

OUR YEAR IN REVIEW

Foreword from the Headteacher, Mrs Caren Doodson

Where did that year go? It seems to have flown by, but when I look through this review, I am reminded of just how much we have packed into the time. One step closer to being a full primary school, we have all enjoyed so many wonderful experiences and this publication is an opportunity to reflect on our happy and successful school.

We continue to set high academic standards at Bridgewater and we are proud of our pupils' achievements this year. 77% of our Early Years Pupils met their Early Years Learning Goals. In Year 1, 90% of children passed their national phonics test, which is in line with the last three years and well above the national figures yet again.

Year 2 SATs results were again strong, with 90% meeting the expected standard in reading and maths and 77% in writing. Pupils continue to score above both Hertfordshire and national figures, in each of the three areas and the percentage of children who are working at a greater depth than expected was also excellent; 35% in reading, 18% in writing and 31% in maths.

Whilst celebrating our academic achievements, we never lose sight of the importance of developing the whole child and continuing our commitment to ensure pupils leave Bridgewater with the skills necessary to embrace their future lives. We want our pupils to develop wider values, such as resilience and independence; have day-to-day and one-off experiences that enrich their lives; and value their time at school, as a thoroughly enjoyable part of their childhood. We hope this review gives you a sense of the wide variety of activities which our pupils get involved in, to enrich their core academic learning.



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From September, Bridgewater will be full as a Primary School for the first time, when our Year 6 classes move into their newly renovated classrooms. This marks the end of a long period of transition, from being a middle school. There is always more work to be done in driving forward school improvement, but this is a celebration of another fantastic year for the Bridgewater Family.

Thank you to everyone in the Bridgewater Family; children, staff, governors, volunteers, parents, extended families etc, who make all this happen and thank you to Andrea Bettridge for producing this year's review. I hope that you all have a wonderful summer and we look forward to seeing you in September, for what I hope will be another fantastic year at Bridgewater.



Sport

It has been another successful year at Bridgewater and pupils have enjoyed a range of sports and games, taught by Mr Jones during class PE lessons. Our termly PE assemblies have celebrated the achievements of many individuals and teams.

In the cross country season, Bridgewater attended four inter-school events and of course hosted our own spectacular event, which 609 local pupils took part in. We visited Turnfurlong and Wendover and Beechwood Park Schools. Our efforts were rewarded with two team golds, an individual gold, silver and bronze medals.

Years 4 and 5 enjoyed tag rugby festivals at Kings Langley School. Berkhamsted Everyone Active hosted sports fayres for Years 1 and 2, where each pupil competed in a carousel of events against the other local primary schools.

Congratulations to Wagtail class for winning their event.

The whole of Year 4 enjoyed a speed stacking competition at Ashlyns School and Year 5 represented Bridgewater at a dodgeball competition at Laureate Academy.

We were pleased to enter two Year 3/4 football tournaments at Kings Langley. The girls' team were proud to get to the final, but lost to St Alberts on penalties. Mrs Halsey accompanied a group of Year 4 pupils to Little Hay Golf Course, where they played a carousel of events.

Bridgewater also entered four Dacorum School Sports Network league events. These were boys' and girls' football; girls' netball and a mixed rounders league.

These leagues were for Years 5/6. Given that currently we had no Year 6 children at Bridgewater this year, the pupils were playing children a year older than themselves. This did not dampen spirits, it inspired the players to give it their all. The netball team were thrilled to score one goal in the 3 games they played, despite conceding 38!

We are also very proud that many of our children are playing for local clubs in the community. We have children representing Berkhamsted and Hemel Hockey Club, Berkhamsted Cricket Club, Tring Rugby Club, Berkhamsted Raiders and many more. We were delighted that our hockey players were recognised for their excellent attitudes at the club's annual awards afternoon.

Sports day was, of course, the highlight of the year. Having postponed from a damp and miserable Tuesday, we were rewarded with a gloriously sunny Friday. Nursery, Reception and Year 1 started off the day enjoying a carousel of 18 different events. These ranged from hurdle jumping, bean-bag throwing and bunny hopping, to shuttle runs and javelin throwing. The morning finished with some super-fast running races. Congratulations to all who competed. This year, with 50 points, Roc were the winners, with Griffin and Phoenix in second and third places for the morning session.

