OUR YEAR IN REVIEW

2025-2026

Bridgewater Primary

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the end of another incredible summer term, it is a natural moment to pause and reflect. Time truly flies in such a vibrant environment, and it remains an absolute privilege to lead the Bridgewater school community.

To put our Year 6 pupils' journey into perspective, as they depart after seven years with us, they will have seen 6 different Prime Ministers hold office. It is a remarkable statistic that underscores just how much the world changes during a child's primary education. Our Year 6 cohort recently enjoyed their end-of-term celebrations, including a truly magnificent production. I was incredibly proud of their performance and wish each of them the very best as they transition to the next stage of their education.

Our "Team Bridgewater" spirit has been on full display this year. I would like to extend a huge thank you to the BSA for their tireless fundraising efforts. This year's Bridgefest was a particular highlight, capturing our unique community feel.

The personal dedication of our community has also been overwhelming. Two of our parents took on the challenge of the London Marathon for Bridgewater, and I was personally blown away by the support I received for my London to Brighton bike ride in June.

I remain immensely proud of our Haven provision. Every morning when I arrive at school and see this space, I am reminded of the collective effort our community put in to bring it to fruition. It is a vital part of our school.

As always, I would like to thank our incredible staff, governors and volunteers for their dedication and commitment to ensuring that every child reaches their potential.

Thank you for your continued support through what has been a busy and rewarding year.
Andrea Bettridge

Bridgefest 2026

£8,500

An amazing total raised by the BSA to support our school through fundraising efforts.

Charity Support

£2,000+

Raised for Breast Cancer Now through our community's incredible support.

Haven Provision

120+

Children benefited from our vital support sessions during this academic year.

Inside this Review

Message from Mrs Bettridge	1
Message from Nrs Alexander	2
PE and Sport	3
Music	4
Art	5
Outdoor Classroom Day	6
Forest School	7
School Council/House news	7
House News	8
School Council	9
Travel	10
Eco Council	11
Extra Curricula	12
BSA	13
Trips and Wos Days	14
Library and love of reading	15
Year 4 residential	16
Year 6 residential	17
Rialize Childcare	18
Cultural Diversity week	19
Oracy at Bridgewater	20
The Haven at Bridgewater	21
Together rain or shine	22

Index / Message from Mrs Alexander / KS2 Results

I have just completed my fourth year at Bridgewater and in that short time have seen many changes! The current Year 6s embarking on their new journey to secondary school were just beginning their KS2 journey when I started and I have had the pleasure of teaching all of them at some point.

OPAL has been launched this year with the introduction of free-flow lunches allowing the children access to the whole site. In September, Mrs Brown and I will be adding lots of new activities to the lunchtime provision.

I have enjoyed teaching Year 3 and now look forward to teaching Year 2 in September.

Our KS2 SATs results

Provisional KS2 results	Achieved expected standard	
	School	National
Reading	83%	75%
Writing	78%	73%
Maths	83%	75%
Spelling, punctuation & grammar	75%	75%

PE and Sport

Year-Round Activities

Every one of our year groups has been involved in sporting activities throughout the year. Year 1 and 2 attended Multi Sports Events at Everyone Active. Mighty Netball provided fun workshops for Reception and Year 1.

Years 1-6 participated in cricket workshops led by Chance to Shine in the summer term. We also hosted a speed stacking competition for Year 4 for the first time in March.

Pupils attended a chess competition at the Emirates Stadium in December and an open air Chess Fest in London in July.

The busy cross country season included events at Ashlyns, Turnfurlong, Beechwood Park, and the home Bridgewater event. 14 schools attended and over 60 runners from Years 3-6 participated.

Competitive Success

Our football and netball teams competed brilliantly in the Dacorum School Sports Network leagues. The girls football team won their thrilling final against Hobbs Hill Wood School in April!

In the DSSN Dance Competition, both entries performed superbly alongside other primary and secondary schools. The Year 5 and 6 squad were declared the proud KS2 winners.

The Year 6 girls cricket team came second, and the Year 5 girls received the "spirit of cricket" award—a cricket bat signed by the England Women's' Team!

KS2 and KS1 Sports Days went ahead beautifully, with children thoroughly enjoying cheering each other on and enjoying well-deserved ice lollies!

3

Music

Assembly

End of Term Music

We celebrated our musical success at our end of term assembly on 7th July. Children performed in front of an audience and one child from each class received a certificate for outstanding effort.

