



BRIDGEWATER
PRIMARY SCHOOL

— Friday 23rd October 2026 —



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Bridgewater Autumn Term 1 Newsletter

IMPORTANT DATES NEXT HALF TERM:

3rd November

School Reopens

6th November

Individual & Sibling Photographs
Y3 Visit to Tian Cheng Temple

10th November

Y3, Y4, Y5 & Y6 Parents Evening

11th November

N, Rec, Y1 & Y2 Parents Evening

12th November

Y5 Trip to Whitworth Art Gallery

16th November - 17th November

Y1 Audiology Screening

17th November

Greater Manchester Fire Service to visit EYFS

24th November

Greater Manchester Police to visit EYFS

26th November

Riveting Reads Sessions for Reception Parents

8th December

Y2 & Y6 Trip to Bolton Albert Hall - Snow White Pantomime

11th December

Y1 Trip to the Lowry - The Jolly Postman Musical

16th December

Christmas Dinner & Jumper Day
Christmas Markets

18th December

School Closes for Christmas

A message from Mrs Henderson

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of the first half-term, it is pleasing to reflect on the excellent start our pupils have made. Classrooms have been busy with engaging learning, and it has been wonderful to see children demonstrating curiosity, confidence, and a positive attitude towards their education.

We continue to place great importance on high expectations, strong relationships and a nurturing environment where every pupil feels valued and supported. Thank you to parents and carers for your ongoing partnership, which makes such a significant difference to our children's success.

Attendance this term has been 95.3%, reflecting the commitment of our pupils and families to making every school day count. We continue to promote strong attendance and thank parents and carers for their support in helping children attend regularly and punctually. Excellent attendance gives children the best possible chance to succeed, both academically and socially.

I encourage you to take time to read this newsletter and celebrate the many achievements and opportunities enjoyed by our pupils. Thank you for being such an important part of our school community.

I hope you all enjoy the half-term break and look forward to an eventful Autumn 2 term.

Mrs E Henderson

Headteacher

School Council

Our new School Council members have settled into their new role beautifully. Their first fundraising event of the year was a very yummy one as we raised money with a cake sale for Macmillan Cancer support. We raised a fabulous £385.38 for this very worthwhile charity.

Have a lovely break from Miss Morris and Bridgewater School Council.



Happy Retirement!



Miss Hopkins has her final week with Bridgewater after half term. Thank you for 21 years of dedication and hard work Miss Hopkins! Wishing you all the very best for a happy, relaxing and exciting new chapter!

Year 6 Reminder



**Year 6 Secondary School
Admission Deadline date is 31st
October 2026**

NURSERY

We are so proud of how wonderfully the children have settled into Nursery and how hard they have worked! This term, through our 'All About Me' topic, we have explored ourselves and our families. We learnt about pets and how we care for them, farms and farm animals, and most recently autumn and harvest.

Alongside our topics, we have been developing our maths skills through counting, sorting and matching, while in literacy we have been working on pencil control and strengthening our fine motor skills. The children have also enjoyed lots of role play, singing and imaginative play across our Nursery areas. It has been a fantastic start, and we are very proud of everything they have achieved so far!



RECEPTION

What a fantastic first half-term Reception have had! We started the term by learning all about 'Ourselves and Families'. We discovered how we grow and change from being a baby to a child. We also loved looking at photographs of our families that were brought in from home. We learned that every family is different, and that's what makes us all special. Our next topic was 'Pets'. Reception had great fun dressing up as vets in our role-play area, learning how to care for animals and discovering where different pets live.

We ended the half-term by learning all about Autumn. We explored seasonal changes, discovered events that take place during this season, such as Harvest, and enjoyed sharing our topic book, Rosie's Walk. The children have produced lots of wonderful writing in Literacy, inspired by Rosie the hen and her adventures in the story.



YEAR 1

Year 1 have had a busy start to the year! In English, we have enjoyed reading 'Oi Frog' and 'We are going on a bear hunt'. We completed lots of amazing work, focusing on adjectives, verbs and nouns.

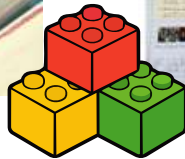
In Maths we have been focusing on place value, and now we have made a start on addition and subtraction. The children have had a great start with this and have loved exploring and using part-whole models.

