

# Year 2

## Penguin class

Miss Bond and Miss Smith have thoroughly enjoyed working with such enthusiastic learners this year! We have shared many enjoyable learning experiences and we hope the children will be leaving with many fond memories.

Year 2 is a class of 25 children; 18 girls and 7 boys.

This year has been full of challenge and adventure with a focus on learning through the child's interests. This is something that I strongly believe in after my time working in Early Years. I feel that my time in EYs has taught me that children need time to explore, learn through play and follow their individual interests to reach their full potential. With this in mind, I have enjoyed employing these techniques with the older children, and observing the positive impact.



The year began with a need for children to understand my expectations. I had high hopes for the class and they needed to understand this! Both myself and Miss Smith delivered a consistent approach 'firm but fair' and the children quickly realised that we expected them to give their best.

We created a calm, purposeful learning environment by adding an extra element to our classroom...MUSIC! From the minute the children enter the classroom until home time, we play the 'peer massage' music. This music is played on a very low volume and helps focus the children.

We also *make time* for peer massage each day. We decided our 'problem' time was straight after morning break, so we introduced peer massage straight after playtime.



We can see a visible change in the children's behaviour and calmness after spending 10 minutes taking part in peer massage. We feel that after this short session, our children are ready to learn.



Working in mixed ability groups has proven to be very powerful for all abilities.



Here the children were working together in the ICT suite to research Charles Grey

By listening to the children's imaginative play, and witnessing what they were creating outdoors on a lunch time, we were keen to bring their imaginations and enthusiasm into the

classroom. Talk for Writing has been a powerful tool to aid all learning styles achieve with their story writing.



Here are a group of lower ability children working together; orally rehearsing a story. They then went on to share write the story using story language and descriptive vocabulary.

Autumn term, Year 2 worked with the Newcastle Music Services. Each week the children sang songs, played instruments and learnt all about creating music. After a series of weeks, we invited the parents in for our last session where we performed using the African drums.



The children had a final practice to prepare for their show.



The parents enjoyed watching our talented children play the African drums!

The children worked very hard to deliver a fantastic Christmas performance this year. They narrated, acted, and learnt dance routines and many songs.



The children put on an **OUTSTANDING** show for all to see!

The end of the Autumn term was celebrated with a Key Stage Christmas party...



We met Father Christmas!



We all had a ball!

No matter the weather, Penguins love to learn outdoors...



Literacy in the orchard and Autumn crowns made during an Autumn walk.



Fun in the snow! What better way to spark imagination and inspire young writers.



Seize the opportunity to learn through play - this picture and the follow up conversation, turned into a science lesson back in class.



Linked to our work about China, we followed instructions to make kites. We waited for a windy day before flying them.



We explored the outside learning environment to look for signs of spring.



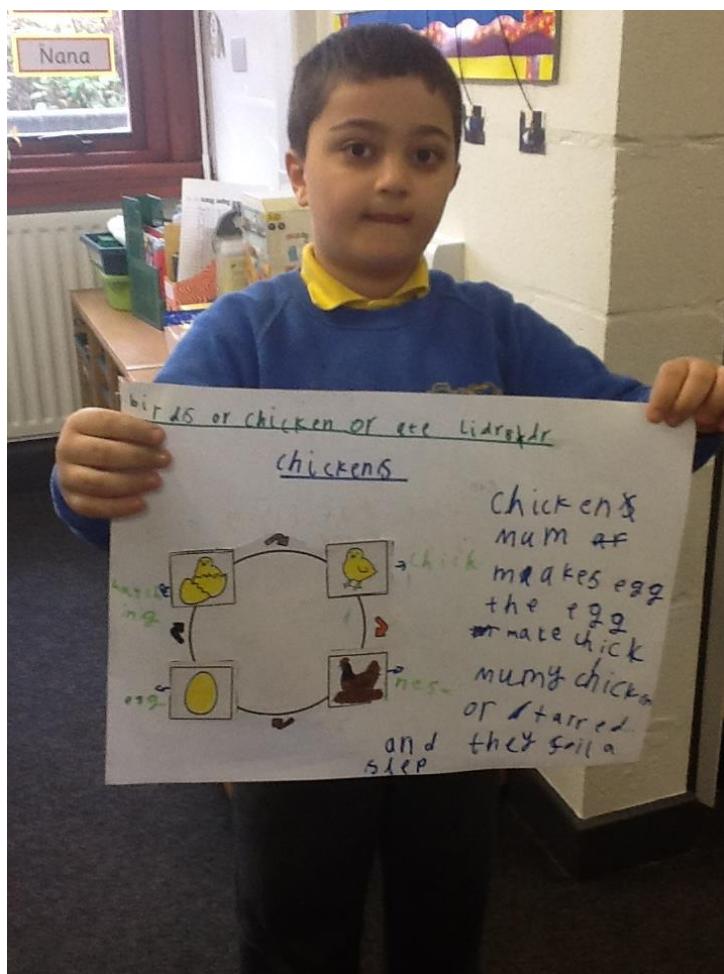
We decided maths can be fun outside too!



This year, the Penguin class have enjoyed looking after and caring for the chickens. The children have researched and shared their knowledge with each other.



Looking after 'the girls' is taken very seriously!



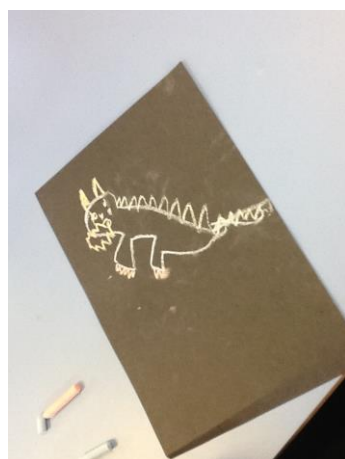
Children produced non-fiction posters about the chickens.

Year Two children delivered the Easter service this year at St Margaret's church. The children sang, wrote poems, made props and spoke beautifully in a very busy church. Staff were very proud of how respectful the children were; they were a credit to Bridgewater.

The Penguin class returned from their Easter holidays eager to complete their Key Stage 1 examinations. The children tried incredibly hard and asked to celebrate with a trip to Round the twist and a visit to the Rising Sun country park.



Every week throughout the year, we have made visits to our school library. Dorothy the school librarian has read some lovely stories to the class and where possible, follow up work has taken place back in class.



During Enterprise week, we were lucky enough to be visited by several different professionals. Here, the children are meeting a firefighter.



The boys and girls enjoyed dressing up in firefighter's protective clothing.



The children had thought of sensible questions to ask.

As part of our Reggio project, we decided to research Grey's monument in Newcastle. The children enjoyed finding out about Charles Grey.

We were joined by an artist for the day, who taught both children and staff how to sketch and shade...



Penguins enjoyed being artists for the day.

This year has been a successful, happy learning journey where the children have tried their best and hopefully made lasting memories.

As the photographs show, we have had a fun filled, action packed year together.

I wish my class all the best for their future education at Bridgewater and beyond!



Class of 2015 - 2016