



BRIDGEWATER NEWS

Welcome Back

Autumn 2 2023



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 8 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. We have added these to the school diary (please see calendar on the last page).

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 93% for 2022-2023. We also had a number of children who were persistently absent (falling below 90%) missing out on important aspects of their education.

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 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?](#)

Currently, our whole school attendance is 95.2% which is a very good start to the year!

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 or a cause for concern below 90% – red.

If you have any questions or queries in the meantime, please do contact school and a member of the Senior Leadership will be happy to speak with you.

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.

Dogs on the Playground

Just a reminder that NO dogs are permitted on school grounds. This includes dogs on leads and smaller dogs in their owner's arms. This is a Salford Council policy for the safety of all children, parents and carers.

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

Mr Doherty – 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 Freney – Lead teacher in The Early Years (Nursery and Reception)

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. Many of our families use other local providers that can secure permanent wrap around care such as 2 Kool for Skool and WASP. The breakfast club is now full for this half term. However, we will be releasing places for next half term before we finish for Christmas and will send further communication regarding this later this term.

Children's University Update

This year we are delighted to be continuing with our participation in the Children's University Programme. The Children's University encourages children to 'learn outside of the school day' and recognises their commitment to enhancing their own learning by attending after school clubs etc. Your child will have received a 'Learning Passport' to use as a record of their additional learning. This passport will be used all the way through school and onto high school if their school is part of the programme. If your child has lost their passport, a replacement may be purchased at the school office at the cost of £2.50 and previous hours will be added (school purchased the first passport on your child's behalf). I will keep you updated with any further information throughout the year.

House Points

This year we have launched a new House Point system within school, where children can gain points for displaying positive behaviours in line with our school rules. Each child has been placed in a house, and the names of these houses will be selected from the competition entries submitted last half term. As a reminder, our school Golden Rules are detailed below.

We are gentle, we don't hurt others.

We are kind and helpful; we don't hurt anybody's feelings.

We are honest; we don't cover up the truth.

We work hard, we don't waste time.

We listen, we don't interrupt.

We look after property, we don't damage things.

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 2023

30 th	31 st	1 st	2 nd	3 rd
PE (Y4, Y6) Flu Immunisations (Nursery)	PE (N, Y1, Y2 & Y5)	PE (Rec & Y3)	PE (Y6) Y3 Class Assembly	4DS Swimming
6 th	7 th	8 th	9 th	10 th
PE (Y4, Y6)	PE (N, Y1, Y2 & Y5) Riveting Reads Workshop Reception Parents – 9:00am Science Workshop Y3 – Y6	PE (Rec & Y3) Science Workshop Y3 – Y6	PE (Y6)	4DS Swimming Individual Photographs
13 th	14 th	15 th	16 th	17 th
Anti-Bullying Week				
PE (Y4, Y6) World Kindness Day Odd socks Day	PE (N, Y1, Y2 & Y5) New to EYFS 2024 Parent Opening Evening 3:30pm - 5:00pm	PE (Rec & Y3)	PE (Y6)	4DS Swimming
20 th	21 st	22 nd	23 rd	24 th
PE (Y4, Y6)	PE (N, Y1, Y2 & Y5)	PE (Rec & Y3) Y1 Falconry Workshop	PE (Y6) Y2 Neil Armstrong Workshop	4DS Swimming Non-uniform Day in memory of Renae Walker <i>(proceeds will be donated to Ronald McDonald House)</i>
27 th	28 th	29 th	30 th	1 st
PE (Y4, Y6) 1AK Audiology Test	PE (N, Y1, Y2 & Y5) 1JC Audiology Test	PE (Rec & Y3)	PE (Y6) Y5 Trip to Whitworth Art Gallery	4DS Swimming Riveting Reads Workshop Reception Parents – 9:00am
December 2023				
4 th	5 th	6 th	7 th	8 th
PE (Y4, Y6) Y6 Christmas Performance 9:30am EYFS Christmas Performance – 2:00pm	PE (N, Y1, Y2 & Y5) EYFS Christmas Performance – 9:30am Y2 Christmas Performance 2:00pm	PE (Rec & Y3) Y2 Christmas Performance 9:30am Y6 Christmas Performance 2:00pm	PE (Y6) Y1 Christmas Performance 9:30am Y2 & Y6 Panto - Cinderella (Bolton Albert Hall) Y3 Christmas Experience (St John's Community Centre) Reception trip to The Lowry Theatre (Art Workshop) Y4 Christmas Performance 2:00pm	4DS Swimming Y4 Christmas Performance 9:30am Y1 Christmas Performance 2:00pm
11 th	12 th	13 th	14 th	15 th
PE (Y4, Y6) Y5 Christmas Performance 9:30am Y3 Christmas Performance 2:00pm	PE (N, Y1, Y2 & Y5) Y3 Christmas Performance 9:30am Y5 Christmas Performance 2:00pm	PE (Rec & Y3) Santa Dash Y3-Y6 Y1 Lowry Theatre Trip (We're going on a Bear Hunt) Christmas Fair 3.15pm	PE (Y6) Christmas dinner / Jumper Day	4DS Swimming Class Party Day School closes for Christmas

School Reopens: **Thursday 4th January 2024**