Performance

KS2 Choir

Our KS2 choir, with over 70 members, performed at numerous events this year, including:

- St Mary's Church Fete
- St Peter's Church carol service
- The Festival of Light
- Berkhamsted Choral Society Christmas concert

Excursion

Young Voices

Year 5 enjoyed their trip to Wembley Arena in February where they joined the world's largest school choir for a memorable concert. They all sang their hearts out and their parents enjoyed watching too.

Art

School Display

Peg People Exhibition

Our shared school display was a whole team of Bridgewater peg people wearing school uniform! Every child from nursery to Year 6 made a unique peg person using art skills like wool winding, cutting, sticking, and sewing.

Exhibitions

Berkhamsted Art Fair

Year 5 enjoyed two visits to the Berkhamsted Art Fair. The theme of the first was 'Landscapes' with Gaudi-inspired mosaic animals, and the second was 'Underwater' with Van Gogh-inspired scenes.

Competitions

Dacorum Young Artist

Children in Years 4 and 5 were invited to submit artwork for the annual competition hosted by Berkhamsted Rotary Club. Zoe Whitton from Year 5 was chosen as 'Best In School'.

Theme Integration

Creative Art Displays

We enjoyed creating and appreciating many other displays this year which showcased the skills learned in Art. These included British Values, winter, RE, and Outdoor Learning Day.

All in all, we have had another year of thoughtful and creative artwork produced across the school!

Outdoor Classroom Day

A Global Campaign

Outdoor Classroom Day encourages teachers to take children outdoors to learn and play. Celebrated twice a year, it aims to make time in nature a fundamental part of school life.

Seasonal Learning

This year we linked learning across Autumn and Spring to study our school trees. Families followed a hand-drawn map during our May Fair to explore woodlands and find the classes' decorated trees.

Wagtail Class

The lime tree was pollarded, requiring creative thinking for outdoor tasks!

Goldcrest

The plum tree in the meadow was beautifully decorated with colourful handmade crafts.

Firecrest

The children gathered outdoors and mixed delicious muddy apple crumble!

Teal & Quail

Teal investigated hawthorn trees, while Quail created wool weaving for the douglas fir.

Swallow Class

Learned to identify horse chestnut trees and went conker hunting!

They also hand-crafted realistic clay snails, hedgehogs, and spiders.

Forest School

Year in Review

Reflecting on our Woods

As we come to the end of another eventful year in our woods, it's lovely to reflect on everything we have learnt and enjoyed. We miss our antlered friends, but our native wildlife is truly flourishing.

May Fayre

Art & Bushcraft Displays

A real highlight of the year was being able to open up our woods to the public at the May Fayre. It was lovely for the children to use their skills to celebrate our native trees.

School Motto

Together Rain or Shine

It has been a year of quite exciting weather and we have been learning to truly embrace our school motto—Together rain or shine!

Lunchtime Club

Forest & Crafting Skills

Children from Y3-6 have been coming to expand their forest skills in the woods or take part in crafting activities in the Treehouse.

House News

This year, we had a whole school target around sustainability. We wanted “to ensure that all members of the school community are committed to protecting and enhancing our environment.”

We wanted to link our house competitions to this theme. In the Autumn term, Griffin’s competition was a photography competition with the focus ‘Happiness in Nature!’ After our house captains voted on the top five entries, we entered these into this year’s Rotary Young Photographers competition. We had such a lovely range of pictures and it is clear that nature does bring a lot of happiness to our children!

Phoenix competition - we had a lovely assembly delivered by Raeeka for the whole school about climate change and the children were asked to create a poster about climate change to send to their local MP to raise awareness and asking for changes to be made. The posters were so creative and the winning entries were put on display at the Spring Fayre in the Treehouse.

Roc competition - in keeping with our sustainability theme, the children have been invited to cook a savoury vegetarian meal. This could be an established family favourite or something new!! The points from this competition will be added to next year’s total.

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 winners and, in KS2, Griffin also retained the sports day trophy.

In the last week of term, all house points were added up to calculate the all-important house totals. Congratulations to Griffin who won.

School Council

Year in Review

The School Council has had a fantastic year representing pupil voice, supporting worthwhile causes, and making a positive difference in our school and beyond!

