

# Laying Foundations for Life-long Learning!

## Ridgewell C of E Primary School Newsletter



24<sup>th</sup> June 2021

## COVID UPDATE

*Delay in easing Covid restrictions and the implications for us and our families in school.*

As we know, the PM recently announced that there would be a delay in easing Covid restrictions further until at least July 19<sup>th</sup>. This means that we remain at step 3 of the roadmap- and therefore, no further changes to the guidance put in place for schools. This means that every school has been busy looking at their own circumstances and risk assessments. As a result, we have had to make some difficult and disappointing decisions about some of our planned events in this half term. We thank you for your understanding in these difficult circumstances.

### Sports Day – Friday 9<sup>th</sup> July

Sadly, we cannot now invite parents and families into school to attend Sports Day. This is a great disappointment to us, as our Ridgewell Sports Day is one of our favourite occasions of the year. We shall still run our Sports Day as planned with our children in school. They can wear their team colours and run their races, to earn points to add to their team totals. We will take photos throughout the day and along with the children will create a special newsletter of the day.

### Year 6 Leaver's Celebration -Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> July

We are delighted that currently, we can still invite two parents/carers of our Year 6 children to attend our leavers celebration on the afternoon of the last day of term. Following the success of our outdoor service last year, we plan to hold our end of year service outdoors once again. The children will be able to sit in their bubble groups and sing together outdoors and our Y6 parents can share this special celebration service with us.

Mrs Stuart

### Transition:

Transition visits for our new EYFS children have been slightly adapted to fit the current rules on size of gatherings – it has been wonderful to meet our new reception children for next year! Our children will all still spend an afternoon with their new teachers before the end of term. Families of our Year 6 children should now have now been notified of any changes to transition arrangements that their secondary schools have made.

## Essex Agricultural Day

*Free virtual lessons and resources*

An annual agricultural day, run by Writtle Agricultural College in Chelmsford, was unable to go ahead this year due to restrictions around COVID. Because of this, they offered a number of schools some free resources to carry out this day virtually in their own schools.

We have shared out the free resources between the classes, so that each group can learn about an aspect of local agriculture. We love the cheerful scarecrow made by our KS1 children!



# Outdoor Learning

## Essex Wildlife Visit

The children all seemed to thoroughly enjoy their session on Monday with the Essex Wildlife Trust, despite the rain pouring down all day.

Each class had a different focus for their session, some were literacy-based whereas others had more art and design. The children impressed our visitor with their willingness to join straight into all activities and confidence to have a go.

We were given more ideas of ways we could create spaces for wildlife and other ideas for taking our learning outdoors.



## Parent Governor Opportunity for a parent to join our Community Schools Board

We are now working under a new model of governance with the Vine Schools Trust. The headteacher and nominated governor, Nigel Benwell, now meet with the Local School's Board six times a year, alongside other headteachers and select governors, to discuss the continued improvement of our schools.

We are now bringing together our Community School's Board, who will meet three times a year and focus on Ridgewell alone, supporting us on our improvement journey. This group will have more involvement with our school and provide valuable reports to share with the Local School's Board.

We would greatly appreciate the voice of a parent governor on our board, helping us to gain a rounded perspective at our meetings.

Please speak to either Mrs Stuart or Mr Benwell if you are interested in joining the Community Board and we will be pleased to share more information with you.

## Parent Survey

Please look out for an e-mail with a link to our parent's survey. It should only take you a few minutes to complete and will really help us to refine our priorities for continued school improvement.

We will take the time to go through the responses and have provided spaces for longer comments if needed. Thank you!

## Diary Dates...

- Friday 9<sup>th</sup> July – Sports Day
- Monday 12<sup>th</sup> July – Saturn Class at Park Wood
- Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> July – Reserve Sports Day
- Friday 16<sup>th</sup> July – Whole School trip to Frinton
- Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> July – Last Day of Term / Leaver's Celebration
- Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> July – Non-pupil Day