OUR YEAR IN REVIEW 2024-2025

Bridgewater Primary

This past year, we celebrated the successful completion of The Haven, a ground-breaking new building, designed to support the needs of all children at Bridgewater. This state-of-the-art facility marks a significant milestone in our commitment to inclusive education and will provide an optimal learning environment for every child. I would like to extend my deepest gratitude and special thanks to our Haven team that was led by Mrs Holmes-Higgin. Their sterling dedication and unwavering commitment were instrumental in making The Haven a reality. Their tireless work has left an indelible mark on our school community. Thank you to Mr Wesley, Mr Stewart and Mr Twort for their incredible effort. Without this relentless effort, particularly in leading the fundraising campaign, we would not have achieved our ambitious goal of raising over £150,000.

We are also delighted to announce that Mrs George will be leading the school provision within The Haven. Her expertise and passion will undoubtedly ensure that this new space thrives as a hub of support and learning. We eagerly anticipate the opening ceremony in the autumn term, where we will officially welcome The Haven into the heart of our school.

It's also fantastic to highlight the activities that took place in 2024/2025. The school year was rich with memorable experiences, that saw our pupils truly flourish. I thoroughly enjoyed attending the Year 4 residential and the Year 5 Young Voices trips this year, witnessing firsthand the excitement and growth of our pupils. Similarly, I know that Mrs. Alexander greatly enjoyed her PGL trip with Year 6. It's always so lovely to see the children rise to challenges, embrace new environments, and develop their independence on these trips. Our choir has also brought immense joy, thrilling us with their many outstanding performances throughout the year. Their dedication and talent are a true credit to the school.

We are incredibly proud of our Year 6 pupils and their achievements throughout their time at Bridgewater. Their production of "Robin Hood and the Sherwood Hoodies" was fantastic, as were their SATS results! We wish them all the very best as they embark on the exciting next chapter of their lives.

None of our successes this year would be possible without the incredible support and dedication of our entire Bridgewater Family. I extend my sincerest thanks to our parents, whose partnership and encouragement are invaluable; to our children, who bring boundless energy and enthusiasm to learning every day; to everyone who volunteers at school, including our dedicated team of governors, whose efforts make such a difference to the experience our children enjoy at school and finally to our exceptional staff, whose hard work, commitment, and passion make Bridgewater such a special place. Your collective efforts truly make a difference.

Thank you for your continued support.

Andrea Bettridge, Headteacher

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I've just returned from a very busy Year 6 residential where lots of fun and not much sleep was had!
It's been another exciting year at Bridgewater and we are all looking forward to the opening of The Haven in September.
It's sad to see another year leave, but also lovely to have got to know so many of the younger children.
Next year, I will be in class two days teaching year 3 - something to look forward to!

Our KS2 SATS results

Provisional KS2 results	Achieved expected standard	
	School	National
Reading	92%	75%
Writing	78%	72%
Maths	92%	74%
Spelling, punctuation & grammar	75%	73%
Reading, writing, maths combined	75%	62%

PE and Sport

Bridgewater has had another busy year of sport involving all of our year groups. Reception and Year 1 enjoyed netball workshops provided by Mighty Netball. Years 1-6 participated in a tae kwon-do taster session. Chance to Shine led cricket workshops for years 4-6 in the summer term. Year 1 and 2 both attended Multi Sports Events at Everyone Active too.
The cross country season included events at Ashlyns, Turnfurlong, Beechwood Park and of course, at the home Bridgewater event. Over 60 runners from years 3-6 participated alongside 14 other schools with fantastic resilience and determination shown, alongside some team and individual medallists!

