will read out who has been nominated and why. We will still use the alternate KS1 & KS2 weeks. We will then send out the certificates like postcards as long as the Royal Mail remain open. This is only a small gesture but one I hope will help raise spirits. I will text all parents before going live. Hopefully, the first Star of the Week will be on Monday 30th March. I have never tried anything like this before so fingers crossed!



### ***White Hall***

Derbyshire County Council have closed the White Hall Centre until at the earliest May. Year 5 were set to go during first week back after Easter, so unfortunately that can now not happen.

I was also going to send a letter out next week to Year 4 as we have booked their White Hall residential ready for next year but for the early time of September. The information for that will still come out but maybe slightly delayed.

However, I have been in contact with White Hall and have managed to arrange for both classes to now attend in September. As such we would ask Year 5 parents to continue to make payments according to the current schedule. I am really please that the children will still get the opportunity before then going to the Isle of Wight at the end of Year 6.

### ***Year 5 Drumming Performance***

As you will know Year 5 were planning to showcase their drumming skills, learned during the Spring Term, to parents next week. Obviously, this cannot now take place but they did create a short video yesterday to show-case their skills. The video will be uploaded to our YouTube account in the next few days for you to enjoy.

### ***Isle of Wight***

Sadly, I have had to make the difficult decision to cancel this year's Year 6 Isle of Wight residential. I have taken this step as if we had not cancelled by Easter we would have to pay the full costs and we would not be entitled to any refund. Cancelling now means that parents will receive a refund in due course. Unfortunately, the Isle of Wight Experience will deduct £30 non-refundable deposit from that refund and also we factored in the cost of the Leavers' hoodies (that we will make sure the children still receive). So the refund will include all payments made to date minus £45.

### ***Online Safety***

As we head into a world of Remote Learning it does mean children are going to be using the internet more and more. For support, guidance and advice on online safety, please use our website <https://www.ridgewayprimary.com/parents/e-safety> and again please contact me if I can be of any further help with this.

### ***Extra Ideas***

As well as the Remote Learning we will be setting up an addition page where we will post ideas of activities and links to content that might be interesting to you in the upcoming days and weeks. A link to this page will be added to the home page of our website. The first information will be stories that help explain to children what the Coronavirus is and why schools are closing. These resources have been provide through Mrs Evans' ELSA training and may help parents to explain these difficult concepts in a more child-friendly way. This page will be up and running as soon as possible.

### ***Final Thought***

This is a strange period of time. It has already shown the worst side of humanity with the fighting over supplies in supermarkets and the increased cyber attacks on the NHS and vulnerable services. But it is also showing the best side too. Communities, such as ours, coming together to support one-another, people willing to go the extra mile to help others. So let's take a positive from this, with no pubs, cinemas, theatres, play centres etc. let's use this time to do those things we always wanted to but never had time. Learn a new skill, revive an old one, teach your kids to bake or fix a bike or sewing! Play traditional games; card games, dominoes etc.

Stay safe, look after each-other and we will see you soon.

With love,

Mr Wilson

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