



## Welcome

A very warm welcome to Bridgewater. I am proud to be the headteacher of such a happy, caring school. We are a primary school with a nursery, with two classes in each year group. We offer places for pupils aged between three and eleven years.

We highly value our pupils' academic achievements. We also place heavy emphasis on the importance of a broad, balanced education, including teaching core values such as politeness, respect, caring for others and being both confident and resilient.

We'd be delighted to welcome you into our school and show you around. You'll find that the school has a warm and inclusive atmosphere, in which our whole school community is devoted to providing the very best care and opportunities for your child. You'll see that our children are well-mannered, friendly and support each other in both work and play. They are interested, keen to learn and confident. You'll meet staff who are highly motivated about engaging children in their learning, so that all our pupils can fulfil their potential. You may also meet other members of our school community such as parents, grandparents and local residents, because we highly value those partnerships. Everyone is made to feel welcome and get involved in the life of our school.

Please contact the school office if you'd like to visit us or if you have any queries. We'd be delighted to hear from you. Thank you for your interest in our school.

Mrs Caren Doodson, Headteacher



## Our vision, values and ethos

*"Together rain or shine"*

It's our vision at Bridgewater Primary School that every child gains resilience through belonging, the confidence to experiment and a lifelong love of learning. If a child is down, others lift them up. When a child excels, everyone celebrates their success. By knowing they belong, through good times and bad, the more considerate, confident and capable the children become.



In every classroom and every corner of our expansive grounds and Forest School, we make sure that every child feels safe enough to take risks. Our passionate staff are committed to the very latest creative techniques and the children are discovering exciting ways of learning and developing the drive to do their best.

This inspiring learning environment and sense of community which our children, teachers and parents have created makes Bridgewater Primary School an exciting place to be.

### **Be the best you can be**

To be a community which excels in the academic, cultural, personal and social development of all pupils.

#### **Respect**

To foster a culture of genuine respect for others, irrespective of age, race, gender or disability, as well as respect for ourselves.

#### **Inclusiveness**

To ensure that all our pupils are healthy and safe and are given the opportunity to achieve success in all their undertakings, irrespective of age, race, gender or disability.

#### **Determination**

To foster a culture of encouraging a genuine love of learning and a determination to achieve and succeed.

#### **Growth**

To enable our pupils to become resourceful, enthusiastic, independent young people who can learn from their mistakes and who are not afraid to try new things.

#### **Enrichment**

As a school and as individuals, to be an active and valued part of the community and make a positive contribution to society.

Our school song reflects these values ("Bridgewater School, let's sing aloud together; Bridgewater School is one big family; Sharing our days, we learn to work and play; Living in harmony".) Every month we bring the values to life for the children by focusing on different behaviours, including politeness, happiness, perseverance and honesty.



*"Word about the community spirit at Bridgewater is getting out and our reputation is attracting people from far away to apply"*

*Parent via our Parent Forum*

## Outdoor learning and Forest School

Outdoor learning is a core part of our ethos here at Bridgewater. Pupils take part in lessons in a variety of outdoor spaces, including our Early Years Meadow (which provides a range of opportunities for Nursery and Reception children including in the outdoor kitchen, mud pit, tepee, climbing area and woodland); courtyards throughout the school; our huge field (including a log circle which is perfect for reading and story-telling); our playground spaces; a Nature Reserve with



a wildlife pond; and our woodland with its amphitheatre, Forest School fire-pit, and shelter. Outdoor learning is led by Mrs Berry, ur Assistant Headteacher, who is a qualified Forest School practitioner. We hold a Platinum Award from the Woodland Trust Green Tree Schools Scheme and we are a Tree Charter School.



*"I like all the opportunities the children are given to learn and explore outdoors and how children's ideas are respected, developed and lead their learning."*

**Reception Parent**



We encourage environmentally and community friendly travel to school and have achieved a gold "Modeshift Stars" national travel award for our work on sustainable travel to school.

## Enriching our curriculum

We're delighted to be able to offer a huge range of extracurricular clubs at Bridgewater to pupils from Years 1 to 6, including:

- sports clubs such as athletics, tri-golf, hockey, tag rugby, cricket, netball, handball, football, basketball, tennis and street dance
- music clubs such as Boomwhacker percussion band, song-writing club, musical theatre, recorder and choir
- a wide range of other clubs and activities including gardening, Mathletics, Technology Club, French, colouring, knitting, drama, gardening, yoga, chess and board games.

