

**' The school is a joyful place.  
Pupils are bursting with pride in their school and all it has to  
offer' - Ofsted 2018**

**'There is a life and vibrancy within the school that  
comes from enthusiastic,  
confident and happy pupils' - Interim SIAMS 2018**

Thank you for your interest in our school. We are very proud to be a Church of England school with its distinctive character and ethos. Our school provides excellent education, based on Christian belief and values, to all children of the community it serves; whilst still respecting individual beliefs. We hope you find this pride reflected throughout our prospectus which details our latest achievements, current teaching strategies and includes some of our future plans.

### **The Catchment Area**

The school serves the villages of Childrey, Letcombe Regis, Letcombe Bassett, Sparsholt, Westcot and West Challow and can cater for up to 106 children.



### **What Facilities Do We Have?**

Although the original school building was built in 1913 expansions of the school in 2000, 2008 and 2017 have given us a new hall, Foundation/year 1 classroom, library, year 2 classroom, Early Years' outdoor play area, staffroom and headteacher's office; as well as renovating and increasing the sizes of our older classrooms. We have an Early Years' covered area to enable us to make more use of the outdoor area. In the summer of 2017, we also had internal works completed which gave us an additional learning area for our children.

Outside we have a hard surface play area with a netball court, a large playing field with a Timber Trail, separate Early Years' playground and wonderful views across the countryside.

There is also a pond, and vegetable, fruit and herb garden which the children help to maintain.



# Our Aims

## What is our School Vision and how are we going to achieve it?

### 'Building for Life'

Our vision is to be a joyful, vibrant and welcoming school community, encouraging ourselves to explore life in all its fullness with enthusiasm and confidence that permeates everything we do.

In order to achieve our vision we will aim...

- ✚ To create and sustain an inclusive community consisting of the children, parents, carers teachers, staff, governors, other schools in the Wantage Partnership and the local community;
- ✚ To provide for the continued all-round growth of each child by recognising and catering for the individual needs of each child. These needs will include emotional, spiritual, intellectual, moral, social, creative and physical;
- ✚ Teach and develop skills that will enable the child to continue learning, so that he/she may contribute to and derive benefit from, any community in which he/she happens to be;
- ✚ To encourage positive attitudes and appropriate behaviour;
- ✚ To understand and respect the rich variety of human life;
- ✚ To promote healthy living and a caring attitude for the environment;
- ✚ To provide a stimulating and interactive environment in which a child's full potential can be realised;
- ✚ To foster close co-operation between home and school, recognising home as an important learning environment and time spent at school as part of continuing education;



- ✚ To employ a variety of approaches, teaching methods and techniques whilst recognising that children of primary school age learn mainly through activity and practical experience;
- ✚ To form links with schools, churches and communities in different environments, both nationally and globally, in order to develop greater awareness of and respect for other races, faiths and cultures.

## **Ofsted (Short) Inspection: 10<sup>th</sup> July 2018**

Overall effectiveness of the school – we continue to be Good.

Use the link below to read the full 2018 Ofsted report:

<http://www.ridgeway-ce-primary.moonfruit.com/school-performance>

## **SIAMS Inspection (Diocese of Oxford): 24 June 2015**

The following grade was given:

The distinctiveness and effectiveness of The Ridgeway as a Church of England school is good.

The areas looked at were:

How well does the school, through its distinctive Christian character, meet the needs of learners?	Good
What is the impact of collective worship on the school community?	Good
How effective are the leadership and management of the school as a church school?	Good

The full report is available to read via our website: <http://www.ridgeway-ce-primary.moonfruit.com/school-performance>

## Curriculum

As a small village school we are able to sustain a corporate, caring community where respect for others is important and appropriate behaviour expected. Positive behaviour is promoted and praised whereas negative behaviour is dealt with swiftly according to our Behaviour Policy.

The teachers concentrate on the child's individual development and work is matched to the child's ability. Individual assignments as well as group and class work feature in the school day and ICT is used extensively, linking all areas of the curriculum via laptops and interactive whiteboards.

### Foundation Stage: Ages 4 and 5 years

A child can be admitted to the school on a full-time basis at the beginning of the school year in which s/he is 5 years old. During the term before a child starts school, visits are made to familiarise the child with school. All admissions are dealt with by Oxfordshire County Council.

Your child will be learning skills, acquiring new knowledge and demonstrating their understanding through **7 areas of learning and development**.

Children should mostly develop the **3 prime areas** first. These are:

Communication and language;

Physical development; and

Personal, social and emotional development.

These prime areas are those most essential for your child's healthy development and future learning.

As children grow, the prime areas will help them to develop skills in **4 specific areas**. These are:

Literacy;

Mathematics;

Understanding the world; and

Expressive arts and design.

These 7 areas are used to plan your child's learning and activities.

Children in the EYFS learn by playing and exploring, being active, and through creative and critical thinking which takes place both indoors and outside.