Our boys and girls football teams and the netball team competed against tough opposition in some awful weather conditions in the Dacorum School Sports Network district leagues. The boys football team progressed through to the next round. They successfully won their semi final to reach the district plate final in April. It was a very even game and Bridgewater were just edged out in the end. The Team Bridgewater spirit was evident throughout the competitions, with all players encouraging and supporting each other.
Amy Butterfield choreographed the routine and led rehearsals for our second entry in the DSSN Dance Competition in March. 30 dancers were in the Bridgewater dance squad, who participated in a wonderful evening celebrating dance, with other primary and secondary schools from the district.
The year 6 boys cricket team spent a very hot day at the Dynamos district cricket tournament. The year 6 girls team were invited to a festival of cricket at Berkhamsted Cricket Club as part of their 150th anniversary celebrations. This was the first experience playing competitive cricket for some. They all tried their best, supported each other and really enjoyed playing together as a team. At the end of the tournament, they all wanted to play more cricket.
The weather was kind to us for this year's Sports Days, with just a slight drizzle at the KS1 event. Parents joined in with the children this year at the nursery and reception event. The children thoroughly enjoyed cheering each other on and participating and their ice lollies afterwards!

Music

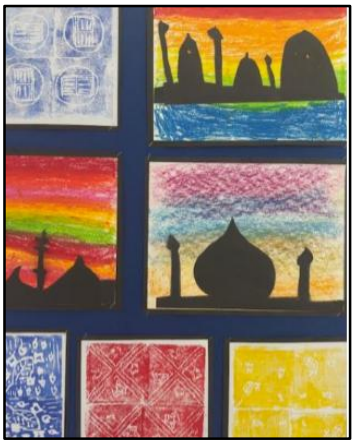
Young Voices
Year 5 enjoyed a memorable evening at the Wembley Arena, where they sang their hearts out at the Young Voices concert. Thank you to the BSA who funded our transport costs.

End of Term Music Assembly
We were treated to some fantastic performances at our end of term music assembly in July. We heard pieces from guitarists, pianists, violinists, a flautist and a drummer. They all performed with great confidence. We also celebrated the success of children who were nominated for music awards.

Choir events this year

- Northchurch Social Centre
- St Peter's Church Christmas service
- Bridgewater Light Trail
- Hospice of St Francis
- Easter concert
- Summer fete at St Mary's
- End of school assembly on the field

Art



Our first shared task of the year was for every child in the school to make their own bird. The craft birds were made from toilet rolls and decorated with painting and pattern skills to create a display board outside Mrs Bettridge's office which has looked so fabulous. We talked about the patterns that we can see on birds, on the body of birds and the wings of birds too. The older children glued the toilet rolls on their own to create the birds, whilst the younger children focused on decorating them.

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 skills learnt through art to show wonderful art on display, art through different religions in our class and school, linking our R.E and art together.

The children have also enjoyed art through other subjects such as history and geography.

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. Well done to Caitlyn McAlister who was chosen as 'Best in School'!

Across the school, we have been focusing on different artists to support the teaching and learning of art skills. To prevent the children from repetitive learning of the same artists, each year group has been given a set of artists for the skills that they teach. The children have been able to experience learning about a variety of artists to develop their knowledge further.

On our summer term display board, there are lovely examples of art to be seen. We have had another year of fantastic artwork across the school!

Outdoor Learning & Forest School

As we come to the end of another wonderful year in our woods, it's lovely to reflect on everything we have learnt and enjoyed.
This is our second full year without our herd of deer; and although we miss our antlered friends, it has been incredible to see the impact on the forest.
This spring/summer we have seen a whole range of different flowers and our native wildlife is truly flourishing.
We have seen rabbits and foxes this year and bird spotting in the woods has become a real treat, with the increase in insect life.

We have been running a Forest School club for Y3-Y6. This gives children the opportunity to come to the woods on Mondays to expand on things they have done at Forest School sessions, or to just enjoy eating their lunch in the shade of the trees.

The children have enjoyed another full year of learning and fun in our woods. It's a real joy to watch the seasons change with them, at our incredible setting. The children have all developed their knowledge and skills, whilst taking part in a range of different activities.