The afternoon event was equally successful. Pupils from Years 2 to 5 gathered in their houses under gazebos to keep them cool. Every child competed in either track or field events, to score points for their houses. The races were hotly contested, as were the football penalties. The highlight of the afternoon was the staff vs parents relay races. Well done to the staff team of Miss Wesley, Mr Wheeler, Mr Jones and Mr Griffiths. The day ran smoothly, thanks to the help of the 18 Ashlyns Sports Leaders, who encouraged all the children to do their best.

Thanks also to the BSA for the ice lollies at the end of the day!

As you can see Griffin were the final victors. Congratulations to all who took part.



Music

One of the priorities in our School Development Plan for this year was to raise the profile of our music provision at Bridgewater. This has been achieved in many ways, from weekly music assemblies, end of term music awards and our winter and summer concerts. Every Wednesday, children are taught songs to sing and individual children have the opportunity to play a musical instrument, or sing in front of their peers. This has proved to be very successful and we have seen children becoming more and more confident at performing in front of an audience. We have also welcomed members of our Bridgewater Family into school to perform at these events and this has truly inspired the children. We have had parents and staff play the violin, guitar, oboe and also sing to the children.

Our two music weeks were also very successful, providing parents with the opportunity to come and see what the children have been learning in their music lessons.



One of the highlights of the year was our inaugural trip to the O2 for the Young Voices Concert, which was an amazing experience for children, staff and parents alike. We are committed to providing high quality music provision at Bridgewater and were delighted to be awarded the Music Mark in the Autumn Term, in recognition of this. Many children in KS2 are learning an instrument and we have a successful choir. We are also very proud of a small group of children who went to the Hospice of St Francis to play for staff and patients.

We would like to thank all of the adults who have helped with music this year, especially Mrs Baker, who volunteered to play piano in music assemblies, concerts and events.



"Thank you for a wonderful music concert last evening. It was fantastic to see so many children having the confidence to perform and inspire other children to learn an instrument"

Extracurricular activities

We continued to offer an extensive range of extracurricular clubs to children in Years 1-5. As well as a huge variety of sports clubs, we also offer clubs such as chess, musical theatre, song-writing, knitting and gardening so there really is something for everyone!

This year we have been recognised with the School Games Gold and Music Mark Awards.

Sports Clubs	Provider
Rounders	School (free of charge)
Striking games / ball skills	School (free of charge)
Tri golf	School (free of charge)
Gym	School (free of charge)
Running	School (free of charge)
Hockey	School (free of charge)
Tag rugby	School (free of charge)
Multisports	School (free of charge)
Cricket	School (free of charge)
Playground games	School (free of charge)
Netball	School (free of charge)
Basketball	School (free of charge)
Rounders	School (free of charge)
Football	School (free of charge)
Multi-sports	School (free of charge)
Street dance	Apex
Tennis	Chris Stringer
Football (boys)	Ross and Andy
Football (girls)	Ross and Andy

Non-sports Clubs	Provider
Gardening	School (free of charge)
Mathletics	School (free of charge)
Recorder	School (free of charge)
Choir	School (free of charge)
Yoga	Beany Yoga
Drama	Pepperpot
French	La Jolie Ronde
Technology	Next Thing Education
Careful Colouring	School (free of charge)
Board Games	School (free of charge)
Chess	Chess in Schools
Musical Theatre	Fresh Arts



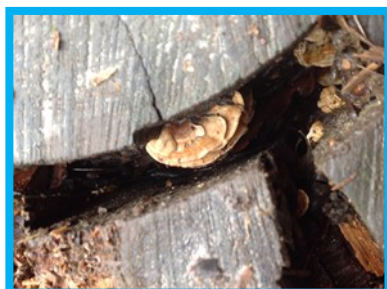
Outdoor Learning

Bridgewater School wins top platinum award

We did it! We have been awarded a prestigious platinum award by the Woodland Trust, for getting involved in green activities. Schools win these awards for participating in green activities, both in and out of the classroom. At Bridgewater School different year groups worked on set tasks including; planting new trees, visiting local woods, completing a Shakespeare Challenge, dressing a tree and creating art inspired by nature.

