



BRIDGEWATER NEWS

Welcome Back

Autumn 2 2024



I hope you all had a lovely half term and are looking forward to the countdown to Christmas.

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 Twitter page (follow us- @BridgewaterPS.) and our website also contains regularly updated information: www.bridgewaterprimaryschool.co.uk

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.

Promoting strong attendance

One of our key focus areas at Bridgewater this year is to improve school attendance as we did not reach our target of 95% across the whole school - average school attendance was 94.3% for 2023-2024. We also had a number of children who were persistently absent (falling below 90%) missing out on important aspects of their education.

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.

Missing out on school adds up:

1. 80% attendance over a school year means your child misses a whole year of education over five years
2. 85% attendance means that 29 school days, nearly six weeks, or 145 lessons are missed over a year
3. 90% attendance means 19 school days, four weeks or 95 lessons are missed over a year

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 94.7% - a good start which we hope to improve upon as the year continues!

We will continue to monitor every child's attendance each day 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.

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 bring 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.

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 Freeney/ Mrs Cope – Lead teacher in The Early Years (Nursery and Reception)

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

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)

Mrs Hill – Director of Business and Operations

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.

School Development

As mentioned in the first newsletter of this half term, there are some exciting projects taking place at Bridgewater. This includes a new stage and amphitheatre being installed in memory of Eliza Rowley and Renae Walker, and also some new trim trails being installed on the KS1 and KS2 playground. These will be installed during this half term. Mr Tien-Rhimes is leading on this development and is working hard to ensure that learning is not disrupted during this time.

We would like to acknowledge that without your commitment to your child's education, we would not be fortunate enough to have so many children who always do the right thing, and we are grateful that you continue to promote these rules with your children at home.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs E Henderson

Headteacher

October/November 2024				
28th	29th	30th	31st	1st
School Closed	School reopens PE (N & Y1)	PE (Rec, Y2 & Y3) EYFS Early Parent Writing Workshop – 9:00am EYFS New Parent Open Evening – 4:00pm	PE (Y5 & Y6) Halloween Dress Up Day	4RS Swimming Basketball Competition – The Dean’s Primary School (selected children)
4th	5th	6th	7th	8th
PE (Y4)	PE (N & Y1) Bill Hayhurst Cup Match St Edmund’s (selected Y5/Y6 children)	PE (Rec, Y2 & Y3)	PE (Y5 & Y6) Y1 Outdoor Owl Visit Hands on Science Class Workshops (Y3/Y6)	4RS Swimming Individual & Sibling Photographs
11th	12th	13th	14th	15th
Anti- Bullying Week				
PE (Y4) Flu Immunisations – Catch-up Session (Reception – Y6)	PE (N & Y1) Odd Socks Day Manchester United Leadership Programme (selected Y5 children)	PE (Rec, Y2 & Y3) Y5 Trip to Whitworth Art Gallery	PE (Y5 & Y6) EYFS Maths Parent Workshop – 9:00am	4RS Swimming Y3 Library Visit (Walkden Gateway)
18th	19th	20th	21st	22nd
Y4 Globe Theatre Project				
PE (Y4) Girls Football Festival The Cliff Training Ground (selected Y5/Y6 children)	PE (N & Y1)	PE (Rec, Y2 & Y3)	PE (Y5 & Y6)	4RS Swimming
25th	26th	27th	28th	29th
PE (Y4)	PE (N & Y1) Y2 Class Workshop (Neil Armstrong)	PE (Rec, Y2 & Y3)	PE (Y5 & Y6) Reception Parent/Carer Riveting Reads Workshop 2:30pm	4RS Swimming
December 2024				
2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th
PE (Y4) Hollywood Bowl (selected SEN children)	PE (N & Y1)	PE (Rec, Y2 & Y3)	PE (Y5 & Y6) Y2 & Y6 Panto - Rapunzel (Bolton Albert Hall) Y3 Christmas Experience – St John’s Community Centre Girls Football Super league St Edmund’s (selected Y5/Y6 children)	4RS Swimming
9th	10th	11th	12th	13th
PE (Y4) Y6 Christmas Performance 9:15am Y1 Christmas Performance– 2:00pm	PE (N & Y1) Y1 Christmas Performance 9:15am Y2 Christmas Performance 2:00pm	PE (Rec, Y2 & Y3) Salford Cup Tournament – The Cliff Training Ground (selected Y5/Y6 children) Y2 Christmas Performance 9:15am Y6 Christmas Performance 2:00pm	PE (Y5 & Y6) Y1 Visit to the Lowry – Stick Man Y5 Christmas Performance 9:15am Y3 Christmas Performance 2:00pm	4RS Swimming Y3 Christmas Performance 9:15am Y5 Christmas Performance 2:00pm
16th	17th	18th	19th	20th
PE (Y4) Y4 Christmas Performance 9:15am EYFS Christmas Performance 2:00pm	PE (N & Y1) EYFS Christmas Performance 9:15am Y4 Christmas Performance 2:00pm	PE (Rec, Y2 & Y3) Christmas Dinner/Jumper Day Christmas Market – 3:00pm	PE (Y5 & Y6) Class Party Day (Non-Uniform) School closes for Christmas	School Closed

School Reopens: **Tuesday 7th January 2025**