

December 2025 🍀



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

Dobbies donated one of our Christmas trees this year so a big thank you to them.



It was lovely to have our yurt available today for the reindeer visit as it rained and believe it or not reindeers don't like rain!



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 reindeer Holly. He brought presents from Santa for all of the children which they will get at their Christmas party. A big thank you to Project Santa who donated parcels for some of our families.



Nursery



Hedgehogs and Squirrels had a fantastic day visiting Santa at The Rising Sun Country Park. The children took part in exciting workshops, visited Santa in his festive grotto, and had the chance to explore the woodland area in search of winter signs. It was a wonderful day.





Reception

Reception enjoyed a visit from David Milne, Minister from St Joseph's church. David told us the Christmas story. Following the story, we smelt frankincense and myrrh.



Y2



Year 2 visited Beamish Museum as part of our History topic on Victorian Schools. We found out lots of

differences between Victorian schools and schools nowadays. The teacher told us all about what the children learned and how the children were punished. We decided we wouldn't have liked to be a child in Victorian times!

Y1

Year 1 enjoyed a visit to the Life Centre where we met the Duke of Gloucester and explored the activities throughout the day.



Year 2 visited the Discovery Museum to find out all about the Great Fire of Newcastle. We took part in a workshop

where we found out all about the Great Fire and explored lots of Victorian artefacts. We also found out lots of differences between firefighting in the 1800's to firefighting today.

Y3

The Elephants took part in a creative Live Tales workshop with the Live Theatre, during this workshop we learnt a range of new skills to create and write a story. We shared our



ideas in a group and then worked on our own stories individually.



Year 4 Creative writing at the Live Theatre. We had so many compliments on our imagination and vocabulary.



Y4

Year 4 enjoyed visiting Live Tales, where we created a class story with lots of imaginative ideas. We each had a go at developing our creative writing skills by continuing the story in our own way.



Year 4 visited the Great North Museum to take part in the 'Time Odyssey' challenge. We had to complete different activities in each gallery of the museum to save a character from history who had been 'lost in time'. We especially loved looking at the Stone Age to Iron Age artefacts.



Year 4 outdoor play – we will keep off the ice!!!!



Y5

During autumn term Year 5 have been learning about the artist Beatrix Milhaze, who is a Brazilian artist whose work is inspired by the rainforest including lots of nature shapes and vivid colours. Year 5 have worked with a local artist to create a nature inspired collage visiting Belsay hall to take their own nature images to include in their own art. The children created a collage using shapes from nature and adding their own collected photos as a focus point inspired by the works of Beatrix Milhaze.



Y6

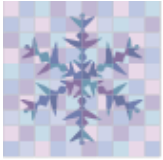


As part of our R.E, we have been learning about the 5 Pillars of Islam and what happens in a mosque. We had the opportunity to visit a local mosque and

speak to the Iman, who welcomed us to his place of worship. We enjoyed learning about how Muslims pray and had lots of enquiring questions.



Year 6 visited the Literary and Philosophical Society Library in Newcastle City Centre as well as the Castle Keep as part of their learning in History about Crime and Punishment throughout the ages and their class novel in English, Walking with Witches. This is the Zebra class who thoroughly enjoyed visiting the library and seeing parts of the book in real life. They even saw some ancient books about witchcraft and saw the notorious haunted music room!



We will be breaking up for Christmas on Friday 19th December.



WEST Schools' Trust

We are part of the West End Schools' Trust (WEST) with Broadwood, Canning Street, St Johns, Wingrove, Hawthorn, Moorside, St Paul's Primary and Lemington Riverside. We work very closely together to provide the best education for all our children.

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 Thursday.



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 who were able to come. In Harmony lessons start again on **Monday 12th January**.

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) 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 a Counsellor and family support team to meet the needs of our children. Please ask if you would like more information about this.

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 **0191 274 5290** 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.

Holiday activities are on on Monday 22nd and Tuesday 23rd December.



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.



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.



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 Wendy Harker or ask at the office.



Website

Our website address is

www.bridgewater.newcastle.sch.uk.

Keep up to date with all the latest news and we also have a Facebook page.



West End Children's Community

We are part of the West End Children's Community charity alongside many organisations across the west end. We look to bring more opportunities and resources into the area for our children.

Dates for your diary.

Diary Dates	
Friday 19th December	Break up for Christmas
Monday 22 nd & Tuesday 23 rd December	Childcare open and holiday activities.
Monday 5 th January	Children to return to school.
Friday 13th February	Break up for half term
Wednesday 25 th February	Parents' afternoon

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 received 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. Thank you.

Merry Christmas Everyone!!

