

This is the first newsletter since the start of the pandemic and it is wonderful to be able to write about the exciting things that the children have been doing this term. All classes have been on trips out and all the children have been enjoying our new areas to play. I hope you enjoy reading about them.



Y6 Beach trip
As part of their "Treat Week" Year 6 went on an exciting trip to Newbiggin-by-the-Sea. They started

the morning on the rock pools and were even lucky enough to see some dolphins out in the

sea! They were also able to explore and managed to find hermit crabs, shells and limpets. After some lunch, they were able to go splashing in the sea



and had fun playing games on the sand, making sandcastles and digging holes! The weather was glorious and everyone had a brilliant time.



To end their "Treat Week" Year 6 took part in a forest schools 'camping' experience. They spent the day in

the wilderness and orchard area and took part in a variety of different activities. These included a treasure hunt, STEM challenges, making friendship stones and creating a "God's eye" using weaving. One of the most popular bases was making popcorn and



The Year 6 children were able to take part in a STEMtastic week organised by our Helen Thomson who is our Trust

Officer. Throughout the week, the children had the opportunity to talk to scientists, learn about STEM careers and engage in lots of



practical activities to learn about science, technology, engineering and maths. One activity included making a catapult and seeing how far a pom-pom could be launched. The children also enjoyed exploring a 'Mini Medics' box which

was provided by Sunderland University. Everyone had a brilliant time!

Y5



This term **Giraffes and Hippo** classes have been to the Discovery Museum to link with our topic of Bridges.

Our guides Fran and Emma had so much knowledge and were able to answer all of

our questions about the museum and the bridges exhibit.

We went all around the museum seeing various mechanisms from old bridges and we saw a video of how the Tyne Bridge and Millennium Bridges were built and opened by the Royal family at the time.

We got to make our own bridges at the end of the sessions. We were given a shopping list and some money and had to create the best

bridge we could in a short space of time. Some of us were more successful than others, but we all had a great time!



The children in Upper Key Stage 2 took part in an online workshop with an author called Onjali Rauf. She has

written three children's books and talked about what had inspired her to become an author. Every child in Year 6 received a copy of her book- "The Night Bus Hero."

Year 4 went to Newbiggin to explore the



rock pools. Both classes loved their day at the beach. Nathan enjoyed going in the sea, "I liked having water fights and splashing."

Carly said "I liked going in the park on the big swing." Alex liked exploring, "The rock pools were fun to explore and look for living things." We all had a brilliant time!



Dean liked it when Miss Brady brought her rabbit in for us to help learn about living things in Science. "He's called

Pippin and he was cute. He was eating kale from us."



Y3 have been collaborating with schools in South Africa on a Connecting Classrooms project;



the focus of the work was the Global Goal -

Zero Hunger. After a great deal of research, the children decided to support the local food bank by asking for food donations and growing our own fruits and vegetables here in school. Last week, a group visited the food bank with five bags filled with food donations and two boxes filled with school-grown lettuce. "It feels amazing to be able to help hungry people get food." - *Emilie, Year 3 Elephant Class.*



Y2 visited Saltwell Park on 16th July. We enjoyed seeing the animals, visiting the lake, playing games on the field and finding our way through the maze. We had a great day!



This half term a member of the RNLI visited Year 2 to tell us all about the charity and their important work of rescuing people. This talk was part of our enquiry-based learning and we found out lots of information about their different rescues, their

lifeboats, the equipment that they use and the jobs within the charity. We also found out how to float in the sea if we were in trouble and Mr Mitchell gave us a demonstration.



Y1 visited Broxfield farm in June and we had a great day exploring with Farmer Thompson.

The children learnt about the cows at the farm, we fed two young bulls and looked at the new calves that had been born that morning. We learnt about wheat, how it is grown and how Farmer Thompson



harvests it and stores it to feed the cows in the winter months. We went on a trailer ride and explored the woods on his land.

