



BRIDGEWATER NEWS

Welcome Back

Summer Term 1 2024



A warm welcome back to all our families

Promoting strong attendance

One of our key focus areas at Bridgewater this year is to improve school attendance as last year we did not reach our target of 96% across the whole school (average school attendance was 93% for 2022-2023). We also had a number of children who are persistently absent (falling below 90%) missing out on important aspects of their education.

Currently, our whole school attendance is 94.6%

Regular school attendance is an important part of giving your child the best possible start in life and vital for your child's education - as a lost day can never be repeated. Our school shares the government's determination to raise the levels of pupil attendance and has robust systems in place to monitor attendance and punctuality. Most of our children attend school regularly and do not present any concerns. However, if your child's attendance dips below 95% or accumulates 5 days (10 sessions) of unauthorised absence, you may be asked to attend an Attendance Panel Meeting in school to explain the reasons for absences further. It is therefore, very important that you contact the office on each day of absence to ensure that the absence is recorded as 'authorised'. Failure to engage with school on improving your child's attendance can result in a fine.

All holiday requests during term time will not be granted in line with Government legislation and following Salford Local Authority Policies. Please see the school website for a copy of our attendance policy

<https://www.bridgewaterprimaryschool.co.uk/information/policies/> A polite reminder that any requests for leave during school time should be made in writing, addressed to the Headteacher or reported via Parent App.

Good punctuality is also very important. The school day starts at 8.40am and all children are expected to be in school by this time (we open the doors at 8.30am to make this a little easier for families). Valuable teaching input can be missed and the **whole class** disrupted by a late arrival. To help limit disruption, all late arrivals are taken to class at transition times of 8.55am and 9.10am so not to disturb current learning.

The Department for Education have asked schools to share the following documents to support parents in understanding and improving attendance -

[Working together to improve school attendance.](#)

[Is my child too ill for school?](#)

We will continue to monitor every child's attendance each day and ask that parents fully encourage strong school attendance. Attendance letters will be sent out later this half term which will clearly highlight whether your child's attendance is:

- Great and above 96% – green
- Needs improvement as is below 96% - amber
- A cause for concern below 90% – red.

Early intervention and parental support are key factors in resolving attendance issues. Please continue to support us with this and ensure your child is in school and on time each day.

Communication with school

Can I remind parents that if you wish to discuss your children's personal or academic development at any time throughout the school year to please see your child's class teacher and they will arrange a convenient time with you.

If you wish to discuss your concern further, please contact the school office (after you have spoken with the class teacher) and an appointment can be arranged with a senior member of staff.

Our Senior Leaders are:

Mrs Henderson – Headteacher

Mr Tien-Rhimes– Deputy Headteacher

Mrs Byard - Assistant Headteacher and Lead teacher in Lower Key Stage 2 (Year 3 and 4)

Mrs Thornley – Lead teacher in Upper Key Stage 2 (Years 5 and 6)

Miss Lovell - Lead teacher in Key Stage 1 (Year 1 and 2)

Mrs Freaney – Lead teacher in The Early Years (Nursery and Reception)

Mrs Hill – Director of Business and Operations

Summer Uniform (April to July)

The following may be worn as an alternative to the main uniform:

- Light blue polo shirt with grey shorts/trousers/skirt
- Blue/white checked dress
- Black school shoes – trainers are not permitted

PE Kit

- Plain white t-shirt
- Plain black shorts
- Trainers (outdoor) or black pumps (indoor)

Please do not send children into school with 'branded clothing' - e.g. Adidas, Nike, North Face.

We encourage families to maintain our uniform standards. If you need any financial support in doing so, please see Miss Hopkins who is happy to help families access our uniform bank and funding via a Greggs uniform fund.

School Development

Over the Easter break we have had electric gates installed on the staff car parks and main pedestrian gate on Bridgewater Street. To enter the school premises you will need to use the buzzer system on the main pedestrian gate and our office staff will let you in.

Parent Forum

Our Parent Forum aims to represent the views of all parents. It facilitates communication between parents/carers and staff and governors. The forum works to provide feedback on provision, offer a parent's perspective on current policy and practice and input into decision making and planning for future provision. It is not a forum to discuss individual/personal issues.

The Summer meeting will be held on **21st May at 2.30pm** in the school hall. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be available. I hope to see many of you there and please let me know if there is anything you would like to see on the agenda. A suggestion box is available in the front entrance area for you to add suggestions to be discussed or these can be sent via email to the Bridgewater address.

