

OUR YEAR IN REVIEW

Inside this Review

Message from Mrs Bettridge	1
Message from Mrs Alexander	2
Our 50 th Year	3
PE and Sport	4
Music	5
Art	6
Forest School / Outdoor Learning	7
School Council	8
Eco Council	9
Extra Curricular	10
House News	11
Parents & Community Partnership	12
Trips and Wow Days	13
Library and Love of Reading	14
Year 4 Residential	15
Year 6 Residential	16

As I reflect on the last year, I want to start by thanking you all for your amazing support. Governors, Team BSA, staff and children have all helped me to enjoy my first year as Headteacher of Team Bridgewater.

We have had lots to celebrate in our 50th year and I hope that you enjoy reading all about it in our Annual Review. Our new 50th art boards, which the children helped to create, will provide precious memories for the years ahead. Thank you to Katie Jones for her effort with this.

It seems like a long time ago now, but Ofsted visited us in November and we were very proud of the outcome. Our school was described as a friendly and welcoming place to learn where children feel safe and happy and this is also reflected in our new vision and values, which will be shared with all stakeholders in September. Thank you to everyone who contributed to creating the new vision and values this year. We look forward to launching it at the start of the new academic year.

We are very proud of our amazing KS2 SATS results this year but we also place a great emphasis on providing our children with a broad and enriching experience at Bridgewater. This year we have introduced Forest School sessions for parents and continued to offer a range of extra curricular opportunities ranging from art to music and sports.

I hope that you all have a very enjoyable summer break. I will be fulfilling a life long dream to visit Australia where I will support the England Women's football team in the FIFA World Cup. My Team Bridgewater flag will be with me throughout my trip.

Finally, I'd like to say goodbye and best wishes to Year 6 and any other children or staff who are leaving us.

Andrea Bettridge



KS2 results	Achieved Expected standard	
	School	National
Reading	92.9%	73%
Writing	83.9%	71%
Maths	94.6%	73%
Spelling, punctuation & grammar	94.6%	72%

Message from Mrs Alexander



I can't believe it's already the end of my first year at Bridgewater! When I started back in September, I really did feel like the newbie – but very quickly, I settled in and by half-term, knew my way around the school and knew the names of all the staff. Teaching in Years 2, 3, 5 and 6 meant I got to know the names of the children in those year groups fairly quickly (apologies to those who I still muddle up occasionally!) and I also got to know the names of many of the children in other year groups too. It's also been a pleasure to get to know so much of the parent community – standing on the gate (whatever the weather!) in the morning has meant I get to chat to many of you and I love greeting the children as they come into school.

It's been a slightly crazy, typically Bridgewater welcome to the school, but I have loved my first year and being part of Team Bridgewater! Ofsted in November (having had one at my previous school in June) threw everyone together and me in at the deep end!

The Year 6 residential at Osmington Bay was a joy to be part of – we all had so much fun and many laughs. We even got a reasonable amount of sleep too!

Big thank yous to all of the staff, governors, parents and children who have welcomed me into the Bridgewater fold and made me feel part of the furniture! It's been a great year and I look forward to what the future at Bridgewater brings.



Our 50th Year

The academic year 2022 to 2023 marked Bridgewater's 50th year as a school and 10th year as a primary school. We celebrated during the year with our House events that are mentioned later in this review and we also created our amazing art boards that are now displayed in the dining room. Each year group chose what they wanted on their boards and Katie Jones then designed them with each decade covered from the 1970s to the 2020s. We also arranged for a mural to be painted at the back of the school and we are delighted with the outcome. Our art will be on display for future generations of Bridgewater families to enjoy.



PE and Sport

Following the Lioness' success at the Women's Euros, sporting success continued at Bridgewater with Mrs Bettridge, forever passionate about sport, taking the helm!

Our cross country team got off to a flying start at the Ashlyns Cross Country. First place was won by Isaac Skelding (Y5), Tom Broadwith (Y6) and Phoebe Lewis (Y6) who all showed great determination and resilience. Team Gold was won by both Year 6 boys and girls. Congratulations to all who took part. Further fantastic displays of teamwork were seen at the Turnfurlong Cross Country where 9 competitors took part and achieved medals. In January at Beechwood Park, against fierce competition, the Under 11s were awarded Team bronze.



Girls and boys both did well in football. Bridgewater hosted football tournaments and played matches against local schools. It was a joy to watch how supportive everyone was of each other.

For the second year running, girls in Year 6 headed off in the sunshine to take part in a day's Dynamo cricket. A fantastic time was had by all and the team won every match to make them district champions again. Well done!

