

# Bridgelea Primary School

*Autumn Newsletter 2025*



# Message from Kelly

At this Christmas time I thank you for your continued support, encouragement and understanding throughout the term.

As we approach the festive season, I'm filled with pride reflecting on the incredible achievements and experiences our children have enjoyed this term. The buzz of activity and learning has been amazing throughout the school, with our children embracing a wide range of enriching opportunities.

Our commitment to your child's education has seen children participating in numerous engaging activities. Children have accessed Bikeability sessions, honing their cycling skills and road safety awareness. They've explored Forest School, participated in this year's first football tournament, enjoyed Manchester City Coaching, and experienced exciting BMX opportunities. We also welcomed the NSPCC into school to talk to children about personal safety, empowering them with important knowledge.

We were delighted to welcome parents into school to meet with Manchester's Parent Champions, and we look forward to building on these connections in the New Year.

Our dedicated staff have been equally committed to professional development, completing Team Teach training to better support and de-escalate challenging behaviours, ensuring a safe and nurturing environment for all. Additional training has included safeguarding and continuous professional development focused on understanding attachment and Speech, Language, and Communication Needs (SLCN).

I'm pleased to share some important dates for our upcoming Christmas celebrations. We look forward to welcoming parents into school to celebrate their child's learning this term:

- Monday 15th: Ground Floor & Withington from 1.00pm
- Tuesday 16th: Middle Floor from 1.00pm
- Thursday 18th December: Top floor from 1.00pm

Parents are invited to join us for festive fun and mince pies during these celebrations.

I want to take this opportunity to thank our dedicated staff, you are the backbone of our school. Their passion, care, empathy and commitment to nurturing our children's minds and hearts are truly commendable. I am grateful and proud of their hard work and unwavering dedication.

# Thank you to all staff!

With a heavy heart, we bid a fond farewell to several staff members who have been integral to our Bridgelea family. We extend our deepest gratitude for their passion and dedication and wish them the very best in their future careers. Staff leaving us include:

Senior Leaders:

- Caroline

Teachers:

- Simon

Teaching Assistants:

- Carlos
- Callum
- Scott
- Leanne
- Chevelle
- Joel
- Talee

Office Staff

- Maisie

We currently have a vacancy on our governing body for a parent governor. If you would be interested in supporting the school to be the best it can be for children, please contact me for more information.

As always, I'm immensely proud of our Bridgelea family - their resilience and creativity continue to inspire us all. As we look forward to a well-deserved break, I wish you all a peaceful holiday and a bright start to the New Year.

**Children return to school on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

Seasonal greetings.

# Ash Class

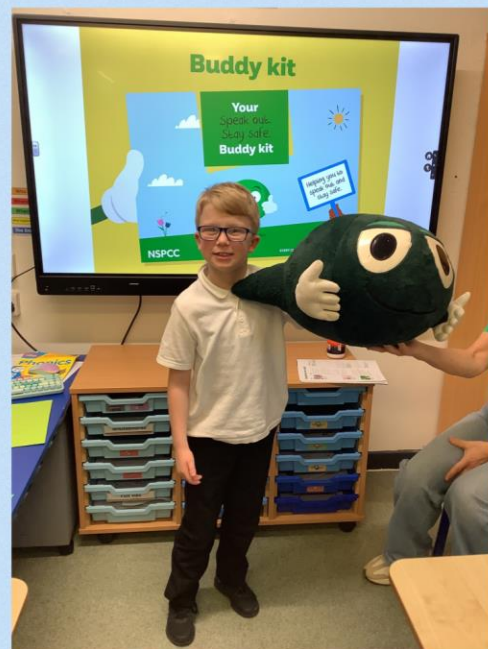
We have had a great first half term, there have been many celebration days: Halloween, children's day and odd socks day to name but a few. We have been able to do many sensory activities like carving pumpkins, making salt firework artworks and getting stuck into practicing our painting techniques. All of the children listened really well and followed instructions. We were so proud! This half term, we have welcomed many visitors who have praised the children for their excellent knowledge, listening, and speaking skills. These included the Healthy Eating nurses, the Fire Brigade who shared important Bonfire Night safety advice ('STOP, DROP, ROLL!'), and the NSPCC.

We have been learning how to work together as a team, take care of one another, and show pride in our learning environment. Ash Class have been exploring the people in our community who help to keep us safe, as well as learning how our differences make our lives richer and better.

We have also thoroughly enjoyed their reward time this term! We've had great fun dressing up in the role-play area, creating the biggest train tracks imaginable, and spending break times building habitats for insects in the playground – an activity they absolutely loved.

In Maths, we have been developing our number and place value, we have really enjoyed learning through hands-on activities using our Numicon resources and other objects to help us count up and down.





NSPCC  
VISITOR  
ASSEMBLY.



