

BRIDGEWATER NEWS

Welcome Back

Autumn Term 1

A warm welcome back to you all and a special 'welcome' to all our new families this term. Enclosed is some important information and details about exciting events planned for this half term.

We regularly update the school website www.bridgewaterprimaryschool.co.uk and our twitter page [@BridgewaterPS](https://twitter.com/BridgewaterPS) with information and news.

Updated Guidance on Schools Returning from September:

The key messages from this guidance are:

As COVID-19 becomes a virus that we learn to live with, there is now an imperative to reduce the disruption to children and young people's education - particularly given that the direct clinical risks to children are extremely low, and every adult has been offered a first vaccine and the opportunity for two doses by mid-September.

- Nationally, education and childcare settings are open, and attendance is mandatory (for schools) and strongly encouraged (at childminders, nurseries and colleges).
- The Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health has made it clear that the overwhelming majority of children and young people still have no symptoms or very mild illness only
- Your nursery, school or college will no longer trace close contacts - close contacts will still be identified via NHS Test and Trace
- Your child does not need to remain in a consistent group ('bubble')
- Face coverings will no longer be advised for pupils, staff and visitors either in classrooms or in communal areas

To read the DfE guidance for parents in full, please follow the link below

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>

Following this guidance, I can confirm that an updated **Risk Assessment** is in place and has been shared with staff in preparation for the children returning. A copy of the Risk Assessment will be sent out (via Parent App) to all parents and is also available to view on our website: - <http://www.bridgewaterprimaryschool.co.uk/covid-19-parent-updates/>

Please note the following will be in place from reopening in September:

- School will **start at 8.30am** (registers closing at 8.55am) and school will **finish at 3pm** for all children.
- We ask that children **attend school in their PE kits on their PE days**. This has had a positive impact on the number of children forgetting their kits and also the time it takes each lesson to change.
- **Breakfast club** will be offered to all children 'free of charge' with a maximum of 30 places on a first come basis. Parents can book this via Parent Pay. Bookings will be taken each half term. Parents will be informed if they have secured a place.
- We will commence our huge range of **After School Clubs** from September and these can be booked via Parent Pay.

Communication with school

To keep you up to date it is vital that you download the Parent Connect app so you get ALL our school news and updates. Please email the school office if you need assistance with this.

You will receive a newsletter from your child's new class teacher introducing themselves and highlighting the learning they will cover this term so you can help support them further at home. Teachers will be available each day at drop off and collection to receive any messages or for a quick catch-up.

Parents can call or email school if you have any questions or queries and a member of the team will endeavour to respond within 24 hrs of your request. You may also visit the school office but we ask that this is only if absolutely necessary at this time.

Parent-Teacher consultations will be organised in October and March. You will receive an End of Year report in July.

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.

Miss Knipe – Deputy Headteacher.

Mr Doherty – Deputy Headteacher.

Mrs Byard - Assistant Headteacher. Lead teacher in Lower Key Stage 2 (Year 3 and 4).

Miss Duffy – Lead teacher in Upper Key Stage 2 (Years 5 and 6).

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

Miss Fishwick – Lead teacher in The Early Years (Nursery and Reception).

Mrs Hill – Director of Business and Operations.

Parent Forum

We value our parent's views and would welcome any points for discussion at our Autumn parent forum by email to the school's email address. Date and agenda to be confirmed.

Social Media

We politely ask that parents **do not use social media** to discuss any matters regarding Bridgewater School. Contacting school directly means we can deal promptly with your queries in a positive and constructive manner. The school has no connection with any social media accounts (including the Bridgewater Parents' facebook page) except our twitter page @BridgewaterPS.

Updating School Systems

We will **not** be sending home forms requesting you check and update your child's personal records. We ask that you inform the office staff if and when there are any changes in your child's details including – first contact details, address, telephone number and notification of medical conditions. It is vital that these are kept up to date so we can contact you in case of an emergency at school. You should also inform school if you wish to change the adults you have listed to collect your child. Only children in Years 5 and 6, who have provided written consent from parents, are permitted to walk home alone.