Just Be A Child

Supporting JBAC in Kenya

Children delivered presentations to raise awareness of the charity's work in Kenya and encourage others to get involved.

London to Brighton

Cycle Ride for Breast Cancer

We supported Mrs Bettridge's charity cycle ride in aid of Breast Cancer by organising a non-uniform day, raising money for another important cause.

The Wynaud Trust

Sponsored Bucket Walk

Inspired by Kathy Beaumont's visit, we organised a sponsored bucket walk for a new borehole, gaining insight into the lives of children in Zambia.

A Brilliant Year!

The School Council should be incredibly proud of their kindness, teamwork, and enthusiasm, as well as the positive impact made on our school.

Travel

Year in Review

This year our Travel Group has worked hard to make journeys to and from school safer and easier. While driving remains a concern, we have achieved major successes:

Our Key Successes

- Walking Bus: Running each Friday morning from Lagley Meadow to school.
- Field Access: The back gate has been open daily throughout Autumn & Summer.
- Be Bright, Be Seen: Another highly successful safety campaign.
- Walk to School Week: Encourage by Herts County Council we had a dedicated active travel day.
- Road Safety: Campaigning for double yellow lines to prevent unsafe parking.

Get Involved!

We look forward to doing even more next year and would love to hear your ideas.

If you'd like to volunteer or help, please get in touch at admin@bridgewater.herts.sch.uk. We'd love to hear from you!

Eco Council

A Busy Year of Environmental Action

Encouraging our school community to look after our local and wider environment.

Be Bright, Be Seen

We ran our campaign to keep doors closed to save heat, plus our highly successful Be Bright, Be Seen sale. Thank you to everyone who helped man the stall and keep us safe on our school journeys!

Classroom Recycling

Under Ms Cresswell's guidance, we introduced bright pink lids for our recycling bins. These serve as a visual reminder that "Pink is for Paper" to prevent waste contamination.

Litter Picking Drive

Eco Council reps raised awareness about litter damage. It has been fantastic to see so many children join hands-on litter picking groups during breaks and lunchtimes!

Food Waste Challenge

We weighed our dining hall food waste at a whopping 16.9kgs. After challenging the school, we reduced it by 2kgs the following week. This will be our core project next year!

Thank you to all involved children and the staff supporting them!

Extra Curricular

We are incredibly proud of the wide range of clubs on offer at Bridgewater. They provide opportunities for children to develop new skills, discover interests, build confidence and, most importantly, have fun.

Running Club continues to inspire children to start their Friday mornings with enthusiasm. Sianne not only leads the club but also encourages and supports pupils at events such as the Midsummer Fun Run and Mini Marathon in London.

Street Dance, run by Amy, is full of energy and creativity. The children love her sessions, and they enjoy performing during Watch Week. Amy has also supported pupils competing in the DSSN Dance Competition.

Drama Club recently delighted parents with a fantastic end-of-term performance, showcasing the confidence and creativity the children have developed.

Chess Club has gone from strength to strength, with pupils representing the school at tournaments, including visits to the Emirates Stadium and London Chessfest.

Our Fab (Food & Body) Lab has been a great success. Children learn about nutrition, kitchen skills, food safety and healthy eating while preparing delicious recipes. Christopher enjoyed the club so much that he inspired our school chef, Emma, to recreate some of the dishes for our lunch menu!

A big thank you to all the staff and outside helpers who pour so much time, energy, and know-how into making these clubs happen. They really make school life special and help our pupils create memories they'll look back on for years to come.

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
Choir
Forest School Club

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

BSA Annual Activity

We're proud to have hosted many lovely events this year which have seen parents, teachers and students come together and have a great time. A huge THANK YOU from us to all the families who came along to support and the volunteers who made these events happen:

Tom Bissenden and Ross Hyland McCourt hosted another fabulous quiz (and the teachers won, AGAIN).
Peter Stuart and The Voltines played a gig in our honour at the Comrades Bar.
Years 5 and 6 went K-Pop crazy at the Halloween disco.
We've partnered with Parents for the Future (PFF) to host costume swaps, toy swaps, used book stalls and uniform sales.
Our Christmas do and the Spring Fayre were as wholesome as we'd hoped with cakes galore, maypole dancing, choir singing and not one but two soft toy tombolas (sorry!).
In a BSA first, Chris Foggin and George Rainsford made the whole school proud when they ran the London Marathon to raise money for the school.
Our dedicated Bridgefest team outdid themselves with a jungle-themed extravaganza which raised a record-breaking £8.5k.

