

Friday 24th October 2025



Bridgewater Autumn Term 1 Newsletter 2025



A message from Mrs Henderson

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been wonderful to be back at school with the staff and pupils this term. I have concluded my work supporting another Salford school so have enjoyed being around at Bridgewater more.

This newsletter is a wonderful celebration of the work your children have completed, and it is spectacular to see so many engaging and purposeful learning opportunities! A special mention to Year 4 for their work with The Globe Theatre, London - what fantastic acting and written work you have produced!

Thank you to all the parents who came to our recent Parent Forum, Internet Safety and EYFS workshops - it was lovely to see some familiar and new families and discuss how we can work together to ensure the very best for your children. Please do continue to attend and let us know if there is anything you would like us to offer to support parents further.

A further big thank you for your support with a number of community based initiatives this half term, including:

- Beat the Street - getting us all to be a little more active and seeing Bridgewater climb that leader board.
- Councillor Pepper's plea for poppies - our children's contributions will be proudly displayed at St Paul's Church and Walkden's Cenotaph this Remembrance Sunday.
- Your generous donations of food for Salford's Foodbank appeal.

Wishing you all a restful half term break.

School Council

Our School Council members have settled in beautifully into their new role.

Our first task was to organise a cake sale to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support. We had a non uniform day and raised a wonderful amount of £445.10. Our new chosen charity for this year is Prostate Cancer UK. Thank you so much for help and support from Miss Morris and Bridgewater School Council.



New Arrival!

A big congratulations to Mrs Wood on the arrival of her baby boy Harry! Harry arrived safely into the world on Tuesday 7th October! They're both settled at home, happy and healthy.

Important dates next half term:

4th November
School Reopens

5th November
Y6 Heights & Weight Measurements

7th November
Individual/Sibling Photographs

10th—13th November
Parent's Evening

12th November
Y5 Trip to Whitworth Art Gallery
Greater Manchester Police to Visit EYFS

13th November
Greater Manchester Fire Service to Visit EYFS

14th November
Uniform Bank Open to Parents

17th November
Y6 Visit to Walkden Library

4th December
Y3 Christmas Experience—St John's Community Centre

8th—16th December
Christmas Performances

10th December
Y2 & Y6 Trip to Bolton Albert Hall—New Adventures of Peter Pan Pantomime

16th December
Y1 Trip to the Lowry—The Enormous Crocodile Musical

17th December
Christmas Dinner & Jumper Day

Christmas Markets

18th December
Christmas Class Party Day - Non Uniform

School Closes for Christmas



Nursery

This half term in Nursery, we have had a fantastic start to the year and the children have settled beautifully into their routines. Our topics have included 'All About Me,' 'Pets,' 'Farm Animals,' and 'Autumn and Harvest,' which have sparked lots of curiosity and excitement. The children have loved sharing information about themselves and their families during our *All About Me* topic, helping everyone to get to know one another. When learning about *Pets* and *Farm Animals*, we explored how to care for animals and talked about where they live and what they need. As autumn arrived, the children enjoyed exploring the changes in nature, collecting colourful leaves and learning about *Harvest* and where our food comes from. In Maths, we have been developing early mathematical understanding through hands-on activities involving sorting, matching, and colour recognition. The children have enjoyed sorting objects by size, shape and colour and are beginning to use mathematical language in their play. In Phonics, our focus has been on environmental and instrumental sounds, helping the children to tune in to the world around them and listen carefully. They have also enjoyed joining in with familiar songs, rhymes and rhythm activities, which are helping to build their early listening and communication skills. We are so proud of how well the children have settled and the wonderful enthusiasm they show for learning every day.



Reception

What a fantastic first half-term Reception have had! We started off by learning all about 'Ourselves and Families'. We learned all about our bodies and how we change from being a baby to being a child.

We also enjoyed looking at photographs of our families that were brought in from home. We discovered that all of our families are different and that is wonderful. Our next topic was 'Pets'.