PIC•COLLAGE



# Birch Class

It's been an exciting time for Birch Class and the time has certainly flown this term! We have had lots of new children begin their journey with us at Bridgelea since September and it has been lovely to watch them settle in, build relationships and thrive. We have loved watching your children grow in confidence, try new things and enjoy coming to school each day.

Birch Class joined 5000 other schools in a live lesson streamed from Antarctica! The children were fascinated to learn that there are no things such as internet, toilets and houses in Antarctica. They enjoyed working as a team to devise questions to ask in the live chat which the host and explorer could access and loved seeing their questions appear on the screen. This then led to discussions around travel, cooking and sleeping in Antarctica which the children were keen to participate in.

Our class have loved fully immersing themselves into all of our learning but have especially enjoyed all of the arts and crafts that we have been doing. During our How to Catch a Monster work the children have been painting, making models from air dry clay and used collage materials to create their own monsters. All children have really enjoyed working with Emma, our artist, to create a mural for the hall and in drawing shading a tiger using step by step instructions. We have also started creating lots of things for Christmas using glitter, sequins, paint, etc. Look out for lots of things coming home with your child to decorate your house for Christmas!

All children were actively engaged and eager to participate in music each week with Jenny. The main focus was on learning new songs, copying rhythms, playing percussion instruments, taking turns and sharing. It was lovely to see different talents and confidences growing as the weeks progressed.

We are committed to providing enriching and engaging experiences that contribute to your child's individual development by creating play-based learning opportunities to give a hands-on approach to learning. Next term we will be basing a lot of our learning around the topic of animals and will be making lots of links throughout the curriculum.

Thank you for your continued support and encouragement. Birch Class wish you a happy Christmas and we can't wait to welcome your child back in January!





# Cherry Class

This term has been filled with creativity, teamwork, and new learning experiences for the children.

In music with Jenny, they explored rhythm and sound, while in art with Emma, they had the chance to get creative with colour and texture.

Out on the playground, football was a firm favourite, with plenty of teamwork and smiles all round.

We also welcomed some special visitors this term – a local firefighter spoke about fire safety, and the CNCCP Speaking Buddy team helped children build confidence and communication skills. In class, the children enjoyed playing board games, parachute games, and card games, learning to take turns, share, and support one another.

Our focus this term has been on friendship—being kind, understanding, and a good friend to everyone. The children have made great progress in building their confidence and teamwork, and while there's still plenty to learn, they're taking positive steps every day.



# Cedar Class



In Cedar class we have had a lovely term! We have been doing lots of place value in maths and the children have really tried their hardest in all of their lessons.

In literacy we have been following the story 'The dragon Machine'. The children have been working on forming their sentences using colourful semantics

We have had some lovely afternoons doing sensory activities , such as making slime and oobleck or playing with orbeez. We are really looking forward to growing in our learning journey.

# Damson Class

This term Damson Class have been working very hard. In English, we have completed work around 'The Barnabus Project' and 'The Dragon Machine'. We have used Talk 4 Writing to immerse ourselves in the texts, learned the stories using story maps and actions, innovated our stories and focused on the characters in the stories. Next half term, we will be focusing on non-fiction, writing about 'The Bridgelea Dragon'.

In Maths, we have been doing lots of work on Number and Place Value, as well as some work on Time, Geometry and Measure. Next half term we will move on to Addition and Subtraction.

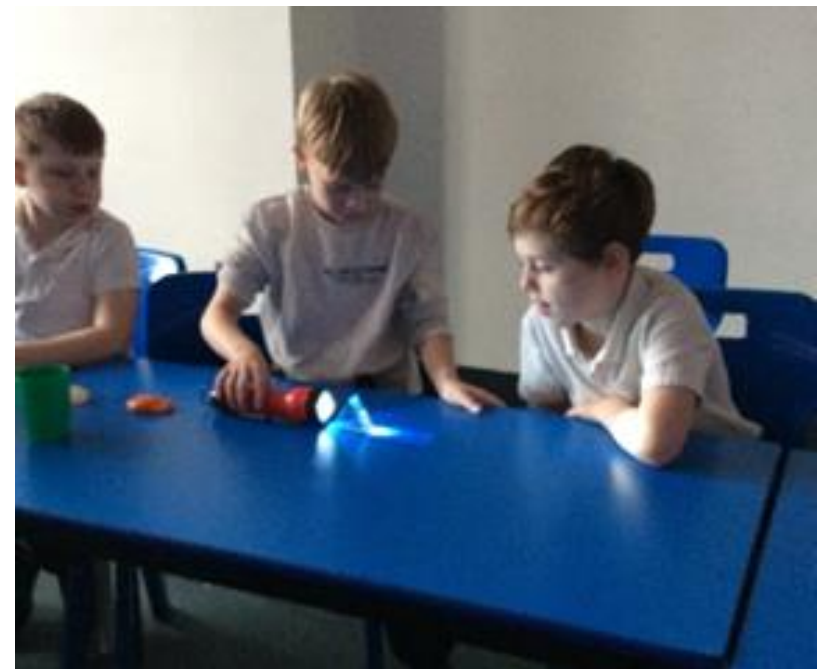
In Science, we have completed work on Rocks and Light. Next half term we will be learning about Forces and Magnets.