We are aware that parents haven't seen visible results of all their hard work in the last couple of years while we've waited for the Outdoor Play and Learning (OPAL) consultation to take place. Behind the scenes we have been liaising with the school's senior leadership team to prioritise spending the BSA funds. This year, we have funded coaches to the pantomime, new sets of SEN library books and the all-important OPAL consultation. We are pleased to announce we can press GO on some big-ticket items which will be delivered in the autumn term:

- A replacement floor in the top playground with a range of large fixed play equipment for all years. Now that free-flow is in operation, we can tailor these choices to meet the needs of all children in the school.
- A replacement trim trail in the meadow.

Thank you for a sincerely lovely year!
The BSA xx

Trips and Wow Days

KS1 Drama

KS1 took part in exciting and interactive Perform drama workshops.

Year 4 Highlights

Year 4 had a fantastic Roman WOW day at the start of the year, followed by an amazing BMX day in the Spring term!

Reception Visits

Reception enjoyed lovely visits from parents, learning about Mexico, Thanksgiving, and even taking part in a ballet class!

Year 3 History

Year 3 visited the Chiltern Open Air Museum for an immersive, hands-on experience.

The children spent a wonderful day living and learning about Stone Age and Iron Age life!

Electric Umbrella Visit

Electric Umbrella visited our school to perform an incredible, energetic whole school assembly.

Following the assembly, they ran specialised, music-filled workshops with Year 3.

Library & Love of Reading

Our Reading Vision

We know reading is an essential life skill. Our aim is that children develop a true love of reading. Phonics provides the tools to read, but we want to build this skill until children read for pleasure.

The School Library

We are lucky to have a well-stocked library supporting our children's love of books. Open during class sessions and lunchtimes, it is only available thanks to dedicated parent volunteers.

Classroom Corners

Each classroom features its own inviting book corner. Children are actively involved in stocking and changing the books so they remain highly appealing and relevant to their current class topics.

Reading Volunteers

We are fortunate to have adults who volunteer their time to read with children. Each volunteer is assigned to a class to build strong relationships and support individual reading development.

£1,000+
Raised

Scholastic Book Fair Success

Our annual book fair on World Book Day week was incredibly well supported. Thank you for helping us raise funds to spend on brand new books for our library and classrooms!

Year 4 Residential Phasels Wood

This year we attended Phasels Wood with a company called Root'd. This meant a new experience of sleeping in tents on a campsite within the woods - which everyone loved! Even the teachers!

The highlights included archery, bushcraft and crate stacking! We also enjoyed telling stories and riddles around the campfire.

A big thank you to the parents who stayed and helped the groups of children.

Year 6 Residential

Year 6 had an amazing week away full of memories and stories, returning home tired but happy!

Our jam-packed days featured canoeing, giant swing, trapeze, abseiling, zip-wire, fencing, and crate challenges.

We were constantly fueled with hearty, delicious meals and fun tuckshop treats.

The children showed exceptional resilience and perseverance, tackling every difficult challenge with a positive spirit.

Rialize Childcare

A Fun-Filled Year

We have had a fun-filled year and managed to create more spaces across the club. There are still some on waiting lists, but we are working hard with the school to ensure we provide a quality provision for as many as we safely can! We have also been able to use The Haven this year, which has been fabulous with its fantastic indoor and outdoor play areas.

We say goodbye to Year 6 with mixed feelings. It is amazing to see how the children have grown over the years and we hope they will all enjoy their new secondary schools in September, but we will miss them all!

Year Group Highlights

- **Nursery:** Mrs Ria's karaoke machine has been a huge hit, making singing stars of the future!
- **Reception:** Tuned into their creative side using magnets and duplo to build, create and remake.
- **Year 1:** Spent lots of time in the meadow, enjoying the mud kitchen and digging pit.
- **Year 2:** Made wonderful decorations for Mrs Emma in the kitchen to help celebrate the seasons.
- **Year 3:** Had the most fun playing outside in all weathers, running around and playing active games.
- **Year 4:** Crafting has been their forte, loving the junk modelling and making fresh lemonade.
- **Years 5 & 6:** Enjoyed exciting pool tournaments, den building and plenty of crafts in between.