Our final project was 'Woodland Perspectives'. Conversations around the theme focussed on looking up, down and under. Year groups worked at different times across the seasons to see how the woodland changed. Our younger children experimented moving like an animal. They crawled on their tummies like a worm, squatted like a rabbit and stretched up like a deer to explore. We considered how looking at the woodland from another point of view gives us an insight into how animals live. In the classroom, we looked at Google Maps for a bird's-eye view of the site. Child initiated work from our initial investigations led onto building and constructing fairy houses. The children's ideas developed to include birds' nests and dens that they built, adapted and explored.

A field trip to a local Wildlife Trust Centre focused on how natural features are affected by humans or animals. A workshop explored SWAF - Animals need Shelter Water Air and Food to live. The children were encouraged to develop their ideas of form and function, using found materials.



We have an embedded ethos of outside learning at Bridgewater School and we aim for at least one lesson a week to be outside. Our whole school took part in Outdoor Classroom Day on Friday 24th May. We took our learning outside and had a whole school picnic on the field too.



All children regularly take part in Forest School sessions to support their learning and play. We routinely have a fire and use tools to make changes to materials. This year we have welcomed visitors from other settings to the school, to see what we do. It's always lovely to share feedback e.g. a fellow Forest School Leader from a school in High Wycombe said, "Thank you so much for letting me visit your wonderful school on Monday. It was a true joy to see such happy, engaged children in the Forest School setting. You have all certainly inspired me and boosted my confidence, especially with the fire and tools."

This year we have worked together as a team to create a skills spiral, to ensure progression and skills coverage – still making time for child-led learning in each session too!

Parents in Partnership

We continue to be very proud of the partnership that the school has with parents, grandparents and our local community.

In the Autumn Term we asked the Parent Forum what more we could offer to support our parents. From the feedback, we arranged for two very successful courses to run at the school. Thirty six parents attended a first aid course in June and we also ran a Parenting course, "Parent2Parent", which ran over six weeks in the summer term. Feedback from both of these events was very positive.

"The first aid course I attended at school last night was absolutely brilliant. The trainer was amazing. Paediatric first aid can be a sensitive and serious subject but she provided the information in such a fun way that you didn't feel overwhelmed."

"A night well spent. Thank you."

"Thank you for the great training session, and thank you Bridgewater for arranging it"

The support from our dedicated volunteers continues to go from strength to strength. We have our library helpers, parents who come in to read with children, Running Club volunteers, office helpers and many, many more. At Bridgewater our ethos is to actively encourage parents to volunteer, in whatever way they can.

We have held two 'Big Dig' events at the school, which resulted in painting of three gazebos around the school, clearing of the pond and preparing the new Year 6 block for redecoration, as well as many other worthwhile tasks. This is a great example of our 'Team Bridgewater' ethos as staff, governors, parents, grandparents and children all work together for the benefit of the school.



Art and Design

2018-2019 has been a fantastic year, building on the success of an art focus last year and a continued focus on design and technology. The children have enjoyed a range of projects and competitions.

Remembrance Day took on added significance in 2018, as it marked the centenary of the culmination of World War 1. We marked it at Bridgewater by creating a special display, with each child in every class making a poppy. Poppies varied from tissue paper stained glass windows, to cross stitch and felt flowers. It looked beautiful and helped us all to remember and say thank you to those who lost their lives in the war.



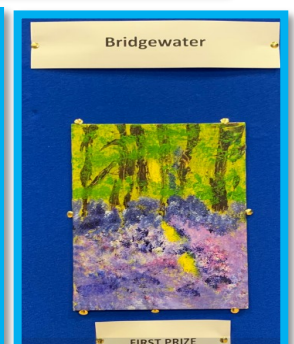
At the end of November, we had our annual display day, this year on the theme of Winter. A whole day dedicated to art means the children have time to investigate, explore, make and create. Teachers chose a wide range of inspiration – poems, pictures, artefacts and music.



D&T this year has been skills focused, teaching and enabling the children to design, make and evaluate fun and functional products. Some fantastic projects went on around the school, from moving monsters using simple pneumatic systems, wheeled vehicles with either free or fixed axles, a range of musical instruments and some very weird and wonderful flavoured biscuits! We all enjoyed a great D&T week in March.