A couple of seasonal highlights from our year

- The Christmas Light Trail
- The Y6 Cookout
- Regular parents' sessions
- Hot cross buns!
- National outdoor learning days

House News

In the autumn term, Phoenix's house competition was to create a poster about a 'festival of light' from anywhere around the world. The entries were wonderfully eye-catching and led to many points being earned for each house, the top 5 entries gaining 50 points each.

Griffin's house competition followed this in the spring term, where children had to design a self portrait answering the question "What makes you, you?" There were lots of creative entries made using food, sewing, collage, drawing and painting. It was a tough choice choosing the top five entries.

Roc rounded off the year with a competition for the children to learn how to say something in another language and display their newfound knowledge on a poster. The diversity of the entrants was amazing, from French, Spanish and Italian, to Japanese, Tamil and even British Sign Language!

Throughout the year, there have been lots of opportunities to gain house points in PE lessons at the end of a unit, by completing a mini house competition in classes.

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, Griffin were announced as winners and, in KS2, for the first time ever, we had a tie between Griffin and Roc! Overall Sports Day winners were Griffin, with Phoenix and Roc tied in second.

In the last week of term, Mrs Stewart calculated the all-important house totals. Congratulations to Phoenix who won.

School Council

It's been a productive and rewarding year for the school council, made up of 4 elected representatives from each year group. To kick things off, we signed Bridgewater up for the *Santa in a Box* campaign. The school council presented the initiative to their classes and voted to support local charity DENS for *Wear Something Festive Day*. Badges were ordered and proudly worn by all members. In the spring, we celebrated raising an impressive **£660** through the *Santa in a Box* fun run, and each class received a certificate.

The school council then gathered ideas from their peers on ways to improve the school. After reviewing the suggestions together, we decided to hold a non-uniform day to raise more funds, with the school council voting to support Prostate Cancer UK, by wearing blue in recognition of the cause.

Later in the year, as part of *Random Acts of Kindness Week*, school council members read stories, poems, or gave presentations on kindness to other year groups. It was lovely to see the children mixing across ages and confidently sharing their messages - a proud and heart-warming moment for everyone involved.

Travel

This year we've revived the Travel Group. We're a group of parents, teachers, governors and local residents working together to make travel near school safer and easier for everyone. We've started working on a range of initiatives, kicking off with:

- Our governor member, Chris, carrying out a survey to monitor the amount of traffic around school and help us explore how we can ease congestion. We also got in touch with local residents to find out their concerns and opinions. Next steps include working with the local council on traffic measures, such as speed limits.
- Pupils getting involved with making 'Twenty is plenty' posters which we're looking forward to displaying very soon.
- Opening the back gate, to reduce the amount of traffic at the front of the school.
- Supporting the Be Bright, Be Seen campaign, for the children to buy hi-vis accessories to keep them visible on dark mornings.
- Supporting the Walk to School Week, which encouraged families to ditch their cars, and walk, scoot or cycle.
- Trialling the walking bus twice before the end of term, ready to re-establish it fully in September.

We look forward to doing even more next year and would love to hear your ideas. If you'd like to volunteer on the walking bus, or to man the back gate on the field, we'd welcome extra help from parents. Email admin@bridgewater.herts.sch.uk

Eco Council

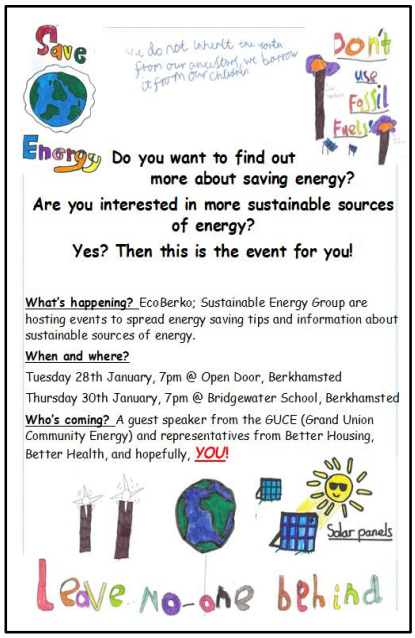
The Bridgewater Eco Council have had a busy year again, promoting being green and looking after our environment.

