# BRIDGEWATER NEWS

## *Welcome Back*

Autumn 2 2026

I hope you all had a lovely half term.

As is the case every half term, this newsletter includes some important information and details about projects and exciting events planned for this half term. Real time updates are on our Instagram Page (follow us- @bridgewaterprimary) and our website also contains regularly updated information: www.bridgewaterprimaryschool.co.uk

**Goodbye to Miss Hopkins**

After more than 20 years of dedicated service as Learning Mentor at Bridgewater Primary, Miss Hopkins is retiring.

Throughout her time with us, Miss Hopkins has been a valued and much-loved member of our school community. Her kindness, patience and unwavering commitment to supporting children and families have made a positive difference to countless lives. She has provided encouragement, guidance and care to generations of pupils, helping them to grow in confidence and achieve their potential.

Miss Hopkins' contribution to Bridgewater Primary has been truly remarkable, and her impact will be felt for many years to come. While we will miss her greatly, we are delighted that she is beginning a well-deserved retirement.

On behalf of all the staff, pupils, parents and governors, we would like to thank Miss Hopkins for her outstanding service and dedication, and wish her a long, happy and fulfilling retirement.

Congratulations, Miss Hopkins, and thank you for everything you have done for Bridgewater Primary.

**Promoting strong attendance**

One of our key focus areas at Bridgewater is to continue to promote strong school attendance.

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

Working together to improve school attendance.

Is my child too ill for school?

**Currently, our whole school attendance is 95.4% a great start which we hope to improve upon as we aim for 96%!**

In instances where your child is unable to attend school, for example due to illness, please ensure you have informed the school office by 9.00am **each day**. We will continue to monitor every child's attendance and ask that parents fully encourage strong school attendance.

Attendance letters will once again 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 or a cause for concern below 90% – red.

**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
Miss Lovell – Deputy Headteacher
Mrs Thornley – Deputy Headteacher
Mrs Cope – Lead teacher in The Early Years (Nursery and Reception) and SENDCO
Miss Cunliffe - Lead teacher in Key Stage 1 (Years 1and 2) and Assistant SENDCO
Mrs Saccani – Lead teacher in Lower Key Stage 2 (Years 3 and 4)
Mrs Glendon – Lead teacher in Upper Key Stage 2 (Years 5 and 6)
Mrs Hill – Director of Business and Operations

**Parents' Evening**

We will be holding Parents' Evening this half term to discuss with parents how your child has settled into their new class and how you can support their learning at home.
Please sign up for an appointment with your child's class teacher. As always, you can also book an appointment with Mrs Kay (our new Learning Mentor) or Mrs Cope (SENCO) should you wish – please indicate this on your return slip.

**Breakfast Club**

Our breakfast club was initially set up in 2015 in partnership with Greggs - who continue to fund the provision. **The main focus of The Greggs Foundation is to give pupils the opportunity of accessing a healthy, nutritious breakfast free of charge to ensure they start their morning on the right track.** We are able to offer 40 places to pupils who would benefit from a free meal. We operate a booking system rather than a walk-in system to ensure staff ratios are accurate. We do understand that this is not ideal for some of our working parents, as they need to secure permanent wrap around care to fit in with their working pattern. Please visit the Childcare Choices website to find out more information about wraparound care (www.childcarechoices.gov.uk). Our breakfast club places fill up quickly, so if you weren't able to secure a place for this half term when they first went live, please keep checking ParentPay as places do open up if we receive cancellations. We will be releasing places for next half term before we finish for Christmas and will send further communication regarding this later this term.

**Evolve (School Meals)**

Please remember to order your child's school dinner on Evolve each week. If you do not order your child's meal, they will be given a default meal. You may of course send a packed lunch if preferred. Please remember to cancel the meal before 9.30am if your child is absent and speak with the office staff if you are having any issues with Evolve.

**Countdown to Christmas**

As we start the second half term, it may not surprise you that Christmas is just over 7 weeks away! We love this time of year at school and plan to have lots of exciting events for the children including pantos, parties and performances. Please take note of the dates on the calendar attached.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs E Henderson
Headteacher

# Calendar of Events Autumn Term 2 2026

| November 2026 | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **2nd** | **3rd** | **4th** | **5th** | **6th** |
| **School Closed** | School reopens<br><br>PE (N, Rec) | PE (Y2, Y3 & Y5) | **Wellbeing Workshops (Y3 – Y6)**<br>PE (Y1, Y6)<br><br>African Drumming Workshop (Y1 - Y6) | 4ZD Swimming<br><br>Individual & Sibling Photographs<br><br>Y3 Trip to Tian Cheng Temple |
| **9th** | **10th** | **11th** | **12th** | **13th** |
| **Y4 Shakespeare Globe Class Workshop (The Winter's Tale)** | | | | |
| PE (Y4) | PE (N, Rec)<br><br>Y3, Y4, Y5 & Y6 Parents Evening | PE (Y2, Y3 & Y5)<br><br>Armistice Day<br><br>N, Rec Y1 & Y2 Parents Evening | PE (Y1, Y6)<br><br>Y5 Trip to Whitworth Art Gallery<br><br>African Drumming Workshop (Y1 - Y6) | 4ZD Swimming<br><br>Times Tables Rockstar Day |
| **16th** | **17th** | **18th** | **19th** | **20th** |
| **Anti-Bullying Week** | | | | |
| **Y1 Audiology Screening**<br>PE (Y4)<br><br>Odd Socks Day<br><br>Anti-Bullying Workshops (Rec – Y6) | PE (N, Rec)<br><br>Greater Manchester Fire Service Visiting EYFS pupils | PE (Y2, Y3 & Y5) | PE (Y1, Y6) | 4ZD Swimming<br><br>Y6 Visiting Walkden Library |
| **23rd** | **24th** | **25th** | **26th** | **27th** |
| PE (Y4) | PE (N, Rec)<br><br>Greater Manchester Police Visiting EYFS pupils | PE (Y2, Y3 & Y5)<br><br>2 x Pupils from Year 6 Visiting Salford Civic Centre | PE (Y1, Y6)<br><br>Riveting Reads Session for Reception Parents 2:20pm | 4ZD Swimming |
| **November/December 2026** | | | | |
| **30th** | **1st** | **2nd** | **3rd** | **4th** |
| PE (Y4) | PE (N, Rec) | PE (Y2, Y3 & Y5) | PE (Y1, Y6) | 4ZD Swimming |
| **7th** | **8th** | **9th** | **10th** | **11th** |
| PE (Y4)<br><br>Y4 Christmas Performance 9:15am | PE (N, Rec)<br><br>Reception Christmas Performance 9:15am<br><br>Y2 & Y6 Pantomime – Snow White (Bolton Albert Hall) | PE (Y2, Y3 & Y5)<br><br>Y1 Christmas Performance 9:15am | PE (Y1, Y6)<br><br>Y3 Christmas Performance 9:15am | 4ZD Swimming<br><br>Y2 Christmas Performance 9:15am<br><br>Y1 Trip to The Lowry – The Jolly Postman Musical |
| **14th** | **15th** | **16th** | **17th** | **18th** |
| PE (Y4)<br><br>Y6 Christmas Performance 9:15am | PE (N, Rec)<br><br>Y5 Christmas Performance 9:15am<br><br>Nursery Christmas Performance 2:00pm | PE (Y2, Y3 & Y5)<br><br>Christmas Dinner & Jumper Day<br><br>Christmas Markets 3:15pm | PE (Y1, Y6) | School Closes for Christmas<br><br>4ZD Swimming |

School Reopens: **Tuesday 5th January 2027**