Bridgewater was also invited to take part in a hockey tournament hosted at Berkhamsted and Hemel Hockey Club at their grounds in Cow Roast. The tournament was great fun and our Bridgewater Team came first! Well done to everyone who took part and worked hard in the extra training sessions that were provided by BHHC.

Indoors, the Bridgewater fighting spirit continued with Dodgeball. Both the Year 5 and Year 6 teams managed the challenges of flying dodgeballs admirably! The Year 6 team came in a respectable 3rd.

Music

Music continues to thrive at Bridgewater and we are very proud to hold the Music Mark award that demonstrates our commitment to providing high quality music provision across the school. From Year 1 upwards, children receive curriculum lessons from specialist music teachers and our Year 5 children treated us to a super ukulele performance in assembly this month to show us their new skills. Every week, children perform in front of their peers in a safe environment at our music assemblies. This can include singing or playing instruments and it is always well received. We hold end of term music assemblies where children who are chosen by the peripatetic music teachers perform to an audience that includes parents. This year, one of our Year 6 children performed a song with her dad as a farewell before she joins secondary school. A precious memory for us all.



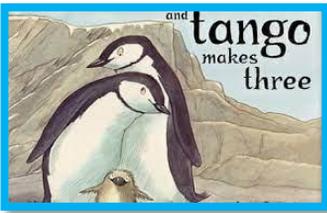
Year 5 were lucky to be taken to Wembley Arena earlier this year where they took part in the Young Voices concert. They sang their hearts out and we were very proud of them.



Our choir has gone from strength to strength this year under the leadership of Mrs George. We now have over 50 children from KS2 attending each week and we have performed at several events including St Albans Cathedral and Berkhamsted's street party for two very special Coronation events. They also thrilled us with their two songs at our end of year assembly on the last day of term.

We would like to thank Mrs Coleman, Mr Pettifer, Mrs Osmond, Mrs Frost, Mrs George, Mrs Khan, Mrs Baker and all of our peripatetic teachers for their contribution to our Music provision at Bridgewater.





Art



Our first shared task of the year was set for each class to create their class bird using different skills for a display board outside Mrs Bettridge's office. Every class bird looked so different and together they were very eye-catching. We also started our year with a whole school shared story called 'And Tango Makes Three' and we created displays based on the book.

When Ofsted visited, they took a 'deep dive' into our Art curriculum. We showed them the Bridgewater skills spiral for Art and explained how hard everyone has been working to support our young artists in the school. Year 5 enjoyed two visits to the Berkhamsted Art Society Exhibitions, where they met artists and learnt about the process of developing artwork.

Other displays across the year included our Bridgewater school values and the wonderful creations from our Art week. The children enjoyed spending a whole week focussing on their Art skills. The amazing artwork was then displayed throughout the school for our Art Exhibition, which parents attended with their children. It was fantastic to share our work with parents and carers!

The children in Years 4 and 5 were invited to submit artwork for the annual Dacorum Young Artist competition, which is hosted by the Berkhamsted Rotary Club.

To complement our Access Art Scheme and make our Art learning even more enjoyable, we will be allocating focus artists for each year group next year. This will also mean that the children will be learning about different artists, contemporary and traditional, over their time at Bridgewater.

To finish our amazing year, we all helped Katie Jones to collate ideas and paint, draw or collage artwork to celebrate Bridgewater's 50th Anniversary.



Outdoor Learning and Forest School

This year we have a new Forest School Lead, Mrs Marsh and it's been a very busy year. We offered parents taster sessions which proved popular, even in the winter term! They experienced the woods and activities such as whittling, fire lighting and "hapazome" (leaf dye).



We are so lucky that we get to play and learn in our fabulous grounds at Bridgewater School and to see the impact of the passing seasons. We have celebrated two National Outdoor Classroom Days, as well as spending time learning in the outdoors every week.

We have also built the 'Wild Hug' after some trees in the woods needed felling by our tree surgeon. Felled branches were used to create a space for the children to play in, discover mini-beasts and put on performances. The children have created fairy homes in this calm space and we have sectioned off a small area, to see what might grow, without hundreds of children trampling over it.

You may have seen the willow dome above the top playground. This provides a sheltered space for the children to learn in, as well as being somewhere to read, sit and chat with their friends during lunchtimes. The Nursery children have enjoyed sharing stories in it and as it grows, we will be able to use the willow in a variety of ways, including creating more willow classrooms, as well as using the whips to make wreaths and other crafts.