We started the year with brand new pen recycling boxes. Our Eco Council members explained what can and cannot be put into them. When they are full the school posts them off to Edding, to be recycled.

In the autumn term we created posters to remind everyone around the school to keep the doors closed, to keep the heat in! In the same term we also held our yearly 'Be Bright, Be Seen' sale. This was manned by members of our fabulous Eco team and we raised a over £100 – well done to everyone for supporting the cause and staying safe walking to school on those darker days!

Spring term saw the Eco Council collecting more Christmas cards to be made into gift labels for next year. We also promoted The EcoBerko Sustainability Energy Group events by designing the flyer to help them advertise their meetings. One was held at Bridgewater School to share ideas about how to save energy and provide information about using more sustainable sources. We have also held a very successful Walk to School week.

We have had a great Eco-year and have lots of plans for next year having been inspired by our Sustainability Report and Climate Action Plan; watch this space! Well done to our committed members!



Extra Curricular

The children have signed up eagerly for both internal and external clubs, and we're really pleased to offer such a great range of activities. Clubs run by external providers are staffed by leaders who are dedicated and passionate about what they do. We're also thankful to our staff for giving up their lunch breaks to offer these opportunities, helping to give the children valuable experiences and expand their interests.

The Chess Club took part in the Bridgewater round of the Delancey UK Chess Challenge, the UK's largest junior chess competition. This event gave our players a great opportunity to experience competitive chess, in a supportive setting. The children showed great sportsmanship, and all participants were rewarded with a certificate.

New for this year has been a before school Running Club and a lunchtime Forest School Club. Activities at Forest School Club included den building, making friendship bracelets and wildlife drawing.

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
Reading Club, Story Writing Club, Mathletics Club
Careful colouring, Craft Club, Lego Club, Bead Bracelet Making
Choir
Forest School Club

External Clubs (outside providers – a charge is made)
Ross and Andy's Football
Tennis
Street Dance
Drama Club
Chess Club
Canvas Crew Art
Running Club
French Club
Music Makers
The Fab (Food & Body) Lab
Happy Human Project

BSA Annual Activity

It's been a year of transition for the BSA, with our amazing committee finally standing down and a new cohort wrangled and ready to step in. We have to say a huge and heartfelt thank you to Hayley H, Angharad, Hayley F, Lisa and Sarah, for everything they've done over the years and to you, Team Bridgewater, for helping them to raise a cracking £17,000 for the school this year.

We're all hoping the Curry Quiz and Christmas Light Trail become BSA staples and as ever, it's the community spirit at the heart of all things BSA that we're most proud of. Particular thanks to the Year 3 girls at Bridgefest who sold loom-band bracelets and then donated the proceeds to the BSA – we were so touched. The new committee will be focussing on that beautiful camaraderie every step of the way. We'll also be enjoying spending a bit of that hard-raised cash by supporting Mrs Patterson to press go on some awesome new play equipment for the top playground.

Finally, we recognise that everyone is busy, permanently exhausted and desperate for some peace, but there are some genuinely easy ways to support the BSA and we'll be waving the flag for some of those in the autumn term (they don't call it Easy Fundraising for nothing!)

Parents and Community Partnership

We believe that our strong partnership with parents, grandparents and volunteers makes Bridgewater a truly special place for our children to learn and grow.

Our governing body are a committed group of skilled, trained volunteers. Supporting the school to achieve the very best for our pupils, they hold the leadership team to account, to ensure that we focus on delivering our strategic goals.