Year 6 SATs

During this half-term, Year 6 will sit their SATs (Standardised Assessment Tests). The children are well prepared for these assessments. All data will be shared with parents in July - before the end of the Summer term.

Water Bottles and Snacks

All children are encouraged to drink water during the day. The children are able to re-fill their water bottles during the school day. Children may also bring in healthy snacks to have during their break times. We try to encourage good eating habits and have a Healthy Eating Policy that supports this aim. Children in Key Stage 1 and EYFS are provided with fresh fruit daily; any extras are shared with KS2.

Bikes/scooters on the playground

Please can I remind you of our school's request (School Council) that both adults and children dismount and push bikes/scooters when on the school grounds to avoid any accidents or collisions with other parents and children. I would like to also remind you that school does not accept any responsibility for any bikes/scooters left on the school premises. We strongly suggest that all bikes/scooters are locked securely if left on school premises.

Considerate parking

Please can I remind you again about considerate parking when dropping off/collecting your child from school. We have purchased new signs indicating the areas of concern on both Bridgewater Street and Ellesmere Street. Ellesmere Street is a very narrow, one-way road and is not a safe place to park at these busy times. Parents and residents are very concerned about their child crossing the road safely and also the access on pavements being restricted by cars parking on the pavement. Can I please ask that you do not park on this road; if you need to travel to school by car please park a little further away and walk to the school gates. I ask this to ensure the safety of all our children. Our school council will be undertaking a project about parking around school this term. Please keep an eye out for their messages.

Regularly updated information can also be found on the school website www.bridgewaterprimaryschool.co.uk
News and information is also updated via our Twitter page so please do follow us [@BridgewaterPS](https://twitter.com/BridgewaterPS).

If you have any question or queries, please do not hesitate to contact school and a member of our office team will be happy to help. Please email bridgewater.primaryschool@salford.gov.uk or call 0161 921 1191.

Mrs E Henderson
Headteacher

April /May 2024				
15 th	16 th	17 th	18 th	19 th
PE (Y4)	PE (N, Y1, Y2 & Y6) Primary School Offer Day for Sept 2024 admissions (Nursery & Reception)	PE (Rec & Y3) Y4 Multiplication Tables Check Parent Workshop 9:00am Y2 WOW Day (seaside themed)	PE (Y5) EYFS Creepy Crawly Show Football Finals Broadoak Primary School (Selected children)	4RS Swimming Basketball Final – The Dean’s Primary School (Selected children)
22 nd	23 rd	24 th	25 th	26 th
PE (Y4)	PE (N, Y1, Y2 & Y6)	PE (Rec & Y3)	PE (Y5) Reception Parent/Carer Riveting Reads Workshop – 8:45am Y4 Class Assembly – 9:00am	4RS Swimming
29 th	30 th	1 st	2 nd	3 rd
PE (Y4)	PE (N, Y1, Y2 & Y6)	PE (Rec & Y3) Y1 Trip to Smithills Farm	PE (Y5)	4RS Swimming Tennis Cluster Y3 & Y4 St Edmund’s

May 2024				
6 th	7 th	8 th	9 th	10 th
School closed for May Bank Holiday	School reopens PE (N, Y1, Y2 & Y6) Reception Parent/Carer Riveting Reads Workshop – 2:30pm	PE (Rec & Y3)	PE (Y5) Parent/Carer Anxiety & Low Mood Coffee Morning – 9:00am	4RS Swimming
13 th	14 th	15 th	16 th	17 th
Y6 SAT’s Week (Mon – Thurs)				4RS Swimming
PE (Y4)	PE (N, Y1, Y2 & Y6)	PE (Rec & Y3)	PE (Y5) Y1 visit to St John’s Community Centre (Experience Jesus Love)	Whole School Class Photographs & Y6 Individual
20 th	21 st	22 nd	23 rd	24 th
PE (Y4) Multiplication Tables Check Mocks 1 – 4RS	PE (N, Y1, Y2 & Y6) Parent Forum 2.30pm Multiplication Tables Check Mocks 1 – 4DS	PE (Rec & Y3) Y2 Trip to St Anne’s Beach Multiplication Tables Check Mocks 2 – 4RS	PE (Y5) Reception Class Assembly – 9:00am Multiplication Tables Check Mocks 2 – 4DS	4RS Swimming School Closes for Summer Half Term

School Reopens: **Monday 3rd June 2024**