

Friday 18th October 2024



# Bridgewater Autumn Term 1 Newsletter 2024



## A message from Mrs Henderson

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been truly wonderful to be back at school with the staff and pupils this term. This newsletter is a wonderful celebration of the work they have completed and it is spectacular to see.

Thank you to all the parents who continue to work with us to ensure the very best for their children's learning and development. We couldn't do it without you!

Wishing you all a restful half term break.

## School Council

Our new School Council members have settled in so well to their new role, representing their peers. They have worked with Mr Tien-Rhimes and Miss Lovell to help design some exciting new play areas coming soon in our school grounds. They designed some beautiful posters which we displayed around school to advertise their first fundraising day. Thank you to everyone who baked, donated and attended our recent cake sale to raise money for MacMillan. Your kindness and generosity was truly appreciated and helped us to raise an amazing £212.48 from Miss Morris and Bridgewater School Council members.



## Copley Prize Winner

Last year our Year Two and Year Three children took part in artist workshops with an artist from The Lowry to learn about the work of LS Lowry and develop their own pieces of art to be submitted to the prestigious Copley Prize Competition. We are delighted to announce that one of our Year Two children, Peiqi, is the annual WINNER of this coveted award. Peiqi and her family visited The Lowry centre for a very special afternoon of lunch and an unveiling of her painting titled 'Two Lovely Little Sisters'. We are incredibly proud of Peiqi and the amazing offer we provide at Bridgewater.



## Y3 United Mascots!

A selection of children from Year 3 had the exciting opportunity to walk on to the football pitch at Old Trafford before the game of Manchester United vs FC Twenty. The children then stayed and watched the game.



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

### **30th October**

EYFS New Parent Open Evening

EYFS Early Parent Writing Workshop

### **31st October**

Halloween Dress Up Day

### **7th November**

Y1 Cheshire Outdoor Owl Visit

### **8th November**

Individual & Sibling Photographs

### **13th November**

Y5 Trip to Whitworth Art Gallery

### **14th November**

EYFS Maths Parent Workshop

### **15th November**

Y3 Library visit—Walkden Gateway

### **5th December**

Y2 & Y6 Pantomime—Rapunzel

Y3 Christmas Experience—St John's Community Centre

### **9th December**

TBC Christmas Performances - week commencing 9th & 16th December

### **12th December**

Y1 Visit to the Lowry—Stickman

# Nursery

Nursery have had great fun on their first term, they have all settled in brilliantly, have learnt the day to day routine and began making amazing friendships.

We have had a busy term learning 'all about me', who is special to us, and all about the pets we have! We also had a visit from a farm for our topic, the children loved seeing and petting all of the different animals. We have finished the term off by learning all about the weather changes as we transition into Autumn, the children have been on scavenger hunts and enjoyed a variety of arts and crafts.



WOW!



# 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 okay. Our next topic was 'Pets'. Reception had fun dressing up as Vets in the roleplay area, learning how to look after animals and where different pets live. We even had a special visit from the farm and we enjoyed meeting the farm animals. 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 Roise the hen from our book. Well done Reception!



# Year 1

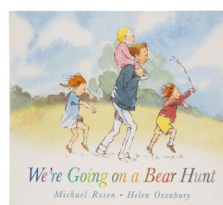
Year 1 have had a busy start to the year! In English, we have enjoyed reading 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt' and innovating this to write our own story of 'We're Going on a Penguin Hunt'. We enjoyed rehearsing this story with matching actions.

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 with Miss Pickup. We have explored colour mixing with paint and printing inspired by the artist 'Alma Thomas'.

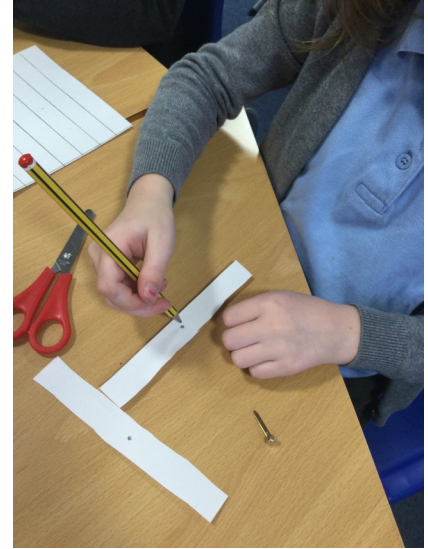
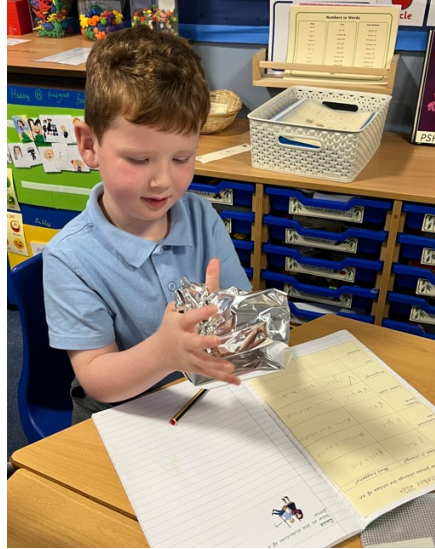
Science lessons have been fun! We have explored the seasons, thought about how they impact our daily life and even went on an Autumn leaf hunt!