We are so grateful to the volunteers who come into school, whether to read, help at the Big Dig or in the library, help on trips or at sports events, and so much more. Our youngest volunteer this year was 3 years old (thanks Ella, for her sterling work in painting The Snug) and our oldest is 85. We have over 100 DBS checked volunteers, who all enrich the children's experiences at school.

The BSA are brilliant, raising so much money to improve our facilities and supporting us by subsidising trips and activities. Our thanks go to the outgoing committee and to those who have put their hands up to take over, and to everyone who has helped at, or attended a BSA event.

This year we have been supported by a new group of volunteers. When some Freemasons from local lodges heard about The Haven and our need to fundraise, they really took the project to their hearts. We have been blown away by their support, they have worked tirelessly to secure donations of over £65,000 towards the project. We are incredibly grateful.

Thank you to everyone who volunteers their time to be part of Team Bridgewater.

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.

Once again, Year 5 made the trip to Wembley Arena to participate with lots of other schools at the Young Voices event. They also took part in a Remarkable Rivers WOW Day and visited a local art exhibition at the civic centre.

Year 4 started the year with a Roman WOW day and in the Spring term had a Science WOW day based on solids, liquids and gases.

Year 2 took part in a Mad Science WOW Day in the autumn term. In the summer, they visited Tiggywinkles Animal Sanctuary where they saw lots of hedgehogs! They also had scooter training and a Great Fire of London WOW day!

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 the Chiltern Open Air Museum and took part in a Greek WOW Day and a Norman Conquest WOW Day; Year 1 went to Whipsnade Zoo, visited Berkhamsted Castle and the local allotments and had a seaside day in the hall! Year 6 visited the trenches and went back in time to celebrate a Tudor Christmas! Year 3 & 4 had an additional R.E. WOW day where external visitors came in and completed activities with the children.

Library and Love of Reading

When conducting school tours, I am always so proud to show prospective parents our well stocked and well used library. The library is run by a team of Year 5 junior librarians and managed by our first ever Senior Librarian. This team supports parent volunteers who come in and open the library at lunchtime two days a week. We also run a quiet reading club for those who want to come and lose themselves in a book. Children tell us which books they would like to add to the library. Junior librarians check books in and out, as well as putting new books onto the library system. They help the younger children find books, suggest authors, or sit and read with them, personifying our love of reading.

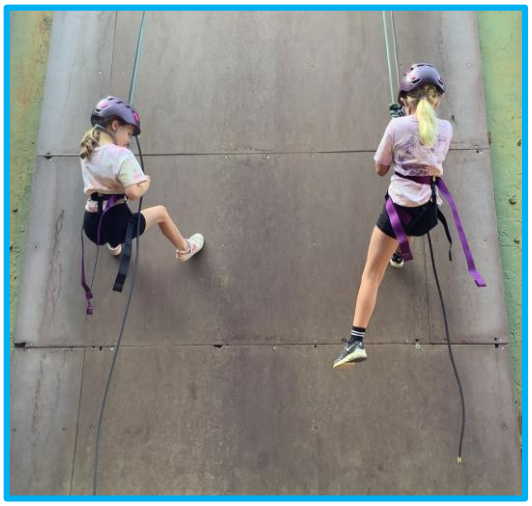
Cultivating a love of reading throughout the school is our passion. We want all children to be able to enjoy and become absorbed in a book, be it fiction or non-fiction. In school the older children are authors. They write and illustrate their own stories and come and share them with the Early Years children. One child included instructions on how to draw the characters, which the Nursery children loved.

Reading is at the centre of our Early Years teaching. We read every day and our learning is based around the story we have just heard. The adults model a love of reading, talking about the characters and emotions contained within the pages. Throughout the school, the children are read to daily in class. We have various reading volunteers who come and read with specific children, to encourage their reading and support their development.

We strive to run a purposeful World Book Day, with teachers sharing their favourite books and their love of reading. During the week of World Book Day, we run a Scholastic Book Fair where parents come and purchase books. This support means we can purchase new books for the library and class book corners.