Reception had fun dressing up as Vets in the role play area, learning how to look after animals and where different pets live. We ended the half-term by learning all about Autumn. We learned about the seasonal changes, events that happen in Autumn such as Harvest and have enjoyed sharing our topic book - Rosie's walk. The children have produced lots of wonderful writing in Literacy centred around Rosie the hen from our book. Well done Reception!



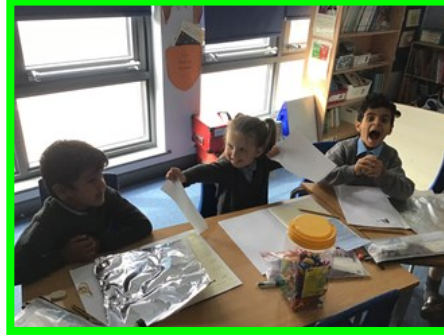
Year 1

Year 1 have had a busy start to the year! In English, we have enjoyed reading 'We are going on a bear hunt' and innovating this to write our own story of 'We are going on a penguin hunt'. We enjoyed rehearsing this story with matching actions. In Maths we have been focussing on place value, and now we have made a start on addition and subtraction. The children have had a great start with this and have loved exploring and using part-whole models. We have enjoyed our Art lessons. We have explored printing and created pieces of art using collage inspired by the artist 'Alma Thomas'. Science lessons have been fun! We have explored the seasons, thought about how they impact our daily life and even went on an autumn leaf hunt! We also made our very own rain gauge out of a plastic bottle! In Geography we have been investigating 'why can't a meerkat live in the North Pole?' We have completed lots of research into different animals and their habitats.



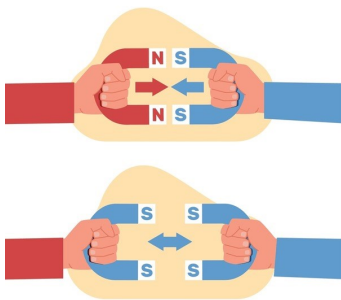
Year 2

Year 2 have had an extremely busy half term but we have settled in well to our new classrooms and the teachers have enjoyed getting to know all their new children. We have enjoyed exploring the story of 'Billy and the Beast' in Writing and have been building on place value skills in Maths. We were very lucky to have a visit from a Lego Robotics workshop and have been working on designing our own moving monsters in Design and Technology. We have begun to learn to play the recorder in our Music lesson and explored 'Push and Pull forces' in our Science topic. We look forward to Autumn 2 and all the exciting things that lie ahead for us.



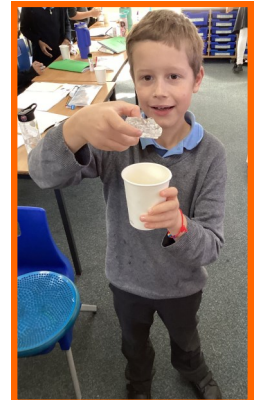
Year 3

Year 3 have had a very busy half term. In English, they have written some fantastic diary entries and instructions based on the stories, 'Stone Age Boy' and 'How to Wash a Woolly Mammoth.' In Maths, they have been learning about place value and addition and subtraction. In History, the children have been researching Stone Age artefacts. In Science, the children have learnt about forces and magnets. In Art with Miss Pickup, they have been making their own clay artefacts and painting them. All of the children have been introduced to playing the ukulele with Mr Charles.



Year 4

This half term in English, Year 4 have had guest teachers from the Globe Theatre in London to teach the children Shakespeare's 'The Tempest' through drama. Linked to this, we have written a character description of Prospero. In Maths, we have been learning about place value including comparing, ordering and rounding numbers, and also have learned to add and subtract 4-digit numbers. In Science, we have been learning about reversible and irreversible changes that happen to materials, we even melted chocolate! Year 4 dived into their History unit on Romans, learning about how they conquered and what changes they made to Britain. We loved our trip to Chester to become Roman centurions. Both Year 4 classes have continued to develop their canon and unison skills in dance. Finally, Year 4 have enjoyed working in groups during Design and Technology lessons to build strong and secure pavilions.