For the second year running, we entered The Dacorum Rotary Club Young Artist of the Year competition. Open to Years 4 and 5, a number of excellent entries were submitted and judged, culminating in a prize giving ceremony at Astley Cooper School in Hemel Hempstead. Not only 'Best in School', but the overall winner of the whole competition was Oscar B from Partridge, with an outstanding oil painting of the bluebells in Ashridge. He was presented with his prize by the Mayor of Dacorum and also won a box of art goodies for the school. Well done, Oscar!



STEM—Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths

In computing this year, we have continued to use the Herts for learning computing scheme which enables continuity across the year groups, with children building upon previous learning and skills. The BSA funded 30 i-pads and a charging trolley, which have been used widely, across all aspects of the curriculum. Teachers also received INSET training on how to use i-Pads effectively.

Children in KS2 are offered a regular Technology Club, as well as a Song-Writing Club, which uses computer software to support its delivery. Children also have access to the ICT suite each week, for Mathletics and TT Rock Stars Club at lunchtime.

This year we have been working hard to raise the profile of science across the school and the children are enjoying what we are doing. They enjoy the increasing number of opportunities that their teachers give them to get hands-on experience of science, through lots of practical investigations. Pupils are also taking responsibility for identifying which skills they are covering, whilst they are investigating and learning.

Science really lends its self to outside learning and it has been lovely to see many lessons taking place outside, in our fabulous school grounds, including some pond dipping in our lovely pond area.

12 pupils from Year 2 were invited to a Science Show at Greenway School, about the physics behind balloons and bubbles and they presented an assembly to the rest of the school about it. We have also had a science week this year, during which pupils have had a visit from 5 owls and a few lucky pupils had the amazing experience of actually flying them! Later on in the week, pupils met a wide variety of animals; from gigantic spiders, to a golden eagle, to a meerkat and had workshops about their habitats. During this week each class researched a significant scientist and did some work around looking after our environment; not just our immediate area, but also the planet as a whole and we have considered the effects of our behaviour and what we can do to protect our world.

Maths continues to thrive at Bridgewater. Children in all year groups love attending the lunchtime Maths Club in the ICT suite. As well as playing Mathletics and Times Table Rock Stars, some pupils have been designing their own Maths quizzes using the skills learnt in computing lessons. The online platforms which the school subscribes to; Mathletics and Times Table Rock Stars, continue to inspire children to consolidate their learning in Maths lessons. The competitive element to Times Table Rock Stars has helped to ensure the pupils' multiplication and division recall is secure.



Mathletics statistics 2018-19

5000 sign ins
1600 hours of usage
12 000 completed activities
1,228,780 'Curriculum' points
104, 105 'Live Mathletics' points



TIMES TABLE ROCK STARS 2018-19

47,308 games played
847,548 correct answers
89% accuracy
10 children quicker than Mr Griffiths
(less than 2 secs per question!)



Bridgewater hosted one of the 'Year 5 Maths Challenge' heats this year and entered a team to represent the school. There were some thought-provoking questions and contexts, including a memory round, which required a lot of team work. We narrowly missed out on the final, but the team did the school proud. This year, we appointed Maths Ambassadors, who have begun helping Mr Griffiths with the TT Rock Star fixtures, Mathletics competitions and Maths assemblies.

School Councils

Bridgewater School pupils select two representatives from their class, by voting through a variety of methods, including a ballot vote or 'eyes down, hands up'. This is an important part of pupils' learning about democracy and representation.

The School Council have an important role in supporting the fundraising at Bridgewater School. They take ideas from their class and bring these to meetings to discuss. Meetings are held every half term. The School Council are involved in organising many of the events and supporting charities. During these meetings, we don't only discuss charity events; this year the School Council have tasted a selection of items from the new dinner menu and given their feedback, they have met with the Pastoral Lead regarding the whole school rewards, as well as discussing the use of Christmas cards and its impact on the environment. The School Council encouraged children to wear odd socks to school to mark Anti-bullying week, encouraging children to think about how unique we all are.