We have launched a sapling sponsorship scheme, which has been a labour of love. Thank you to all the families who are carefully nurturing a sapling at home.

We will plant the saplings at the October Big Dig, when they will hopefully be big enough to survive the deer! Year 4 have also planted a hedgerow next to the bottom playground and we have been diligently trying to keep the saplings safe from the deer.

We learned about wildlife corridors for animals to travel safely, as well as environments for pollinating insects and a habitat for birds and other animals.

The children wanted to name the hedgerow 'Gateway of Life', which I hope you will agree is a very apt name



Taking on board feedback from the children in Y5 & 6, we set up a lunchtime club in the summer term. This gave them a chance to let off steam in the woods and take part in activities such as whittling, making rope swings and woodland sushi!



School Council

The School Council have come up with lots of great ideas and ways to improve our school this year. At Bridgewater Primary School, we respect and value the fundamental British value of democracy and ensure the views and opinions of our pupils are expressed. At the beginning of September, the children elect School Council members from each year group. All pupils are invited to stand as School Council representatives and are voted for fairly and democratically by their peers.

The Council have met regularly to discuss issues raised by the children and ideas to help improve our school even further. In September, we made the decision to support smaller, local charities, rather than events such as Children in Need.

In December we raised money to buy gifts for Toy Hub, focusing on gift sets for older children and teens in the town. We also wore something festive for The Hospice of St Francis. When the terrible earthquakes struck in Turkey and Syria, we changed tack slightly and raised money for a local charity fundraising for those affected by the earthquake. In the summer term, we had a mad hair day for the Essex and Hertfordshire (H)Air ambulance and raised over £1,700!



Eco Council

Firstly, we need to thank last year's team for the bin that has appeared at the bottom of our school driveway. The Eco Council raised the issue of the mess that was often left from dogs and after-school snacks, so we penned an email to Berkhamsted Town Council. They looked into our request and supplied us with our very own bin! Brilliant.

The current Bridgewater School Eco Council has also had a great year raising awareness and money, all in the name of the environment! In the Autumn term, we planned out our ideas for the year and the Eco Ambassadors completed an environmental review of the premises. As the days grew shorter, we held a series of "Be Bright Be Seen" sales, to promote safe and visible travel to and from school, making over £150 profit.

After our Christmas break, the Eco Council invited children to bring in used Christmas cards and we spent several happy lunchtimes cutting out the lovely pictures and threading them with string, ready to sell next festive season as gift tags. The backs of the cards were shredded and used as Forest School kindling – great recycling!

January brought with it our own Green Jumper Day and we raised £250 for the WWF, which was the charity voted for by pupils across the school.

This term we have been talking about clean air, celebrating this with a Walk to School Day, when over 350 pupils travelled to school in a 'clean' way to win house points for their team. Add to this our persistent drive to encourage others to turn off lights, recycle waste in the correct bins, to use minimal paper and hand towels and a whole lot more, it has been a very busy year!



Extra Curricular

We have launched some new clubs this year to complement our current provisions. The new clubs were:

The Happy Human Project
The Fab Lab
Media Club
Netball
Boxfit
Bead Bracelet making
Lego & Colouring Club for Years 1 & 2
Forest School Club

Our clubs are run by school staff and outside organisations and these clubs have had a positive impact on the children. We have seen more children attend across the school and were pleased to be able to offer more free clubs.

We have seen fabulous performances from the choir and Streetkicks dance club. We have seen delicious food prepared in the fab lab. Brand new this term were our Lego and Colouring Club for Years 1 & 2. The Netball and Boxfit clubs have proved popular and helped build the children's self esteem and confidence, as well as increasing their physical activity.



School Provided Clubs (free of charge)

Target Games (tri-golf/archery)

Striking and Fielding (tennis, rounders, cricket)

Invasion Games (football, tag rugby, netball, basketball)

Multi-sports

Running Club

Knitting, careful colouring, gardening, Lego club

Choir

External Clubs (outside providers – a charge is made)