If you wish to check these details, please contact the school office and a member of staff will run through what is on our system.

Attendance and Punctuality

School attendance has now returned to being statutory. Regular school attendance is an important part of giving your child the best possible start in life and vital for your child's education - as a lost day can never be repeated. Our school shares the government's determination to raise the levels of pupil attendance and has robust systems in place to monitor attendance and punctuality.

Most of our children attend school regularly and do not present any concerns. However, if your child's attendance dips below 95% or accumulates 5 days (10 sessions) of unauthorised absence, you will be asked to attend an Attendance Panel Meeting in school to discuss the reasons for absences further. It is therefore, very important that you contact the office on each day of absence to ensure that the absence is recorded as 'authorised'. Failure to engage with school on improving your child's attendance can result in a fine.

Holiday leave requests during term time will not be granted in line with Government legislation and following Salford Local Authority Policies.

Good punctuality is also very important. The school day starts at 8.30am and all children are expected to be in school by 8.55am. Valuable teaching input can be missed and the **whole class** disrupted by a late arrival. To help limit disruption, all late arrivals are taken to class at transition times of 9.15am and 9.30am so not to disturb current learning. **All children who are late will have to wait with their parent outside the main entrance until a member of staff is available to take them to class.**

Early intervention and parental support are key factors in resolving attendance issues. Please continue to support us with this and ensure your child is in school and on time each day. Should you have any difficulty with this please make an appointment to discuss this with Miss Hopkins (Attendance Manager) and Mrs Reeves (our Education Welfare Officer) via the school office.

Homework

Homework is important as it shows the children the value that you place on their learning and helps them to consolidate key skills. Thank you to all those parents who support their children in reading every night; learning their spellings/number facts and multiplication tables; completing homework tasks and projects. Any Key Stage 2 child (Years 3-6) who does not complete their weekly homework to an acceptable standard will be required to do so during Friday afternoon Golden Time.

PE kits

All children must come to school wearing a PE kit on their PE day. If a child does not have a PE kit in school it means that they cannot take part in these curriculum sessions - it can be disruptive for the class and also upsetting for the child.

Bikes/scooters on the playground

Please can I remind you of our school's request (School Council) that both adults and children dismount and push bikes/scooters when on the school grounds to avoid any accidents or collisions with other parents and children. I would like to also remind you that school does not accept any responsibility for any bikes/scooters left on the school premises. We strongly suggest that all bikes/scooters are locked securely if left on school premises. We have new 'Bike Pods' on the Key Stage 2 playground that our older children can use.

School Fund

School fund is generated by a variety of means. There are fund raising events during the course of each year and we are paid commission by the school photographer and from the sale of school ties, reading folders and PE bags further adds to our income. Through the judicious spending of School Fund we are able to enhance the curriculum for all children by purchasing additional resources, booking visitors to the school and subsidising trips. All requests, from children and staff, for the use of school fund are approved by the Headteacher.

Lost Property

The school acquires a large amount of 'lost property'. All items with names in are returned to their owner and **not** stored in lost property. Therefore, we encourage all parents to ensure that **EVERY** item is clearly labelled with your child's name. If your child has lost an item please speak to the classteacher initially and if this is not within the classroom they will direct you to check with lost property at the school office. If your child brings home an item that is not theirs by mistake, please return this via the classteacher.

Water Bottles and Snacks

All children are encouraged to drink water during the day. The children are able to re-fill their water bottles from safe water points around school. Children may also bring in healthy snacks to have during their break times (both am and pm). We try to encourage good eating habits and have a Healthy Eating Policy that supports this aim. Children in Key Stage 1 and Early Years are provided with fresh fruit daily; any extras are shared with Key Stage 2.

Play Frames

The school has a number of play frames on the school playgrounds to help encourage safe adventurous play. All frames are regularly checked to ensure that they meet safety requirements and are age appropriate. The children are also informed on their safe use and are closely supervised during use. The school does not accept any liability for any accidents that occur when used before or after the school day and without school staff supervision. PLEASE DO NOT ALLOW YOUR CHILD TO PLAY ON THE PLAY FRAMES BEFORE OR AFTER SCHOOL.