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.

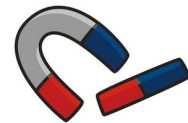


# Year 2

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

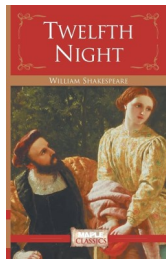


Year 3 have been very busy this half term. In Science the children have been learning about forces and magnets. They have conducted Science experiments to find which items around the room are magnetic. In History, the children have been learning about the Stone Age. They have learnt about how the early people lived. In English, the children have been writing diary entries from the perspective of someone who lives in the Stone Age. They were all a thrilling read! In Maths, the children have been challenged with numerous place value and addition/subtraction questions. Year 3 are also taking part in some fantastic hockey lessons with Mia - our P.E coach from Manchester United and some brilliant ukulele lessons, taught by Mr Charles. On a Thursday afternoon, both Year 3 classes take part in art lessons taught by Miss Pickup. The children have been taught how to sketch in a Stone Age way and how to make animals and fossils using clay.



# 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 'Twelfth Night' through drama. Linked to this, we've written a character description of Viola. In Maths, we have been learning about place value including comparing, ordering and rounding numbers. In Science, we have been learning about reversible and irreversible changes that happen to materials, we've 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 core strength and flexibility in gymnastics. Finally, Year 4 have enjoyed working in groups during Design and Technology lessons to build strong and secure pavilions.



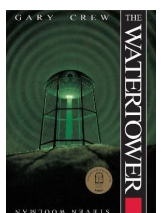
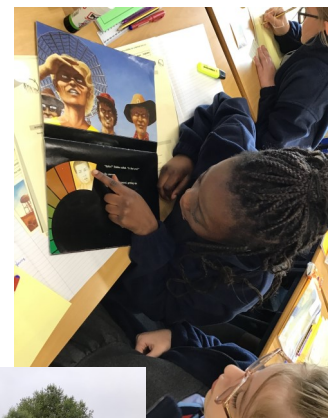
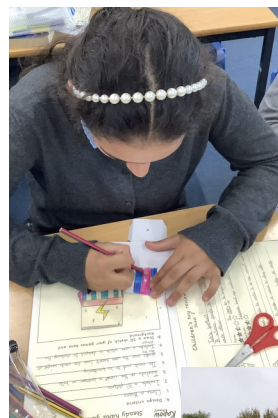
# Year 5

Year 5 have had a super start to the new school year. In English, we have been reading the book 'Kensuke's Kingdom' by Michael Morpurgo and have created some fantastic pieces of writing, such as a letter and a story. In Maths, we have worked on our place value and addition and subtraction skills. We have enjoyed exploring all about the solar system in our topic on Space, where we have found out how we experience day and night and the different seasons. In Geography, we have completed a variety of exciting activities all about the USA and what makes it so special, including some amazing artwork inspired by different artists.



# Year 6

Year 6 have had an absolutely 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 the characters from our book The Watertower by Gary Crew. From this, we created setting descriptions and diary entries to explore the text and characters further. In Maths, we have learnt new rhymes and strategies to help us, such as the Moo Moo method. In Science, we have learnt about how plants and animals can be classified and even went into the nature garden to investigate for ourselves. In History, we have been learning about how the Maya were such an advanced civilisation. We also even managed to play a game of the Maya's favourite, Pok-a-Tok!



School Reopens Tuesday 29th October 2024

# 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 with and 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. We have implemented worry jars in each classroom from feedback from our Wellbeing Ambassadors and continue to look forward to Miss Lomax's weekly Positive Post.

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>



We are delighted to announce that Bridgewater have achieved the Bronze accreditation for Emotionally Friendly Settings. 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/>