Ross and Andy's Football

Tennis

Street Dance

Musical Theatre

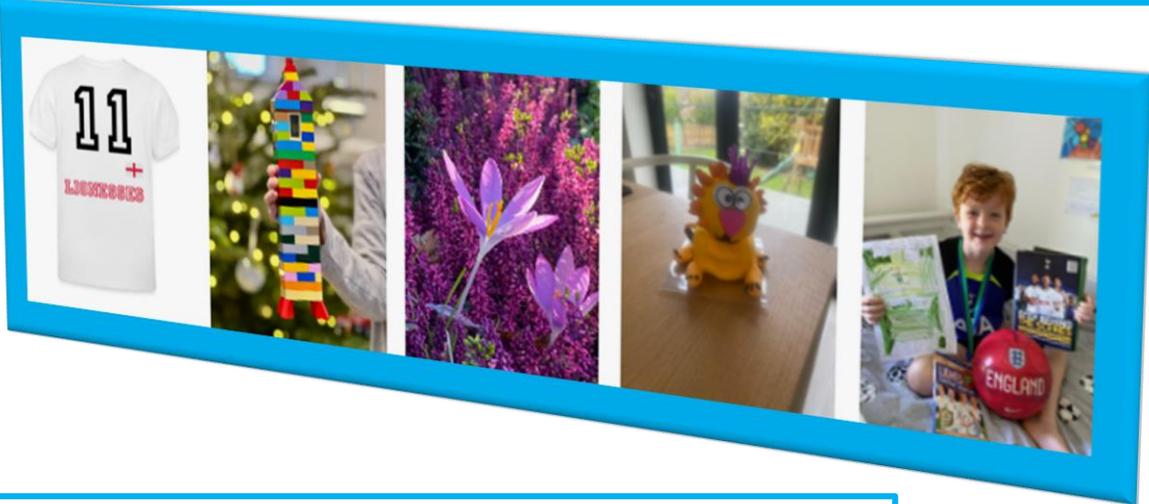
La Jolie Ronde (French)

Canvas Crew Art

Tech Club

House News

To celebrate our 50th anniversary as a school, we launched house competitions to provide creative ways for the children to earn house points.



We started the year by celebrating women's football, which was banned 50 years ago – very appropriate based on the recent success of England's Lionesses!

Our next theme was space, to celebrate the launch of the Apollo 17 mission to the Moon. The entries were certainly out of this world!

A photography competition in the new year saw fifty creative ideas to photograph. From a footprint to the best air guitar pose, this competition had something for everyone.

3-D modelling was the theme in the second Spring half term. Based on the letter L (the roman numeral for fifty), the children had the chance to build anything, using any medium.

Mastermind hit our TV screens in the same year Bridgewater opened, so it was only fitting to give the children the opportunity to show us their specialist subject. From favourite football teams to gymnastics, we definitely learnt something new about the children who entered this competition.

As a finale to our house competitions, a friendly game of Uno gave the children one last opportunity to gain house points. Safe to say even our teachers enjoyed this one!

Summer saw the return of Bridgewater's traditional sports days with the results going towards the house totals for the year. In Early Years and KS1, Roc were announced as winners and, in KS2, Griffin retained the sports day trophy.

In the last week of term, Mrs Halsey calculated the all-important house totals, for what will be her final time. Congratulations to Roc, who won for the first time in several years.



BSA Annual Activity

Another full year of events, fundraising and memories for the BSA in 2023.

We saw the launch of some newer and incredibly successful events in the form of Bridgewater Gets Active and the Roller Disco takeover, something we look forward to welcoming back more regularly in the next academic year.

Bridgefest, our annual camping event, sold out in record time and we have already had a tribe of elves sign up to see the return of the overhauled Christmas Fair come December. Fear not - mulled beverages will be on offer to make it bearable.

We are always so grateful for the support of our fellow parents who make what we do possible, and the hard work has paid off! We have successfully hit our £40k target, enabling us to build the treehouse on the field and give the school some much needed extra space. We cannot wait for the grand unveiling in the new academic year.

Lastly, we heard from the people who make all of this worthwhile, our Bridgewater children, listening to what they think about the BSA and our efforts. You can watch the video here. <https://clipchamp.com/watch/gx9C0udup4H>

We hope it makes you smile....yes...we are all Bees.



Parents and Community in Partnership



We are so grateful to our parents and the wider school community, who are such an important part of our Bridgewater Family – thank you to you all.

Our skilled and hard working Governing Body support the school, whilst holding us to account to ensure the highest standards at our school. They have supported us in so many ways this year, from meeting with the Ofsted Inspector, to helping us in our campaign to secure the use of the former caretaker's bungalow for the pupils.

Our BSA are truly amazing and pupils, parents and staff have all enjoyed the events they have organised this year and the Treehouse is being built this summer thanks to their efforts.

So many parents and grandparents have given their time to the school. Whether it has been reading with children, accompanying us on trips, helping in the office, joining in at the Big Dig or even organising for a RAF helicopter to land on the school field, you make our school a better place!

A big thank you to the parents who use their skills in school to support us – including Elizabeth Dalziel and Lyndsey Abercromby, our very own professional photographers, whose photos enhance our website and which are sold to support BSA fundraising.

