



Welcome

A very warm welcome to Bridgewater. As Headteacher, I am proud to share our lovely school, in which every child experiences a positive, enriching environment, where they are safe and happy, they feel valued and trusted and they strive to reach their true potential. We provide every child with their own unique path to learning - nurturing their characters and ways of understanding the world around them. We are a primary school with a nursery and 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 kindness, respect, being brave and resilient.

We would be delighted to welcome you into our school and to show you around. You will 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 will 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 will 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 watch [our virtual tour](#) and contact the school office if you'd like to visit us or if you have any queries. We would be delighted to hear from you. Thank you for your interest in our school.

Mrs Andrea Bettridge



Our Vision and Values

"Together rain or shine"

Our vision is to create a rich and joyful learning environment in which every member of our school feels safe, happy, valued and inspired to achieve their full potential.

We learn to celebrate success and develop resilience in the face of challenges. When one of us feels down, the others lift us up and, in our inclusive school, diversity is embraced.

Within our Bridgewater Family, we grow our awareness of the wider world and are prepared for our role in it, as reflective, considerate and confident future citizens.

Our Bridgewater Values;

We are kind. We show compassion for everyone and our words and actions are always caring and thoughtful.

We are brave. We are courageous and resilient learners who find ways to overcome challenges.

We are respectful. We understand that everyone is different and that everyone is welcome in our diverse school community.

We are Team Bridgewater. We are all part of one family of pupils, staff, parents and friends and we work together, rain or shine.

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 thoughtfulness, honesty, curiosity, inclusivity and bravery. Children demonstrating these values are nominated by their teachers and celebrated in assembly.



"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



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Together we stand and lend a helping hand - We're the children of Bridgewater School



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 - our Early Years meadow (which provides a range of opportunities for Nursery and Reception children including 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.



Our Forest School is led by Mrs Marsh 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. [For more information, visit our website.](#)



"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 silver "Modeshift Stars" national travel award for our work on sustainable travel to school.

Enriching our Curriculum

We are delighted to be able to offer a huge range of extracurricular clubs and activities at Bridgewater to pupils in Years 1 to 6. The clubs on offer change throughout the year, but currently include:

- free Multi-Sports Clubs run by the school such as "invasion games" in the autumn term (netball, handball, football, basketball, tag rugby and dodgeball), "target games" in the spring term (tri-golf and archery) and "striking and fielding" in the summer term (rounders, cricket and athletics). Chargeable clubs run by external providers include street dance, tennis, box-fit, football and netball.
- a wide range of other free-of-charge clubs at school including mindful colouring, Lego and beaded-bracelet making. External providers currently offer an art club, French lessons, "Happy Human" mindfulness and relaxation sessions and a healthy eating/cooking club.



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Children can learn to play an instrument in Years 3 to 6, with music tuition provided by Hertfordshire Music Service in guitar, violin and drums and by an experienced private teacher in piano, flute and recorder.

They can also enjoy music clubs such as choir (free) and Music Makers Percussion Club (chargeable).

Our trips and WOW days are very popular with our children. All classes have two 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 WOW days in school have included a Greek day for Year 3 and a Victorian Seaside day for Year 1 while school trips have included visits to Celtic Harmony Stone Age Camp, Mead Open Farm, Whipsnade Zoo, College Lake, Young Voices Concert, the pantomime and a carol service at St Mary's Church.

The children also take part in regular class assemblies, which provide an opportunity for them to share their learning with the rest of the school and their 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 them on trips or helping at our 'Big Dig' events to help maintain our huge school grounds. Parents are encouraged to give as much or as little of their time as they are able to.

Our pupils raise money for charity every year in school, learning about the causes they support at the same time. Last year we focussed on local charities including Toy Hub, the Hospice of St Francis and the Essex and Herts Air Ambulance and we also raised money for the Syrian and Turkish Earthquake appeals.

We also celebrate and support staff, pupils and their families raising money for charity. Recently we have seen staff taking part in charity walks, running marathons and pupils having their hair cut for the Little Princess Trust, climbing Scafell Pike for the Prader-Willi Syndrome Association, taking part in Hospice fundraisers and completing the Race for Kids to raise money for The Great Ormond Street Children's Cancer Centre.



Our Parent Teacher Association, the Bridgewater School Association (BSA) provides a range of hugely enjoyable events at the school. These include film nights; school discos for the children; the Christmas fair; a quiz night for parents; a circus; a family camping event; and much more. The money raised contributes massively to the school, with £40,000 donated BSA last year to help fund our beautiful new treehouse. The BSA is currently raising money to enhance a courtyard to become a sensory garden and to replace our play equipment in the playgrounds.

*"The community feeling
is fantastic"*
Reception Parent



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 a 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



Well-being and Inclusivity

We highly value the well-being of our school community, as well as the differences between our pupils, staff and parents and what makes them unique. We believe that an inclusive approach to education enriches the experience of school for all. We are passionate about equipping every child with positive attitudes and experiences, so that they have a deeper understanding about their own well-being 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, taking part in school competitions and the summer reading challenge 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 respected 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 until 18.00. Rialize also offer 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.

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