Kitchen Update with Mrs Emma

We have worked with the lovely Mrs Emma in the kitchen to create a 3-week rolling menu to complement the lunchtime options. Some dishes have gone down better than others – though no one is mentioning the Jollof rice!!

Cultural Diversity Week

CULTURAL DIVERSITY WEEK

World Cup Nations

We celebrated cultural diversity, tying it in with the Football World Cup. Each year group studied a country:

- Reception: Mexico
- Year 1: New Zealand
- Year 2: South Africa
- Year 3: Canada
- Year 4: Morocco
- Year 5: Curacao
- Year 6: Uzbekistan

Children completed activities ranging from art to cooking, and shared their learning in Friday's assembly.

Moroccan Art & Culture

Year 4 had a brilliant time researching Morocco. We were especially proud of the artwork that we created using a Moroccan colour palette.

Special Music Assembly

World Cup Nations Represented

Thanks to the hard work of Mrs Hooson, who helps at every music assembly, we enjoyed a spectacular experience during Cultural Diversity Week.

The children performed beautiful songs from Canada (*Alouette*) and Mexico (*Popocatepetl*).

We also enjoyed a medley of numbers from South Africa sung by Year 2 supported by Mrs Evans.

A group of Year 5 boys, led by Mrs Roberts, performed wonderful drumming inspired by the music of Curacao.

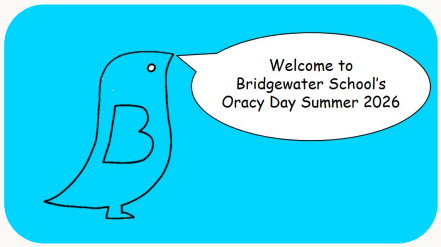
A rousing rendition of *Try Everything* brought our diverse music assembly to a fitting and joyful close.

Oracy at Bridgewater

Oracy Days

Making speaking and listening a priority

Speaking and listening skills are incredibly important for our children as they move through school and into their working lives, so we have created a comprehensive approach to oracy at Bridgewater. This year, we have made progress in rolling out our strategy, holding two dedicated Oracy Days to bolster our already strong focus on oracy during day to day learning.



The children have set ground rules for talk in their classrooms and been able to participate in a range of fun activities including debates, presentations, word games and recitals. We are looking forward to building further on these activities next year.

Poetry Book

Inspired by a Year 6 pupil

A brilliant poem, *The Blue Gates*, written by Olivia in Year 6, sparked the idea to compile our very own *Bridgewater Poetry Book* filled with contributions from members of the school. Children and adults have written beautifully about their experiences at Bridgewater and their hopes for the future. Their poetic creations have also given us even more opportunities to hear children's oracy skills in action!

Friday Assemblies

Weekly contributions by all classes

An important strand of our oracy strategy has been showcasing oracy in every Friday celebration assembly. Each week, children from a different class have talked to the whole school about some aspect of their learning and it has been wonderful to see so many confident, clear presentations from children putting their public speaking skills into action. We will keep this tradition going next year as well.

The Haven

Small group learning

Helping children make accelerated progress

Since opening in September, the Haven has welcomed more than 80 children from Years 2-6 for small group learning in writing and maths. The Haven teachers have used evidence-based approaches to help children close particular gaps and fulfil their potential, including in some cases exceeding the expected standard. Using the indoor and outdoor spaces

imaginatively has enabled us to support children with movement and brain breaks to maximise their chances of success and many have returned to their classes having made accelerated progress and grown significantly in confidence.

Underpinning inclusion

Nurture and meeting SEMH needs

The vision of the Haven from the outset has been to support inclusion for all children who find being at school challenging. This year, the Haven teachers have offered bespoke provision to enable a number of children from across the school to be successful every day, accessing learning each morning that has been carefully tailored to their individual needs and interests. This nurturing approach has also been replicated during break and lunchtimes and in the afternoons to help children with a range of social, emotional and mental health needs to experience success at Bridgewater.

After-school provision

A versatile indoor/outdoor space

The Haven is a shared facility, in which Rialize has offered after-school care for children in Years 3 and 4. During the heatwaves, the patio provided the perfect location for a paddling pool to cool feet at the end of a long day!

The future

Building on strong foundations

More than 100 children have learned in the Haven during our first year and we are committed to welcoming even more to benefit from this unique provision, created through a Bridgewater community effort, during our second year.

Together Rain or Shine