Y1 have also been enjoying our outdoor area. Planting flowers in our new colourful planters

and spending lots of time in our sandpit and water area.

Reception



At Scotswood Garden's we learnt all about mini beasts; their habitats, what they ate and about their different body parts. Did you know a spider has 48 knees and 8 eyes? We explored the forest,

the pond area, the meadow and the beehives. We created our own mini beast from clay, sticks and leaves. On the Brown Bear trip minibeast hunt, we found millipedes, woodlice,



daddy long legs, ants and snails. "We looked for dragon flies and saw a web. We couldn't find bees because it was raining."

We impressed the leader by telling her information we had found out before



our trip.

We really enjoyed our trip and cannot wait for our next visit!

Nursery



The Squirrels and Hedgehog class visited Scotswood Community Gardens too to deepen our

understanding of growing vegetables, fruits and flowers. We used our senses to explore the area, finding soft petals on flowers, rough bark on trees, smelly herbs in the garden and singing birds in the trees. We found and gathered natural objects and talked about them in our groups. We looked at many

different vegetables in the vegetable patch, fruits in the polytunnel and trees all around us learning lots of new facts. We visited the pond to look for wildlife and the Beehives to learn how Bees make honey. Before heading



home on the minibus, we planted broad beans to bring back to school and plant into our own vegetable

patch along with lettuce, courgette and radish.

0-3 strawberry picking



0-3 children have been strawberry picking this half term. They collected lots of juicy strawberries.



Message from Mrs Robson

As we come towards the end of one of the most challenging years for us all, can I thank everyone for their patience, understanding

and support. Despite the constant disruption, the children have continued to make good progress thanks to our very talented, hardworking staff and parents who have supported them with face to face and remote learning throughout the year. Our children have also shown great resilience and we are very proud of what they have achieved. We say goodbye to our fantastic Y6 children who, even without SATs, have worked extremely hard and achieved highly this year. We wish them every success at secondary school. We also say goodbye to some of our support staff, Chris Metcalfe our Psychotherapist who has worked with a number of families, Mrs Thorburn our Y5 Teaching Assistant who is going to work nearer to home and Miss Bainbridge who has now qualified as a teacher and is taking up a teaching post. We thank them for all their hard work. We will have new support staff joining us in September including Mr Smith our new Attendance Officer.

In September there will be only minor adjustments to how our school day runs.

The situation with COVID remains ever changing and we don't fully know how things will be when all the children return to school so for now the plans are as follows:

Breakfast club will run as it currently does. We will maintain one way systems around the site and there will still be some staggered starts and finishes. Additional cleaning, handwashing and sanitising will continue. We will do all we can for families with children in different classes so siblings will leave together. In Harmony and Y4 and Y5 swimming will mean some year groups will finish on some days at 3.30pm as they do now. Children will be taught in groups again and not always sit in rows but we will try to minimise contact between year groups. We will have more after school activities with larger groups of children. School is open throughout the summer with a range of activities taking place please contact the office if you want your child to attend. School fully opens again on **Wednesday 8th September** and we will send reminders to

families using Dojo and texts on Monday and Tuesday of that week.

Times for September are as follows:

Breakfast club

8am	Working families (with permission) via the main office
8.10am	Y6 to Hall & Gym
8.15am	Y4 & Y5, wait in lines at main gate on Delaval Road from 8.10am
8.20am	Y2 & Y3, wait in lines at main gate on Delaval Road from 8.10am
8.10am	Y1 via side gate on Derwent Street to Early Years dining hall.
8.15am	Reception and nursery via side gate on Derwent Street to Early Years dining hall.

School starting times: (parents must wait outside the school gate and only come onto the yard when told. Children can come on to the top yard only without a parent as school staff will be waiting. One way systems must be followed.)

8.50am	Y2 and Y3 on top yard, Y1 via side gate on Derwent Street.
8.55am	Y4 and Y5 on top yard, Reception via side gate on Derwent Street.
9am	Nursery via side gate on Derwent Street. 0-3 via the main entrance.