### **The National Curriculum and Religious Education**

are taught to all children from Year 1. The Curriculum consists of three core subjects:

- Mathematics
- English
- Science

The Foundation subjects are Art and Design, Computing, Design and Technology, Languages (French from Year 3) Geography, History, Music, Physical Education.

At The Ridgeway Primary School, the delivery of the curriculum is constantly reviewed so that it is broad, balanced, relevant and differentiated.

Subjects are taught both individually and in a cross-curricular way. Many teaching methods and approaches are used throughout the school, recognising that children learn in different ways.

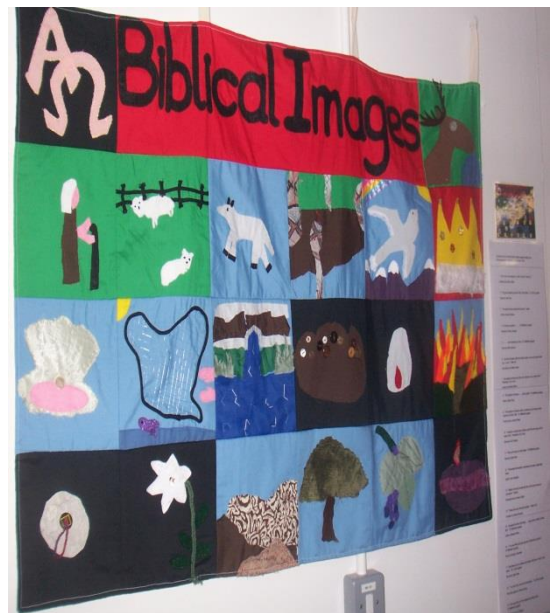
Phonetic skills (letter sounds) are taught using the Letters and Sounds scheme.

We use a rolling three year curriculum plan in Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 for all areas except Mathematics where an annual plan is used.

Rolling two year curriculum plans are used in the two classes in Key Stage 2 except for Maths where an annual plan is used.

## **Religious Education and Collective Worship**

As a Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School we aim to serve our community by providing quality education, within the context of Christian belief and practice to all pupils. The school's policies promote valuing ourselves as well as others, celebrating the differences amongst individuals, as well as the importance of caring, perseverance and respect. We have high expectation levels of behaviour and respect to all members of the community inside and outside of the school. Religious Education is taught in accordance with Oxfordshire County Council's Agreed Syllabus. The children will learn about other world religions as well as having the opportunity to experience Christian worship and life.



Collective Worship is held each day as a whole school or class assembly. The opportunity for personal reflection is a regular component of our worship and the children are invited to take part by leading prayer and composing their own prayers. Parents have the right to withdraw their children from Collective Worship and Religious Education lessons, but all requests should be made in writing to the Headteacher first.

## **Clubs and Activities**

Lunchtime and after school activities include cricket, netball, knitting, gardening and school choir. Key Stage 2 football, athletics, target & invasion games and Key Stage 1 multi-skills clubs are run by a specialist sport coach. A Cycling Proficiency Course is held for Year 6 children every year.

We also take part in many inter-school competitions and matches including kwik-cricket, cross-country, netball, tag-rugby, football and athletics. Our use of sports Premium funding enable us to provide sports teaching and coaching to provide a variety of sports which have included football, tennis, cricket and tag rugby.

## Music

Children can receive private group instrumental tuition, provided by the County Music Service but all children will have received lessons on general musicianship and instrumental tuition (violin or cello) by the end of Year 4. There is a school choir, taught by parents and music is enthusiastically incorporated into collective worship, assemblies, concerts, and class performances throughout the year.

## Safeguarding Pupils

The School recognises its responsibility for Child Protection and its Safeguarding Policy applies to all staff, governors and volunteers working in school. The Governors regularly review the School's safeguarding procedures and have a crucial role in monitoring and challenging school staff on the effectiveness of safeguarding arrangements. An annual report is sent to the Local Authority.

## Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND)

In all cases of children with SEND the SEND Co-ordinator will liaise closely with teachers, parents and any relevant agencies, in order to make any necessary adaptations to the environment and teaching; thus ensuring we meet the child's individual needs at all times. The SEN Co-ordinator is always happy to talk to parents about their child's needs and progress. The school building is single storey and is completely accessible for wheelchair users. When changes to the premises are made we keep the requirements of those with special needs in mind. The school's policy for Special Educational Needs is reviewed annually and an annual report is sent to all parents. Copies of both are available from our website or from the school office.

## Healthy Schools

Children in Robin Class and Golden Eagle Class receive a daily mid-morning snack of fruit or vegetables whilst children in Classes Two and Three can bring in their own snack of fruit and/or vegetables. All children are encouraged to bring a water bottle to which they always have access. Canned and fizzy drinks and gum are not allowed. We also encourage all those who can, to either walk or cycle to school. A Cycling Proficiency Course is held for Year 6 children.

## Eco- Schools

This is a subject that our pupils take very seriously and have been extremely active in over the years. To date they have created an organic vegetable garden and introduced recycling. Currently we are focusing on our Earth Institute Mushroom Project.



