

Thursday 19th December 2024



# Bridgewater Autumn Term 2 Newsletter 2024



## A message from Mrs Henderson & Mr Tien-Rhimes

What a wonderful and busy term it has been at Bridgewater, and the children have enjoyed some truly enriching experiences so far this year. We are extremely proud of everything the children have achieved! We are also very happy to have completed the building of our new trim trails and amphitheatre, which the children are really enjoying. We want to wish you a very merry Christmas and a happy new year; we are excited to welcome you back in 2025.



## School Council

*Our School Council members have been busy in their roles as Wellbeing Ambassadors this half term. We were asked to help Miss Lomax in distributing our Bridgewater 'Be Kind' wristbands during Anti-bullying week. We also helped Miss Morris to organise our Bridgewater Christmas Market. We helped to create a Luxurious Pamper Hamper Raffle prize for our stall and made a great sign. Good luck to everyone who bought a raffle ticket and we hope that you had a lovely time. We would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.*



HO HO HO



## **Important dates next half term:**

**7th January**

School reopens

**10th January**

Y6 Library Visit—Walkden Gateway

**17th January**

Y1AK Trip to Salford Museum

**20th January**

Parent Forum

**24th January**

Y1BR Trip to Salford Museum

**29th January**

Reception Vision Screening

Y6 SATs Parent Meeting

**11th February**

Y3 Trip to Catalyst Museum

**12th February**

Wellbeing Parent Workshop

**13th February**

Valentine's Disco (Non-Uniform)

**14th February**

Y2 Class Assembly

School Closes for Spring Half Term

MERRY  
*christmas*  
&  
HAPPY NEW YEAR!

# Nursery



This half term, our learning has been filled with exciting celebrations and important milestones in both literacy and numeracy. Here's a quick overview of what we've been up to:

We explored **Halloween** traditions, and looked at *Room on the Broom*. We celebrated **Divali** and learned about its significance and customs. The story of **Rama and Sita** provided insight into the Hindu festival of lights, **Diwali**. **Bonfire Night** activities included discussions about safety and the *Sparks in the Sky*. The **Penguin** theme and the book *When Willy Went to the Wedding* helped us learn about different types of celebrations around the world. As we moved towards **Christmas**, we explored the **Christmas Story**, and we also enjoyed writing letters to **Santa**.

In numeracy, we focused on numbers to 5, reinforcing basic counting and **subitising** (recognising small amounts at a glance). Our learning involved hands-on activities and oral practice with numbers and patterns.

Phonics blends were a key focus. This included sounds like **s**: sock, sun, soap, back (oral: sat, sit, sip), **t**: teeth, tin, tap, top (oral: tin, tap), **p**: pen, peg, pin, pan (oral: pat, pit), **n**: net, nose, neck, nut (oral: nip), and **m**: moon, mouse, map, man (oral: map). We practiced these blends through a mix of activities, games, and songs.

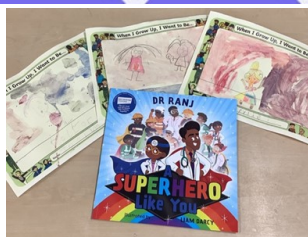


## Reception

What a busy and exciting half term we have had in Reception! We started the half term learning all about Diwali, Halloween and Bonfire Night. Then we moved on to our 'People who help us' topic, thinking of all the people and workers who help us in everyday life, from doctors to shop workers to lollipop people. The children enjoyed learning about different roles and acting them out in our role play area. It was lovely to welcome some of our parents, carers and family members to our 'Riveting Reads' session. We read 'A Superhero Like You' and thought about what we would like to be when we grow up. The children have enjoyed learning all about Christmas, including the different ways in which people celebrate and sharing 'The Christmas Story'. They have particularly enjoyed completing lots of festive crafts. The children worked so hard for our Nativity performances, learning songs, actions and their speaking parts – we are very proud of the children. Well done Reception, have a wonderful Christmas!