If you are interesting in volunteering, please contact the school office. We would love to hear from you!

Trips and WOW days

Our WOW days and trips are always a highlight of the term for the children. Our pupils enjoy so many enriching activities, which bring their learning to life. We can offer these activities thanks to the voluntary contributions made by parents and we ensure that no children miss out. Thank you for your generosity this year. All of our children have had opportunities this year to experience trips and WOW days and they have covered many areas of the curriculum.



Year 4 have travelled to Africa and explored it through geography, art, music and PE.



Year 5 made communal river inspired art and listened to a visiting expert's experience of the Churchill River in Canada – they also developed their map reading skills.



Year 2 questioned the integrity of explorers in the 1500s at their history WOW day – they also made ship's biscuits and learned about life at sea. They also visited Gulliver's Land in June for a great day out at the end of their quizzes (SATS)



As well as all of this, Reception visited College Lake for a Teddy Bears' Picnic; Year 4 and 6 took part in a BMX workshop; Year 3 visited Celtic Harmony; Year 1 went to Whipsnade Zoo and had a seaside day in the hall! And Year 6 visited the trenches and went back in time to a Tudor Christmas! What a fun and busy year we've all had!

Library and Love of Reading



We know that children who enjoy the 'Love of Reading' achieve better academically, let alone the mental health benefits. We aim to share our 'Love of Reading' with every child, so that they want to read for pleasure. Our children are read to in class, most days.

We are fortunate to have a well-stocked library, which classes can use. With the support of parent volunteers, we can open for three lunch times a week. We have several junior librarians from Year 5 who help scan books, restack shelves and read to younger children. Pupils are encouraged to recommend books that we should stock on our shelves and tell their friends about authors or series that they are enjoying.

Each class has a book corner, which the children help to select: it will have fiction, non-fiction, picture books and magazines for them to borrow.

We aim to celebrate World Book Day in a purposeful way, so each class teacher visits a different class to share a book that they enjoy. We are teachers who read and readers who teach. We also hold a 'Masked Reader' competition on World Book Day, the children enjoy guessing who is behind the mask, a fun way to present different literature to them.

Thank you to those of you who generously supported our Scholastic Book fair - in a week we raised over £1,100. Teachers have selected more topic books to support the curriculum and the children have been vocal about their preferences. This year we cannot keep Minecraft books on the shelves; there is such high demand!

We are struggling for volunteers at lunch time. The more people who volunteer, the less frequently you are needed. Please do get in touch if you would be able to offer help during lunchtime.

Year 4 Residential



In June, I was lucky enough to spend two nights away with Year 4 on their residential trip to Green Park. I was so impressed with how well they embraced all of the challenges that they faced, including the good old British weather!

From abseiling to problem solving and building shelters, the children stepped out of their comfort zones and gave everything a go. They also showed great kindness in support each other throughout the trip. Well done Year 4!

Thank you to all of the staff who attended to help make precious memories for our children.

Mrs Bettridge



Year 6 Residential

So, Monday May 15th 2023 and the weather miraculously changed overnight for the Year 6 annual residential trip to PGL, Osmington Bay in Dorset.

Off we set, on fully loaded coaches, being waved off by Mrs Bettridge. Our journey to the seaside was luckily uneventful and we arrived at the PGL centre in good time. After unpacking and meeting our fabulous PGL leader, Caine, we began an outstanding week of fun activities and good food!

Rifle shooting, abseiling, a beach walk and Jacob's ladder were some of the activities enjoyed by all. I think the pièce de résistance was the Dragon Boat racing at Weymouth harbour. Those in Mrs Coleman's boat seemed to come back wetter than everyone else!

Mealtimes were enjoyed by all, although I don't think Mrs Hardyman or I want to see another industrial toaster for at least a year!

Night times were settled and the staff sat outside the chalets, gradually adding layers of jumpers and blankets, until all were asleep, which amazingly, was at a reasonable hour.

I am sure that the children were quite nervous, being away from home for a week, and for many this was the first 'sleepover' away from home.....ever.

Well done all of you - you were fun, brave, adventurous, resilient and great company. Lifelong skills that will stand you in good stead.

Thank you also to Mrs Hardyman, Mrs Brown, Mrs Ansell, Mrs Alexander and Mrs Coleman. You too were all of the above, but mostly, great company. Memories that the children and I have been privileged to make. Until next year.....can I come?????????

Mrs Halsey



Goodbye and Good Luck to
Year 6!

Together Rain or Shine