End of the school day:

2.55pm	Y4-Y6 children who have permission to walk home alone leave via the gate on Axwell Park View. Y6 from main yard.
3pm	Y2 from hall (Penguins) and Gym (Seals), siblings from Y3-6 will leave with them. Nursery pick up time from their veranda accessed via gate on Derwent Street.
3.05pm	Y4 from the top yard. Reception pick up time from their veranda accessed via gate on Derwent Street.
3.10pm	Y3 from hall (Tigers) and Gym (Elephants) siblings from Y4-6 will leave with them. Y5 from the top yard. Y1 pick up time from their veranda accessed via gate on Derwent Street.

Parents must continue to not just turn up at the office without an appointment. If you need anything you can email or ring and if an appointment is needed a time will be given to you. Please do not be offended if you are politely turned away from the office if you turn up without an appointment. This is to avoid a large gathering of people. Teachers will be available for a quick chat at the end of the day but longer conversations need an appointment booked.

We will keep things under review as the term progresses and inform you of any changes.

We hope you all have a lovely summer and look forward to seeing everyone in September.

Warmest Regards

Mrs Robson

Holiday fines

Just a reminder that we need holiday forms completed for any child taking time off during term time. No holidays will be authorised and parents will be fined if their child's absence exceeds 4.5 days (which is 10 sessions or more).



Early Years to Y4 children are very lucky to be part of the 'In Harmony' project with Sage Gateshead. Every child is learning to play an instrument. Y4 were able to perform outside for their parents recently which was great. Next year In Harmony will run from Early Years to Y5.

Updated Policies

This term we have updated a number of policies please ask for a copy from the office or view them on our website.

Specialist Staff

We have a Speech and Language Therapist, Educational Psychologist and Counsellor who

support our staff team to meet the needs of our children. From September we will also have an Occupational Therapist joining the team. Please ask if you would like more information about this.



WEST Schools' Trust

We are part of the West End Schools' Trust (WEST) with Broadwood, Canning Street, St Johns, Wingrove, Hawthorn St Paul's Primaries and now Moorside. We work very closely together to provide the best education for all our children. Other Trust partners are Newcastle University, Centre For Life, Healthworks, Tyne and Wear Archive Museums and Newcastle Local Authority. We are also part of the West End Children's Community. The Trust newsletter is on our whole school Dojo page.



Attendance and Punctuality

Please ensure your child arrives on time every day and if they are poorly you **must** telephone the office on the first day of absence and every day they are off on **2745290** thank you.



Can I please remind all adults that the school and grounds is a no smoking zone and no one is allowed to smoke in this area. In fact it is illegal and anyone caught can face prosecution. Thank you for your support in this.



After School Club

In our after school childcare the children have the opportunity to do fun activities, have a snack and there is time to get their homework done too. If you are interested in applying for a place for your child please see Gillian Gibson our Extended Services Manager.



Remember to make sure we have up to date contact numbers for you in case we have to get in touch in an emergency. We also sent text messages to keep parents informed so it is vital our contact details are up to date. We also use Dojo so please make sure you are signed up.



Website
Our website address is

www.bridgewater.newcastle.sch.uk.

Keep up to date with all the latest news as we also have a facebook and twitter link.

Medical Needs



If your child has a medical need or condition can you let the school office know so it can be recorded on our system, that way all staff who need to know will. A care plan may need to be made with the school nurse and staff may need specialised training. We also need to know any changes that may occur immediately.



All **money** paid into school should either be paid directly to the school office or through the class teacher in a labelled envelope. This prevents any loss or confusion over money paid.



Remember here at Bridgewater we offer fantastic provision from



birth. If you would like to find out more please ask Gillian Gibson or ask at the office.

A huge thank you to all the school community for your support this year which has been one of the most challenging for everyone. Your support with remote learning and understanding when we have had to isolate bubbles at short notice has been fantastic and much appreciated.