We have enjoyed our Art lessons. We have explored printing and created pieces of art using collage inspired by the artist 'Alma Thomas'. P.E has been fun! We have enjoyed learning a variety of skills during multi-sports, from throwing and catching to dribbling. 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 and why animals are suitable for different environments.



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 our 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 lessons and explored 'Push and Pull Forces' in our Science topic. As part of our Black History Month celebrations, we have been learning about the life and achievements of Mary Seacole and how she helped soldiers during the Crimean War. We look forward to Autumn 2 and all the exciting things that lie ahead for us!



YEAR 3

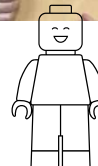


Year 3 have been enjoying a fantastic range of learning experiences across the curriculum! We have stepped back in time to discover what life was like during the Stone Age and explored forces and magnets in science, investigating how they work and interact with different materials. In English, we have used the book *The Stone Age Boy* as inspiration to write our own imaginative stories, focusing on exciting events and descriptive language. We have also written instructions explaining how to wash a woolly mammoth, making sure our steps are clear and in the correct order. In maths, we have been building our confidence with place value, addition and subtraction, using different methods to solve problems. Our Spanish lessons have focused on learning how to talk about ourselves, while in computing we have been practising our touch-typing skills. In PSHE, we have explored the theme *Being Me in My World*, thinking about our individuality, responsibilities and relationships with others. We have also brought history into our artwork by creating Stone Age-inspired clay pieces with Miss Pickup. In PE, we have been learning dance routines, developing our coordination, movement and ability to express ourselves through dance. We have loved exploring new ideas, developing our skills and learning together!



YEAR 4

Year 4 have had a fantastic start to the year, with lots of exciting learning taking place. Our highlight was programming a lion to move in Lego Robotics! In History, we have been exploring the Romans, discovering how they lived and how their invasion changed Britain. We had a fantastic trip to Chester, where we travelled back in time exploring everyday Roman life before becoming Roman soldiers! Our English lessons have been full of exciting writing. We have created vivid setting descriptions and have stepped into the shoes of journalists to write newspaper reports, using headlines and reporting on the eruption of Vesuvius in 79AD. In Maths, we have been building our confidence with place value and learning our time tables. In Science, we have been investigating materials and exploring changes of state, developing our understanding of how materials can change from solids to liquids and gases. In Design and Technology, we have put our creativity and practical skills to the test by designing and making our own pavilions. We have also been busy learning Spanish, where we have been discovering how to say different family members and talk about family relationships.



YEAR 5



We have had a fantastic first half term in Year 5! We have been busy learning lots of new things across our subjects and taking part in some exciting activities. In English, we have been exploring Kensuke's Kingdom and have written letters and descriptive pieces inspired by the deserted island where the main characters find themselves. In Maths, we have focused on place value, addition and subtraction, and multiplication. In Geography, we have been learning about the USA, while in Science, we have been exploring space. We have also been learning about family and pets in Spanish. In PSHE, our unit was called Being Me in My World, where we thought about setting targets for the year ahead. In Computing, we developed our skills by creating our own quizzes. We enjoyed a whole day celebrating Black History Month, where we learnt about the incredible achievements of Mae Jemison and Katherine Johnson and their contributions to space exploration. We showed our learning through newspaper articles, comic strips and creative space artwork. We also took part in LEGO robotics, developing our coding skills by programming objects to move. Next half term, we will be exploring the rainforest in Geography and learning about animals, including humans, in Science. We will also continue our journey through Kensuke's Kingdom in English. We have an exciting trip to the Whitworth Art Gallery on 12th November, where we will take part in workshops and explore different works of art. On 16th November, we will take part in an anti-bullying workshop to help us kick-start Anti-Bullying Week. We are really proud of all the hard work and enthusiasm Year 5 have shown this half term, and we are looking forward to another exciting half term full of learning.



YEAR 6

Year 6 have had a wonderful start to the year. In lessons, we have developed our skills in Writing through getting into the role of a character from our book, Pig Heart Boy, by Malorie Blackman. From this, we created a character description, diary entries from various character and a balanced argument. 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!



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 is 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 Furzer’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://www.emotionallyfriendly.co.uk/>