In PSHE we have covered 'Living in the Wider World' where we learned about Rights, Communities and Money. We also covered 'Relationships' where we learned about personal space, healthy and equal relationships, gender roles and changes that happen to our bodies. Next half term, we will be learning about 'Keeping Safe'.

This term, we enjoyed celebrating Hello Yellow day. The children designed their own yellow t-shirts, created art work using only the colour yellow, and had lots of fun throwing wet sponges at staff – lots of fun was had and lots of money was raised.

Damson Class have also expressed themselves through Music and Art. In Music, we have explored different musical instruments with Jenny, including the ukulele which is always a favourite. In Art, Emma helped us to create cave art inspired drawings and volcano art work.

Thank you for your continued support this term. We hope you have a lovely Christmas break, and look forward to seeing you in the New Year.





# Elm Class



This term, Elm Class have worked so hard on their learning this term and have also improved their social and interaction skills. The children have shown great enthusiasm and teamwork throughout the term and should be very proud of all they have achieved.

The children had great fun celebrating Hello Yellow day, wearing yellow to support young minds. We raised a great amount of money and the children got to throw wet sponges at staff – which they LOVED!

The children really enjoyed their music lesson with Jenny this term, where they explored different musical instruments and have all learned to play songs on the ukulele.

We also had a visit from Emma, the art teacher, who led an exciting and inspiring art session. The children created a volcano picture using different mediums.

The children have really improved their behaviour choices this term and our behaviour incidents have reduced dramatically – they are a calm, successful class.

Thank you for your continued support this term. We hope you have a joyful and restful break. I am so grateful to end out term on such a high – let's keep this up in 2026! 😊

# Hazel Class



Hazel have had an amazing term, showing so much enthusiasm and engagement in everything they have taken part in. We have enjoyed some great enrichment activities such as BMX at Plattfields park and fishing, which has helped build confidence, teamwork and learn new skills. It was so fun! We have also taken part in drop-down days such as 'Hello Yellow' which allowed the children to acknowledge what makes them AMAZING!

The class have settled in so well and have formed an amazing bond, which has created a supportive, happy and fantastic learning environment.

Well done Hazel Class!

# Fir Class

Fir Class have had a wonderful start to the year. It's been an exciting and an adventurous journey, as we have explored and learnt a lot from participating and doing different activities this term.

The children have settled into Fir class and have formed positive relationships.

We were delighted to be coached by a Manchester City football trainer, who came into Bridgelea to help the children build their football skills and teamwork.

Fir class had the opportunity to go to Forest School this term. Therefore, the children enjoyed embracing the outdoors through cooking, learning how to light fires safely, playing games and taking part in a variety of team-building activities.

In English, the children have enjoyed reading and writing stories inspired by the book called 'The Dragon Machine'. They have learnt and produced some wonderful pieces of writing, full of descriptive language and thoughtful ideas.

In Art, we have been lucky to have an artist, called 'Emma', to have come into our school to help the children in creating beautiful “tree wishes,” and introducing them to new painting and drawing techniques.

In Science, our learning focused on Light and Rocks. The children explored how light travels, how shadows are formed, and the properties of different types of rocks, and thoroughly enjoyed investigating and experimenting to deepen their understanding.

In Geography, the children explored the fascinating world of volcanoes, learning how they form and what happens when they erupt. They have made some lovely paintings of volcanoes in class.

It has been a fantastic start to the academic year, as Fir class have all worked well and have had a great term. Well Done!



# Lime Class



Lime Class have had a fantastic term full of exciting learning and memorable experiences. The children have especially enjoyed their time at Forest School, where they built confidence, teamwork and resilience through outdoor activities and exploration. A real highlight of the term was the BMX bike sessions, which helped pupils develop balance, coordination and perseverance while having great fun. Lime Class have shown enthusiasm, curiosity and a positive attitude throughout the term, and we are very proud of all they have achieved.

# Maple Class

Maple Class have had a fantastic start to the year, filled with creativity, curiosity and new friendships. As all of the children were new to Bridgelea this term, a big part of our learning has been getting to know one another and building strong, supportive friendships. Maple Class have done brilliantly in settling into school life, making new friends both in our class and across the wider school community.

We were lucky to be coached by a Manchester City football trainer, who helped us develop our skills and teamwork on the pitch.

In Forest School, we embraced the outdoors by cooking, lighting fires safely, playing games and working together on a range of team-building activities.