Mrs Patterson
Early Years/KS1 Lead and our “Love of Reading” Lead

Year 4 Residential



Phasels Wood

Year 4 went on their residential to Phasels Wood. It was the first year of camping and they pitched their tents before embarking upon a host of fun activities! Their skill and perseverance was commendable as it was especially difficult to put the tents up due to the dry ground.

From abseiling to archery and from land zorbs to climbing walls, many activities were embraced. The children enjoyed pushing themselves out of their comfort zones and working as a team. Lots of the children found elements of the day difficult, however they were all willing to try new things and overcome personal challenges.

They finished the day by toasting marshmallows around the campfire with hot chocolate and a sing along with Mrs Berry. They were introduced to some wonderful new songs, which then became the soundtrack to our last day.

Year 6 Residential

Year 6 went on their residential to Liddington PGL and all came home with smiling faces and amazing tans (although rather tired) after a fantastic week away.

Our days were non-stop, filled with activities, including raft building, giant swing, trapeze, abseiling, zip-wire, archery, fencing, rock climbing and so many more!

We spent the evenings together, completing various challenges, which developed our team building skills.

Our tummies were constantly filled with tasty food in large portions, as well as sweets from our trip to the onsite tuckshop.

All of our children showed great resilience and perseverance when tackling activities they found challenging.

Rialize Childcare

Well what a year! We cannot believe our Ofsted inspection was last July already! We have packed quite a lot in, life in the after school club and holiday club is very busy.
The Ducklings have been working on their gross motor skills by learning to use the top playground climbing equipment, the monkey bars and fireman's pole, getting ready for next year and mixing with the older children has given them so much confidence.
Reception have thrived and there has been so much paper, wow, they love their drawing! Mr Wesley has not been short of volunteers for his jobs either and the children have loved taking ownership of things round the school, such as planting the flowers in front of Mrs Bettridge's office and keeping them watered in warmer weather.
Year 1 have had fun in their courtyard space, doing lots of mud kitchen play and being creative with painting. Year 2 has settled into the new Blackbird space brilliantly. They enjoy having the room to play and have an assortment of activities to choose from, including board games, origami and some role play as well.
Years 3 & 4, based in The Snug, have had a blast making mug cakes and lemonade and have a great outside space to use in their short time after school. The Music room group, years 5 & 6, have been busy creating dens, knitting, playing schools and have had lots of outdoor fun.
The Rialize ethos is very play based and after a busy day at school, play holds a real value to a child of any age. This can mean different things to different children, from relaxing with a good book, or running around playing football with friends, being crafty, to getting muddy in the meadow. We follow PARS, which is a play based framework and means the staff allow the children to lead what they would like to do. We facilitate as much as we ca,n with providing equipment, and if not, we find an alternative with the children, to show how we can adapt and be flexible.
Our holiday clubs, open year round, have been fun-filled and packed with children from Bridgewater and across the town, having a lot of fun with loom bands, Hama beads (always a club favourite) and lots of themed activities to keep everyone occupied, whether it's playing with their friends, or finding new ones.
We are looking forward to being able to use The Haven as part of our wraparound in September. It will be a bit of trial and error as we work out how the space works and who it is most suitable for.
Another mention to Mrs Holmes-Higgin whose monumental effort in fundraising has meant we can offer out more spaces. However, we appreciate we cannot cater for our entire waiting list, but are doing our best to open up as many spaces as we can.
Thanks to all our wonderful team and the lovely Team Bridgewater, we look forward to seeing many of you over the summer holidays.
Ria and Ali

Together Rain or Shine

Goodbye and our very best wishes to Year 6 and your families – you will always be part of Team Bridgewater

Thank you to Lyndsey Abercromby for the beautiful Year 6 leavers' photos, which raised money for the BSA.

Year 6 children, staff and helpers all having an amazing time at PGL Liddington.

We will miss the Y6 parents too! Thanks to the organising committee for a great leavers' party.