The Queen's Jubilee

In 2022, Her Majesty The Queen will become the first British Monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee, seventy years of service, having acceded to the throne on 6th February 1952 when Her Majesty was 25 years old.

An extended bank holiday, from Thursday 2nd to Sunday 5th June, will provide an opportunity for communities and people throughout the United Kingdom to come together to celebrate the historic milestone. As we are on half term break at this time we will celebrate this momentous occasion the week before we break up (23rd May) and school will close one day earlier at Christmas in lieu of this additional bank holiday. New terms dates are as follows - School will close on Tuesday 21st December and reopen on Wednesday 5th January.

Should there be any other information that you feel you would like us to share with the school or if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to make an appointment to speak with me via the school office.

I am looking forward to working with you towards another successful year at Bridgewater Primary School.

Mrs E. Henderson



General Information



As an 'OUTSTANDING school' we believe there are some core expectations that we should share to ensure all our children achieve their full potential.

Basic Skills

As a member of Bridgewater School we expect all families to undertake the following work at home with their child/children each week:

- Reading with your child every night and bring reading books and records to school each day.
- Complete homework every week.
- Practice handwriting, spelling and key number facts.

Attendance

Please ensure your child is in school every day in order for them to make the most of the OUTSTANDING learning opportunities on offer.

School opens from 8.30am and lessons start at 8.55am.

Please report to the main office if you arrive late to school. Children will be taken to their classrooms at 9.15 and 9.30 as not to disrupt learning.

Our identity as an OUTSTANDING school is very important and as such teaching the children to wear the uniform with pride is an important part of this:

Winter Uniform *(September to Easter holidays)*

- Light blue shirt / blouse / polo
- School tie (available from the school office)
- Grey trousers / skirt / pinafore
- Grey v-neck jumper / cardigan
- Black flat shoes – not trainers
- White/grey socks / tights

Jewellery

Jewellery is **not allowed** in school except for watches and stud earrings.

Hair Styles

All children should present with neat and tidy hairstyles for school.

Mobile phones/electrical devices are not permitted in school

A uniform bank is available to support parents with uniform

P.E. Kit

Children take part in P.E. will have to come to school in their PE kit on the day of their lesson:

- White t-shirt
- Black shorts
- Trainers (outdoor) / Black pumps (indoor)
- Dark coloured jogging bottoms / tracksuit may be worn outside in winter.

Should you have any difficulty meeting any of these core expectations please make an appointment to see your child's class teacher

School Rules

Golden Rules

- 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

The 5 R's

We believe that all great learners share the following attributes – which we call the 5 R's These are regularly discussed with your child.

- *Resilience,*
- *Resourceful,*
- *Responsible,*
- *Reasoning,*
- *Reflective*

Playground Rules

- We listen to the adults in the playground
- We stand still when the whistle is blown
- We play together and look after each other
- We let other children get on with their own games
- We sort out our problems in a fair way
- We look after the equipment and put it away properly at the end of play

Lunchtime Rules

- We line up quietly
- We walk around sensibly
- We finish what we are eating before we speak
- We remember to say 'please' and 'thank you'
- We put our own rubbish away
- We talk quietly to the people next to us

Rules Around School

- We walk around school sensibly
- We line up quietly
- We remember to say 'please' and 'thank you'
- We say 'excuse me' when an adult is talking

Uniform

- We wear our uniform with pride
- We do not wear jewellery

Always Children

If a child 'always' follows our golden rules they will be invited to a special event at the end of each term.

Pupil Behaviour Management Guide:

Children are taught to manage behaviour situations with the '5 finger rule':

1. Ignore behaviours.
2. Blank behaviours.
3. Ask politely to stop.
4. Warn you will tell.
5. Tell the teacher.



Anti-Bullying Statement:

The children wrote this statement during anti-bullying week:

Bullying is hurting people with words or actions all the time.

If this is happening to you:

TELL, TELL, TELL –

WE ARE A TELLING SCHOOL!