More than 90% of pupils in the school take part in extra-curricular activities. Running club, for example, sees our children run in the beautiful countryside around our school before the start of the school day, accompanied by parents and staff. Children from a range of sporting abilities attend, some working their way up to running 5km and others running at their own pace.



Children can learn to play an instrument, with music tuition provided by our peripatetic music teachers.

Our trips and WOW days are very popular with our children. All classes have three WOW days per year which might be a themed day in school with activities and food linked to a topic they are studying, or a trip out to support their learning. Recent examples include visits to Verulamium Museum, a trip to College Lake and visiting a bronze age settlement. Years 4 and 6 have a residential trip. Our pupils attend annual events such as our trip to the pantomime and our carol service. They also take part in regular class assemblies which provide an opportunity to share their learning with parents.



## Our Bridgewater Family

We highly value our wider school community at Bridgewater and we know that our staff, parents and children do too. We have lots of opportunities for parents, carers, grandparents and the local community to get involved, in reading or sewing with our pupils, accompanying trips or helping at our "Big Dig" events in our school grounds. Parents are encouraged to give as much or as little of their time as they are able to.



*"The community feeling  
is fantastic"*  
**Reception Parent**



Our pupils raise money for charity every year, learning about the causes they support at the same time. In August last year, one of our teachers visited Zambia to support a children's centre and to help create a bore-hole to provide clean, safe water for their village. Our children learned about her trip and raised money through sponsorship for carrying water during their daily mile walk—some of them carrying the water on their head. We were awarded an International Schools Award from the British Council for our work on supporting a link-community in Nepal, which had been devastated by the earthquake there.

We also work with community partners on various projects, for example we worked with Berkhamsted Raiders Community Football Club, to Crowdfund for two defibrillators on the school site.



Our parent teacher association, the Bridgewater School Association (BSA) provides a range of hugely enjoyable events at the school. These include a film night for our children, a school disco, the Christmas and summer fairs, a quiz night for parents, a circus, a family camping event and more.

*"I like the big events  
like the Christmas  
Fair, the Bunny Hop  
and the Summer Fair"*

**Year 3 Pupil**

## Independent learning

We believe in a broad curriculum, preparing our children for academic success and also to be confident young people equipped with the life skills they need for their future.

An important part of our approach is to encourage independent learning with strong emphasis on building resilience and a growth mindset. We want all our children to be prepared to take risks in their learning and to be highly engaged in school life.

*"I like that we get to choose our jobs and vote for school council, travel ambassador and Eco council."*

*Year 3 Pupil*



## Wellbeing and inclusivity

We value highly the wellbeing of our school community, as well as the differences between our pupils and what makes them unique. We believe that an inclusive approach to education enriches the experience of school for all children. We feel passionately about equipping all of our children with positive attitudes and experiences so that they have a deeper understanding about their own wellbeing and the world in which they live.

*"Ella told us about playing games with her friends when she was our age. You don't have to stop playing your games—you just have to think about how to include everyone when some people might be fast or slow or in a wheelchair or have a poorly arm."*

*Reception pupil, Inclusion Week*





## School houses

All pupils and staff at Bridgewater are members of one of three houses. Our classes are all named after birds, starting with Ducklings in Nursery then working up to Buzzard and Kite in Year 6. In turn, our houses are named after mythical birds: **Griffin**, **Phoenix** and **Roc**.

The house system allows pupils to mix with those from other year groups, including their siblings, when taking part in forest school, art, music, drama and sport. This encourages pupils to work as teams and motivates them to achieve their potential. Good attendance in school and using the walking bus to travel to school also win house points.

## Wrap-around care and holiday club

Our wraparound care is operated by local provider 'Rialize'. Led by Ria Hales and Ali Bunting, two well-established and much-loved local childcare professionals, Rialize is based on the school premises. It provides a very popular service that enables parents to drop off ahead of school opening time and pick up after school closing time.

Breakfast club runs from 07.30 to 08.30 and after school club from 15.00 to 18.00 (after school club for Reception—Year 6). Rialize also offers holiday clubs on the Bridgewater site.

## Contact us

Please do get in touch if you have any questions, need further information or would like to visit our school.

Telephone 01442 871231

Email [admin@bridgewater.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@bridgewater.herts.sch.uk)

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