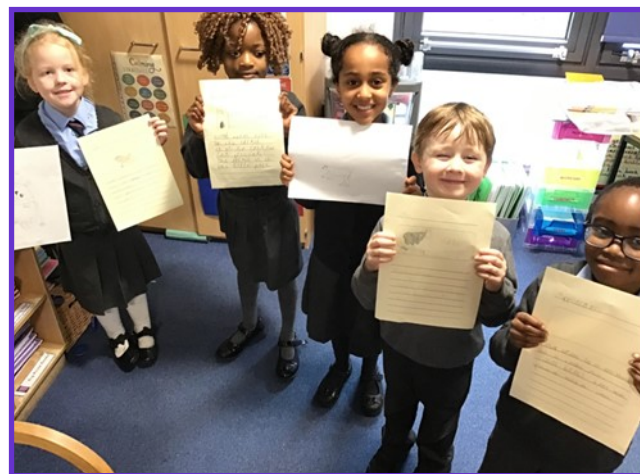
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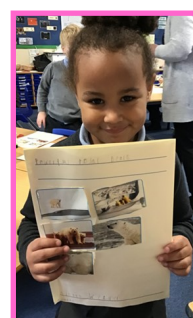
## Year 1



Year 1 have had a fantastic half term. In Science, we had some special visitors with two wings and a beak. You guessed it! Owls! In English, we enjoyed making jam sandwiches for Sophie. We wrote instructions in case the tiger comes to tea again. We also created our own non-fiction book all about polar bears! We enjoyed a trip to the Lowry Theatre to watch Stick Man. What a fantastic show! In Geography, we created pieces of art based on our learning about animals that live in hot and cold places. We are looking forward to our learning in Spring.



Well done everyone!





# Year 2



Year 2 have worked extremely hard this half term learning all about famous people including Neil Armstrong, Matthew Henson and Guy Fawkes. We had a special visit from Neil Armstrong himself who told us all about his mission to the moon. In Art, we have been creating pieces of work inspired by the famous people we have learnt about. We have used different skills and media to create pieces using paint and collage. In Science, we have learnt all about materials and all their properties and uses. Over the last couple of weeks, we have worked hard learning the songs and our lines for the Christmas production. It has been so lovely to see all of Year 2 grow in confidence when speaking in front of a large group. Year 2 wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! We hope you enjoy the festive holidays!



# Year 3

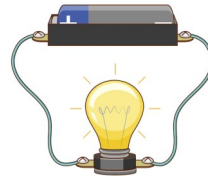
This term, Year 3 have been working hard across a range of subjects, presented some amazing work and showcased their talents in the school Christmas production! During English lessons, they have been using their historical knowledge on the Stone Age to create a non-chronological report. In Maths, they have been exploring multiplication and division, developing their number skills and understanding how these operations relate to one another. In Science, the focus has been on the fascinating topic of light and dark, where students have learned about sources of light, how shadows are formed, and the role of light in our everyday lives. Meanwhile, in Religious Studies, Year 3 have been learning about different festivals from various cultures and faiths, gaining insight into the traditions and celebrations that bring communities together. Continuing, in DT, pupils have been testing their sewing skills and have made festive cushions! Well done to all the students for their hard work and enthusiasm! We look forward to seeing you in the new year and hope you have a lovely festive season.



# Year 4

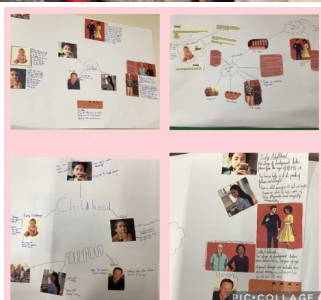
This half term in English, Year 4 have had guest teachers from the Globe Theatre return to help develop the children's understanding of a new Shakespeare text, *Romeo and Juliet*. The children have also written a new ending to the story, *The Lost Thing*. In Maths, we have been learning about multiplication including our times tables all the way to the 12s. In Science, we have been learning about electricity and making simple circuits to test conductors and insulators. Year 4 became town planners in our Geography unit, *Settlements*. We learnt why settlers choose an area to develop and even created our own mapped out town. Both Year 4 classes have learnt new moves and routines in their dance sessions. Finally, Year 4 have had fun creating art work linked to electricity using printing techniques.