Fundraising and Charity

There have been many fundraising events at Bridgewater School this year. Our pupils do a huge amount to raise money for charity every year, learning about the causes they support at the same time. The School Council have arranged many non-uniform days over the year to raise money for charity, including: Wear your pyjamas to school for Children in Need, Christmas jumper day for The Hospice of St Francis, Wear something red for Comic Relief and Wear something purple for The Epilepsy Society. We have also supported People Not Borders in their Smiley Bag Appeal, as part of our harvest celebrations.



The Bridgewater School Association (BSA) has again, done an amazing job this year in providing a range of enjoyable events at the school. Events included a film night, a school disco, Christmas fair, Film on the Field and Camping. The BSA has also organised a Bag2School collection, where unwanted clothes are bagged up and put to good use elsewhere in the world. By donating bags of clothes, we have raised money for the school, as well as helping others. The BSA have also held a second hand uniform stall where "preloved" uniform is sold. All of the Bridgewater Family has enjoyed these events, whilst raising money for our school.

Many Bridgewater families have also taken part in fundraising at the school. A parent of a Reception child took part in the London Marathon to raise money for Prader Willi Syndrome. Inspired by this, each class took part in a double daily mile in one day, meaning that Bridgewater ran the equivalent of a marathon! A group of Bridgewater Mums took part in 'The Mighty Hike', walking from Brighton to Eastbourne, totalling 26 miles, over ten or so hours, for Macmillan Cancer Support. They also held a cake sale after school, raising a total of £618.50



Wellbeing

Both pupil and staff wellbeing is very important to us Bridgewater School. As a school we are undertaking a year long process to achieve the Herts for Learning Wellbeing Quality Mark, focusing on emotional and mental health and wellbeing. A working party meets once a half term to discuss the self-evaluation audit, which helps evidence how the school is promoting health and wellbeing in the curriculum, throughout the school environment and across the wider school community. The self-evaluation audit covers many areas across the whole school, focusing on things we already do as a school, as well as actions to focus on. We are hoping that we will be awarded the Wellbeing Quality Mark in the late Autumn term.



Random Acts of Kindness (RAK) week was a great hit with staff and pupils. Pupils participated in their own RAK to a different class; some enjoyed an extra Forest School session with younger children, decorating biscuits, sharing stories and a treasure hunt! Members of staff were also involved with RAK week by surprising each other throughout the week with an act of kindness.



In January, we invited Dick Moore, a renowned speaker, into school, to talk to staff and parents about mental health. Over 80 parents attended and the feedback from the event was incredible. As a parent of four children and an ex-headteacher, Dick has a passion for the mental and emotional health and wellbeing of young people and explored how young people think, why adolescence is an especially vulnerable time and talked about common issues, which can arise when the going gets tough. Finally, he offered some tongue-in-cheek tips for parenthood.



"I cannot thank you enough for inviting this incredible man to our school our Monday. It was the most powerful presentation I have ever experienced".

"An emotional, but truly brilliant talk. Thank you so much for sharing with us".

"Amazing and truly inspirational. Some excellent top tips".

Travel



We have a very small group of parents, staff and a local resident who make up our important Travel Group. There is also a governor attached to the group. We also have Junior Travel Ambassadors, who are committed, alongside the Travel Group, to promote safe and healthy travel to and from school.

We are a Gold Modeshift Stars School and very proud of all that has been accomplished in making travel to school safe and encouraging alternative modes of transport. We acknowledge how busy everybody is and the need to drop children and get to work, but we can never compromise our children's safety. For that reason, we regularly hold travel events such as Walk to School Week and Wheelie Week, to encourage the children to be healthy and eco-friendly and to ensure that travel retains a high profile across the school.

We are pleased that many of our Year 5 children are walking some, or all of the way to school, unaccompanied by their parents. This will extend to Year 6 in September. Year 4 children receive pedestrian training just before the end of the summer term in preparation for this.

The KS2 drop off zone (for Years 3 and up), manned by the Senior Leadership Team, Mr Endersby and Mrs Holmes-Higgin has grown in popularity over the year and again with four year groups in September in KS2, we are sure numbers will increase again. This has had a really positive impact on reducing the number of cars trying to park in the areas around the school.