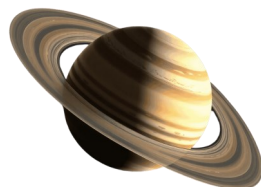
Year 5

Year 5 have made an excellent start to the school year. In English, we have been reading *Kensuke's Kingdom* by Michael Morpurgo and have produced some impressive pieces of writing inspired by the story. In Maths, we have been developing our understanding of place value and strengthening our addition and subtraction strategies.

Our topic on Space has been truly out of this world! We have explored the Solar System, discovered how we experience day and night, and learned about the changing seasons. In Geography, we have enjoyed investigating the USA and finding out what makes it such a remarkable country.

A particular highlight this term was our Lego Robotics workshop, where we followed algorithms to code and build our own moving fairground rides. In PE, we have been refining our gymnastic skills, showing great balance, control and teamwork.

It has been a wonderful start to the year, and we are looking forward to all the exciting learning still to come!



Year 6

Year 6 have had a wonderful start to the year. They have shown great responsibility and maturity. In lessons, we have developed our skills in Writing through getting into the role of a character from our book, *The Watertower*, by Gary Crew. From this, we created a setting description and a diary entry. In Maths, we have learnt new rhymes and strategies to help us, such as long division. In Science, we have learnt about how plants and animals can be classified and we even managed to identify some of the plants in our Nature Garden. In History, we've been learning about the Maya civilisation and identified countries in an atlas of where they would have been situated. We also even managed to play a game of the Maya's favourite, Pok-a-Tok!



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School Reopens Tuesday 4th November 2025

Mental Health & Wellbeing



Looking after our mental health is not something we should just do if we are struggling, or feeling low, anxious or stressed. It's actually something we should think about all the time and really invest in, just like with our physical health. Staying on top of our mental wellbeing is good for us now but also helps us deal manage difficult times in the future. Over time, it can also reduce our risk of physical health problems.

There are lots of things we can do to look after our mental health and wellbeing every day. Make a start with 7 top tips from the NHS "Every Mind Matters" website at <https://www.nhs.uk/every-mind-matters/mental-wellbeing-tips/top-tips-to-improve-your-mental-wellbeing/> This website includes short video clips to support you with (amongst other things) mindful breathing, healthy living, how to improve your sleep health and how to reframe negative thoughts.

This half term, we have celebrated World Mental Health Day. Children took part in wellbeing activities in their classrooms, learned about ways to support positive mental health in their assemblies and discussed ways to talk about worries with trusted adults. Miss Whitfield's Positive Post continues to facilitate weekly opportunities for children to reflect on positive affirmations linked to our collective worship 'Big Question'.



At Bridgewater, we are a Bronze accredited Emotionally Friendly Setting and our EFS team are working hard behind the scenes in applying for the next accreditation- Silver. We will continue to keep parents informed of this journey. Emotionally Friendly Settings is a whole-school approach to improving children and young people's emotional health and well-being to enable them to succeed and thrive. Through this work, we ensure that the wellbeing of both our children and staff remains a school improvement priority. Further information can be found here: [https://](https://www.emotionallyfriendly.co.uk/)

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School Blog

Over the school holidays, I know that you all get up to so many different activities, like football matches, going to the beach, going on holidays, seeing your friends and family, playing in your sports teams and so many more! On Purple Mash, I have created a blog where you can post comments and pictures of all your fantastic activities! Once you log in, you search 2Blog -> click



Adventures After 3

After school, at weekends and in the holidays, I know you all get up to some fantastic activities, so why not share them with us?

School Blog

Here is a space to post pictures, statements and comments here about your after-school activities for all to see! Once I have approved them, the whole school will be able to see what you have been up to!