We hope you enjoy our Christmas play and have a lovely break.



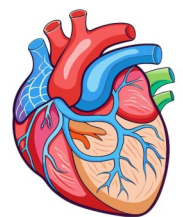
# Year 5

This term in Year 5 has been packed with exciting learning opportunities! In geography, we explored the incredible Amazon Rainforest, learning about its unique layers, endangered animals, and the mighty Amazon River. In English, we continued our journey with *Kensuke's Kingdom* and delved into the world of poetry. Maths has been a lot of fun as we tackled fractions, finding equivalents, and mastering how to add and subtract them. In DT, we got creative and made pop-up books, focusing on the mechanics behind them. Science lessons have been fascinating as we studied how we age and linked this to living a healthy lifestyle. Finally, in Spanish, we embraced the festive spirit by learning all about Christmas traditions. It's been a busy and enjoyable term and all the children have been fantastic. Have a good break!



# Year 6

Year 6 have had a brilliant half term with lots of fun packed in. They have learnt all about our circulatory system in Science and were given the opportunity to dissect a heart to see the chambers and valves first hand. From this, they then produced some incredible diary entries as a red blood cell making its journey through the human body. In English, they have immersed themselves in our text, *The Princess' Blankets*, and created some excellent descriptive writing about a mysterious stranger. Finally, Year 6 got in the festive spirit by developing their singing in preparation for our Christmas celebration, which we hope you enjoyed!



School Reopens Tuesday 7th January 2025



# Mental Health & Wellbeing

## 5 Ways to Stay Mindful Over the Christmas Holidays:

We know that Christmas can be a super busy time of the year for most households, with this year bringing some extra challenges for lots of us. With that in mind, it can very easy to get caught up in the hustle and bustle over the holidays. Here are some ways to help you stay mindful over the holidays:

1. Go for a mindful walk/cycle: Set yourself a simple challenge, to be more aware on your outing. What can you hear? Can you spot any animals or creatures along the way? Take note of the colours all around you.
2. Do some Christmas baking: Baking can be a great way to spend time together. You could make a whole morning out of it. Why not research some recipes, make a list of ingredients, gather all of the equipment and share the jobs.
3. Christmas Crafting: This doesn't need to be complicated. Grab a piece of paper and some pencils, play some interesting music, for example, The Nutcracker by Tchaikovsky. Draw a Christmas scene to go along with the music! There are so many Christmas craft opportunities out there.
4. Set up a Mindful area at home: This can be so simple yet so effective! Why not make it a family challenge. Decide on a safe place to make your mindful area. This could be in the hallway, corner of the living room or somewhere which suits you best. How will you transform it into a mindful area?



This half term, we have celebrated Anti-Bullying Week. Children took part in activities in their classrooms, learned about ways to support one another in their assemblies and discussed ways to talk about worries with trusted adults.

## Places to go for help and support

Bridgewater are proudly working with Place2Be and our Mental Health Practitioner, Lynn, is working in school every Friday. Place2Be offer excellent resources for parents that can be found here: <https://parentingsmart.place2be.org.uk>



This website from the NHS offers help you look after your child's mental health and wellbeing as well as the rest of the family. <https://www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters/>

The NSPCC are offering support and advice if you feel your child is struggling with their mental health and anxiety. More information and advice can be found on their website: <https://www.nspcc.org.uk>

**NSPCC**

Young Minds <https://youngminds.org.uk/>

**YOUNG MINDS**  
fighting for young people's mental health