The Walking Bus has three routes, but numbers have dwindled for this, so we intend to relaunch and promote this to encourage children to use it and to get some new parents to volunteer to lead the buses.

Year 4 & 5 pupils took part in Bikeability (cycle proficiency) training during the Summer Term and Year 1 enjoyed Scooter Skills training.

Alongside promoting safe travel to school, we also supported 'Clean Air Day'. We had an assembly and the children dressed in green to show their support for the day. Lessons were devoted to the theme of clean air and pollution and in September the school will be displaying a banner on the fence supporting clean air and asking parents to respect the town's commitment to 'no idling'.



Houses

As well as sports day, we have held several other house sporting events during the year, including house football, house cross country and house netball. Our House Captains have enjoyed their leadership roles, in helping to select the teams and supporting them on the day. Sports day was another successful event, with Griffin winning the overall trophy. Children have also earned points for their houses for their non-sporting activities. For example a small group of children attended the Hospice of St Francis to play instruments for staff and patients in the spring term and they were given house points in recognition of this effort.



BSA News

The BSA has again raised a phenomenal amount of money for the school – almost £20,000, which has enabled the school to buy books for the library, outdoor play equipment for the early years playground, pay for coaches to the panto and Young Voices at the O2 and most excitingly, paid for the main school hall to be refurbished, which will be completed over the summer holiday.



The money has been raised thanks to a full calendar of events, which included a disco for the children, quiz night for the adults, the Christmas Fair, Film on the Field and Bridgifest, our annual camping extravaganza. Alongside the events, the BSA run a suite of non-event fundraising schemes, including supermarket vouchers, Amazon Smile, Bridgewater merchandise and pre-loved school uniform. A full breakdown of how the money has been raised and what it has funded can be found [on the website](#), in the treasurer's report.



Trips and WOW days

EYFS	College Lake Boxmoor Trust
Year 1	Whipsnade Zoo Castle Wow day Ruislip Lido
Year 2	Market trading Wow day Great Fire of London Wow day Legoland
Year 3	Greek Wow day Pepperpot Norman Conquest day Celtic Harmony Stone Age trip
Year 4	Verulamium trip Anglo Saxon Wow Day Phasels Wood residential
Year 5	Science WOW day Compton Verney trip Buddhist Monastery
Additional enrichment	Year 1 smoothie workshop Year 1 scooter training Year 5 Unising and Young Voices Year 5 Bikeability



Performances and Celebrations

This year we have celebrated sporting and musical achievements with our end of term music and sport assemblies. Children are nominated for outstanding effort in these lessons and their success is celebrated with the Bridgewater Family.

We have also held two music weeks that included KS2 concerts and informal piano and guitar recitals. Year 5 performed at the O2 Arena, as part of the Young Voices event and each class performed class assemblies to their parents.

We finished the year with our end of year picnic and singing on the school field.



Our library and love of reading

Reading for pleasure is a culture that we strive to promote at Bridgewater and the library is fundamental to this. Children are welcomed into the library, in class time and at lunch time, to read and talk about their reading with peers. The Junior Librarians help the younger children take books out, they read to them, scan books out and catalogue new books. We are fortunate to be supported by Bridgewater Parents who not only volunteer their time to enable the library to open at lunch times and keep it looking so tidy and welcoming, but the BSA has also very generously supported the library helping us buy new stock requested by the children and to replace much used, well loved books. We also raised over £1200 in commission from the Scholastic Book Fair.

We have tried various magazine subscriptions with the latest being 'Match of the Day'. We are building our graphic novel section and our range of information books. Our aim is to have something for everyone, whatever their interest.

We know the more children read, the more they want to read and our library aims to facilitate this.



Year 4 Residential

On May 15th, a very excited and slightly nervous Year 4 arrived at Phasels Wood, for their long awaited residential. Over the next 3 days, the children developed their independence and problem-solving skills during a range of fun activities at the scout camp. These included Spider Mountain, Land Zorbing, Abseiling, Pedal Racers, Climbing Wall, Archery and Nature Walk. There was also time for plenty of football, camp fires and talent shows, not to mention the daily highlight of the tuck shop.

The weather and food were fantastic and it was an amazing experience for all the children and adults (although we enjoyed a hot bath and our own beds on our return!)

