



As we come towards the end of a very busy term we wanted to share with you what has been happening at Bridgewater.



A huge **thank you** to everyone who helped donate money or food this term. We collected for Jeans for Genes Day, Harvest, Poppy day, Children in Need and Christmas jumper day.

This week we have had a visit from one of Santa's reindeers Chas. He brought presents from Santa for all of the children which they will get at their Christmas party. Also a big thank you to Project Santa who donated hundreds of parcels for our families.



Newcastle Castle



Year 6 went to the Newcastle Castle. We did a workshop and there was a witch-finder and a guard and the moral of the game was

that there were no witches. Then, after the workshop was finished we had our dinner then group one went to go on the tour and then we did a little game and we saw blood on the wall from Ellenor Henderson (a character in our class reader) when she banged her head on the wall. Whilst group one was on the tour, group two was doing the workshop.



We got to have a go on the stocks and pillory. The stairs were the worst part in my opinion as some were big and others small. We got to go on the roof at the

end of the tour- the view was amazing! We also visited the Lit & Phil as that is in the book too.

By Serena

Tree planting with the Metrocentre



The Metrocentre are improving their carbon footprint and planting trees in their immediate area and chose our school to plant some trees. The school council helped to plant the trees after an assembly where the children learnt more about deforestation.

STAR Project



Year 6 have been taking part in the STAR Project with Kelsey from Tin Arts this half term. They are enjoying learning

about different movements and expressing their likes, dislikes and feelings through dance and have really demonstrated their skills in creativity and teamwork. They have been inspired by the Northern Ballet's production of Merlin and have been celebrating what makes us unique. They are looking forward to performing after Christmas.

Red Start



Year 6 Leopards took part in a Red Start workshop. This involved thinking about money and finances. We had to think about how people

might feel in certain situations such as receiving pocket money, paying a bill or not being able to afford something. We had an excellent discussion and justified our opinions. We then thought about why people spend money including: need, peer pressure, advertising and emotions.

RE trips



In year 6, we have been looking at different religions and their customs. Firstly, we went to the Gurdwara where we learnt more about the way Sikh

people worship, their worship place and items they use to help them worship. They showed us items used to represent the 5ks. They very kindly prepared food at the langar for us to eat. We ate naan bread, rice and some lentils. We had to wear a type of head scarf, because we could not show our head in the main hall.

The week after we went to Bilal Mosque for a visit. The Imam said it was the oldest mosque in Newcastle. In the main hall there was a very big chandelier. They also gave us some snacks shortly after the visit. We talked about how they pray, when they pray and took part on wudu. We did some activities such as the treasure hunt the Imam prepared for us and we had a go at the activities in the classroom. They were to make and design a prayer mat and a word search based on the Islamic culture and religion.

By Marina

Music performance



All of UKS2 watched a fantastic music performance by members of the Royal Northern Sinfonia earlier

this term. They were inspired by the different pieces of music and were able to ask the musicians different questions. They also learned about some new instruments including an oboe and bassoon.



Dance

Year 6 are enjoying their dance sessions with Dean this half term. They have been learning a street

dance and have persevered in learning some challenging moves. It is great to build on dance skills from previous year groups and routines but also explore different styles and try new things.



classroom the magnet always faced North. It was the best experiment.

By Tapashvee



Roman Artefacts

In Year 3 we got a box of real Roman artefacts! We were able to hold and look at all of the different things. I got dressed up as a Roman – the helmet was really heavy and the shoes

were really hard to walk in.

By Umar



Year 3 Art

In Art we made Pablo Picasso portraits with eyes and noses in strange places. We used chalk pastels to copy Picasso's techniques. We

learnt that he uses dark colours if he's sad and bright colours if he's happy.

By Willow-Grace

Year 1 enjoyed a visit to the Discovery



museum to learn about the history of Newcastle.



Cinema trip



In Year 6 we went for a trip to the cinema to watch Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. We went to the cinema at Odeon which is in the Metro

Centre. We were allowed to bring a small bag of popcorn or sweets and a drink. We, the Leopards class, were all excited because we haven't been to the movies for a long time in school. We really enjoyed it!

By Melody



In the Dolphins Redstart session we discussed needs and wants. We discussed how to pay for things and how we can afford them. We know about cash, debit cards and credit cards.

Anti-bullying week



All the children learned about being kind and caring towards their friends during our Anti-bullying week.

Science Experiment

In Science, me and my teammates made a compass using a bowl, water and a magnet. Wherever me and my teammates went in the



were able to come. In Harmony lessons start again on Monday 8th January.

Brown Bears Visit Santa

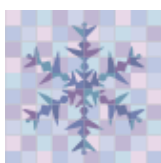


The Brown Bears have been to visit Santa at Dobbies garden centre! We walked through his winter wonderland and

we all got to speak to Santa. Then we sang him We Wish You a Merry Christmas.



After we had juice and a biscuit in the café and made a decoration for our tree.



We will be breaking up for Christmas at 1pm on Friday 22nd December.

Choir Christmas performances

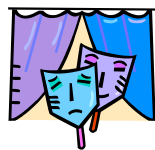


Our choir have been performing at various locations during this festive season. All children will be singing at our carol concerts at St Joseph's church this week.



In Harmony – End of term performances

All year groups performed for their parents before the end of term and we were overwhelmed by the number of parents would



Children with good or improved **attendance** this term went into a raffle draw to have the chance to go to the pantomime at the Theatre Royal or Northern Stage. Next year we will be working with the Theatre Royal and offering theatre clubs and we will have more chances for the children to go to the theatre.



Everyone in school will get the chance to watch an online pantomime.

Staffing changes

Mrs Straker is leaving us this week to start a job at a new school.

We wish her well for the future.

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 days (which is 8 sessions or more) across 12 weeks.

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 an Educational Psychologist, Counsellor, Well Being Officer and family support team to meet the needs of our children. 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, Moorside and St Paul's Primaries. Lemington Riverside Primary have just joined our Trust so we welcome them. We work very closely together to provide the best education for all our children.



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. Please ensure you are signed up to class Dojo and let us know about permissions for photographs.



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, this includes vapes. In fact it is illegal and anyone caught can face prosecution. Thank you for your support in this.

A huge thank you to all our volunteers who help around school we really do appreciate your time.



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 please contact the school office. We also have a number of new clubs starting in January so watch out for the letters and holiday activities on Wed, Thursday and Friday of the second week of the Christmas holidays (3rd05th Jan 2024).



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





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.

Happy Retirement Denise!

At the beginning of December our lovely cook Denise retired. Denise had worked in our kitchen for 26 years. We wish her a happy retirement.



Message about gifts:

As we approach the Christmas holidays we wanted to remind parents that no one expects them to buy presents for staff in school. While we greatly appreciate any presents receive we don't want parents spending money on us, particularly with times being tough for everyone. Instead staff love to get positive messages and this could be done via dojo, written or even just said in person. So can I encourage parents to do this rather than spend money on gifts this Christmas.



Merry Christmas Everyone!!

Dates for your diary.

Diary Dates	
Friday 22nd December	1pm Break up for Christmas
Monday 8 th January	Children to return to school.
Friday 16 th February	Break up for half term