We also welcomed Emma, our visiting artist, who guided us through creating beautiful “tree wishes” and taught us new painting and drawing techniques

In Geography, the children explored the fascinating world of volcanoes, learning how they form and what happens when they erupt. The children put their imagination to work by making their own volcanoes using recycled materials—an exciting hands-on project that brought our learning to life.

In English, we have enjoyed reading and writing stories inspired by *Eric* and *The Dragon Machine*. The children produced wonderful pieces of writing, filled with descriptive language, creativity and thoughtful ideas.

Our Science learning has focused on Light and Rocks, where we have explored how light travels, how shadows are formed, and the properties of different types of rocks. The children have loved investigating and experimenting to deepen their understanding.

It has been a fantastic term full of learning, creativity and adventure—well done Maple, on a brilliant start to the year!



# Oak Class



Oak Class have had a fantastic term filled with excitement and creativity. The children had great fun taking part in art sessions with Emma, where they particularly enjoyed painting and exploring their creative ideas. There was lots of enthusiasm and pride in the artwork they produced.

One of the highlights of the final week was making gingerbread houses together. The children loved building their houses, decorating them with sweets, and then enjoying eating the extra treats at the end! It was a lovely way to celebrate the end of a busy term.

We would like to wish all our families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



# Pine Class

This term, Pine Class have taken part in a wide range of exciting and enriching activities that have supported their learning and development. The children have shown great enthusiasm, creativity, and teamwork throughout the term and should be very proud of all they have achieved.

The children had great fun celebrating Odd Sock Day. They proudly wore bright, colourful, and mismatched socks and enjoyed sharing them with their friends. This activity encouraged discussions about kindness, respect, and celebrating differences. The children listened carefully and showed a good understanding of why it is important to be kind and inclusive.

The children really enjoyed their time at Forest School, where they explored the outdoor environment and took part in creative activities. They made dream catchers using natural materials, showing good concentration and teamwork. The children also loved making and eating s'mores, which was a special treat. They were enthusiastic, curious, and confident while learning outdoors.

We had a very beneficial visit from the NSPCC, during which the children learned many interesting and important things about staying safe. They talked about feelings, trusted adults, and how to seek help if they are worried. The children were fully engaged, listened carefully, and asked thoughtful questions.

We also had a special visit from Emma, the art teacher, who led an exciting and inspiring art session. The children learned about the artist Cornelia Parker and explored her ideas through practical activities. They experimented with different materials and techniques and produced imaginative artwork. The children showed great enthusiasm, creativity, and confidence throughout the session.

The children had lots of fun making gingerbread houses, using icing and sweets to decorate them creatively. They also enjoyed decorating our class Christmas tree, working together to make the classroom feel festive and welcoming. These activities helped develop creativity, teamwork, and fine motor skills.

Thank you for your continued support this term. We hope you have a joyful festive break.



# Rowan Class

Rowan class have had a great half term! The children have worked on practicing their swimming skills each week and they have been earning their certificates for swimming certain lengths. One of our children has achieved their 100 metres! How amazing is that?

We have also been learning about team work during forest school, as well as making some tasty snacks such as smores and hotdogs!

In addition to this, we have been having a boogey during our music lessons, learning how to sing 'Happy' by Pharrell Williams and we have developed our own games during our computing lessons. The children learned about creating baddies and collectibles and customised their entire games with sound effects. Some of the games were very challenging to complete!

In Spring, we are going to learn about so many amazing things! For example, we will be learning about endangered animals during our English lessons and writing an information text about them; learning about World War Two during History lessons and learning about Space in Science. Hopefully we can arrange a school trip to enrich our learning!



# Willow Class

Willow class was set up in the second Autumn term and welcomed pupils from other Bridgelea classes but also a few new pupils. Everyone settled into class brilliantly and we've done some great learning.

In English we studied the Krindlekrax and learnt how to adapt and embellish a fiction story. Maths we learnt a range of topics; the class did some really good work on division which was followed by some tricky fraction work. We studied changing state in science with the class performing some basic experiments on dissolving, melting and evaporation. We jetted off to the Alps for Geography, studying the climate and activities available comparing them to Manchester. Top floor go swimming for PE, some of the class showing their skills easily swimming 25m and performing a lifesaving test.

Next term we welcome some other pupils into class and a whole new curriculum. We will have forest school, venturing into space for Science, studying WW2 for history and developing our persuasive writing in English.

# Yew Class

Yew Class have been very busy this Term.

Forest School has been a really fun piece of learning. Making smores and dreamcatchers was so much fun.

Yew class are a really creative class so our Art and Slime sessions have been full of creativity.

The children and staff have had lots of fun learning about different materials in Science and have also promoted out Rights as part of the Rights Respecting Articles.

Happy Christmas.

Yew Class.