## School Council

The School Council is made up of the pupils in Wren Class. They provide an important link between the staff and pupils. The Council seeks the opinions and ideas of the other children and will strive to bring about change and improvement where it would be beneficial to the school community. The School Council also has a number of Year 6 pupils who act as Play Leaders. These children organise optional competitions and activities for pupils to take part in during break-times.

## Compulsory Uniform

White or burgundy polo shirt – long or short sleeved

Burgundy sweatshirt, fleece jacket or sweat-cardi

Black or grey trousers – boys

Black or grey trousers, skirts or pinafore dresses - girls

Indoor shoes with backs and firm soles (not slippers)

Reading Folder \*

## Compulsory PE Kit

Black sports shorts

PE Drawstring Bag\*

\*free from the school

White t-shirt

Trainers

### **Optional Items:-**

Red gingham dress

Burgundy reversible coat

Baseball cap

Burgundy fleece jacket

Knitted hat



The school uniform is stocked by PMG schoolwear, 8 Regal Way, Faringdon SN7 7BX (tel no. 0800 4046644). Orders can be made via their website ([www.PMGschoolwear.co.uk](http://www.PMGschoolwear.co.uk))

We also have second-hand uniform which can be purchased from stalls at some school events. It is also possible to buy uniform in the school colours, but without the logos from many supermarkets. Children are not allowed to wear jewellery and make-up at school.

Children with pierced ears may wear studs but these must be removed or covered during PE.

Watches may be worn to school at the owner's risk.

## The School day

Morning session: 0900 - 1200 (*Children must not arrive at the school prior to 8.40am*)

Morning break: 1030 - 1045

Dinner break: 1200 – 1300

Afternoon session: 1300 – 1500

## **School Meals**

School meals are cooked on site daily and should be booked and paid for in advance. All children in the Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 are entitled to free school meals. Children can bring in their own packed lunch if they wish. All meals are eaten in the hall.

## **Attendance**

The school is proud of its high level of attendance and the Governors are keen to maintain it. Children arriving at school after 9.00 am are marked 'late' on the register. Parents are immediately contacted if a child has not arrived at school by 9.30 am and a reason for absence or lateness has not been received.

## **Term and holiday dates** - Please see Appendix for details

### **Staff**

Mr W Webb	Headteacher
Mrs S Howell	Foundation and Year 1 Teacher
Ms L Hogdson-Hall	Year 2 Teacher
Mrs S Headen	Key Stage 2 Teacher (Years 3 & 4)
Mrs K Salmon	Key Stage 2 Teacher (Years 3 & 4)
Mrs P Clark	Key Stage 2 Teacher (Years 5 & 6)
Mrs C Halstead	Teaching Assistant
Mrs P Chester	Teaching Assistant
Mr T Austin	Teaching Assistant/PE coordinator
Miss T Richards	Teaching Assistant
Mrs T Allan	Teaching Assistant
Mrs D Davies	Administrator
Mrs J Foulds	Lunchtime Supervisor
Mrs Louise Sweetman	Chef

### **Governors**

Mrs A Giltane (chair)	Parent Governor
Mr J Broughton	Co-opted Governor (IT and Communications)
Mrs S Chambers (Vice-chair)	Parent Governor
Mrs A Wilkinson	Parent Governor
Mrs C Dewey	Co-opted Governor (Science and Environment)
Mrs S Worth	Local Authority Governor
Revd L Hill	Foundation Governor
Mr W Webb	Headteacher
Mrs S Howell	Staff Governor



# Communication<sup>9</sup>

<b>Informally</b>	Teachers are always happy to have a quick chat after school, but please make an appointment if you need to talk for longer.
<b>Consultations</b>	Formal consultations are offered three times a year. Parents are welcome to attend our occasional drop-in sessions to see their children's work.
<b>Reports</b>	The school issues reports once a year, in Term 6.
<b>Newsletters &amp; Website</b>	All parents are encouraged to check the website for current information. We use email to send out letters to parents, if they find this useful but we also send hard copies to those who prefer this method.
<b>Governing Body</b>	Parent Governors are active in seeking and relaying parents' views which are then conveyed to the meeting. Minutes are put on the Governors notice board inside the Reception area..
<b>Parent Teacher Association (PTA)</b>	An essential tool for the school, the PTA organises fundraisers including bingos, discos and quiz evenings. The money raised has recently provided us with Learnpads and many educational visits and visitors to the school. New suggestions and volunteers are always welcomed.
<b>General Enquiries</b>	The Ridgeway C. E. Primary School West Street Childrey Wantage Oxfordshire OX12 9UL Tel: (01235) 751254 email: <a href="mailto:office.3231@ridgeway.oxon.sch.uk">office.3231@ridgeway.oxon.sch.uk</a> Website: <a href="http://www.ridgeway.oxon.sch.uk">www.ridgeway.oxon.sch.uk</a>

Parents considering sending their child to the school are always welcome to visit. Please contact the School Administrator, Mrs Debbie Davies, to arrange an appointment.